

## Troop 172, BSA, Old Traditions

September 2014

- Before Cub Scouts were allowed to camp out overnight, T-172 hosted Father-Son campouts where Cubs and fathers slept in Roesslein (sp?) Hall at Camp Columbus. These were annual events, usually held in June.
- The troop has existed for 53 years, and since 1969, we have been meeting on Sundays. That began when Scoutmaster Dennis Donovan's work took him out of town during most weeks. We tried it (bi-weekly, but longer meetings), and it has lasted. Along the way, it offered BSA opportunities to boys, who could not attend other troops on week nights for various reasons.
- During the gasoline shortage in the early 1970s, we strived to find camping locations closer to Chattanooga. One such that we used regularly was at Chickamauga National Military Park, which had/has a youth-dedicated camping area off the beaten track.
- The troop regularly hiked the trails at Chickamauga National Military Park. Those ranged in distance from 5-20 miles, the longest of which enabled Scouts working on Hiking Merit Badge to accomplish the maximum required.
- Another nearby camping spot was Highland Sportsmen Club in Middle Valley. It was originally the Council's summer camp – prior to Camp Cherokee and Skymont. HSC originally had Adirondak shelters, which we used most frequently, but we sometimes stayed overnight in the lodge.
- After the now extinct St. Jude Men's Club provided most of the cost for new tents in 1973, the troop resorted to holding annual, yard sales to finance troop activities.
- To meet BSA requirements for quality troop recognition, we held Courts of Honor quarterly. Most were held in St. Jude facilities. To enable Scouts to wear their badges sooner after reaching a higher rank, we gave them their badges at upcoming troop meetings and then presented paper work at the Courts of Honor.
- Outdoor games were encouraged as parts of troop meetings. One game was called Crows and Cranes. That was ironic at one point, because we had Scouts with last names, Crowe and Crane. Tugs of War were also popular.
- For several summers, we hosted T-166 (Burks United Methodist) Scouts at summer camp, and they invited our interested Scouts to hike week-long parts of the Appalachian Trail with them. We also took two of their Scouts to the 1973 National Scout Jamboree with us. That was the only Jamboree that chartered troops as such could attend.
- T-172 also had Scouts attend several, National Scout Jamborees. At least one attended in 1977 at Moraine State Park, Pa., and one or more others attended in 1981 and 1985 at Fort A. P. Hill, Va. Single Scouts attended World Jamborees in 1983 and 1987 respectively in Canada and Australia.
- For most of its history, T-172 Scouts have had the opportunity to earn Catholic Scouting religious awards, and many have done so. About 2011, Luke Lewis and Chris Muzyn were the first in the Diocese of Knoxville to have earned all four (two in Cub Scouts and two in Boy Scouts), which entitled them to the additional, *Four Pillars* award.
- Although we do not exist as a military training ground, we have had T-172 Scouts appointed to West Point and the Air Force Academy while others were awarded full, ROTC scholarships. At this time, one has 26 years of combined active/reserve duty in the USMC. Service has included the Persian Gulf Conflict and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.
- Over the years, some of our adult troop leaders have served on the Cherokee Area Council board of directors and assorted district and council committees. Adult leaders have also been presented with a number of Scouting and Catholic religious awards.