

Alumni Association

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Matt McCracken	Webmaster
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OPEN	Treasurer
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From the President "Spaghetti Time"

New Location for the Spaghetti Dinner



Tim Ross
President

April 2011

It is spring and a young Scout's thoughts turn to spaghetti.

For the 33rd year our spring fundraiser will bring together young and old new and former. What started out as the Troop's secondary fundraiser has become the primary funding source.

When you add in the basket sale that Eagle's Wings does, it is even more important. But it has also become so much more than that. Parents and family members seldom seen throughout the year come together and work and get to know one another.

If a family with a scout-age boy is impressed by the dinner, it won't be the first time a new scout joined just because of this. Scouts get to experience serving and bussing. Some may end up doing that in high school or college. It's also a time when alumni show up and support the troop. We have folks who have been coming to the dinner for nearly the entire three plus decades.

So will it be a challenge or an opportunity this year?

With the Elks in transition, the dinner will

be at Blessed Sacrament this year. The facilities are bigger, arguably nicer. But how many people who have just made it a habit after church on Palm Sunday to go to the Elks will find an empty parking lot and some signs? And how many church-goers will leave mass and walk down the hall for Spaghetti because it is convenient?

The dinner has grown to almost 1,000 meals these past few years. Will it drop off because of the location change? Will we need 2,000 meatballs or 3,000? How many gallons of sauce to prepare? That extra sauce and meatballs gets frozen and goes camping for the next several months, showing up in patrol menus as meatball subs, lasagna, or yes, even Spaghetti.

Will we still be serving it in Algonquin this next August or talking about the mad dash to the store at 4:00 Palm Sunday because we were running out?

We will know the answers later this month. If you are in town or nearby, come and see.



Troop101.net

Trivia

1. What Year did the Troop Website make its Debut?
2. What year was the first "Week Long" Canoe Trip in Algonquin?
3. What is the Candy Bar of Choice for most scouts in Canada?
4. What other organization started its Spaghetti Dinner the same year the Troop did?
5. What year yielded the most Eagle Scouts?

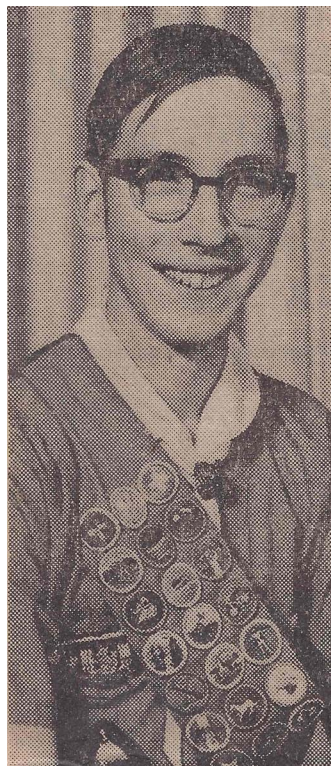
Fun Facts

There were 7 Scouts who earned their Eagle in 1986, 1987, and 1990. These three years yielded the second highest number of Eagles in a year.

It's the 101st Anniversary of Scouting in the USA... You know we'll be celebrating it somehow!

1. 1999
2. 1978
3. Coffee Crisp
4. Howland Rotary Club
5. 2004 (8)

Answers



Alumni Spotlight

Jim Potjunas

Vienna, Ohio

Troop 11 Eagle Scout - 10/16/1973



To the boys, he is "Mr. P." To others, simply "P". To all of us he is our leader.

He has been here since the very beginning.

For more than 30 years Jim Potjunas has been Scoutmaster of Troop 101. An Eagle Scout, District Award of Merit recipient, Jim was also honored with the Silver Beaver Award, a national BSA honor, the highest award a volunteer can earn.

In this issue of the Alumni Quarterly Jim looks back on his 30 + years as leader of one of the most successful Boy Scout Troops in the United States of America.

