

# The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003  
August 2016 Issue

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The Current FORUM Newsletter:

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current\\_forum.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php)

The Current FORUM Attachments

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum\\_attach.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum_attach.php)

The FORUM Back Issues

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing\\_archive.htm](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm)

This issue's attachments include:

## Central

## National and Other

0717 31st Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree  
Sea Scouting Strategic Plan-SMART  
2015 Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide  
2015 Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews  
2015 National Outdoor Awards Program  
2015 Registration Age Requirements  
2015 Venturing Board of Review Guide  
2015 Venturing Ethical Controversies  
2016 Law Enforcement Exploring Pistol Championships  
2016 Sea Scout Advancement Requirements  
2013 Venturing Standard Operating Procedures Current  
2015 Venturing Awards and Recognitions  
BOLO—Be On The Lookout National Law Enforcement  
Conferences Newsletters  
Venturing Terms Lets get it Right

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0916 Imsominiacs Revenue of the Crews  
Spring Telegraph Newsletter

## Southern

## Western

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# The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

The July 2016 edition of the Central Point, the Central Region Venturing newsletter, written by the Central Region's Venturing Officers is now available on our website at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/>

#### Articles in this issue include:

- Congratulations Ken King
  - PIVOT
- Central Region VOA
  - Region VLAs
- Upcoming Activities
  - Advisor's Minute
  - President's Corner



# Ship 9316 Long Cruise

## By Skipper Bob Johnson

After months of planning, 9 members of Sea Scout Ship 9316 traveled from Holland, MI to Great Lakes Sailing Co. in Traverse City, MI to begin a 5-day charter from 25 June through 29 June aboard a chartered Hunter 38, Perception. The initial plan was to charter two yachts, but, business demands on the second adult leader who was qualified meant that we reduced the plan to one vessel larger in size.

Northern Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay are some of the best cruising grounds in the USA!! The float plan that was developed was based on personal experience of potential overnight mooring locations, study of NOAA Chart No. 14913 and Maptech book WPB 1320 that details Northern Lake Michigan. This was used for a study of Lake Charlevoix.



We elected to overnight Friday onboard "Perception" so that we could stow gear, discuss the sail plan, delegate duties, and enjoy dinner together. This also enabled us to be ready for the vessel and chart briefing by 0930 Hrs Saturday morning.

The Hunter 38 is a tri-cabin vessel that was perfect for coed crew. We utilized a Sea Scout couple as male/female chaperones and their daughters were crewmembers. We departed Saturday at 1130 Hrs under power and then sailed to the east side of Marion Island. It is worth noting that the handling characteristics of the 19,000 lb.

Hunter 38 are very different than our usual S2 10.3 (35' long) ... experimenting with the Hunter's turning, stopping, and sailing attributes paid off. With a powerful Yanmar 3GM auxiliary, "prop walk" was a new effect to all of us.

We anchored off Marion Island and swam, leaving one person aboard to monitor vessel position. We were anchored in 12' of water while drawing 5'. Final destination was Northport, MI. We had made slip reservations at four different locations along the float plan. We overnights tied to the inner side of the harbor wall. A passing storm front was expected and this seemed to be one of the best possible overnight locations. Dinner was excellent cooked aboard and we tried to find "after dinner" ice cream, but, the only shop in town was closed. Harbor cost was \$47 / night.



# Ship 9316 Long Cruise

## By Skipper Bob Johnson

Sunday morning dawned gray after the front passed and we elected to motor to Charlevoix after a study of the radar picture. We sailed and weather turned into a sunny 15 knot day. Approach to the channel at Charlevoix was easy as no other boats were in the long channel. We waited until 10 minutes before the hour to enter the channel to Round Lake and the bridge opened on the hour. Mast clearance upon entry is important to monitor. Charlevoix is the best port on the Michigan Coast. The City Marina is GREAT!! We hailed the harbormaster on 16 switching to 68 and two dock crew members met us to tie up. Past experiences in Charlevoix were always in July or August usually returning from the Mac race. Slips are at a PREMIUM!! Not so in June and we were able to stay a second night simply upon request. There was a Sunday Arts and Crafts show in progress and I learned what FORDITE was or is. As a car guy, I had to have sample!!



Several of us walked around the South end of Round Lake to John Cross Fisheries and purchased 5 pounds of fresh whitefish and a large piece of smoked Trout.. Perception has a small LPG Oven and it was perfect to broil fish!! Add boiled potatoes and fresh Holland asparagus and the meal was "Pure Michigan"!!

Monday, we sailed to Boyne City on Lake Charlevoix. Great sail on a beautiful body of water!!! Contacted the city marina on 16 switching to 67. Transient mooring was on a long finger dock facing town. We were the only boat on the dock. Had fun walking about and had ice cream at Kilwin's. Then we headed back to Charlevoix in a strong W/NW wind that tested the boat and crew for sure, "seagoing winnebagos" don't point like a racer/cruiser!! Moored in Charlevoix at 1800 hrs. dinner - steak on the grill and salad. (Can't beat 8oz frozen stakes from Gordon Food Service!!)

# Ship 9316 Long Cruise

## By Skipper Bob Johnson



Tuesday, we walked Charlevoix. Saw the Earle Young mushroom houses. We did a bit of t-shirt shopping and made the 11:00 bridge opening. Then we headed S/SW in 20 kts of breeze on a reach, but we lost wind about 1430 hrs. We ghosted along the coast of the Leelanau Peninsula trimming to a neutral helm and achieved 2.3 kts in a 5 kt breeze. We moored in Sutton's Bay at 1800 hrs, dinner at the Prime Time restaurant. After we went swimming off the stern and a quiet night.

Headed to Great Lakes Wed. morning by 0900 arrived at 1200 hrs.

All in all, it was a great journey. We highly recommend the use of the Float Plan, but, be willing to be flexible based on weather and knowledge you are sailing a charter boat!! TRAINED CREW is key to fun!! We used dead reckoning backed up with a handheld GPS. Journey cost was \$440 per person.

**SAIL IN JUNE!!**





## An Update from the National Sea Scout Director:

Sea Scouts, BSA is alive and doing well. Things are on the move this summer as we continue to build on our standalone status. Our National Sea Scout Committee is developing and implementing a plan to address resources to help recruit, retain, and reengage youth, adults, and organizations who want to be a part of a program that involves being in, on, around, and under the water.

A few highlights of some of our areas of emphasis include:

1. Go to our website and see what is being done to communicate our program to the world of Scouting— [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org). There are resources there for our current members, as well as helping potential new members learn more about what we are doing.
2. Our new Sea Scout Manual is at the printer and we anticipate it being available at Supply by mid-August. A new program of emphasis has been added to involve new members who have an interest in paddle sports and to provide additional fun activities to our current members.
3. We have a new Council, Area, Region, and National 'Sea Scout Leadership Award' that will be rolling out shortly to recognize youth and adults. Our members have been able to apply for the Venturing Leadership Award in the past. The requirements are similar to the old Venturing award, but will allow us to recognize those who are involved in support of the Sea Scout program.

Have a great summer and we look forward to more great sailing, power boating, and paddle sports on the waters of the U.S. in the future. If you have any ideas to share that you feel might add value to our program offerings, please do not hesitate in sharing with us.

Yours in Sea Scouts,  
*Keith Christopher*  
Keith Christopher  
National Director, Sea Scouts, BSA  
[nationaldirector@seascout.org](mailto:nationaldirector@seascout.org)

## Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information on Other Awards

Boy Scouts of America Policy



Statement Updated May 12, 2016

The BSA National Board, on February 10, 2016, adopted a resolution *"...to make Sea Scouts a separate program with the same status of other programs."*

What are the changes in Sea Scout eligibility for awards and recognitions as a result of the Sea Scout program status change?

As with past changes in BSA programs, changes to eligibility for awards and recognition are being phased in over time. In the past, Sea Scouts were considered to be a subset of Venturing and were eligible for a variety of Venturing awards including: Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit; Quest, TRUST, and Ranger; and the Venturing Leadership Award (VLA). With the change in the Sea Scout program status, this eligibility has been reviewed at the National Office and the following changes have been adopted.

