

August Newsletter 06

Scribe: Zaq B.

Big Horn Trip **By: Jonathan Y.**

The Big Horn Trip was amazing! We did many things like lowering the flag at Mt. Rushmore, hiking and camping in the mountains, and also climbing Cloud Peak in the Big Horn Mountains.

Mt. Rushmore was fun to see. We hiked a path that had different views of the mountain. We also went to the Visitor Center and ate dinner at a cafe. The gift shop was also neat. Later that night a huge crowd and the crew were at the amphitheater. We lead the crowd in the pledge of allegiance. After a video, all veterans and our scout crew came on stage. Our scout crew retired the flag and then all the veterans introduced themselves. Mt. Rushmore was great!

The next day we went hiking in the Big Horn Mountains for a total of 33 miles going from 7,800 feet to 12,300 feet in elevation. We saw a lot of animals - cows, horses, moose and elk. The wild moose was really cool. We camped at Soldier Park, Medicine Canyon Park and Mistymoon Lake. After camping at these three different spots, we eventually started to climb up to Cloud Peak. It was a steep climb with a lot of big boulders. Unfortunately we had to stop 800 feet from the top because it was stormy and it would be dangerous.. The day after that we headed back down hiking almost 12 miles in one day, descending nearly 3000 feet, returning to our first Big Horn campsite at Soldier Park.

The next day, after hiking out the rest of the way, we took showers in Buffalo, Wyoming and we went to a rock shop that had very neat rocks. We then visited the Devil's Tower. Finally, we went to the same campsite we went to before Big Horn in Keystone, South Dakota near Mt. Rushmore. We went swimming in the Campground swimming pool and later Mr. Kautz gave each of us Wyoming Jasper to remember the trip. That was nice of him.

The Big Horn Mountains was a great and fun camping experience! The troop plans to do it again next year! I hope you all want to come.

Many Point **By: Michael G.**

Many Point was a blast this year. For those of you that could not attend, we did the usually camping, greasy watermelon and a lot more. The younger scouts learned a lot about cooking and camping. As well, the older scouts had fun helping and relaxing. This was our last year at voyager. Next year we will most likely be in buckskin where they cook all our meals. That should be a nice change for the troop. If you didn't complete the merit badges you started, you should think about doing the rest of the work. Considering there should only be a couple of requirements left. As the song goes, Many Point scout camp is the place to be!

FLORIDA SEA BASE TRIP

WHEN WE LEFT SEA BASE IT WAS EARLY SATURDAY MORNING. WHEN WE GOT TO MIAMI, FLORIDA WE GOT A RIDE ON CADILAC JACK. HE TOOK US TO ISLAMRADA,

FLORIDA, WHICH IS WHERE SEA BASE IS. WE GOT ON A BOAT CALLED "TRADEWIND". OUR CAPTAIN'S NAME WAS JOHN. WE GOT ON THE BOAT AT DAWN. WE SLEPT ON THE BOAT FOR THE NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE CONDITIONS ON THE OCEAN. WE LEFT ON SUNDAY MORNING TRAVLED VERY FAR IN TO THE OCEAN. WE TOOK A FEW SNORKLING JUMPS, WHICH WAS VERY EXCITING. WE SAW MANY TYPES OF FISH WE HAVN'T SEEN. AT LATE DAWN WE TOOK A REST STOP HALF WAY TO KEY WEST. WE TRAVLED A LONG WAYS TO GET TO KEY WEST BUT WHEN WE WERE GOING THERE WE DECIDED TO LEARN HOW TO PUT THE SAILS UP. ONCE WE LEARNED THAT WE LEARNED HOW TO TAKE THEM DOWN. WE TOOK 1 OR 2 STOPS TO LOOK AT THE FISH WE SAW A SHARK WHICH WAS VERY COOL AND A BARACUCUDA. THAN WE ARRIVED IN KEY WEST WHICH IS 7 MILES AWAY FROM FLORIDA AND 90 MILES AWAY FROM CUBA. WHEN WE GOT TO PORT WE WENT OVER A FEW RULES HERE AND THERE. BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY WE TOOK A VERY COMFORTING BREAK IN A RESTURANT. LATER THAT DAY WE WENT BACK TO THE HOTEL WE WERE STAYING AT A VERY NICE HOTEL (ACTUALY WE WERE AT THE PORTS) WITH A VERY NICE POOL. WE STAYED THERE FOR THE NIGHT. THAN NEXT MORNING WE LEFT TO HEAD BACK HOME WE TOOK ANOTHER SNORKLING DIVE. LEFT NEXT MORNING TO HEAD BACK HOME. GOT BACK AROUND 3:00PM OR SO. AFTER DINNER WE HAD A LUALOU THAN STAYED IN THE DORMS WE HAD AND LEFT ON FRIDAY MORNING BACK TO MINNEOSTA. THAT WAS OUR FLORIDA SEA BAE TRIP