AQ: We'll start with the question everybody asks: What has kept you at this for more than 30 years?

P: A couple things, I guess. One is ownership. A few of us started this troop way back when as kind of a dream that Scouting could be done right, the way Baden Powell intended it. The other thing is that it is still fun and rewarding. Most of the time I like what I am doing and it is great to see the guys grow and succeed.

AQ: At what point did the Scout Leader bug bite you?

P: When we started the troop I was 17. I naturally transitioned to an ASM when I turned 18. Once our second Scoutmaster announced he was moving, I went to the committee meeting fully expecting Dave Kostolansky to become the next Scoutmaster. Dave kind of turned the tables on all of us suggesting I do it and committing himself to 100% attendance as my assistant for the next 2 years.

AQ: Who was your role model?

P: If I have to pick one, it was Mr. Bill Brown. He was just a committee member when I was a Scout back in Troop 11, but his previous years as

Scoutmaster quietly showed through as he taught knots, nature, and a host of other things. He was the one who started this troop. He rarely missed anything and had those values that pretty much encapsulated Scouting.

AQ: Your most unforgettable character(s), memorable scout or leader?

P: There are way too many to choose one. The stories could go on for hours and hours.

AQ: We can only imagine. What are the frustrations of running the Troop that we never see?

P: Mechanically, there are certainly times that I am planning an activity and everyone is excited to participate, but no one seems ready to step up and help weeks or months beforehand when much of the grunt-work needs done. There are of course the many other things I pass up because 'I have to go to Scouts.' From a kid side, when I know how easily we could help some kid, but the parents don't support it and the kid loses out our worse.

AQ: Conversely, the joys we never see?

P: The individual thank-you's that come from the kids. Some come years later.

AQ: One of the so called criticisms, we have heard from other area Scouters, is that Troop 101 is an "Eagle Factory" How do you respond?

P: Actually, I let the Eagles respond. I don't think you can find a single one on that wall downstairs that will say he didn't earn it every step of the way. Conversely, I actually got in trouble for adding First Class Camp and Cooking back in the day before I would sign off. Our kids actually did more than most.

AQ: Assistant Leaders. Your staff. Seems as though you have always had a good support group close by.

P: It wasn't always that way. For years it was me and one faithful ASM or another and a couple other folks or dads that we would coax out. I do think I found the formula eventually and there are a lot of great people that help make the program so much more today than it was before.

AQ: Let's talk about your committee. What a great bunch of folks. There are some names on that roster that have (thankfully) been around forever!

P: I love it when some folks stick around. Aside from the knowledge and experience, it says they were here for more than just the short time their own son was in the program. Conversely, I want to keep new parents having a stake in their son's program and in the key roles. So it is a balancing act.

AQ: Why is it that parents seem to fall in love with this Troop on new-parent night?

P: The same reason other families shy away from the troop. It is organized — some say too organized. There are a lot of kids having fun doing a program run by kids and there are a lot of adults, ASM's, committee members, and just parents down helping or at least present to help.

AQ: I once heard it said from a local businessman that Troop 101 is better run and better managed than most companies or professional organizations.

P: Oh those local businessmen. I suppose we should hit him up for a donation?

AQ: Not a bad idea! At least invite them to the Spaghetti Dinner. Let's talk about the Alumni Association. What are the challenges? How do we get more people to step forward and become active?

P: This has been tough for us. Tim Ross and the other board members have put a lot of time into this over the past couple years and we really struggle. Reunions seem to do well every 5 years and I think if we have a specific need some folks always seem to step up. The website, Facebook, and this newsletter are all critical tools, but still, I wish we could get more two-way communication.

AQ: On the District and Council levels, you certainly have seen the changes. You have watched as the District was reformed and the Council merged. Hindsight being 20-20, was this a good idea?

P: It is a trend nation-wide and I suspect it had to happen. We have seen a continuous and progressive lack of service and support from basic services to the loss of a camp, to the discontinuation of Boy Scout summer camp. The economy is only partly to blame. I don't see GWRC around for that much longer as a council.

