



# SOARING NEWS

## Troop 869

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church  
Chartered 1968

95 Eagles

Clear Lake City • Houston, Texas  
Jan. 2013

### Looking Ahead

#### February

Webelos Woods  
March 1-3

#### March

Enchanted Rock  
March 14-17

#### April

Village Creek Canoeing  
April 19-21

#### May

Lake Somerville  
May 17-19

### Editor

*Please send your articles and photos about troop campouts, fund-raisers, volunteering and Eagle Scout projects, etc. to [ssstanley17@comcast.net](mailto:ssstanley17@comcast.net).*

## Camping at Huntsville State Park



The washline (L to R) Nathan F., Christopher E., Nick A., Aidan V., Matt., Josh H., Jambers S.

At this camp, many things happened. The troop arrived late at night, so it was more difficult to prepare the tents, but there was a fire to reward everyone for working hard on their tents. Football was the conversation in mind on Friday night around the fire, as well as band. "It's officially tomorrow!" screamed a voice around midnight... in a dream?

"Good morning, America!" screamed a cry across the platter of bacon and the forgotten pancake stuck in the stove (if you find it, the only reward is eating it). The mute button was pushed as the hike around the camp territory progressed, and the sound of hungry alligators filled the ears of the troop. The scouts were almost as hungry as 87342087407 elephants

when the troop arrived back at the campout. OMANOMANOM! Lunch time, yay! "That hike froze my legs, could you grab me a ham and baloney club?" "Boil your own spam!"

Saturday afternoon, the troop went fishing. Bait was caught with a net, and that bait was used with fishing poles to catch larger fish, such as bass. Very few fish were caught by the troop, but it was a good time anyway!

Yet another fire, Saturday night, and the pine needles were thrown in the fire ring as the flames were increasingly larger and warmer. Jokes, stories and skits filled the air before bedtime came along.



Card Games (L to R) Aidan V., Christopher E., Nick A., Tyler M.

That next morning, honey buns, fruit, donuts and pop tarts fell into the scouts bodies, and the final trash search told the troop it was time to go home.

*Josh H.*

## St. B's Food Pantry



In November, you sold almost 400 food bags and collected \$504 in cash donations for the St. Bernadette Food Pantry for a total cash

value of \$3000! I cannot thank you enough for your cheerfulness and your winning attitude which convinced so many Kroger shoppers to buy a bag of food for the St. Bernadette Food Pantry.

You have given people a priceless gift. Not only have you given them the gift of food, you have given them the gift of knowing that someone else cared enough to help them in their time of need.

We have another weekend Food Drive for St. Bernadette's next weekend, Feb. 2-3. We've had an awesome crew...42 volunteers on the schedule! We still need a few scouts and adults to volunteer. Contact me at 281-660-4965 or at mgmoran@swbell.net. I thank you again...

*Marita*

## Summer Camp at Camp Alexander

Camp Alexander at Lake George, Colorado is located at 8400 ft in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Being the only private land in 11 Mile Canyon, we are blessed with wildlife and tranquil acres. Camp "A" is 45 minutes from Colorado Springs and 2 hrs from Denver, CO. Camp Alexander is a traditional merit badge camp with an emphasis on badges that can be best taught in the outdoors. Their top notch First Class Center will cater to new scouts while Geocaching and Natural Rock Climbing will entertain older boys. Quality food is prepared and served in the Elks Lodge Dining hall. Each campsite has platform tents that hold 3 scouts in comfort.

With temperatures in the high 80's and evening lows in the 40's, Camp Alexander is the perfect location to have a Mountain Top Experience! No bug nets are needed! Camp is planned for July 6-13th for \$310 plus transportation. The next payment of \$100 is due tonight, January 29th. Our next Summer Camp Parents Meeting is February 12th. Contact Kevin Klein, Summer Camp Co-ordinator at 832-367-2728 or kkleinster@att.net to reserve your spot!

For more information about Camp Alexander, go to <http://www.pikespeakbsa.org/Camping/CampAlexander/SummerCamp>.

## Florida Sea Base

It's time to start planning Troop 869's 2014 visit to the BSA's fantastic Florida Sea Base.

Troop 869 has visited Sea Base twice in the past few years, both times the troop participated in the week long SCUBA Adventure. My son Tom and I participated 2 years ago, and it was a wonderful experience. The days were filled with SCUBA diving and living at Sea Base's main facility, with air-conditioned comfort and the convenience of meals served at the facility. The equipment and dive boats surpassed any dive resort I've seen, and the Florida Keys offer fantastic diving.

A typical dive started at about 9:30 am after a short ride out to the dive site, followed by lunch (and a bit of snorkeling) on the boat which is anchored out in beautiful bright blue water. The next dive started about 1:30 pm, followed by the ride in, a quick cleanup and an hour or so of relaxation before dinner.

SCUBA Adventure requires the boys get SCUBA certified prior to the trip, which we accomplished as a group. The certification process was fun and helped build the team for the trip.

My personal preference is SCUBA Adventure, but our group can also participate/attend the other programs available through Sea Base, such as Florida Fishing, so please visit the Sea Base website at [ww.bsaseabase.org/](http://www.bsaseabase.org/) to see what is offered.

There is an age requirement, and physical requirements. Please review those at [www.bsaseabase.org/Resources/Eligibility.aspx](http://www.bsaseabase.org/Resources/Eligibility.aspx).

The prices for the programs are listed at [www.bsaseabase.org/Resources/Fees2013.aspx](http://www.bsaseabase.org/Resources/Fees2013.aspx). We were able to get reasonable airfares on the previous trips.

The reservation lottery is open now and the deadline is February 15. I would like to have some dates in mind (mid July?) and an idea of the number of boys and adults who would like to attend. Please email me at [harrigant@harriganenerg.com](mailto:harrigant@harriganenerg.com) with your interest in attending, and with any questions you might have. Steve Stanley was one of the trip organizers and leaders on the last trip, and Steve is a great resource if you have questions about Sea Base.

It is particularly important that we have good adult support, so if you're up for a Florida vacation, please let me know. I'm excited about the trip, and happy to visit with you at any time.

## Congrats Eagle Scouts of 2012

Alexander Baker  
Edward Baker  
Cristian Roos  
Julio Hernandez

Shree Deshpande  
Jason Cochran  
Paul Stanley  
Zachary Dao, 2013