

Troop 957 Committee Minutes – November 9, 2004

Attendees: Dave Wisniewski, Barbara Counts, Chris Counts, Jody Williford, Laura MacLain, Lori Johnson, Mike Berno, Lori Jacob, Warren Hall, Tom Manning, Steve Beisert

Chris started things off last week with a show and tell of the new water filtration system. One filter will last for 150 gallons or about 100 person-days. What is good about this version is that the adult or boy with filter cleaning duty never has to touch the filter element itself, and is thus never exposed to the microbial life being filtered out.

Lori reported that the troop sold about \$6000 in popcorn, or about half of what was sold last year. The troop must pay for the popcorn prior to December 1st. Give the money to Lori when you have it all collected—no partial payments. For those of us who shopped at Foley's yesterday, it certainly looks like it was successful. Per Chris the store was jam-packed yesterday around 4:30 and I saw it much the same around 8:30.

Next campout is this Saturday. There will not be one in December, and of course Orienteering is in January. Summer camp starts June 14th with return on the 26th. Per Jody the boys learned a lot this past campout, as they do every campout, but sometimes they need a bit of help realizing it. Parents can reinforce the lessons learned by showing interest and asking about the details. As far as other activities are concerned, the next court of honor will be a bit sparse, not unexpected for this time of year. There will probably be less than 10 rank advancements. The number of merit badges awarded is really up to the boys themselves. An awful lot of them are within a requirement or two of completing several merit badges a piece.

At the time of the meeting, the troop had \$1765.50 in the account, the bulk of which is in the boys' and parents' passbook accounts. It has since gone up by \$461 due to incoming money for the next campout and the \$236 received from the carwash. We have paid for the replacement tarp poles and the water filters. Total was about \$650. Chris reported the cost for the light weight hiking stoves, fuel bottles and maintenance kits will also be about \$650. As those will not be needed until next year, we are going to hold off on buying them until April or May. Current troop debt is about \$2500, half of which is embodied by the trailer. For those of you uncomfortable with this amount, we are about where we expected to be when we started the troop in 2002—on track to retiring most of that within the year. The boys currently owe about \$280 in back dues, and there are still a couple of miscellaneous payments due from the parents. Dave submitted the paperwork for his 2004 corporate grant (\$650) a couple of months ago. I will submit mine (\$250) in December. If any one else has a similar program with their employer, please look into it. It is free money for the troop, and right now forms a significant part of our operating budget. Based on our current numbers for this next year, popcorn earnings, these grants and the boys' dues all will contribute about equally to funding the troop activities at \$900 to \$1000 each.

Per Warren 4 tents still need to be seam-sealed. Each one he has gone through has been a challenge in terms of piece parts missing, not being kept clean, having leftover food etc. in it. Please, please, PLEASE take the time to a) look for troop equipment and b) get it back to him in a reasonable condition.

There will not be a parents meeting in December. The next one will be January 4th.

Barbara

Troop 957 Treasurer and Secretary