

101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

July 2017
ISSUE

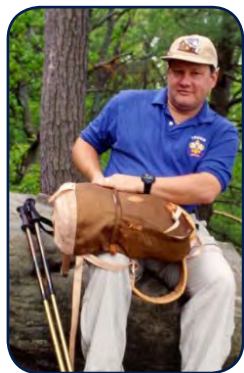
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AND MORE!!!



From the President Dedication Day. The Jim Potjunas Scout Center.

At last, a red-letter day for Troop 101, celebrated by Scouts, Leaders, Scouting friends and family, the media, and Blessed Sacrament parishioners who stopped by after Mass to take in the special dedication ceremonies. Best of all, even the weatherman cooperated!

During the ceremony, it was interesting to look out among the crowd and observe how everyone brought their special talents and skills to the table to make this new Scout building happen; the spirit of giving and pride. I felt so proud of the people who helped make this a reality.

Just before I took the podium, many wonderful things were running through my mind.

First, the overwhelming support of Troop members, families and friends who supported a project of this proportion and expense.

Second, the feeling of commitment and contribution to this new building, an effort which will stand the test of time. Personally, it represents the values and knowledge passed along to me and my son, Chris, through Scouting with Troop 101. It is also a testament to The Scout Oath and Scout Law, which demonstrate that through hard work and dedication, nothing can stand in your way. There are 147 Eagle Scouts who will certainly attest to that.

Finally, I sensed the magnitude of this Scouting legacy, which Troop 101 exemplifies. Above all, it was great to see Jim Potjunas recognized for all he has done for this Troop and so many Scouts.



Yes, it took a lot of people and a lot of time to make this building happen, but through it all, we never lost sight of what the end-goal was, and who it was for: Our Scouts!

Thank you.
-Tim

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The Scoutmaster's Corner

A Plan Comes Together



The big event for this issue of the Alumni Quarterly was the building dedication on May 28th. For those unable to attend, there were 5 brief speakers:

- Tim Ross, President of the Alumni Association, served as emcee, thanking all who had contributed and explained the history and role of the Troop 101 Alumni Association.
- Father Eisweirth gave the blessing for the new facility.
- Ken LaPolla, as Chartered Org Rep, spoke on the history

of 101 and the church starting way back with the first Eagle Projects done there through the cub pack and eventually the troop.

- Dave Taylor, Eagle #67, representing the Taylor, Odille, Meyer, and Kaighin families, as well as Eagles, Bill VanHuffel and Greg Martin, dedicated the building, named the "Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center"
- Jim Potjunas spoke on the history of Troop 101. The text of that speech is included below:

Wow. Forty-some years ago I could never have imagined anything like this. Back in 1975 there were six kids and a handful of adults who just had a vision of what Scouting was supposed to be. When Mr. Brown told us the Elks would clean up part of their basement, give us \$2000 to outfit two patrols, and give us a closet for our camping gear, we knew we were on our way. We borrowed Mr. Marton's 4x8 wooden trailer and it was plenty big enough. When we went to Canada, some friends even loaned us 3 aluminum canoes. We were so fortunate.

Within the year we had grown to two patrols and even needed a Senior Patrol Leader. We camped every month including December. We spent a week at summer camp every year. That was Camp Chickagami for the first 20 and Manatoc for these last 16. There has been a big trip almost every year. This year will be our 20th trip to Algonquin Park in Canada. There have been 8 bike trips along the C&O canal, and a variety of other adventures including National Scout Jamborees and Philmont.

There have been 39 Spaghetti Dinners and just as many Nut or Popcorn sales to help raise money to do all these things. Those fundraisers and campouts were all made possible by an army of volunteers over the years. Their efforts enabled us to buy canoes and replace them when they wore out. We grew and outgrew 4 other equipment trailers as our numbers rose through the years. We have had as many as 70 active members and even with more than doubling the space we were given at the Elks, we were cramped.

The Elks had their own ups and downs over the years

and there came a time that we reached out to Blessed Sacrament back in 1999. While we were able to stay on at the Elks, the parish agreed to charter Cub Pack 101 in the fall of that year. Fifteen years would pass and we needed to reach out again. In March of 2015, after 40 years almost to the day, we left the Elks and joined our Cub Pack here at Blessed Sacrament.

