

Troop Alumni

Alumni Association

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From the President "On a Mission"



Tim Ross
President

January 2010

Happy Birthday, Scouting. The BSA is 100 years young this year.

Scouting was 65 years old when Troop 101 was conceived. In 2010, we continue to faithfully carry out the mission that Lord Baden-Powell envisioned a century ago – helping to make a difference in the life of a boy – or should we say, lots of boys!

When we were getting ready to celebrate the Troop's 30th anniversary a few years back, a newspaper reporter asked us how many boy's lives Troop 101 has impacted over those 30 years. A very good question - and we were stumped.

Sure, we have a record of Troop 101's Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Chairmen through the years. We have a record of every Eagle Scout. We have a record of all of the campouts this Troop has ever conducted.

However, the great intangible is the untold number of lives we have touched over the years. Whatever that number may be, including the unknown numbers who have benefited from the Troop's Eagle and service projects, I am sure it is staggering.

Despite our rich legacy of 112 Eagle Scouts, there are the boys and families who, for one reason or another, did not or could not continue with the program. I thought about this recently when I happened upon the reading of the classic "100 Scouts," when one passage caught my attention:

"Of any one hundred boys who become Scouts, it must be confessed that 30 will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be regarded as a failure, but in later life, all of these will remember that they had been Scouts and will speak well of the program."

Rest assured, there are many who did not make the rank of Eagle who still speak well of their time with Troop 101 and will, for many years to come.

They will do so thanks to our dedicated leaders and the Alumni Association's mission: "To continue the legacy of teaching and instilling the scouting skills to our youth for generations. Preserving the rich tradition of being a top quality scouting program for the youth of our community through education and financial support."

Combine that with our vision and purpose: "The Troop 101 Alumni Association's purpose is to maintain ties with Alumni and continue being the Troop's Historian, preserving the rich tradition of being a top quality scouting program for the youth of our community through education and financial support."

That seems like a tall order, doesn't it? Given the fact that nobody gets paid big money to make sure that vision happens, it could be considered much to ask. But there are some things you just cannot put a price tag or a number on, such as the reach and reputation of this Troop, thanks to dedicated people like you.

On behalf of the Troop Alumni Association's Board of Directors, I would like to say thank you for your support and continuing with us on our mission, as Lord Baden-Powell envisioned, to provide top-quality scouting for all boys and their families, everywhere.

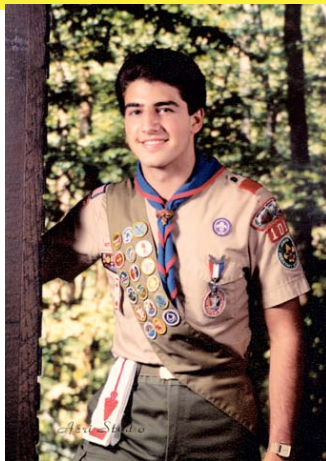
Happy New Year to you and yours!

Editor's Note:

Nestled away on 211 acres of unspoiled forests, fields, and beaches overlooking the Chesapeake Bay near the quaint little town of North East, Maryland, lays Sandy Hill Camp, (www.SandyHillCamp.com). Its serene natural setting is ideal for outdoor adventure and relaxation. The camp is conveniently located halfway between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Sandy Hill is known for its outstanding summer camp, for its beautiful facility for group events and for the hospitality of its staff. The camp hosts over 3,000 boys and girls ages 8-16 each summer for one-and two-week residential summer camps.

This camp is owned and operated by 38 year-old Greg Joseph, Troop 101 Eagle Scout #35 (6/15/89).

Greg is Executive Director of the camp and co-owner with his wife, Kathy. He was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to serve on the Maryland Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council and was recently elected to serve as its chairman. He also served as a Trustee at his church. Prior to 1998, Greg worked for 7 years as an engineer for General Motors in Anderson, Indiana and in Wilmington, Delaware.