Sea Scouts, who are working on any of the Venturing awards and recognitions, will be "grandfathered" to complete those awards and recognitions until December 31, 2016. After that date, eligibility for Venturing awards and recognitions will be limited to registered Venturers. Any Sea Scout may dual-register in a Venturing Crew to maintain eligibility for Venturing awards. Likewise, any Sea Scout Ship (unit) may dual register as a Venturing Crew.

Venturing Leadership Awards are generally presented in the spring to recognize leadership service that occurred in the prior calendar year. A new Sea Scout Leadership Award has been approved, for use beginning in 2017, to recognize leadership service in 2016. Until then, Sea Scouts and Sea Scout leaders will continue to be eligible for the Venturing Leadership Award. Insignia for the Sea Scout Leadership Award will include the existing VLA knot, with Sea Scout miniature device, and neck ribbons with a Sea Scout pendant, similar to the existing VLA.



What about eligibility for other advancement, awards, and recognitions?

The Sea Scout Resolution didn't change the eligibility for other advancement, awards, and recognition programs. For example, the Eagle Scout rank will continue to be available to Sea Scouts who achieved First Class rank in a Boy Scout Troop. General BSA awards, such as Religious Emblems, Nova Awards, BSA Lifeguard, etc., will continue to be available to Sea Scouts.

Will there be a "Unit Leader Award of Merit" for Sea Scout Skippers?

Yes, the application form for the Unit Leader Award of Merit is being updated to specifically include Sea Scout Skippers. The existing Unit Leader Award of Merit knot, with Sea Scout miniature device, will be used to recognize these outstanding Skippers. A new Sea Scout Skipper of Merit badge-of-office is also being developed; it will be similar to the existing badges for Cubmaster of Merit, Scoutmaster of Merit, Team Coach of Merit, and Venturing Advisor of Merit.

## Go Nomad! (This is not a cheer for your local sports team)

Go Nomad is the theme for the 2017 Asia/Pacific Region (APR) Jamboree being hosted by the Mongolian Scout Association in late July, early August 2017. Nomads wander and roam the countryside and this is still the habit for about one half of the population of Mongolia.

Mongolia is about one quarter the size of the USA but we have 100 times the population so that going around in Mongolia it seems very large and empty. About one half of their three million population live in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar (there are many acceptable spellings of this name in English).



The Jamboree is going to be held just outside the city limits of the capital city in the national children's center, a facility built by the Soviets in the late 1970s. The theme of Jamboree will celebrate Mongolian culture which includes horse riding, camel riding, archery and other cultural activities and exchanges including a visit to the dinosaur museum. Did you know that more dinosaur remains have been found in Mongolia than anywhere else?

It is expected that about 10,000 Scouts from APR Scouting organizations and other countries will be in attendance.

The weather in Mongolia has two extremes, very hot and very cold. July and August is the hot part and temperatures are usually in the high 90s and dry.

Although the Jamboree is short in duration, the BSA contingent will be gone roughly three weeks. Here's the plan: We will travel in a group, probably leaving from Salt Lake City to Beijing, China. A three day stop in Beijing to visit the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and other sites then board the train for an exciting overnight ride to Ulaan Baatar. Arrive in Mongolia and move directly to the Jamboree site.

Since Mongolia is so spread out the post Jamboree stay is planned for five days. This will offer the opportunity for home stay, sight seeing in UB (even the Mongolians shorten it) and side trips to various points of interest around the country. There will be an opportunity to develop a menu of options for visiting coming in future updates.

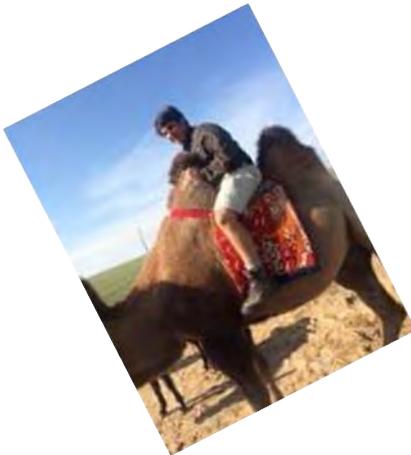
One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

UB is a modern city in the midst of rapid growth. A special Scouting connection is that the lead architect for the design team on both the new international airport and the largest building in the country is a Scout and served as an International Camp Staff member in Camp Daniel Boone, NC in 2009.

