

BTSR 2004 Log

Status #1

Not much of a status. When I heard from Chris at 3:45 today, he said they were in Sonora and expected to reach Fort Stockton by 5:45. Plans were to eat barbecue there. Next update will be tomorrow.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #2

Chris called again late last night. They all arrived safely around 8:30 pm. They are staying in old Civilian Conservation Corps housing. The building is absolutely gorgeous and the rooms are huge. They easily accommodate six boys per room. Plans for today are the swim test in the morning (swimming in a spring-fed pool no less), then touring the McDonald observatory, followed by dinner in Fort Davis. They also plan a late night star gazing party with a midnight return. So this will be it for a status today. We can all find out how things went tomorrow.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #3

Well, the skies were cloudy last night, so less star-gazing was done than expected. Today they went on a 5 mile hike in mountaneous terrain, and yes they have periodically gotten rained on all day. No, rain during Troop 957 summer camps is not a tradition; it just seems that way! After lunch, half went to Fort Davis to submerge themselves in history (plus take small arms class), while the other half went swimming. Chris says the water is 75 degrees, perfectly clear--so as to better see the catfish etc. swimming with you... The leaders spent some time today trying to find a place to eat that wouldn't be overly taxed by 20+ hungry people all showing up at once. For dinner they went to the Bear Den, named for the Balmorrhea Bears, the team fielded by the one building K-12 grade school. Estimated bed time tonight will be a more reasonable 10pm.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #4

The weather is not cooperating. Reeves County is under Flash Flood Watch. Temperatures are in the mid-60s and the boys are wishing for hot chocolate instead of all the gatorade they brought with them. By now they should be at Buffalo Trails learning how to set up tents in the rain. Temperatures should however rise over the next few days and be back up to the expected near-100 degree range by mid to late-week. Hopefully the wet weather will be just a memory when they come back next weekend.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #5

For those of you watching the flash flood notices for Reeves County on the web, yes, Buffalo Trails is in the middle of it. There is no cell phone coverage, so don't even try to call. As far as the boys are concerned, they are about to have a giant sleepover tonight in the camp buildings. The creek between the lower lying tent campsites and the higher main buildings has flooded. All of the gear and all, repeat all, of the boys and adults have successfully made it to higher ground. I am sure Chris will call tomorrow with more info. Be prepared to be properly impressed next weekend when your sons tell you all about it. Definitely a summer to remember!

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #6

As I said before, be prepared to be impressed by the war stories. The "sleepover" had 200 or so participants and was held in the main auditorium. The water has gone back down and the equipment is starting to dry out. They will be back in the tents tonight. Supposedly there were some spectacular waterfalls in the mountains from all the rain; hopefully they took the pictures to prove it. As an area resident said in their hearing, "Out here in the desert we get about 11 inches of rainfall a year, and we're sure happy y'all were here when we got it". Best guess is 7 or 8 inches at least. As you might imagine this much water will make cleanup a nightmare. Those parents who ignored the scoutmasters' warnings about labelling every piece of clothing will have to pay the penalty of going through the lost and found pile, calling other parents, arranging swaps etc. The post-camp work party scheduled by Dave will be interesting as there will definitely be a lot of post-flood equipment maintenance required.

And for anyone wondering, in spite of the rain, the camp directors have somehow managed to keep everyone on a more or less normal schedule in terms of merit badge classes.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #7

Temperatures made it all the way to 75 today, with the last of the rain in the form of scattered showers. Reasonable enough weather for the Scouting Olympics held today. However, the scoutmasters are still hoping that the promised sunny skies and hot weather materialize quickly. So far the only classes to suffer have been the water-based ones, because it has flat been too cold to get the boys out in it. The highlight of the day was the announcement to the entire camp that today was Doug and Jody's 19th wedding anniversary. It was completely successful, as they were totally surprised and embarrassed. I would like to know, however, what excuse they were given for the entire troop turning out in full Class As...

Tomorrow is the Scoutmaster cookoff. Yes, Mark and Chris will once again be defending the honor of the troop. Looking towards the end of the week, they are trying to keep the Buffalo Trails shirts clean so that everyone can wear them on the trip back instead of the Class As. Also, there will definitely be a Tuesday Board of Review. One scout is definite, with another couple as highly probable. Unfortunately the rains have eaten up a large chunk of time that the scoutmasters would have used for conferences and rank advancement discussions. We were

hoping several boys would complete the requirements for Tenderfoot during this camp. John will work the arrangements once everyone is back and we know where we really stand.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #8

Per Chris, the bad weather went out with a bang. They had major thunderstorms Tuesday night, which were followed by sunny skies and a 15-20 mph breeze Wednesday that really helped to dry things out. Everyone is doing fine. The only injuries are the expected scrapes and scratches from climbing around on all the rocks out there. The Scoutmasters had their steak dinner last night, followed by the Scoutmaster cookoff. I am sure we will hear sometime later how Mark and Chris did with their cobblers, although no guarantees as to when. Since making a phone call involves a one hour round trip from the campsite, it is a major undertaking to get these "field reports" out to us with everything else that is going on out there.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #9

And the winner is ... Troop 957!

That's right, the latest variation of Pineapple Heart Attack won the Scoutmaster Cookoff! The boys may even have gotten some. Chris said that they would be cooking at their campsite tonight. As far as the rest of the day was concerned, they built sun clocks and sun compasses. All those going for the Indian Lore merit badge received their Indian names today, after the tomahawk throwing and the sweat lodge ceremony. David Payne also received an Indian name from his fellow scoutmasters; it is supposed to be very appropriate. The boys are all in fine health and having a blast. Expect them to be very tired when they get back. What with astronomy and other merit badge work they are all short on sleep, both getting to bed late and waking up before the trumpet sounds (real or recorded I am not sure). The water continues to go down; getting out of there should be no problem. Except for the black stallion that refuses to move out of the road for any vehicle...

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #10 – Homeward Bound

They are almost at I-10 and expect the trip back to take about 11 hours. 9:00 tonight would probably be the earliest, although I expect we will all be getting phone calls later in the day as they get closer in and can pin it down more exactly. News from camp on the final day was that D.A. Wisniewski and Mark Rehak were called forward for the Order of the Arrow. Congratulations to them both.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary