101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

October 2022 • ISSUE 52

A SCOUT IS BRAVE

Scoutmaster Corner - Mr. Jason Paisley

Hello Scouts! Well, this is new. Let's start by saying Thank You to the whole of Troop 101. It is truly an honor and an enormous responsibility. One that I am happy to take on. There have been four previous Scoutmasters of Troop 101, and I have had the honor of knowing two of them. Of course, Jim Potjunas, and our most recent Dr. Ken LaPolla. Over the past two years, since my son Colin joined, I've got to know Ken very. Ken assumed leadership after Jim's passing five years ago, this past August. One of the toughest times in all of our lives… losing a man like Jim.

Jim knew his Troop front and back. He knew procedures and programs of the Scouting program like we can only dream. He knew birds and plants better than most. He knew how to teach Scouts outdoor skills. And those of us that received that knowledge, the thousands of young men still remember. He also taught us how to lead. That is the mission of Scouts, of Scouting, as I understand it.

And just like that, in a moment, he was gone. Taken to early. We were beside ourselves, along with Sandy, with grief. Jim would not have wanted us to stop Scouting here in Troop 101. I know that for sure. This is where a Scout is Brave. Though injury and sadness, both physical and emotional, and trying to move forward. The Troop was hurt. With the extreme help of Matt MacCracken and Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members and all Scouts they bravely stepped up. Now years later, the Troop is strong. Ken has, in my opinion, run our Troop with integrity and kindness. He has been a mentor and great friend during this transfer of leadership. I look forward working with him while all of my questions lessen over the years. Not disappear, just lessen.

Besides the leadership, we are supposed to enjoy Scouts so now for the fun stuff. The Troop will be heading to Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in November for a National Treasure themed campout. Don't worry, the Thanksgiving dinner is on the menu. We'll be getting ready for our Christmas Party in December and Winter Event in February. Maybe we can get lucky with some snow. Let's hope.

Meetings are still on Mondays at 7:00 to 8:30 as always, please stop on down for a visit and catch up with old friends.

I would like to thank my wife Vickie for doing this with me and once again, Thank you Ken and Judy LaPolla for your service.

- Jason

Editor's Note: *Troop 101 swore in Jason, Eagle Scout #59, as Scoutmaster September 26 after the Troop Court of Honor. Join us in welcoming Jason!*

Alumni Board of Directors

Shelley Taylor	President
Jason Paisley	Scoutmaster
Brian Burkey	Committee Chair
Alex Stirling	Director at Large
Brandie Wagner	Director at Large

Alumni Committee

Matt McCracken	Web & Newsletter
Ed Byers	Newsletter Emeritus
Tim Ross	President Emeritus

From the President

Shelley Taylor

Happy fall to everyone! Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to Ken LaPolla for his hard work and dedication as the Troop 101 Scoutmaster. And secondly, a warm welcome to Jason Paisley. I have known both these fine gentlemen for most of my life and am so grateful for their willingness to lead our young men.

We have two exciting announcements for the Alumni Association:

First, we will be launching an annual Troop 101 Alumni holiday get together. Our goal is to keep it consistently the same day each year. It will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 26 this year) from 4-8pm. There is a link on the website to RSVP so we can work on an accurate count for food. Though - come either way and enjoy time with your Troop 101 friends.

What will there be to eat you might ask???? Everyone from Warren knows, you have to have Hot Dog Shoppe, Sunrise and Cockeye BBQ - so that is what we will provide. There is no cost to the event, but we will have a donation basket out if you feel you can donate to offset the cost of the evening.

Secondly, we are launching the "101 Club". This will be our annual giving campaign to support the Troop. For $101 annually, you will be part of a special group giving back to our next generation. We hope to become part of your annual philanthropy and help us fulfill our mission.

There will be more to come as we are talking about how to have more events that where we welcome our alumni base so you can see what we are up to and remain involved with an organization that has made such a difference to so many.

So put November 26 on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you then!

-Shelley

Camp Manatoc Hosts Netflix

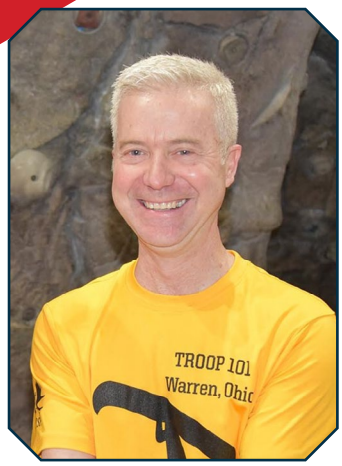
In 2021, as the summer came to an end, Netflix arrived at Camp Manatoc. That's right, Netflix was filming scenes for an upcoming movie called "White Noise" at our summer camp home away from home. Based on a novel by Don DeLillo, White noise is a film following College professor Jack Gladney, (played by Adam Driver), and his family.