The Alumni Association took up the challenge of creating this facility to store and maintain our equipment. It only became possible through the generosity of all those families who had come through the program these past 40 years coupled with many others who believe strongly in the Scouting program and what it has to offer, along with Blessed Sacrament as a Chartered Partner that shares and supports those same values and beliefs and is also willing to work to see these opportunities made available to our youth.

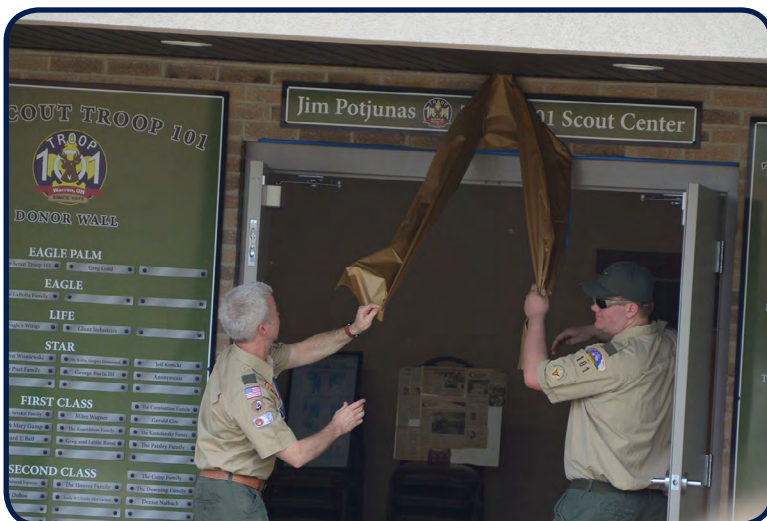
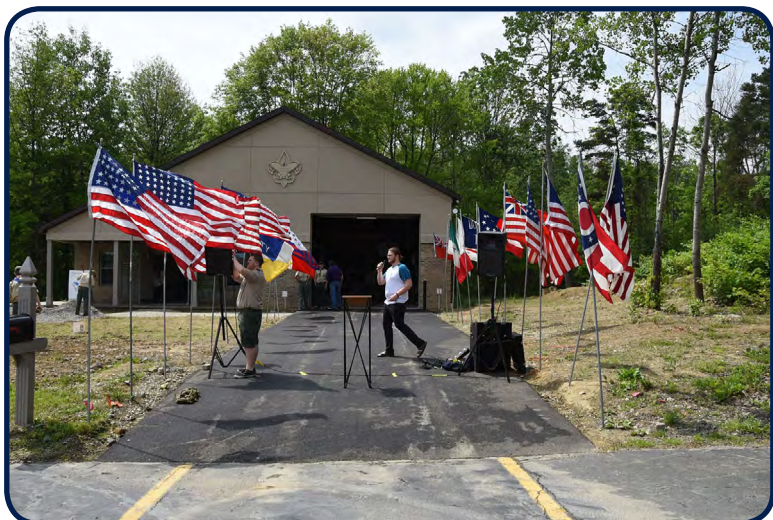
And this brings me to our youth. There have been 147 Eagle Scouts come out of this troop. I really wish we would have had the time to get our Eagle Wall back up. Sometime later this year the pictures of all those Eagles will fill the walls of the conference room in the building. You are all invited back when we re-dedicate that wall. But additionally, there have been thousands of other Scouts and I don't know how many cub scouts as well who have benefited from the program.

Trailers, tents, canoes, and buildings are great. It is infinitely easier for both Scouts and volunteers to prepare and run a great program with this type of facility. I don't think any of us ever dreamed we would come out of a basement to something as nice as this. But these buildings and equipment only serve a purpose if there are boys to benefit from the program. So many of you here today have made a great investment in all of this and we continue to look for support to finish the lawn, a flagpole, etc. For me personally, to justify all this these contributions made by so many, we need to reach out and find more of those youth who could benefit from this Scouting program. We have the capacity and we have the resources. Let's now join together and see how many of the youth in Trumbull County that we can help through Scouting in the next 40 years.



Building Dedication Photos

Find more photos in the Troop Photo Gallery at Troop101.net!



