



South Mountain District News



Minsi Trails Council. B.S.A.

December 2006

Dates to Remember

District Annual Meeting 7:30	12-05-06 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	12-06-06 [2]
District Commissioners	12-27-06 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	01-02-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	01-03-07 [2]
Woodbadge Reunion	01-07-07 [98]
OA Winter Banquet	01-06-07 []
Cub Winter Event.- Winter Magic	01-13-07 [94]
Council Annual meeting and Dinner	01-26-07 []
District Commissioners	01-31-07 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	02-06-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	02-07-07 [2]
Pinewood Derby	02-10-07 []
District Commissioners	02-28-07 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	03-06-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	03-07-07 [2]
University of Scouting	03-10-07 []
District Commissioners	03-28-07 [3]
Pinewood Derby	03-31-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	04-03-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	04-04-07 [2]
College of Commissioner Science	04-13-15-07 [4]
SMD District Dinner	04-21-07 [1]
NYLT	04-20-22-07 []
District Commissioners	04-25-07 [3]
NYLT	04-27-29-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	05-01-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	05-02-07 [2]
Beaver Day weekend	05-04-06-07 []
Council Eagle Dinner	05-17-07 [96]
Webelos Outdoor	05-12-07 []
District Commissioners	05-30-07 [3]
OA Spring Weekend	06-01-03-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	06-05-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	06-06-07 [2]
OA Summer Picnic	06-09-07 []
District Commissioners	06-27-07 [3]
Cub Fall Event	10-21-07

Meeting Locations

- [1] East Hills Moravian Church
1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem
- [2] St. Lukes Hospital and Health Network
800-801 Ostrum Street Bethlehem Pa. 18018
- [3] St. John's Lutheran/ UCC Church of
Farmersville, 8065 William Penn Hwy, Bethlehem
- [4] Trexler Scout Reservation
- [5] Camp Minsi
- [6] Minsi Trails Office
991 Postal Road; Allentown, PA 18109
- [10] Hellertown Sportsmen's Gun Club
Meadows Rd, Hellertown
- [94] Christ Lutheran Church
69 Main St., Hellertown
- [96] Candlelight Conference Center
- [98] Jordan Lutheran Church
5103 Snowdrift Road, Orefield, PA
- [99] To be Determined

Tunkhannock Chapter



The Tunkhannock Chapter of the Witauchsoman Lodge meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the same location as the South Mountain District Roundtable.

Reminder – 2006 and 2007 membership dues can be paid at Chapter meetings.

Who to contact

Chapter Chief: Alex Nilsen (610) 346-9592

Chapter Advisor: Dave Hay (610) 861-4494

Roundtable

Hear Ye! ,Hear Ye! Officially by the power invested in me, I proudly announce the The Minsi Trail Council South Mountain District Boy Scout Round Table has been officially accepted by St. Lukes Hospital and Health Network for all their Round Table meetings Starting December 6,2006. Three rooms will be available for us and parking is also available. Hook- ups for AV and blackboards will be in the rooms. Yours in Scouting Sandi Dale



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WINTER MAGIC



place
 Come join the South Mountain Cub Scout Winter Magic Fun. On Saturday, January 13, winter magic will take place
 It will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown on Main Street. Registration starts at 8:30 with the opening ceremony at 9 am and the magic takes place until 12 noon. Cost is \$4 on or before Friday, December 29th. Cost will be \$5 after the 29th. Price includes patch, hot dog and hot chocolate. This will be indoors and out. It will be held rain, snow or shine. To help the magic come alive, we need packs and troops to run events. For more information or to sign up to run an event, contact Marci Weaver at smiley9@ptd.net or 610.282.0921.

2007 District Dinner



Mark your calendar for the 2007 District Dinner on April 21, 2007 at the East Hill Moravian Church.

SMD Website

The South Mountain District web site has added a page with links for online training at http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/online_training.htm.

Adult Scouter Bio Form

All registered Scouters in South Mountain District. Fill out and attach in an email to [Bob Monto](mailto:Bob.Monto) or drop off a printed copy at the Council office. The District is collecting your Scouting Bios to help the district locate qualified leaders for district positions and to recognize the adults with proper recognition awards. Contact Bob Monto or Greg Wilson for the form.

Free Candles

Do you need (free) candles? Troop 302 has many pounds of used candles. Most are white "Chap-Stick" size; some are red or white "regular" size. If interested, call Randy Stonesifer at 610-691-6376 or e-mail at stonesij@lafayette.edu. We also have a metal Army storage locker, approximately 2' x 3' x 1', free to a good home.

Woodbadge Reunion

Sunday, January 7, 2007 (Snowstorm date - January 14) 3:00 P.M. - Displays, Silent Auction, and Fellowship. 4:00 P.M. - Dinner

Jordan Lutheran Church (near Day's Inn), 5103 Snowdrift Road, Orefield, PA (Take Rt. 22, Rt. 309 North, then Snowdrift Road to church.)

The program will include a special tribute to our armed forces and veterans. Of course as always the program will include ceremonies, displays, songs, silent auction, a great buffet dinner, and lots of healthy fellowship.

All Wood Badgers, including those who have earned their beads and those working their tickets, plus their spouses and friends.

\$15 per person. Please bring one suitable Scout or other item for the Silent Auction.