After the Jamboree and visiting afterwards, we will fly directly from UB back through Beijing to Salt Lake City and then to your home towns. This travel will require both a valid US passport with at least six months remaining before the expiration date and a Chinese visa. Mongolia does not require a visa for short stays.

Head of contingent for this trip is Pete Armstrong, [28-654-9920](tel:28-654-9920), [peteberet@aol.com](mailto:peteberet@aol.com). This event is a Daniel Boone Council event not a BSA national event.

Since this is the bottom line I will tell you what I believe will be the bottom line, \$3000 all inclusive. Unfortunately this is an estimate because it is still too early to make the travel plans.



**2016 BSA National Outdoor Ethics Conference**  
**October 6-8, 2016**  
**Camp Tracy, Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**2016 Theme: "Step Up"**  
<http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/OEconference/>



**The Conference topics include:**

**Delivering the Outdoor Ethics program in your Councils, working across the multiple levels of our councils (unit, district, council staff and volunteer leadership)**

**Information/updates on Outdoor Ethics advancement requirements, Awareness and Action awards, program implementation.**

**New science-based studies to support what is being promoted as "best practices".**

**Everyone is welcome, in particular anyone interested in Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!, BSA Outdoor Ethics programs, and sharing this information within their council/district/units.**

**Most of the attendees are serving as an Outdoor Ethics Advocate in their Council, Area, or District, but this is not a requirement.**

**We have posted a lot more information about the BSA Outdoor Ethics programs on our task force web site: <http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/> Information and resources there include contacts in councils across the country and information about upcoming Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Courses.**

**David O'Leary**  
**BSA Outdoor Ethics Task Force**

**ON THE SEA SCOUT HORIZON:**

The William I. Koch International Sea Scout Cup will be held at the Long Beach Yacht Club, California, USA during the week of July 31 to August 5, 2016.

The Northeast Region Sea Scouts will have 10 teams competing at the regatta comprised of nine teams who placed in the 2015 sail-offs and the returning Kiwi Cup champions from 2014.

Check out the names of the crews on the Koch Cup tab on the NER website at <http://nerseascout.org/kochcup.html>

Be sure to cheer them on and check out the daily race details and photos at the Koch Cup website at <http://seascoutcup.org/>

Then please watch out for our next issue of the TELEGRAP as it will be dedicated to reporting on the 2016 Koch Cup  
<http://nerseascout.org/telegraph.html>

Thanks.  
Deidre Buchner, Editor  
The TELEGRAPH

# Large Crews

A series of articles

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor



Northeast Region Crew 8 World Scout Jamboree 2015  
Crew Advisor Dr Pete Mapes and a group from Crew 27

Program is the most important element of a strong Senior Division Unit (Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring). Without program that is interesting and fun for the Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts, any Unit will flounder and fail. For this reason, Dr. Pete Mapes leads off a series of articles this month on Large Crews with a discussion of Program. Over the next several months he will follow up with articles on Large Unit Operations, Recruiting and Youth Leadership. Stay tuned for a peek at what turned into the largest Venturing Crew in the fourth largest Council in BSA!



# Large Crews RECRUITING

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

A principle reason for the regular demise of Venturing Crews is a failure to recruit. It usually works like this – someone in a Scout Troop gets an idea to form a Crew. That part is easy, everybody loves a new Crew – District Executives love them because they count in their metrics, Chartering organizations love them because they forward their mission. Members love them because they get to have fun with their friends. In four years, high school ends, the Crew hasn't really grown, everybody leaves and the Crew disappears. These events play out year after year in Scouting.

How do you avoid the sinusoidal life and death of Crews? The answer is simple – Recruit. The problem is that recruiting is not an end in itself. The ability of a Crew to bring in new members is directly related to its ability to create program that people cannot get anywhere else and the friendliness of its environment. Simply put, recruiting hangs on two things – Program and Friendliness. Having excellent program is not enough though, you have to communicate that you have an excellent program – 'marketing', so to speak. Your best communicators are your Venturers! They are there because they are having fun and the Advisors are letting them do it! They will share their experiences with their friends and their friends will come 'check it out.' Word of mouth is your best recruiting tool when implemented by enthusiastic members – it is their peer group you want. The operating equation here is Program + Friendliness = Fun!