Stories Behind the Scenes

the New Building's Success

There are stories behind some of the in-kind donations to our new building. Here is one: George Burin III, who had already given generously to the project, contacted us about security for the building. He had a high school friend, Jim Dietl, who started up a company in Warren called ALC Technologies. George was willing to donate the one-time hardware costs for cameras and sensors and Jim was willing to donate two years of monitoring. If you stop by the building you will see the signs indicating we are protected by ALC Technologies. Besides cameras and alerts, this gives us the ability from our cell phones, (yes, there's an app for that!) to arm and disarm the system as well as lock and unlock the door. This is hugely helpful in a volunteer organization when you don't have to drop everything and run over to the building every time there is a program need.

And with all that hard-earned gear in there, we all sleep better at night knowing that it is being monitored.

It also feels good to help out a local business. If you are in the market for a security solution and mention Troop 101 to the folks at ALC, Jim will consider extending his two-year monitoring offer. As a local businessman, he wants to support community organizations and if he also sees a return, he will consider our building a marketing expense. This could save the troop significantly in the years to come.

Visit <https://www.alc.tech/>



Paving the Way – With Your Help!



With the building dedication behind us, work has begun on the landscaping around the new building. This will include a flagpole, patio, and paver

sidewalks. We are preparing to order our first round of engraved pavers. Anyone still wishing to purchase a personalized paving stone in this initial round can do so for \$100 by completing the following form on the Troop Website: <http://troop101.net/Uploads/Troop%20Uploads/General/Troop%20Room/Paver%20Brick%20Order%20Form.pdf>



Saying Goodbye to Scouts, Family and Friends



Dale Musolf

U.S. Navy Reserve, retired, 72, passed away Monday, May 22, 2017, in Santa Fe, N.M., from brain cancer.

Dale was Troop Committee Chairman from July 1988 to July 1989. He was extremely helpful as a hands-on equipment person and was responsible for many trailer and other equipment repairs both before his tenure as Chairman and during.



Shawn Atkinson

Shawn Atkinson (age 48).

Shawn was a Scout in the Troop back in the late 1970's. The son of Thomas and Jackie Atkinson, he was a 1984 graduate of Warren Harding High School.

Generations: The Zazycki Family Eagles



L.J. Zazycki #9 (3/1/1983)



John D. Zazycki #38 (4/11/1990)



Tom Zazycki #56 (2/8/1994)



Jim Zazycki #57 (2/8/1994)

Over the past 60 years, there are five Eagle Scouts in the Zazycki family. Patriarch Len Zazycki is an Eagle Scout (1956). Son L.J. is Troop 101 Eagle #9 (1983), John is Eagle #38 (1990). Zazycki twins Tom and Jim are Eagles #56 and #57 (1994). Len was a long time Troop 101 Committee Member and treasurer. Marianne Zazycki, Len's wife and mother of the four boys, was also heavily involved in the Troop. She was on the then Mothers' Auxiliary, which predated the current Eagle's Wings, who did everything from Spaghetti Dinner to Troop Christmas Parties. Len and Marianne are retired and living the good life in Florida.

AQ: Dad Len, we'll begin with you and go around the horn with your sons. What were your very first impressions of the Troop upon joining, day one?

Len: My wife and I wanted Scouting to be part of our son's lives as it was for me. We researched a few Troops in the Warren area and were very impressed with the leadership and the scouts of Troop 101.

L.J.: I remember my first Troop meeting in the basement of the Elks Lodge rather well. The Troop was growing rapidly at the time, and, while the meetings were bustling, there was an aura of controlled chaos. What I remember most about the first meeting, however, was the adult resources that I met. Many of them would be candidates for what I would call the "Mount Rushmore of Troop 101". First of all, there was Jim Potjunas. There is no Troop 101 without him. Additionally, names like Gary Mansell,

Larry Leemaster, Bill Marton, and Bill Brown are all part of the foundation of what became a second family for many of us.

John: My older brother LJ was already a member of Troop 101 so I had a very positive impression of the Troop even before I joined. I think the most memorable first impression of Troop 101 was how organized the Patrols



Tom Zazycki Family. Tom, wife Tracy, Daughters Kate (11) and Kara (6)

were and how much fun everyone had.

Jim: Well, for me, this is a no brainer. My twin, Tom and I had been around the troop since L.J. joined. Parents night at summer camp, Christmas Parties plus seeing L.J. and then John come and go from camping trips was nothing new. Needless to say, we were very familiar with the troop. And I think this helped Mr. Potjunas get prepared for the Zazycki Twins!