BY: STEVEN M.

Huck Finn Campout

By Zaq B.

The Huck Finn campout was really really fun!!! Even though there were only ten or twelve people there, we still had a great time. We did a lot of great stuff there, even besides canoeing. For example we played soccer on

Saturday morning. We also canoed, obviously. That was a lot of fun. Some guys even tried to catch a turtle but it didn't work. Also it rained constanly. Everyone who went pretty much agrees that it never actually stopped. So we spent a lot of downtime under tarps, looking at skit ideas or playing cards.

Our campfire could have used a little work, but other than that, we had a great time, and the whole outing was awesome!!! I am definetly going next year.

Scoutmaster Moment

(obviously by Mr Kautz)

I was reminded why I had the very best childhood a guy could ask for when our crew arrived in Wyoming on our backpacking trek. The air out there in the mountains where I grew up is dry and crisp, rather than heavy and humid like the Midwest. Around every turn in the trail, there is a new view, new smell, and new noise – huge broken boulders and snow fields, flowers and pine sap, howling wind, birds, and tumbling water. For a boy, there's no better way to spend a week or a summer.

Our troop has had an exciting summer with canoeing, backpacking, sailing, and summer camp.

- The Huck Finn campout in June was a good experience in learning just how powerful the weather in Minnesota can be. I saw my first actual lightning strike hit a tree.
- At Many Point, Troop 479 scouts took part in just about 100 merit badges. Many of those still need to be completed so I hope you all put in some effort to finish up before school starts. The concept of having two camp sites worked well enough that we are planning on a similar setup next summer. We'll be staying in the BuckSkin camp where all our meals are eaten in the dining hall. The plan is to have Indians and Panthers in a smaller site and the rest of the troop in a an adjacent, larger site right next to the lake. This should give the Alligators and Sharks more leadership practice and give the Indians and Panthers a new experience at camp.
- Sea Base sounds like it was a pleasurable vacation on the ocean. You'll need to find someone with a tan and Hawaiian shirt to talk to about it since I didn't get to go.
- Backpacking in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming was the first self-guided trek for Troop 479. This trip opened the door for us to dream up, plan, and carry out pretty much any trip you want to take. The eight scouts that went did an excellent job all around – practicing Leave No Trace ethics, carrying and cooking 5 days of food, and of course hiking. We covered about 35 miles, most of it with 30 to 50 pound packs on.

Looking ahead, we'll have our last summer outing in a couple weeks with our Kayaking trip being planned by the Alligators. I hope you are able to join us for a day of paddling downriver followed by a big pizza dinner.

The Bighorns Backpacking trip is on the calendar for next summer. To make that happen, some scouts are going to need to step up and start the planning process soon. Getting ready for a trek like this is like solving a big puzzle and is a very rewarding experience. Think about stepping up.

The other big trip of 2007 is our trip to Arches National Park in Utah that is scheduled for a week in June. This will be a challenge in the arid region just above Moab in some amazing country. Kyle B. will need help to organize this trek. Contact Kyle as soon as you can.

Finally, I want to mention that the new troop web site is in place. It's just a shell waiting for the troop leaders to use it to share information. Joe G. has trained scouts on how to enter content so let's see what you scouts can do now.

Scout On!