Greg, tell us about you and your family.

I am very blessed to have met my wife of 14 years, Kathy Ann Joseph, while we were both working on our Master's Degrees at Stanford University in California. We now live and work together at Sandy Hill Camp. We have two great kids – Karalyn (10) and Nathan (3). We have a third child, a girl, due any day now.

My daughter is a “wanna-be” ropes course staff member and helps me teach knots each year during staff training. She is also very artistic and helps my wife plan the art, crafts, and cooking classes each year. We've done significant renovations and new construction in the last few years, which is a big thrill for my son who loves trucks and tools and considers himself part of the maintenance staff.

Tell us about your history with Troop 101.

- I joined the Troop at age 11 at the encouragement of my good friend Brian Selden (Troop 101 Eagle Scout #25 1/20/87). We had been in Cub Scouts and Webelos together at the Howland United Methodist Church.
- I believe I was one of the last to get my Scout rank badge from Mr. Brown – Jim Potjunas's Scoutmaster.
- I was initially in the Liberty Patrol with Brian, and Rich Hesselman was my patrol leader.
- My first big trip with the Troop was to Toronto, Canada. My first high-adventure trip was hiking 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail in

Alumni Spotlight

Greg Joseph

North East, Maryland

Troop 101 Eagle Scout #35 June 15, 1989



Virginia. I later lead a patrol on a trip to Algonquin Park in Canada that combined canoeing and backpacking.

- My brother Gary, a 101 Eagle as well, was also in the Troop. We did our First-Class camp together at Pymatuning State Park.

- I became the Patrol Leader for the Bison patrol and then went on to become SPL and later a part of the Leadership Corps. I was also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and served as the Beaver Day chairman (Chickagami volunteer work day).

- I got my Eagle in 1989, the same year that I graduated from High School. My Eagle Project was called “Bridging the Generations” and paired Scouts with the elderly in local senior homes teaching them about computers among other things.

- When I left home to attend college at the University of Cincinnati to study Mechanical Engineering, I stayed on as an Assistant Scoutmaster and wrote the Troop Alumni Newsletter from my dorm room (on 3.5” floppy disks that got mailed back and forth to Jim – before email).

Was your Dad a driving force in your Scouting success –or were you a self-starter?

My Dad, Chuck Joseph, was and is a great man and father and had a great deal of influence on me especially in my adolescent years. He was not involved in Scouting when he was young, but he certainly became involved

when my brother Gary (Eagle Scout #40, 5/8/90) and I got involved in the Troop. My dad continues to be involved with the Troop as a Board Member through the Alumni Association to this day.

What are your favorite Troop 101 memories?

Let me call these the “most memorable” rather than “favorite.” Rather than go in depth on any one, I'll offer a list to hopefully jog the memories of those who experienced them with me.

“I got my Eagle in 1989, the same year that I graduated from High School.”

- Mustard football – this was one of Jim's crazy recipes that you think will never work, that actually turns out to be delicious. You slather a hunk of beef in mustard and salt and then pack charcoal around the “football” directly against the mustard. Let it cook for quite a while. Then you peel away the mustard to find an incredibly juicy and delicious meal that looks horrible and tastes amazing!

- On the Appalachian Trail, John Wasilewski and I were the youngest in our patrol and kept ourselves occupied during the hike by playing Dungeons and Dragons – much to the chagrin of the older patrol members and adult leaders. I remember stuffing socks on our hips too because the hip belts weren't well padded back then.

- My first winter event at Chickagami. We arrived to over a foot of snow. We used the canvas Baker tents back then that didn't have floors in them. Someone had kindly brought bales of hay to put down for “flooring”

in our tents. As I started to clear away the snow to put down my ration of hay and my summer-weight sleeping bag, I was told by an older Scout to "leave the snow there" as it would keep me warmer than the wet ground. There is just something not right about "leaving the snow" to help "keep me warm!"