Tom: Like Jim said, That's an easy question. Having two older brothers (LJ, 10 years older and John, four

years older) exposed us to the Troop at an early age. Going in to it, we knew the Troop was very active (meetings, camping, community service, etc.) and really was thorough in getting the most out of its Scouts. Looking back now, merit badges never were easy, which was a pain sometimes. As an adult now, I really appreciate the lessons learned and try to pass that on to my two daughters.

AQ: What was the most teachable moment in the Troop that you recall?

L.J.: My first campout was Winterspiel at Chickagami in December. I had been in the Troop for about two weeks at the time. I'd never been winter camping before and was ill equipped, but somehow, I survived, thanks in large part to the First Aid house where one could go inside to thaw out. But I didn't learn, and in February we were in Pennsylvania in Adirondacks with a foot or so of snow. On Friday night, we were goofing around (because there were no tents to set up) and for some reason, sliding down snow-covered ravines in jeans seemed the right thing to do. Temperatures were extremely cold and here I was camping in completely wet clothing with no fallback like a First Aid hut (pre-GoreTex/fleece/etc, may as well say pre-civilization). Needless to say, I've never been colder in my life. Unfortunately, I wasn't alone as a few other young Scouts fell into the same trap of not recognizing one of the most important rules of winter camping: staying dry. Today, I don't complain about my dog walking duties on weekends in the Chicago winter in large part to moments such as the one I had on that campout in Pennsylvania.



John, Jim, Tom Zazycki

Tom: Jim Potjunas and the other leaders pushed my twin brother and me to really take the 1st Class Camp seriously. It was where Troop 101 excelled over other Troops. He also double and triple checked that Jimmy and I wanted to do the camp with each other...knowing we were going to fight and butt heads. If he/they thought you cut corners, you would fail and have to do the weekend again. We thought just surviving the weekend would be good enough to pass. We crashed and burned our 1st time. We had to dig deep to work together and think about fulfilling all the requirements to the best of our abilities. Things were not perfect our 2nd attempt, but we got through it. This is definitely teachable for my 2 girls because it seems like everything they do today (school, sports, extracurricular activities) is extremely competitive. Sometimes you are going to fail, but you need to pick yourself up and keep going.

Jim: - Being prepared. I will never forget a camping trip to Camp Chickagami where a mock drill was prepared to test the boys on their first aid skills. I was young, unprepared and scared. I did not like that feeling. I have been in Law Enforcement since graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1998 and I vowed to never be that unprepared again. I often get made fun of by the guys I work with and my family members because I always have multiple flashlights, first aid kits, clothing, etc. with me whenever I am working or doing any outdoor activity with my family.

John: I remember the seriousness of the "Lost Camper" drills we used to perform, especially the first one I ever saw.



John, Jim, Tom Zazycki

I was convinced that Greg Rossi was really lost and then when we found him that he was really injured. I enjoyed leading those exercises as an older scout and even being able to be the 'lost camper' a few times myself. They stressed the importance of maintaining your composure in

stressful situations which is an invaluable skill to have.

Len: We will never forget the time when LJ came home from his first campout. His 11th birthday was in January and his first camp out was a tent camp out during a bitterly cold February weekend. Being a little apprehensive as to what to expect, we were so elated when LJ came home tired, a little cold and very happy with himself and the skills he learned that weekend. We remember him telling us cold it was and how Bill Brown, aka Brownie, one of the Troop 101's founders, taught the young Scouts how to keep their fingers warm at night by sleeping with them in their armpits. - - Or the time Jim and Tom came home from a weekend campout after finally passing their Troop 101 required 1st Class Camp!! A couple of happy guys. - Or the excitement on John's face when he came home from many of the Algonquin canoe trips.

AQ: Do any of you stay in touch with guys from your Troop days?

Tom: "The Rat Pack" as we were called by Jim Potjunas. There was my brother Jimmy, Steve Gross, Greg Dew. We like to push Jim's buttons. We also knew well many other



John Zazycki and Family

guys that came up with us from our Howland Cub Scout Pack 122 and were in the same grade at Howland High School. Chad Bowman, Alex Koval, Jason Paisley, and Jimmy/Steve/Greg. Unfortunately, I have not kept in touch with any of the guys besides my brother.