Crew 27 and Reenactors take aim at  
Fort Frederick MD

Public exposure is your next best recruiting tool! Doing a service project, too dirty to wear the field uniform? Got a t-shirt that advertises your Crew? – and I don't mean a little tiny Venturing insignia on the left breast – I'm talking about a whopping, easy to read, shameless advertisement for your Crew all over the back of the shirt! This should be readable from 100 feet away – don't make people guess who you are! Volunteer for flag details; show up at Council and District events. Set up a table at Program Launch for your District. Did you know that Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts frequently have siblings of Venturing age and no one ever hears about us? If you are there at the event with some Venturers, particularly some of

the young women in your Crew, people will come over and ask you questions. Have a flyer available with your Crew information to pass out. Have a web site. List the web site on your flyer. Check ours out, go to: [kensington27.mytroop.us](http://kensington27.mytroop.us) Note that on the front of our web site we have articles people can download and read about our activities that are written by our Venturers. Nothing is as powerful for teen-to-teen communication as the words of one teenager to another. There are no articles written by Advisors on the site. Advisor articles don't recruit anyone – we're boring!

# Large Crews RECRUITING

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Community service opportunities abound and are a great stage for recruiting. Organizations like the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are strong supporters of Scouting as are many churches and other community organizations. Since service is a core competency of Venturing, our Crews should be out there serving with regularity. When we do this, it is a marketing opportunity and we need to take advantage of it. Uniforms, posters, flyers, conversation – all means of spreading the word.



Lila, Brooke, Lisa, Julie, Lily, Lillianne chatting at Timberline



Introduction to Leadership Skills—Crews Games 2016

A word of caution. We've encountered a recurrent theme that will waste your time a bit. If your program is really impressive, it draws parents. The parents think it would be a really good thing for their children (usually daughters) to get involved – they seem to be less paternalistic about their sons. It goes like this, the parent gets really enthused about the program but the child is nowhere in sight. Finally the child is brought by to sign up and does. In our crew they get a uniform, a Venturing Handbook, insignia, a Boy Scout Field Book, and a Crew t-shirt. They show up for a few meetings, never go on an activity, and then we never see them again – sometimes they bring the uniform and books back. What just happened? Teenagers are in the process of separating from their parents – we all know this. If a parent thinks something would be really good for a teenager, the teenager is almost sure to rebel. In honor of one of our most famous cases of this, we call it the 'CARA' syndrome. The bottom line is that unless the child is a single child or the parent is a helicopter parent in full control, the child will never really become a functional Venturer. Don't feel like this is a failing of your Crew or people – it was a family issue in the family of the teenager exhibiting the CARA syndrome.

# Large Crews RECRUITING

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

So the helicopter parent issue needs to be addressed as well. Helicopter parents significantly detract from the Venturing program. Having any adult in a MiniCrew campsite or a Crew meeting while the Venturers are doing their thing is a bad idea. The campsite or meeting needs to be visible to the adults to comply with two deep leadership but we should not be in the process unless needed for instruction or safety and usually, in a well-developed Crew, there is a Venturer to handle both of those issues. New Crews or Crews with all inexperienced Venturers on an outing may need a bit more direct supervision but adults need to get the Venturers qualified and back away to an observation post to allow the program to fully actualize itself. So what do you do when confronted with a helicopter parent? Explain the program and gently lead them out of the fray. This will be hard on them but it will be harder on the Crew if you don't do it. We have a very impressive Venturer who has Summit, RANGER and Eagle – he can gently escort a helicopter parent away from the fray but it takes an adult to keep them from going back. Sit the helicopter parent down where they can watch from a distance, just like the Advisors do and teach them some Scoutcraft, or, if they know some Scoutcraft, have them teach you – but keep them busy so they don't obsess on their kid quite as much. They are not bad people; they are just damaged in a way that is harmful to Venturing so treat them with love and understanding. Most will eventually get it and if they don't, they'll usually leave of their own volition.