- At my first time at summer camp at Chickagami, being a part of the "Assault boat" race – a row boat filled with younger scouts who paddled through the seaweed with our hands. I remember being homesick at camp my first summer and crying when my parents came mid-week on Parents' Day. I remember getting "basketry" merit badge that first summer because, well, "it was an easy one."
- Jim Potjunas's "Statue of Liberty" (flaming hand trick) on the Algonquin trip – yes, the fuel in the little single burners used for backpacking not only cooks your food but also lights your hand on fire – hold it up high, and you have the Canadian wilderness version of the Statue of Liberty. Doing that in the middle of the vastness of the Algonquin Park makes it even more interesting.
- To this day, when I see dehydrated food, I can't help but remember the final words for each of Andy Jozwiak's instructions for the prepacked food – "cook until eatable." Lunches of Zwieback cookies and "spreadables" round out some of my food-related memories from that trip to Algonquin.
- Playing the harmonica to the tune of "Taps" at a campfire at Chickagami while the gut-wrenching story of the song was read aloud (I found a copy of the story online at <http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bltaps.htm> – only to find out just now that it may not be true – but it still left a lasting impression on me).
- Celebrating my 16th birthday at Chickagami during summer camp. My mom had sent me 16 pieces of individually wrapped Twizzler's red licorice – my favorite! The entire troop sang/screamed the "Happy Birthday" song to me in my tent that evening while I slept soundly through the entire song. A week earlier, we had placed a large banner in Jim's front lawn that read "30 isn't old...for a tree".
- The Organ Grinder restaurant on the Toronto trip.
- Chanting ONE-O-ONE (and sometimes ENO-O-ENO while walking

backwards) into the Chickagami Dining Hall at summer camp.

- First Class camp with my brother.
- OA Ceremonies at Chickagami.
- Wearing the white gloves and being a part of the color-guard at summer camp. Leading the color-guard for the grand opening of the "Most Magnificent McDonald's".
- Being presented with my special embroidered Troop 101 neckerchief with the red border. At the time, there were only 2 embroidered Troop neckerchiefs made – Jim's with the yellow border and mine with the red.
- Assistant Scoutmasters and veteran scouts – Mr. Wasilewski, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Kostolansky, Mr. Reevely, Ken LaPolla, Vince LaPolla, Rich Hesselman, Andy Jozwiak, and many others.
- Jim Potjunas's "guided discoveries" and our many conversations while I was SPL regarding such things as "the good of the Troop versus good of the individual" and "how to make program great!"

What was your proudest moment as a Troop 101 Scout?

My first thought on my proudest memory would be working with the Bison Patrol to get our Baden Powell award. We had a great group of guys - Dave Kane (Assistant Patrol Leader), Damien Guarnieri, Cliff Harvey, Jeff Koncki, Pat Hayes, David Crase, for a brief time - Albert Monroe, and myself as the Patrol Leader. We worked so hard together to do all of the things required for the patrol-based award – winter event, a new cheer, special meetings and service projects, advancement, attendance, a new flag. At that time, not many patrols in the Troop's history had achieved this award. The sense of pride, unity and spirit that we achieved really felt great. And I think it may have been the first time in my life that I had the opportunity to lead a group toward a common goal.

It sounds as though Troop 101 prepared you for what you are doing today?

I guess you can argue that I've never left camp. My wife and I run one of the largest summer camps in Maryland. I still teach kids and staff how to build fires,

pitch tents, and paddle canoes. I get to lead songs at campfires and do skits. Our 160+ member summer staff is made up of college-age folks from around the world, from 17 countries as of 2009. We do our best to teach them by our words and our example about the importance of putting others before ourselves and about being positive adult role models to our campers and each other.

When people ask you why you believe so much in the Scouting program, what do you tell them?

It's one of only two things that I did in my life before turning 18 that, at age 38, are still on my resume.