L.J.: Unfortunately, this was pre-internet and mobile phone. I've had virtually no contact with anyone all these years. I look back now with regret not having the benefit of those social tools. There may be no bigger regret than not keeping in touch with one of my best friends in scouting, Dave Kostolansky, who is no longer with us. When I heard the news of his passing, it hit extra hard given that he lived in the Chicago area, about 10 miles from me - and I didn't even know it.

AQ: How did Scouting and attaining the Eagle Rank prepare you for life and a career?

Jim: I am a police officer for the City of Madeira a small suburb just outside of Cincinnati. Ironically, I am Troop 101 Eagle #57, and I am the 57th (Badge 57) police officer in



Jim Zazycki and Family

the 100 plus years history of my police department! The Scout Oath and Law is often mirrored in police department mission statements. However, the current attitude towards law enforcement around the country has not been positive. On a daily basis, officers lose their lives while doing their jobs. I learned the 'never give up' attitude from my parents and from Troop 101 early on in life. I must be prepared physically and mentally everyday.

John: By far the leadership skills built at such a young age have translated over to my adulthood and career more than anything else from my Troop 101 experience.

Tom: As a Financial Planner, many clients are impressed knowing I am an Eagle Scout. It's definitely a conversation starter and many times leads to long conversations about their childhood. It puts people at ease.

L.J.: Calling the Eagle Rank 'the PHD for young men' is not misleading. No other youth organization I'm aware of promotes a broadening of one's knowledge set with community service like the BSA. Most important for me now, Scouting taught me organizational skills at an early age. First, organizing a Patrol of about 10 boys (here's a shout-out to the Bobcat Patrol!), or later as SPL. Organizing and carrying out the weekly activities with 60 boys is not what your typical 15 year old is doing these days. I love the Scout Law. It's fun to recite. It's very grounding. Life is increasingly complicated and having a 'north star' of basic human principles to fall back on is invaluable.

Len: Personally, studying for merit badges exposed me to various subjects, which helped me to decide on a career in engineering.

AQ: Looking back a couple of decades now, what does the Troop mean to you today?

John: It is a source of pride every time I think about my time in Troop 101. I look forward to the Newsletter so I can keep up with the Troop's activities. I notice a lot of the same characteristics of the Troop today vs when I was in it

which is a sign of the type of leadership structure Jim and his staff have implemented over the years.

Jim: The Troop means life lessons, great memories, experiences and the love of nature. I look forward to teaching my children many of the skills and life lessons that I learned during my time in Troop 101. My wife Stephanie was in Girl Scouts. My daughter, Grace is in Girl Scouts, hosted by our Parish. I am the Den Leader for my oldest son, Josef, and the Cub Scouts at St. Ignatius of Loyola School in Cincinnati. I assist with my youngest son's, Alexander, Wolf Den, as well. Troop 101 prepared me for my current life in so many ways. Scouting will help prepare my kids for their lives ahead as well. I have been to several law enforcement training seminars where they talk about the "never give up" mindset. They use real examples where Police Officers faced great danger, but persevered even putting their lives on the line. I take the 'never give up' attitude with me everywhere I go, especially work. I teach my kids that there will be experiences in their lives that will challenge them, but they can do it. I am not sure if we (Tom and I) set the record, but we completed our First-Class Camp on our third attempt. Even though we failed several times, my parents and my Scout leaders never gave up on us. That is where the "never give up" seed was planted.



Tuscazoar - February 1993

L.J.: The Troop is a great source of pride for me now, knowing that I was part of something special that has grown into a mighty oak. I have occasionally gone on the website to track such things as where they are camping and who are the latest Eagle Scouts. There is no Troop that I'm aware of with the type of consistent leadership and guidance that can foster such success, so I'm neither the first nor the last to recognize what guys like Jim Potjunas have meant to thousands of Scouts.

Len: As a Troop 101 Committee Member for many years, I was able to follow the Scout trail of many boys. I saw these boys grow and mature right before my eyes. Keeping in touch with the Troop through the Alumni Quarterly and the feature stories of many, many troop 101 Eagles and their careers and family's makes me very proud of Troop 101 and Scouting.



Zazycki family

AQ: An Eagle father. Four Eagle sons. That is quite rare. You all must be very proud of your family's Scouting heritage.

John: To this day I still have Eagle Scout on my resume and I correct anyone who refers to me as "was an Eagle Scout". I also take great pride in bragging that my father and brothers are Eagle Scouts as well. But when I think about it, in the perspective of how rare this is, it takes the pride factor to the next level.