Jon Slaton, 908-995-4663, Mike Best, 610-767-6079 or Linda Roth 610-767-1275

REGISTRATION: See Form attached.

Heritage Collection

The Minsi Trails Heritage Collection Committee has put together a contest for Units to promote Scouting in their local communities for the upcoming Scout Week. Please see the flier at the link below for details and feel free to contact Jon Slaton, bsanut@verizon.net for further details or questions

Heritage Collection Committee

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/scoutweek2007.doc>
 or <http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/scoutweek2007.pdf>



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Commissioner's Corner

Good-bye Greg, New District Executive, New Roundtable site



As most of you have heard by now, Minsi Trails Council dismissed South Mountain District Director Greg Wilson last month. It's a decision that affected many of us and has been hard to understand. This was not a result of anything Greg did wrong. He was hired with great expectations and his supervisors at Council weren't satisfied with his performance.

Although District Chairman Gary Marsh and I knew that Greg was on an improvement plan since August, this was a decision handled by the Council. After it was made, Gary and I met with Scout Executive Tom Harrington and Field Director Bill Garrett to express our concerns about the way things were handled. Without getting into details, we accept their reasons for the decision made, although, we were satisfied with Greg's work. We believe that under his direction, despite the challenges our district faces, we were making good progress. Both Tom and Bill have agreed to keep us better informed in the future and we have been involved in the interview process for Greg's successor.

Greg is gone and many of us will miss his energy and positive attitude. We wish him well in the future - and he has expressed to us his best wishes for our continued success in Scouting. The big challenge is to keep the forward momentum we have developed over the 18 months Greg was with us.

Recently Tom, Bill, Council Director of Field Service Stu Bergmann and Council Commissioner Glen Higbie met with the District Committee to review the decision and discuss how we can move forward. One of the key points made during the meeting was the lack of consistent professional service to our District. It's as if a revolving door has been put in our district and District executives keep getting spun through it. Many longtime District volunteers believe one of the biggest factors in some of the problems we

faced is that of none our D.E.s has been around long enough to make a difference. One of the biggest disappointments for Gary and I is that we thought Council had made a three-year commitment to our District, a time commitment that we believed would have enabled us to build a solid foundation for future progress. Sometimes, unfortunately, the professional staff has to take actions it considers necessary - and we have to find ways to continue on.

So the big question is, where do we go from here?

Two weeks ago, the top volunteers around the Council and the Council professional leadership had the annual Goal Setting session. Besides resolving our leadership vacuum, South Mountain's three biggest challenges remain improving our Cub Scout recruitment, increasing the number of Cub Scouts attending summer camp and continuing to build a solid, trained volunteer staff in our units and at the district level. In the September newsletter I outlined some of these challenges and why they're so crucial. Fewer Cub Scouts eventually means fewer Boy Scouts and fewer volunteers and a diminished ability for us to provide the benefits of Scouting to our youth and community.

Minsi Trails Council's professional staff can't accomplish the mission of Scouting without the selfless efforts of volunteers like you. In the meeting with the District Committee, the professional staff agreed to strengthen the working relationship with the District's volunteers to do that. They agree that long-term, consistent professional service is necessary for this to happen. The goal is to have a district director serve us for two years or more.

That person will be North Valley District Director Arby Beisel. While Arby doesn't have Greg's length of experience as a professional Scouter he has shown promising growth serving North Valley. He also knows our District. He grew up in Bethlehem and still lives there. He is a graduate of Nitschmann Middle School, Liberty High School and Messiah College near Gettysburg. He is also an alum of one of my old units, Troop 318. Arby and his wife have three



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children, one of whom is a Cub Scout. He is excited about being our District Executive and we will do everything we can to help him succeed. He will officially start in January but will start attending our meetings and Roundtables this month to get acquainted with everyone. In the meantime, if you have anything that you need professional help with, contact Field Director Bill Garrett at 610-465-8581 or wgarrett@minsitrails.com.

Last but not least, we have a New Roundtable location. Our December Roundtable - and Roundtables thereafter - will be at St. Luke's Hospital Education Center, the building next to the Priscilla Payne Hurd Pavillion. We have the use of one of the lecture rooms and two to three other classrooms. There is ample parking (but not the valet parking) available at St. Luke's, although, some walking will be required. The program for December will be Youth Protection Training, presented by Rod Long. A separate e-mail and directions will be sent out before the Roundtable. Please look for it and plan to attend this important Roundtable.

Yours in Scouting,

Eric Chiles

South Mountain District Commissioner

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Tom Stalsitz Training Chair

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610-861-4494

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Marci Weaver Activities

610.282.0921

smilely9@ptd.net

Alex Stirton Boy Scout Roundtable

610-791-7893 (W)

alexanderstirton@lehighcounty.org

Karen Long and Leslie Keefe
Cub Scout Roundtable

Colleen Marzigliano Membership Chair

(610) 691-6380

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SMD Website

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/>

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District Committee

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610-997-0958

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Eric Chiles District Commissioner

610-865-5787

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Note: New District Director will start on 1/2/07

Arby Beisel District Director

610-465-8563 Effective 1/2/07

rbeisel@minsitrails.com Effective 1/2/07

Rod Long Program Chair

610-838-6768 H 610-282-4444 ext. 122

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