"At this very minute, I don't even have to fully extend my arm to reach out and touch my Troop 101 Eagle mug"

When I went off to college and had to figure out who I was going to be, I fell back on the Scout Law and Oath. I hung pictures in my dorm room of many Norman Rockwell paintings of the Scout Law and Oath and they are still in my office today.

When the subject of Scouting comes up and I'm asked by someone "Oh, so were you an Eagle Scout," to this day, my answer is "Yes, I am an Eagle Scout." At this very minute, I don't even have to fully extend my arm to reach out and touch my Troop 101 Eagle mug here on the desk in my office.

I believe those who have been awarded the Eagle rank are held to a higher standard, one in which, in these days of moral relativity, does not waver. Not that I'm biased of course, but Troop 101 Eagles just may be expected to soar even a bit higher than the others. I am reminded of my Eagle rank by an eagle's nest, which rests in a tree about half a mile from our camp. It is not unusual for me to see them soaring high over the Chesapeake Bay in front of our house.

I am very blessed in my life – I have a wonderful family, a job that I love that allows me to use so many of my God-given gifts to positively impact the lives of our campers, which number over 10,000 to date and staff members, nearly 1,000 to date – and I even get to see eagles soar past my window!

I grew up in Scouting. It played a major role in creating my sense of independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence, as well as developing the leadership and organizational abilities that I continue to rely on to this day. I am very thankful for Jim Potjunas and for many others in the Troop who gave of their time, energy and talent, that me and many others like me, might get to have those memorable experiences that will last us the rest of our lives.



Following Family Footsteps

*Dr. Ken LaPolla
Eagle Scout #3
March 3, 1980*



For Dr. Ken LaPolla it all began with Troop 101 in 1977, following his brother Jim into the Troop and in 2010, Ken has come full-circle.

With 34 years of Scouting under his belt, he is now a Troop 101 Scout Dad and an active ASM as his son John, the third generation of Troop 101 LaPolla's, crossed-over from Pack 101 into the Troop last Spring.

Having a highly successful dental practice, Ken is also a Captain with the Navy Reserves serving as the Executive Officer for the Reserve component (Operational Health Support Unit) of Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida. He is Troop 101's Eagle Scout # 3. He just finished a successful run as the Cubmaster of Pack 101, the Troop's feeder Pack, based at Blessed Sacrament Church and is excited about returning full-time to the Troop as both ASM – and Scout-Dad.

"It's amazing to meet Eagle scouts and Troop 101 alumni who are leading challenging and exciting lives," said Ken. "I never miss an opportunity to introduce John to them and share their stories of how scouting has made them who they are."

As John enters the Troop, Ken said there is a sense of déjà vu. "My fondest memories have been, and always will be, of Canada. Organizing canoe trips and experiencing the 'true' high adventure of these trips gave me the confidence early to lead and not fear failure or the uncertainty of territories unknown," said Ken. "These experiences will be available all over again for me again as John and I progress together with the troop."

Clearly, John stands to learn a lot from his Dad's days as a Scout on some of those

"101-derful" weekend weather campouts. That's because Ken said his least memorable Scouting experiences deal with any situation where he wasn't prepared. "Poor equipment, poor planning or unpredictable weather were true downers, but I learned not to make the same mistakes twice. I'm still hesitant about camping in April and November," said Ken. "But now that I'm back with the Troop full-time, I have upgraded my equipment as well as John's and am facing my fears head on."

Serving on staff for the Troop's Family Camp, Arrowhead District Winter Event and Troop High Adventure trips, Ken said he notices big changes in the Troop over the years. "The Guide program that the troop has now is awesome. The Guides teach and encourage the Scouts to get involved and regularly advance. I would have to say that the older boys I see now are genuinely considerate and helpful to the younger boys. There are fewer disagreements, but when there are, the boys seem to resolve them successfully."