Jim: My dad earned his Eagle, my three brothers earned their Eagle. Now I look forward to watching my boys, Josef and Alexander work towards their Eagle in the years to come. I look forward to helping them grow, learn and mature just like my parents did with me. All the hard work put in for the Eagle rank is well worth it.

Tom: Whenever folks find out that I am an Eagle Scout, I bring up that my father and 3 brothers were too. They are always impressed. My two girls are not involved in Girl Scouts and camping for my family would be at a hotel (they get eaten alive by bugs in the backyard, so definitely no tents!). The Troop, to my family, is the girls pulling out old pictures and other Troop items to look at and me describing to them merit badges, neckerchief, etc. Their childhood is very different than mine, way back before everyone had cell phones and Ipads. Now, it is all in Jimmy's hands. Hopefully his two boys will carry on the line of Zazycki Eagle Scouts. LJ, John, and I all have girls, so we are the last Eagles in our own separate families.



Len and Marianne Zazycki

L.J.: My parents have been the most important influences on my success, in Scouting and beyond. They drove me to the meetings, helped fulfill my equipment needs, all while doing this and more for nine other siblings! The sacrifices they made for me have helped to make me a better parent and a better citizen.



Jim Zazycki sons Alex and Josef

Len: I was the first Eagle Scout in Troop 76, Buffalo, New York area council in 1956. The 2nd and 1st Class requirements taught me to take of myself and others. Attaining Eagle meant that I had to set a plan and constantly tweak the plan to manage my time to achieve the goal. It taught me to be responsible for my actions and to stick to it, even through difficult or challenging times. As I advanced in rank in the Troop I learned leadership, responsibility and compadre. All this that I share about myself is really how we feel about Scouting and the trail to Eagle that our sons have followed. We are very proud of them.



L.J. and Family - Tower Bridge

For Eagles Only



Did you know there is an Eagles-only Fraternity called Epsilon Tau Pi? It is a service-oriented fraternity that gives Eagle Scouts a way to stay connected while away at college. There are currently nine active chapters at colleges around the country including The Ohio State University, University of Dayton, and Robert Morris University. There is an article explaining more about the organization in the Summer issue of Eagles' Call, the magazine for Eagle Scouts published by the National Eagle Scout Association. You can also get more information by visiting epsilontaupi.org

Speaking of the Eagles' Call magazine, one of their regular features is a photo section called Eagle Scouting is a Family

Affair. This summer issue includes a photo of the LaPolla family Eagles. More info about the magazine can be found at <http://www.nesa.org/eagleletter.html>

LaPolla Family Warren, Ohio



Dr. Ken LaPolla (1980), John LaPolla (2016), Mike LaPolla (1986) and Dr. Jim LaPolla (1977)

Justin England

20 Years Later, A Scout Looks Back at the Elusive Trail to Eagle



March 1994

Having attained the Star rank, Justin England departed Troop 101 in 1997. He recently connected with Jim, expressing his disappointment at not going the distance to Eagle.

However, his is a remarkable story of accomplishments, both personally, professionally and in the military. Still, among all the successes he has enjoyed, not making Eagle continues to gnaw at him. We caught up with Justin who resides in Alaska.

AQ: From Cortland to Alaska, you have done some pretty cool things in your military and civilian careers. Tell us about it.

Justin: After graduating high school, I signed up for the United States Air Force at 17 years old - for which my mother actually had to sign a release form! I contracted for 6 years and turned 18 in basic training. The USAF let me choose any job I so desired because I scored sufficiently on the entry aptitude test, so I picked something that sounded really cool - Electronic Warfare. While interesting, stimulating, challenging, and, most importantly, mission-critical, it wasn't a passion in even the loosest sense of the word. I learned a lot and saved some lives, so it was certainly a worthy career.

During my Air Force days I was also engaged in testing and developing new Electronic Warfare systems for our various bomber models, the most exciting of which was the B-2 Spirit.

During my tenure at my first duty station in Alaska, I was afforded the opportunity to attend Arctic Wilderness Survival Training. Now **this** was a passion. My first thought was: "This is like being a professional Boy Scout!" That is not hyperbole or even poetic license to fluff the article, it is truth. Needless to say, when it was

time to reenlist, I pursued the option of cross-training to be a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Instructor for the USAF.