New Crew 27 recruits at  
Introduction to Leadership Skills—Crews



Scouting Family Recognizes their new  
RANGER

# Large Crews RECRUITING

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

The regular composition of articles about our events has been a significant recruiting tool. Now-a-days, when confronted with a phone call or email from a prospective Venturer, I direct them to the web site and ask them to read up on our activities and see if they think they would like them. If the answer is yes, we have a new Venturer. Articles written by youth are a priceless gift and a great recruiting tool. You may need to do some editing, but the paybacks are immense. Your Council may want to publish some articles in their periodicals or post them to their web sites. 'The Forum' would love to have them – send them to [rmonto47@gmail.com](mailto:rmonto47@gmail.com) to have them reviewed for publication. 'The Forum' is an awesome opportunity to share what you Crew does on a National scale! Your Venturers and you should subscribe to 'The FORUM' as well. We look forward to it every month!

Annual end of summer school activity fairs are great places to turn up with a Venturing table. You need to target incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders and invite them to bring a parent and come as guests on your activities. When they turn 14 or finish 8<sup>th</sup> grade you can sign them up. Again, your program is the key to this technique. You have to have fun stuff to invite them to.



Crew 27 takes a break at a scenic lock on the C & O Canal



Crew 27 Philmont shakedown at Sugarloaf Mtn

As you arrive at the end of winter each year, you should be looking toward the 'graduating' 8<sup>th</sup> graders as potential members, snag them before they get wrapped up in high school clubs and activities and you'll have them throughout high school.

# Large Crews RECRUITING

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Recruiting always needs to be in the back of your mind. The better your program, the less effort you need to put into recruiting. If you seem to be working really hard to recruit, relax, generate some awesome program, and your recruiting woes will vaporize. It shouldn't be lost on you that you have a limited amount of time and energy. The most effective use of your time and energy is program development and organization, not recruiting. Recruiting then becomes a product of why you got involved in Venturing to begin with and that makes it much easier. If you engage the eighth graders without a schedule out a year to show them where they would go if they joined, they will probably head elsewhere. If your program development produced a captivating schedule, they will join if you market it.

To sum up:

- 1) Develop awesome program
- 2) Market your awesome program
- 3) Take your Crew to places where you are likely to contact prospective members
- 4) Avoid program cancellations
- 5) Develop a solid organizational structure
- 6) Provide a clear path for leadership development and advancement
- 7) Have Fun!



Crew27at Fort Michelimackinac

Pete Mapes

Our author is the founding advisor of Crew 27 who served in that capacity for over 6 years. With the help of a committed committee and well trained associate advisors, the Crew 27 adults have been able to empower a completely youth led Crew with massive program opportunities and a uniquely effective organization. It is now the largest Crew in the fourth largest Council in the BSA. Pete is a retired Air Force Pilot Physician who served as a Command Pilot in B-52s & T-37s while simultaneously serving as a Chief Flight Surgeon (a credentialed and privileged doctor). He was on active military duty for 38 years. Pete is Wood Badge Trained and holds the Scouter's Key as a Venturing Advisor as well at the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, Silver Beaver & District Award of Merit. He and his wife have three grown up children, both daughters were Venturers and hold Girl Scout Gold Awards, their son was also a Venturer and is an Eagle Scout.

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Venturing Officers Association Presents Insomniacs Revenge 2016!

Coming this fall to camp near you is this year's Insomniacs Revenge! It is hosted by the NEPA Council Venturing Officers Association. This event is open to Ventures and Boy Scouts ages 14 and up.

The theme for this year's event is Scout Wars. It will be held at Goose Pond Scout Reservation on September 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The activities and program start on Friday night, and does not stop until Sunday morning, so that means there are over 72 hours of nonstop program for everyone to enjoy. Here are just SOME of the activities throughout the night:



Make Boba Fett's Helmet  
Make a storm Trooper Helmet  
Scout Wars Concert  
Make your own Light Saber  
Robotics  
Crew based POD Races  
Make the Dessert Star  
And MUCH MUCH More

It would be a shame to miss out! We also have some awesome big events:

## Other Important Information

Sleep is optional at the Venturing Insomniacs Revenge as this event is famous for its unique all night programming. Scouts arrive at camp on Friday evening and jump headfirst into an intense, high- adventure program spanning 72 hours straight to Sunday morning. With all that said, we just have one question: are you ready?