AQ: There are the predictions that there is fast coming a day when Ohio will have only four councils?

P: I see evidence of smaller councils doing just fine even today. Moraine Trails runs two camps and sits next to Greater Pittsburgh and looks to me like they do a fine job providing program and resources. Why mess that up?

AQ: Chickagami was near and dear to many of us and you spent a great deal of time there in your career. How do you feel about all that?

P: It was certainly a sad day. We all invested a lot into that camp. I don't think our boys will ever have the connection to Manatoc, work on camp staff and do some of the things we did at Chickagami. Our OA Chapter is lost without a camp to focus on. But on the other hand, have you seen it today? Chickagami Park is a beautiful place. The troop camped there last spring. It is bittersweet and very hard for me when we go there, but enough years have passed that the Scouts of today don't have any idea. We will camp there again.

AQ: We spend at least one night a week hidden away in church basements or Elks Halls and weekends way out in the woods. Do we have a visibility problem?

P: Somewhat. Our publicity position on the troop committee ebbs and flows. Our color guard and the logos emblazoned on all our equipment, shirts and hoodies help a lot.

AQ: There is so much tradition in the Troop and the BSA. If you had your way, what changes would you make to Scouting from a PR or recruiting standpoint?

P: In Scouting you get to do so much stuff you can't do anywhere else. How is that not cool?

AQ: Where do you see the Troop in the next 10 to 20 years? Any visions?

P: On the other side of the Elks parking lot, for one thing. Otherwise, I would be happy to see it continue doing what it is doing today. I think we do a lot of good.

AQ: It is said you have the most



thankless job in the world? Has any boy or parent actually said "thank you?"

P: Oh yes. I never considered this a thankless job. Go work for the district or council as a volunteer. There is no kid to come up and say thanks.

AQ: Has there ever been a time or circumstance where you were ready to call it a career?

P: Yes. I have pretty much set it in my own mind that when I sense the boys are ready for a change, then I will do just that. They won't say it, but I will know.

JIM POTJUNAS

Jim Potjunas, son of Mrs. Phyllis Potjunas, 2095 Woodland NE, recently received his Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor at the Christ Episcopal Church.

Potjunas is a member of Boy Scout Troop 11 and attends Harding High School.

His leadership experience includes being a patrol leader, den chief and quartermaster. Currently he is a senior patrol leader. A member of the Order of the Arrow, he was presented his Eagle Award after building up a nature trail in one of the city's parks.

Among those in attendance for the Court of Honor was Jack Reevely, who made the trip down from Toronto, Canada, to attend the ceremony.

Troop 101's Online Web Presence Goes to the Next Level

Assistant Scoutmaster takes it Up a Notch

Assistant Scoutmaster Matt McCracken has earned the title of Troop IT Guru – and rightfully so. Matt has been instrumental in setting up the photo and video gallery and loading all of those Troop memories for all of us to enjoy.

Matt is also involved in the Troop Facebook pages and this just in: our newly- redesigned Web site! His fine work in laying-out and producing this Alumni Quarterly newsletter (he makes it look easier than it really is) has been widely acclaimed. We finally got Matt to turnoff his laptop and talk to us about his dedication and mission.

AQ: There seems to be a lot going on with you these days.

Matt: I've been on a constant hunt for people's old computers. I have taken the four best computers that were donated and created a network of computers in the Troop Room that have helped greatly. One computer runs TroopMaster, a software for tracking advancement and awards. Another is connected exclusively to the Troop site and used to manage the Quartermasters store, a section of the Troop site that allows patrol leaders to reserve the coveted Camp food in advance. There is also the Librarian computer, to track a record of our Library books, and a computer for General Inquiry that sits by the Scoutmaster, usually for menu creation.

We have moved into the world of Technology quite fast. I typically just make sure the systems are up to date and still work. We bought an HP printer that is networked between all the computers and is very good on ink cost.