The movie premiered on August 31st at the Venice International Film Festival. A limited theatrical release is planned for November 25th. For most, the movie won't truly be out until December 30th when it airs on Netflix.

In addition to catching a glimpse of the Manatoc dining hall, (pictured), we are also excited as one of our Adult leaders, Harley Hoff, was a Set Dresser and Set Medic for the film.

Spotlight: Ken LaPolla

Exit Interview



Ken LaPolla stepped up when the Troop needed him. It's been 5 years since he volunteered for a year of helping the Troop. The Alumni Quarterly sat down with Ken as he transitions leadership over to Jason.

AQ: Ken, looking back to the early days, what was it like taking on the role of Scoutmaster?

Ken: Scary! The first time I recited the Scoutmaster's Benediction, I couldn't get through the whole thing without crying. That was always Jim's thing. As for support, I had tremendous support from our active members. Kris Kuszmaul as the committee Chair. She truly has a servant's heart, and Van, who was extremely reliable. And most importantly, you Matt, for your dedication to this Troop which is far beyond any current member of our organization. And I would be amiss if I didn't thank two of my SPLs, Niko and Abhishek, for their insights and guidance in the first 6 months. Now that's a boy run program when SPLs train the Scoutmaster!

AQ: I'm sure there were challenges stepping in after Jim. What was one of the greatest challenges you faced?

Ken: Keeping things the same but trying to make changes to the program at the same time. Everyone was looking at me to keep things going as Jim had. They wanted the program to "feel" as though he was still leading us. But there were aspects of Scouting that benefitted me as a youth and things we use to do in the past that I wanted to bring back and incorporate in our current program.

AQ: Originally you planned on volunteering for a year. How did we end up at 5 years?

Ken: I first announced one year to make sure everyone understood that this position was temporary and that finding another Scoutmaster for the next 35 years was probably never going to happen again. I thought I would have someone identified and trained within the year, but that was wishful thinking. I also didn't realize how much learning was required for the position, so I took on another year to do just that. Then I got to my third year and thought, "this is fun, let's enjoy it." But then COVID hit and I did what I still needed to do…keep the Troop running. It was a bad time to turn this over to anyone. But after COVID, the window of opportunity opened, and I announced my plans to move on.

AQ: With all the Adults that volunteer with 101, how did they help or hinder your transition?

Ken: Everyone who stepped up to help was great and very supportive. Very few challenged me on anything new I wanted to try. It was probably because I was looking for a replacement and they knew better. We have a great "family" here at 101

AQ: You mentioned Niko and Abhishek. They were the first SPL's under your leadership. How did they help?

Ken: I learned more from Niko and Abhishek than anyone else. They let me know how the Troop was run from within the sanctum of the SPL/SM relationship, especially how Jim worked with the PLC and SPL. There are a lot of things that go on behind the scenes that only a Scoutmaster and SPL have access to and their insights had a major impact on keeping things on course.

AQ: While running the program, what was the biggest challenges?

Ken: I was my biggest challenge. After 30 years with the Navy and several assignments in Command, changing my standards and expectations for a youth lead program was challenging. Once I realized I was a coach, not THE leader, I starting accepting the PLC's actions better. They needed a comfortable place to learn from mistakes and omissions as well as new, untested ideas. My job was to help them review these and talk about what to do going forward. Success is not what happens now so much as what happens consistently, through experience, in the future. I also needed to stop worrying about the "numbers." It is about who is there and not about who isn't.

AQ: Looking back, with the knowledge you built would you approach anything differently today?

Ken: Oh definitely. Jim use to get hung up on the numbers: who was camping, who wasn't, how many scouts do we have, how many may we lose, etc. and I ran right with that. But once I realized that the numbers didn't matter, I started to relax. Not

to say these things aren't important, they are, but they shouldn't be the primary focus that overwhelms what your objectives should be.

AQ: What were some of your favorite program/ activities to plan with the PLC?

Ken: I'm a High Adventure guy. Jeff Wagner and Dan Wasko have been great supporters of these programs and I look forward to a good backpacking or canoe trip. As for the programs, I was impressed with the PLC during COVID and the programs they ran then, considering the health concerns and program and advancement desires of the scouts. I would say we ran the best scouting, COVID program in the council or possibly even the country.

AQ: What's a funny story you have from your time as Scoutmaster? Perhaps one you'll be telling for years to come.

Ken: There are many but two quickly come to mind. The first when Zach Hudson chased me around the suburban at Beaumont during a winter camp and I ran smack into the Suburban sideview mirror. He didn't apply any of his scout skills but instead laughed hysterically at my mishap. And most recently, the rattlesnake incident on the West Rim Trail. Colin and I had very appropriate reactions. Enough said there.