It was one of many options ahead of me, and I do regret not pursuing it fully. I decided instead to separate from the military at 6 years. I simply felt too restricted, only free to expand myself within certain bounds. Looking back, the military offers certain freedoms of professional pursuit that the civilian sector cannot hope to match; however, the civilian world is a new level of opportunity.

I did a few manual labor jobs while I was in college for Computer and Networking Technology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Manual labor jobs in Alaska can be a bit different from the same job elsewhere. I was dragging chains across barge decks and lashing train rail cars down all "night" during our 24 hours of daylight, all while whales breached in the ocean next to me, bald eagles flew around in numbers enough to be named a flock, and snow-capped mountains streaked to the sky on either side of the bay.

During school, I began my networking career at an Alaska-based ISP, and after some moves to California and Arizona, I'm back working at the same ISP. Currently my team and I are operationally responsible for the core backbone of Alaska's internet throughout the state and down to Portland and Seattle where we converge with Comcast, Netflix, Amazon, and many other content and internet providers. It is quite engaging and challenging, and allows great freedom in using technical creativity for troubleshooting and problem solving.

For the last ten years or so I have been an avid olympic weightlifter (including a bodybuilding show once!) and self-defense instructor. I both teach and train several martial disciplines, the foremost of which is Israeli Krav Maga. I have taught several women's self-defense seminars and have done personal training for military, law enforcement, and federal corrections officers.



Black Tie

Additionally, I have done quite a bit of amateur runway modeling for various designers and charity fashion shows. I've done some print and some commercial modeling/ "acting" as well, mostly on a local level. It was quite fun and I've made lots of amazing friends from the experience, all of whom have character, ethics, and intelligence in spades - nullifying the stigma of people in that industry being shallow and vapid. I have been scouted on an international level for a couple modeling agencies, but decided my best course was professionally developing myself in the networking field.

AQ: How is the family back in Ohio?

Justin: Most of my family has stayed in Ohio, though my mom moved to Florida for quite a while, and recently moved again to the mountains in North Carolina. She is quite happy there with her husband and her dog, and she just got certified as a phlebotomist. I'm very proud of her and her continuing education. Her husband is a great guy, and someone I consider a good friend; they are extremely happy together, which makes me happy.

AQ: Let's go back a few years and try to jog your memory about those Troop 101 days. Where did you grow up and how did you get involved with the Troop?

Justin: For the most part, I grew up in Warren and Cortland Ohio, with a few stints in San Diego, CA and Myrtle Beach, SC. When I was but a lad, my father took me to join Cub Scouts. It was one of the best things to ever happen to me. I grew up in Scouts, and when I transitioned from being a Webelo Scout, Troop 101 was there to accept me. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been a part of Scouting, but especially with Troop 101.

AQ: Tell us about some of the memories you have of the Troop, the camp outs, those special Troop moments.



Shotgun Range



North to Alaska

Justin: I still talk about some of the trips and activities I've done with Scouts. I think the greatest experience I've had in life was with the Scouts - my trip to Philmont. Waking up in the morning after sleeping under the stars with no tent, breathing in the butterscotch of the Ponderosa pines, just the feeling of adventure you get in a place like that. It forever changed me.

I remember the high adventure trips sparking primal feelings in me. The Call of the Wild is the best way to describe it. It really manifested itself when we all played capture the flag or staff hunt. We turned into little savages and it was awesome. I've never felt so alive.

Jim's songs around the campfire were some of my very happiest of memories, not just in Scouts, but of all time.

Beyond that, the one-on-one mentoring of the Leaders really helped me overcome a lot of insecurities and self-consciousness that I held. Interacting with other males around my age was a much-needed developmental aspect of my growth as a person and as a man. It wasn't always pleasant, but it was a critical life experience.

AQ: Who were some of the guys in the Troop with you and do you still keep in touch?

Justin: I actually don't keep in touch with any fellow Scouts, or really anyone from back home. I think I've grown and changed so much that I don't have a lot in common with the people I was friends with when I was young. Interestingly, I probably currently have a good deal in common with a lot of the guys I was in Scouts with, but since I was such a "weird kid" I never made good-enough friends to keep in touch. I think most of them lived in close proximity to each other and went to school together, and so had their own circles, but I lived and learned further away in Cortland.