I ran the cable for Internet from the Elks and it has come in handy more than one time. It's nice to be able to go to the Troop site or check on merit badge requirements... or to get the latest Troop Scoop and print it for a visiting family.

Aside from working with the New computer network in the back room I work a lot on the Troop website, and recently it has been taking much of my time. Visitors to the site will notice a substantial change in what the site used to look like, and what it looks like now. I also help with graphic design work for any Troop activity, and will most likely have at least two Slideshows and a PC set up for Alumni to register at the next spaghetti dinner.

AQ: How many images are now in the photo gallery?

Matt: Well, I've added a lot of videos to the Photo Gallery, and after every campout the number just keeps growing. Right now there are 38,446 files in the Troop Photo Gallery. Of these there are 84 videos that make up the Past Movie Nights and Slideshows. I added the Troop Slideshows that I had, as well as the Patrol Movies Jim has collected over the years.

AQ: Some of those old patrol videos seem to be very popular among the alumni.

Matt: Right now the most popular video is a Beaver video from 2001, but they are all there, at least the ones we had. If anyone has any of the other old videos I would be glad to convert and put them online.

AQ: How much work goes into that gallery effort?

Matt: Initially the site took a bit to get started, but now it's about an hour or two a month uploading the photos to the gallery. If it must be confessed I wish I had more time to go through and label, or Tag photos. I would almost need a small task force to handle this though.

AQ: The alumni page on the Web has come a long way under your leadership.

Matt: Jim asked me several years ago to create an Alumni Members section to track users and give them member only tools. As I was still new to designing websites I must admit that this site hadn't reached its full glory until just this past weekend. In fact, if you haven't noticed the whole Troop site has undergone some rather interesting changes. The Newsletter portion of the Alumni site though has been hailed as the greatest part of the Alumni however.

AQ: How is the interaction between alumni and the Troop - do you ever get feedback?

Matt: Usually as Scoutmaster, and the figurehead, Jim gets the most feedback on the Troop and Alumni site. He tells me a few, but I rarely see direct feedback.

AQ: Do you wish you would get more input from alumni members?

Matt: I would like it if some of the Alumni would be willing to help with the Photo Gallery, but it's a daunting task. My biggest plea for help would be to anyone with photos not in the gallery. It would be great to fill the years that we don't have many photos, mostly 2000 to 2004.

AQ: How do they get them to you?

Matt: If you scan in photos on your computer you can send them in to me or mail me a disk. I would love to upload any photos that are out there. Even Things that aren't photos, like Old Dining Hall Plaques, would be great to get a photo of and put online.

AQ: What is your biggest challenge in managing Social media for the Troop?

Matt: I'm tech savvy, so when I look at things they make sense, when others look at them, it isn't as intuitive. That's one of the reasons we have worked on the New Troop website for the past three months. Most of the code was re-written to help manage more security, and make the site more intuitive.

AQ: How is the Troop and Alumni facebook pages coming along? Seems popular.

Matt: The Facebook page was one outlet to get in touch with Alumni and Scouts, but it doesn't replace the website, which is an invaluable feature to the Troop. There are currently about 113 people registered on the Alumni Facebook page, and 135 on the Troop site. I hope everyone on the Alumni Facebook page is also a member of the Troop site, and that it remains the place to go for Alumni news.

AQ: Congratulations, you do an incredible amount of work on this Alumni publication and it shows. It must eat up a lot of your time.

Matt: I've got a system for the Alumni Newsletter now, but I must admit that the hours it takes me to put it all together surely pales in comparison to the amount of time and research Ed Byers puts into editing and proofing it. I can shell my portion of the work out in about 3-4 hours on a slow day.

*Don Witt Eagle # 114**Michael Fenstermaker Eagle # 115*

Troop 101's Centennial Eagles

Don Witt, Michael Fenstermaker Presented Eagle, Alex Jimenez Next

As we noted in the last issue of The Alumni Quarterly, Troop 101 had three Scouts earn their Eagle Scout Award in the Centennial Scouting year of 2010.