AQ: Your wife has been awesome letting you be Scoutmaster, how has it been having her support you during your tenure?

Ken: I can't say enough. She has always been very supportive and understanding with ALL of my endeavors. We grew together very early in our marriage through our travels and assignments both on active duty and with the Navy Reserves. As a teacher, she understands and supports service to our youth and our community. Her strength, passion and understanding are unsurpassed by few.

AQ: Experiencing multiple Patrol Leader Council's, what are some of the lessons you learned?

Ken: Don't ask yes or no questions when you want a discussion. Questions that you think are open ended, are quickly corrected by the youth through yes, no or "good" responses. Jim use to ask for "any questions, comments or concerns" and when you ask that, you get a circle of no's. So, I changed that to "give me a plus, a minus and a plan" which has worked out great. Even my adults in attendance give their answers using the same format.

AQ: 19 young men have earned their Eagle during your tenure (149-168). How does it feel knowing you helped play a part in their journey? Any words for these young men, and those to come?

Ken: Wow, to be honest, I never counted. Many in scouting say they can't wait to "Eagle out." I despise that phrase. Becoming an Eagle is the beginning of your scouting career as a youth. So many opportunities open up once you do. Many of my greatest scouting accomplishments happened after I earned my Eagle Scout Rank. So, my advice would be to "Eagle Up" not "out." And remember "it's about the journey, not the destination" (as Max and Sammy fondly love to repeat back to me). I always say you know when you make an impact when your words get thrown back at you. I've seen a lot of growth in all our scouts and I'm still impressed with the quality scout we help develop.

AQ: How do you feel the Troop Building, (Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center)?

Ken: The building is one of the things I emotionally had to deal with after Jim's passing. That was difficult. Here was a facility designed for Jim for his program, but I was the one who got to use it and develop it for the program. But I wasn't alone. Many of our Scouts and Leaders gave their input, but I wanted to keep everything transitional. There are plenty of great ideas out there and still more to come. That's why you'll notice most of my additions in the program room can quickly be changed to adapt to future ideas.

AQ: What advice would you give to our next Scoutmaster, or those that come after him? Any words for the Scouts?

Ken: Jim was very passionate about the program and probably the first one who would let you know he didn't know everything about it. Times change, society changes, and scouting has changed. I don't know how Jim would have truly felt about all of this. So, my advice to future Scoutmasters would be the same as I told Jason: "take the Troop in the direction you want and feel comfortable doing it." It's not about what use to be, but about what can be. As for the Scouts, find yourself in the world first and apply those skills and experiences you gained from scouting there. Don't feel obligated to come back to scouting unless you find yourself lead back. You may never come back to the program, but it will never leave you. So, stay supportive in some way during your lifetime, and never forget the youth are our future. Make an impact and share your passions!

SPL Exit Interview

James Price - Summer 2022 Term comes to a close

As the summer comes to a close, and the winter months reach nearer, it's also the time of year the Troop elects a new Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL. As the Troop and Alumni welcome Ethan DeBernardi as our newest Senior Patrol Leader, the Alumni Quarterly took a moment to sit with James and go over his term.

AQ: James, being an SPL can be the most challenging job in the Troop. What motivated you to run?

James: I felt compelled to try my hardest to make things as fun as possible for the Scouts, and to also teach them the things I wish I knew when I was a new Scout in the Troop.

AQ: As you planned your term, what demos were you most looking forward to and why?

James: The Demos I looked forward to the most were the ones the new patrol leaders led. When I first became a patrol leader the first demo always stuck with me and I used it as a benchmark for how I improved later in the term and hoped it would be the same for them.

AQ: What Camping trips were you most looking forward to during your term and why?

James: Summer camp obviously! I've always loved summer camp and being the one in charge of it and being the cadence caller while we marched was always a dream of mine

AQ: What was it like taking over for Max?

James: It was really strange; I had always looked up to the Owl, and this was my first time ever being an Owl and I was in charge of everything. I used what I learned from Max's term to try to make my term even better than his. That wasn't to say Max's term was bad, it went very well. I just wanted to make mine better.

AQ: You worked as a Summer Camp Staff member this summer. How did that impact your SPL term?

James: It posed a pretty big challenge, how was I supposed to be in charge of the troop while I was an hour away at Manatoc. Thankfully, I had my ASPL who stepped up and communicated with me and from what I heard the meetings were still as fun as ever even while I was gone.

Even though that was a big challenge in my term, I think it went well, from what I heard things still went smoothly while I wasn't there and I have to thank the ASPL's that helped with that.

AQ: What was the most exciting thing you got to plan during your term? How did it go?

James: The most exciting thing was planning all the things for summer camp. This was one of the few years where we have had no issues with uniform pieces getting lost and I am very thankful for that.

AQ: How do you feel your PLC did during the term?