Compared to his days as a Scout back in the 70s, Ken said the resources and staff leadership available to the Scouts in the Troop are enormous. "I don't think they fully realize the possibilities available to them. Most scout troops would be lucky to find a Scoutmaster half as passionate about the program as ours."

One thing that troubles Ken is the Order of the Arrow's fading in prominence and popularity across much of the BSA. "Working on the National OA Committee for two years and the region and

section staff for three years, it strengthened my skills as a group leader and have definitely put me light years ahead of my peers. Our Scouts no longer have that strong OA available to them on the scale that I had back in the day."

When it comes to preparing today's Scouts to become tomorrow's leaders, Ken said there is nothing that can hold a candle to the BSA program. "Scouting not only teaches the boys leadership, but also affords them the opportunity to experience the consequences, good or bad, for their decisions."

With so many activities vying for boys' attention these days, Ken said sporting programs are good, but there is one huge difference between Scouting and sports in developing leadership roles. "The way sports are structured, the coach leads. The boys are taught to follow the coach and only for an hour or two a day, then they're done. Scouting, on the other hand, gives the boys a leadership experience for 48 to 200 hours at a time – that's endurance!"

Ken said Eagle Scouts who are successful leaders today all agree on this point. "Our alumni will tell you that their sports experiences were great, but it was Scouting and the Scouting program that made them who they are today."

Hoping to make a difference in the life of his own son, Ken is quick to list the qualities he would like to see Scouting instill in John. "Leadership, confidence, and most of all, the ability to work with all people regardless of background or ability."

And when it comes to people and background, you will be hard-pressed to find a family as steeped in Troop 101 history as the LaPolla's



Ken LaPolla and William Brown - 1980



John LaPolla - July 2009

— from Ken's Dad and John's Grandfather, Dr. James LaPolla Sr. — to Ken and his three Eagle Scout brothers, Jim Jr. Eagle Scout #1, Vince #11 and Mike #20. "My father is a great man and role model, is always plugging the benefits

of Scouting and is thrilled over John's joining the Troop, but perhaps the most pleasant surprise is my brother Mike's support and words of encouragement to John."

Ken is eagerly looking forward to furthering the LaPolla family's legacy with Troop 101. "John and I will camp and grow together during his Scouting career," he said. "I look forward to not only going canoeing with him soon in Canada, but also I dream of taking him and his fellow Scouts on adventures in the Patagonia's, Himalayas, rain forests, or where ever their thoughts of adventure take them."

As for Ken's 34-year adventure in Scouting, he said there is one thing he never found the time to say. "I never said this at all as a Scout, and that is, 'Thank you.' — Thank you to every Scout leader the troop has ever had. Thank you to every Scout with whom I have been privileged to work

and thank you Mr. Potjunas for one of the greatest gifts I have ever received, Scouting!"

Troop 101 Alumni Gathering

Thirty-some Troop 101 Alumni and current members gathered December 27th for some Holiday camaraderie. We had a nice mix of scouting leaders, Eagle scouts, Committee and family members.

Al, Pam and Lindsay Copp spoiled us again this year with their assistance of coordinating the gathering. Hors d'oeuvres were donated by Vernons, the Copps and an anonymous donor. Plenty of cookies and fudge were also donated for the gathering.

Along with the opportunity to socialize, we also had one of Mr. Matt's slideshows running in the background, a computer hook-up showing the latest enhancements to the Alumni and Troop website, and a verbal update from Mr. P. on the status of Troop activities and Mr. Ross on the latest Troop 101 Alumni activities.

All in all, another outstanding Troop 101 gathering.



Photos Courtesy of Bob Staab

Troop 101 Goes Italian!

Annual Troop 101 Spaghetti Dinner

The troop's annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be Palm Sunday, March 28.

Ticket sales will take place during the month of March.

There is a lot of help needed for this dinner in many different areas. Planning will start at the Eagle's Wings meeting on January 11. Please contact any member of Eagle's Wings to see how you can help or attend their meeting.