Michael Fenstermaker was presented his Eagle March 19th and on March 26th, Don Witt received his Eagle Scout Award.



Both Eagles Courts of Honor went well with mothers in tears, a Mr. Matt Slideshow, Followed by delicious Eagles Wings refreshments.

The Centennial Eagle parade isn't over yet. There is one more to come as Alex Jimenez's Eagle Court is slated for June 6th at Howland United Methodist Church.

In addition to these Centennial Eagles, we are happy to report we have several other Scouts following closely and working hard to become Eagle Scouts during this, the 101st anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.



Fun at Camp

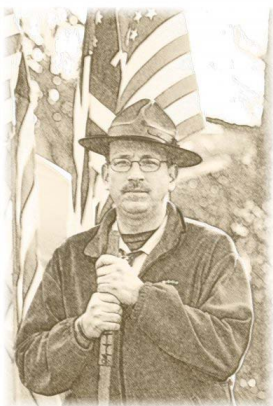
Canada has become a
signature Trip for Troop 101.

How many times have we been to
Canada?

	Base Camp	Canoe Trip	Hike & Canoe
1975	x		
1976	x		
1977	x		
1978	x	x	
1979		x	
1980		x	
1982		x	
1984		x	
1987			x
1990		x	
1991	x		
1993		x	
1995	x		
1997	x		
1999	x	x	
2002		x	
2003	x		
2007	x		
2011	x	x	
	11	10	1

Overall we've camped 22 weeks
in Canada. 11 at Base Camp, 10
on Canoe Trips and 1 for a Hike &
Canoe Trip.

Scoutmaster's Column



Jim Potjunas
Scoutmaster

So I went to Blessed Sacrament for Mike Fenstermaker's Eagle Court of Honor. It was a very nice program. There was a full house of Scouts, family members, Troop members past and present, the priest, and the past priest drove 90 minutes to attend. The program went off well with various folks reading all those things that make an Eagle something special.

There were letters from the Mayor, congressmen, scouting officials and the diocese. It was followed by a nice slide show highlighting Mike's career. I felt a tear in my eye at one point. Then there was the usual cake, punch, and pictures and every one helped clean up and headed home.

I came back to the house to change. I had promised Sandy I would run to the store before she got home from work. As I pulled into the Giant Eagle parking lot 4 Scouts in full uniform were coming out of the Chinese restaurant there in the plaza. Aged 16 – 18 they didn't have on coats to hide their Scout uniforms. They had obviously come straight from the Court of Honor. Now this is the middle of Howland right across the street from the high school. They saw me and yelled and came running up. I just had time to say hello before I had to move my car in the busy parking lot.

But there they were, laughing and running in the busiest place in town on a Saturday afternoon in full dress uniforms fresh from an Eagle Court of Honor. Today, Scouting was cool.

Have you seen all those photos!!!
www.troopphoto.troop101.net



Algonquin - August 1999



Algonquin - August 2007

Troop 101 Pack 101 Venture Crew 101 Alumni Eagle's Wings

[Discussion Thread](#) | [Links](#) | [Pictures](#)

Welcome To 101 Net

The Web Portal to Five Great Youth Organizations





From here, you can explore Troop 101, Pack 101 and Crew 101, as well as the Alumni Association and Eagle's Wings. Five great organizations in one place!



Home

Pictures

Troop Scoop & Current News

Calendar

Troop Discussion

Troop Alumni Association

Eagle's Wings

Alumni Phone List

How To Join & Scouting Links

01:22 - December 15, 1999

Home

Welcome To Troop 101 Net

Welcome to the Troop 101 website. Here you will find current news and pictures of the troop - like our Canada trip last August.

We have an excellent **Calendar** that lists all programs for the Troop, District, Order of the Arrow and our Cub Pack as well.

