



# SOARING NEWS

## Troop 869

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church  
Chartered 1968

Clear Lake City • Houston, Texas  
70 Eagles

Clear Lake City • Houston, Texas  
May 2010

### Editor

*Without YOU, our writers, there would be no Soaring News. Much thanks to those who contribute their time and skills.*

*Please continue to send your stories and pictures about troop campouts, fundraisers, volunteering and Eagle Scout projects, etc. to [ssstanlev17@comcast.net](mailto:ssstanlev17@comcast.net).*

### Looking Ahead

June 18-19  
Pedernales Fall SP

July 4-10  
Camp Alexander, CO

June 30-July 7  
Scuba Adventure  
Sea Base, FL

Schlitterbahn Galveston  
Family Day Event

### Beuscher State Park



(L to R) Paul S., Eric S., Jason C., Mr. Hanson, Nick A., and Caleb C. kicking the football.

We went to Beuscher State Park in Smithville and during the entire campout we had (thankfully) sunny weather. On Friday, we arrived after a 3-hour drive, and set up. On Saturday, the people who were working on the bicycling merit badge and a few others went on a 10-mile bike ride. It was a very hilly park so it was hard and fun. They went on another bike ride later. Some of the adults slept and some of the other boy scouts went and played around the camp. On Sunday, we listened to our Sunday service held by Christian and left around 9:00 am.

*Nick Q.*

### Working on the Bicycling MB

On the Buescher Campout in February, five scouts, Jason C., Allen W., Alex L., Phillip W., and Caleb S., and four adults, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Lillie, Mr. Waters, and Mr. Wild, went on 10-mile and 25-mile bike rides.

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### Stephen F. Austin S.P.



We went to Stephen F. Austin State park near Sealy, Texas. It was a short drive but some of our group got caught behind a traffic jam on the Beltway.

The Brazos River runs through it. It was heavily wooded and didn't have any place to swim. It also had some nice hiking trails.

We took a five mile hike and saw several animals including deer and a very large raccoon. We worked on FCE. We did an orienteering course and measured the height and width of certain objects.

The best part of the campout was getting to hang out with everybody and since there were only four Scouts we had a lot of fun. We threw the football around for a while and then laid in the hammocks that my mom set up.

The weather was nice but it got a little hot in our tents one nights.

I had a great time with Scott, Caleb, and Alex. They were fun to hang out with and I'm looking forward to our next campout.

*Ezra H.*

### Welcome Aboard

Troop 869 welcomes new scouts from recharter: Scott F., Stephen H., Joshua H., and Nathaniel K.

## Order of the Arrow



Welcome new members Allen, Austin, Luke, William (in picture) and Mr. Cochran to the Order of the Arrow. They completed their Ordeal at Armand Bayou Nature Center. They truly demonstrated their positive leadership and their cheerful service at the Ordeal. We were pleased to have them among 73 new members. Congratulations!

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(L to R) Mr. Cochran, Alex L., Caleb C., Mr. Wild, Allen W., Jason C., Phillip W., Mr. Waters going for a spin.

In the morning, we completed about four laps around Beuscher State Park for 10 miles as a warm-up for the 25 miler. During the 10-mile ride some of us were introduced to biking in the hills and having to actually change gears. All the fun started once we began the 25 miler which was to Bastrop State Park and back. It all started with the first mile or two at a nice gradual uphill, then it let off and we were riding up and down the hills all the way to Bastrop. Some of the hills were so steep it was nearly impossible for most of us to climb. But once we got to Bastrop, it was a long downhill to the lake, at a little more than 35 MPH, or at least it was for me. The exhilarating downhill ride made me forget that when you go down a hill you got to go back up. And from Bastrop Lake, we set off around Bastrop State Park and back to Beuscher to complete our 25 miles.

## 2010 Camporee



Firebuilding

The 2010 Camporee was held April 30- May 2 at Camp Strake. Over 30 Boy Scout patrols from throughout the District competed to show their skills in Firebuilding, First Aid, Knot tying/Lashings, and a new event, Geocaching. The ever popular Night orienteering event was also held on Saturday evening, before the campfire, with all patrols returning just prior to the rain showers!

Troop 869 was once again in charge of the Fire Building skill station. Senior Patrol members John F., Burke M., John W., Tyler N., and Nick A. first assisted ASM Fields in relocating the fire-building activity when there was no water to be found at the proposed activity site. The activity and all supplies were successfully re-located to another campsite where there was water. The fires were all maintained and only a couple of minor burns were reported. The Senior Patrol did a good job of leading and directing the patrols in the competition.

While Troop 1598 took home the majority of the honors (Guys, we need to PRACTICE), our own Eagle Patrol did Troop 869 proud by placing in several competitions. They received awards ribbons for their patrol banner, and definitely showed the spirit of scouting throughout the weekend. Great job, Eagles!

The campfire started under threat of rain on Saturday night, and before we knew it, we were caught in a down-pour! The rain was brief, and after a few false runs for cover, the campfire was ignited successfully and the skits began. Our own John W. performed a Poi ball demonstration with lighted equipment. Thanks John for a most impressive demo!

The campfire ended with a flag retirement ceremony and recognition of some prominent scouters we lost during the year. Following the campfire, OA members Tyler N., John F, and ASM Fields were advanced to Brotherhood status in the OA. Congratulations!

We packed up and headed for home on Sunday morning after the awards ceremony. Many thanks to all the adults who supported Camporee and all the scouts who attended.

*Tyler N.*