Climbing High

AQ: Like many Scouts, unfortunately you didn't stay with the program to make Eagle rank.

Justin: For me, leaving the program was the result of a combination of things. My mom always did her absolute best to ensure I could make it to Scouts, though sometimes it wasn't possible. That wasn't really much of a contributing factor, though. I was starting football and

track in high school, which took most of my time during the week and didn't allow much opportunity for the weekly meetings or even the weekend camps. I had more friends that weren't in Scouts, and participating in sports at which I excelled, really boosted my confidence and social life. I honestly felt like a bit of an outsider wherever I was, so I gravitated toward the pursuits that made me feel less so.

AQ: As one who has been there, what message do you have for today's Scouts who may be entertaining thoughts of dropping out?

I absolutely regret not earning my Eagle. It's not just the trade-off that I made for sports and deciding whether the individual activities and their various social and developmental benefits were more valuable than the other; it's the feeling of not completing something that

was so significant in my life. It is something I still think about. As a man, knowing that I could accomplish something so great at that age really sets a tone for the beginning of your adult life. Conversely, knowing that I didn't attain it also drives me, because I have learned to live in a way that gives me as few regrets as possible. One would only know how important that is if they had already experienced the pain of regret. It was a decision I learned from.

AQ: I am sure there is a significant role the adult Leaders may have played in your life. Fact is, most of them don't like the spotlight.

Justin: If Jim and the other leaders don't want people fawning over them, maybe they should stop being awesome. Of course, I am sure the overt display of gratitude is not what fulfills them, and any undesired flattery tends to make one uneasy.

To say "a significant role" doesn't really sufficiently quantify the role Jim and the others had in my life. I didn't have much in the way of masculine mentorship in my life, and I can say with some certainty that without their tutelage, guidance, example, and care, that I would be quite a different person. The time that any of them would take out to speak with me as an individual really stands out. They were, to a man, respectful in their instruction, honest, direct, effective, and kind. I learned a lot from them in the form of skill, but the greater lesson by far was one of character and of masculinity. I learned from them that I didn't have to be the way other men in my life up to that point were. There was a different way, and there was my own way, and they constructed the foundation of confidence in me that enabled me to find and create that way.

"Through the Lens" Bill Aubuchon

July 1 - Aug 4th - Fresh Grounds, second floor at MOCO gallery. 172 Main St., Greenville Pa



Many will remember Bill Aubuchon from his days as Assistant Scoutmaster between 1989 and 2002. Bill took many of the photos in the Troop Gallery in that timeframe, and even started the tradition of having a slideshow with music for the court of honor.

Recently, Bill's photography was put on display at the Sans MOCA Gallery & Atelier in Greenville, PA. The Gallery opened on July 1, and will be available to the public through August 4th.

Bill, and his Wife Kathy, pictured left, also have two sons who earned their Eagle in 101. Justin, #61, and Seth, #70.

If you get a chance, stop by and check it out. Details at the link below.

<http://www.freshgroundscoffeehouse.com/sansmoco/>

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

• July

July 9 - 15 - Summer Camp at Manatoc

July 29 - August 5 - High Adventure Canoe Trip

• August

August 5 - 12 - Algonquin Base Camp

• September

September 15 - 17 - Mosquito Lake State Park

• October

October 13 - 15 - Backpacking Trip

October 30 - Halloween Party

FOR MORE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BE SURE TO CHECK
OUT THE Troop CALENDAR AT
<http://Troop101.net/?Page=Calendar>



**"IT'S THE SPIRIT WITHIN, NOT
THE VENEER WITHOUT, THAT
MAKES A MAN."**

- Lord Baden-Powell

What the Troop has been up to since our last issue



May 21, 2017

Moraine State Park

The Troop has returned from Moraine State Park. It was an excellent weekend of canoeing, tomahawk throwing, Totin' Chip, and more.

May 27, 2017

Oakwood Service Project

The Troop took the morning to place flags and flowers on the veterans' graves at Oakwood cemetery. Photos from the event can be found in the Gallery.

May 28, 2017

Equipment Building Dedication

The Troop dedicated the new Equipment building. Details in this issue!

June 18, 2017

Family Camp

A little unusual, but we had beautiful weather for our annual Family Camp weekend at Pymatuning State Park. There was lots of sun and fun canoeing and swimming in the lake.