Our **Discussion Page** contains a combination of Scout stories and commentary and pertinent information posted by the adult staff.

Our **Alumni Association** and **Eagles Wings** organizations both have a page here.

We also have a **Links** page to other great Scouting related sites and our



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Welcome To 101 Net

The Web Portal to Four Great Youth Organizations




From here, you can explore Troop 101 and Pack 101 as well as the Alumni Association and Eagle's Wings. Four great organizations in one place!

If you are interested in becoming a Boy Scout, or Cub Scout, please check out the info in those sections and send us an [e-mail](#). We would be glad to answer your questions!

Recent Updates & News

January 16, 2011

Winter Event 2011



A great Winter Event has come and gone. The photos are now online in the [Troop Photo Gallery](#). Congratulations to the Owl and Bison Patrol for getting First Place with a Tie. To see how everyone did check out the the Scoresheet of every Patrol. [Click here for that](#).

Troop 101 .NET Changes since 1999

Troop 101's website has changed a lot inn the past 12 years. From it's early beginings it has served as a great resource to the Troop.

The beginings of the Troop website were done by Mike Kunz and a friend in 1999. (Top Left) Since then it has had several facelifts, (two shown)

Recently the site underwent another change as it was re-worked by Matt McCracken.



Warren, OH 35

Troop 101
Pack 101
Alumni
Eagles Wings

Welcome To 101 Net

We meet at the Elks Lodge in Warren, Ohio [MAP](#)
Mondays from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

If you are interested in becoming a Boy Scout, or Cub Scout, please check out the info in those sections and send us an [e-mail](#). We would be glad to answer your questions!

Recent Updates & News

March 23, 2011

New Troop Website

Taking a look at the Website you should notice a great big change! That's because we've been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to make the site more intuitive and easier to navigate. This top area here will be for the latest in Troop Updates and News.

Please take a look around the site and let us know of any problems you may encounter while browsing the site. You can send Questions, Comments and Concerns to Mr. Matt at webdeveloper@troop101.net.

[Click Here for Other Recent News and Updates](#)

Upcoming Activities

Want to see all Activities? Check out the [TROOP CALENDAR](#)

Member Login:

User E-Mail

Password

[Login Now!](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

[Don't Have an Account?](#)

Your are Visitor:

97190

Troop Home Page

About Troop 101

Photo Gallery

Troop Calendar

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Our Eagle Scouts

Citizenship Program

Wish List

Member Resources

Troop Roster

Troop Newsletter

Upcoming Trip Roster

Skunk Menu

Advancement Tools

Troop Tools

Cookbook

Quartermasters Store

Troop Library

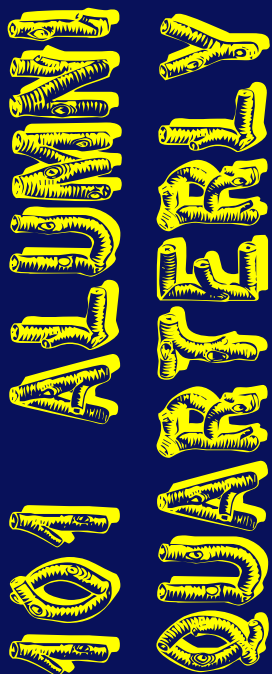
Color Guard

Patrol Leader Tools

Resource Directory

Poor College Kid





Upcoming Events

- **04/17/2011 - 33rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner**

We will be having our 33rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner Palm Sunday. **NEW LOCATION** is at Blessed Sacrament Church 3020 Reeves Road Northeast - Warren, OH

- **06/06/2011 - Alex Jimenez - Eagle Court of Honor**

Alex will receive his Eagle Scout on June 6th at the Howland United Methodist Church

- **06/17/2011 - 6/19/2011 - Family Camp**

Annual Family Campout. \$10 per person, come one, come all!

Alumni News Issue 07 April 2011



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