The dinner Chairman is Amy Lamer and she can be reached at amy.lamer@yahoo.com or 330-637- 2758 with any questions.



Trivia

1. Where was the Frontier Festival of 1985 held?
2. What year was the first time the Troop didn't go to Algonquin in August?
3. How many Troop 101 Eagle Scouts have also served as Senior Patrol Leader?
4. Who was the third Committee Chairman from June of 1979 to January 1980?
5. Camp Chickagami opened its gates in 1941, when did the Troop first camp there?

Fun Facts

The Troop 101 Photo Gallery contained 32,660 images from 1975 - 2009.

Hawk and Owl Patrol received the National Honor Patrol award in 2009.

Answers
 1. Chickagami
 2. 1981
 3. 47
 4. Bill Brown
 5. March 1977

Scoutmaster's Column



Jim Potjunas
Scoutmaster

It was one of those campouts where everything seemed to work out right. Second weekend in November and the weather was sunny and crisp. We had Webelos along from four different packs, enough that we had all six patrols camping. We built both a monkey bridge and a signal tower. Alumni veterans such as Alan Copp were back helping in the skunk kitchen to feed the 20-some adults that included all those Webelos dads. There was the traditional November turkey on the tripod as well as Chris

Class Campers making their second attempt on the far side of the site. It was a beautiful fall day. Baden Powell would have liked it. Norman Rockwell would have painted it.

The BSA turns 100 this year. They have an awesome Centennial Jamboree planned for their last stay at Fort A.P. Hill. They are opening a new High Adventure Base in West Virginia that will also become the permanent home for future Jamborees starting in 2013. There are many National BSA activities going on this year and I encourage everyone to check out the national BSA website www.scouting.org. Our local Council will celebrate with an elaborate Camporee at the end of April.

February also marks the 35th anniversary of Troop 101. We will hold our celebration in August at our annual family campout at Pymatuning State Park. Come for dinner, the day, or the weekend. The alumni website will carry those details in the coming months.

While so much has changed in the last hundred or even the last 35 years, so much has stayed the same. You should have seen those kids on that sunny November afternoon.



Norton deep frying two more so we could feed all the Webelos as well for supper.

When you looked around the campsite, you saw adults teaching kids the intricacies of knots and lashings. Scouts and Webelos alike were trying to make it across the monkey bridge. Six patrol fires had different meals cooking. There was a set of First

Beaumont - November 2009

Its Time to Name the Newsletter

Have any ideas? We are still looking!

We need a very creative and original name for this alumni newsletter. (Sorry, "Troop Scoop" has already been taken.) Please send us your suggestions as soon as possible. We would like to have the new name in place for our April edition. Send your ideas to EdRByers@aol.com. Please put "Newsletter Name" in the subject line. Thank you and good luck!

Have you seen all those photos!!!

www.troopphoto.troop101.net

The Troop 101 photo gallery now contains over **30,500** photos from 1975 to the present. Have you seen them?



Beaumont Cabin - February 1990



Stambaugh - March 1995



Beaumont - February 1990



Mecca Black Powder Trip - October 2000

Troop Alumni

Upcoming Events

- **Eagle Court of Honor**

There will be an Eagle Court of Honor for Michael McClearn (#112) at noon on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Blessed Sacrament Church on Reeves Road in Warren Ohio.

- **Annual Spaghetti Dinner**

The Troop will be holding its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Palm Sunday again at the Elks Lodge #295 in Warren, Ohio.

- **Troop 35th Reunion**

The Troop will be celebrating it's 35th Anniversary on Saturday, August 14, 2010. The Celebration will take place during the Annual Family Campout at Pymatuning State Park. Come for Dinner, Come for the day, or camp for the week-end. Stay in a tent, or bring your camper. We are just starting to plan this event. Check the Alumni Website for further details.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