James: I think they did fantastic. They really worked as hard as they could even when they weren't there to make their demo's fun and interesting.

AQ: How was working with Dr. LaPolla as your coach, and as Scoutmaster?

James: It was more helpful than I could have ever thought. Doc gave me advice that nobody else could and that advice helped me make a lot of decisions, so without Doc things would have been a lot less organized.

AQ: How did the terms from past SPL's shape your term?

James: I learned from so many past SPLs. My brother, Dylan, Cullen, Max, and so many more. They helped me learn what worked and what didn't while they were SPL and I took what they knew and shaped it how I wanted to make it the best SPL term I could.

I was able to look at past term programs. I looked at the ones I was able to participate in, and I knew what worked in the Troop, and what didn't. I could take that information and shape it how I wanted to try and craft the best SPL term I could.

AQ: How did your ASM's help out?

James: It was amazing. If it wasn't for Ean Dodge, Mason Kyle, and Ethan DeBernardi I would not have had a successful term while I was away at summer camp staff.

AQ: Overall, how do you feel your term went?

James: I feel like the term went really well.

People seemed to have fun at meetings and campouts which was the main thing I was going for.

AQ: What advice would you give to someone looking to run for the position?

James: Do it! Being the SPL is such a different experience from anything else in the Troop and you won't be able to experience it if you don't take the opportunity.

AQ: Do you feel your term as SPL will help prepare you for anything in the future, if so what and how?

James: I think it will prepare me for anything when it comes to being a leader and working as a team. As the SPL you have to listen to advice and think of ways to make everything work out so everyone is safe and happy.

AQ: What are your plans after SPL? Would you run again?

James: I will work with Marc and DJ as much as I can as a Quartermaster and try to make Senior Quartermaster next term. I am also working hard to get my Eagle.

I would consider running for SPL again. Being the SPL is a whole different experience and I love it. It's amazing to hear feedback on if I'm doing something right and even better if I get feedback on how I've improved.

AQ: Any other words you'd like to share with our readers?
James: If there is ever something you would like to see done in the troop, whether it's a demo, campout idea, game, or anything else, bring it up to the SPL and they will try to make sure it happens.

The 101 Club

The Troop 101 Alumni Association is starting a new club, and we want you to be a part of it. The 101 Club is an all-new way to help. As always, being an Alumni member is free, and entitles you access to awesome things like the Newsletter and the Troop website.

Being part of the 101 Club is a way to become more involved and help with the growing costs of supporting the Troop 101 Scouting program. This includes maintaining and insuring the Troop equipment required to run the quality program you've come to expect from Troop 101.

To show you're a member of the 101 Club, everyone that joins will receive a special patch to commemorate their membership (design is still being finalized). We will also feature your name in the Alumni Newsletter as a club member, and supporter of what we do.

Alumni Holiday Gathering

It's been a few years, but the annual Troop Alumni Association holiday gathering is back!

We will be hosting the Alumni Holiday gathering on Saturday, November 26, from 4:00PM to 8:00 PM at the Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center: 3002 Reeves Rd NE, Warren, OH 44483.

The adult gathering is open to all Troop Alumni, present and past leaders, and committee members. Stop by to see old friends and reminisce about scouting adventures past or hear about upcoming adventures in 2023. There will be food and drink from local restaurants like Sunrise, Cockeye BBQ, and the Hot Dog Shoppe.

Come join us!

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Share Your Story!

We're always on the lookout for the next Alumni story to share with you, our readers. If you, or an Alumni you know is doing something interesting, send us a quick email so we can feature that story in the Alumni Quarterly.

Just looking to share a memory, or a funny story? We'll take those too!
Just email us at newsletter@troop101.net

Recent Troop Activities

What has the Troop been up to recently

August 7, 2022

West Rim Trail

The Troop returns from Backpacking the West Rim Trail in Pennsylvania. The trail took us around what is also known as the Grand Canyon of PA.
Four days of Backpacking and hiking the trail made memories to last a lifetime. Packing along, singing a song. Avoiding a few rattlesnakes, and taking a moment looking over some fantastic overlooks.

September 18, 2022

Camp McKinley Weekend

The Troop returns from a weekend of camping over at Camp McKinley. It was a lot of fun with Fire Building, Knots, Lashings, Rappelling, Drones, and more!

October 9, 2022

Hickory Creek Backpacking

Back on what is becoming a new favorite trail for the Troop! We left left early Saturday morning to hike the trails at Hickory Creek. It was a long drive, but the trails were worth it. The weather was great and the trip went smoothly.

October 25, 2022

Troop Halloween Party

The annual Troop 101 Halloween party took place Monday night, and was a great success. Scouts were in costume and having fun enjoying various activities sponsored by Eagles' Wings.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

November

11 - 13 - Seven Ranges
26- Alumni Holiday Gathering

December

18 - Christmas Party