The Insomniacs Revenge is open to both Crews AND Troops. Provisional participants are welcome as well. Some basic information about the event and event registration can be found below. Be sure to download our registration forms, fill them out, and send them in to our council office with payment at 72 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507. You can also download our event save the date flyer and leaders' guide for more information:

**What:** 2016 Insomniacs Revenge  
Scout Wars Insomniacs Revenge of the Crew  
**Who:** Any registered Venturer or Boy Scout over age 14  
**When:** September 16- 18, 2016  
**Where:** Goose Pond Scout Reservation  
1047 Goose Pond Road  
Lake Ariel, PA

Directions to camp can be found in our leaders' guide

How much does it cost?

Registration is \$40 per person  
After September 3rd —\$45.  
After September 10th —\$50.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

You can contact us at [venturing@nepabsa.org](mailto:venturing@nepabsa.org).

Thanks and we hope to see you and your crew at the 2016 Venturing Insomniacs Revenge!

# **LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL POWDERHORN JULY 29-31 2016 HERITAGE RESERVATION**

**Powder Horn is a course designed to introduce Venturing and Boy Scout leaders and Venturing youth to exciting program activities and resources necessary to operate a successful outdoor adventure program.**

**This course is designed for any youth 14 years old (or 13 and completed the eighth grade) if registered in a Venturing Crew or Boy Scout Troop or any adult registered in the Boy Scouts of America.**

## **Learning Objectives**

**After completing this course participants should have sufficient introductory information, which will provide the following:**

- 1. Knowledge of how to identify local resources and consultants for high adventure activities.**
- 2. Knowledge of the health and safety requirements, and rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America as they apply to outdoor programs**
- 3. Introduction to the skills necessary to operate an outdoor program, the certifications necessary and how to obtain those certifications.**

## **Course Size**

**The course is limited to 48 participants. Once the course is filled, participants will be given the option of being placed on a waiting list, in case of cancellations**

**Cost for this course is \$200 for more information or to register click the link below.**

**<http://tinyurl.com/LHCPowderhorn>**



# THE TELEGRAPH

## THE TELEGRAPH

A Newsletter published by  
the Northeast Region Sea  
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Boy Scouts of America.

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If you wish to comment or  
have something related to  
Sea Scouts, we'd like to hear  
from you. Send us news of  
events or story ideas to the  
editor at deidre57@verizon.net



Hello,

We are pleased to announce that the Spring 2016 Volume 20, Issue 2, edition of THE TELEGRAPH "The Voice of Sea Scouts in the Northeast Region" has been posted on our Northeast Region Sea Scout Website at <http://www.nerseascout.org/> for your review, distribution, and reading pleasure.

Please share this information with your Flotilla's Sea Scouts.

This issue includes:

**The 2016 Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball – Better Prepared** by Deidre Buchner, RBOH Committee Chair

**Legendary Skipper Doug Yeckley Retires** by Regional Commodore Noel E. Guzman

**Breaking Advancement News** by David Tarantino, Regional Boatswain's Mate

**Ship 100 "SSS Viking" Honored as 2016 National Flagship**

**Mark Your Calendar – Seabadge 28 CT 2016** to be held at Mystic Seaport

**On the Horizon – 2016 Koch Cup** in Long Beach, CA

Check out the issue!

Would love your feedback.

Thank you.

Deidre Buchner  
Editor, The Telegraph



# SEABADGE (SB-28-CT-2016)



Dates: November 18<sup>th</sup> , 2016 thru November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

Cost: \$175.00 / Participants

Course Director: Marshall Parsons, [twinpars@earthlink.net](mailto:twinpars@earthlink.net) C860.938.7681

Application and Information: <http://nerseascout.org>

- ★ Meet with other Sea Scouts around the Nation
- ★ This course is the newest and revised for 2016
- ★ Learn from over 100+ Years of Sea Scouting Knowledge from our Instructors
- ★ Participate in activities that will build on your seamanship skills
- ★ Team Building Activities
- ★ Explore the Seaport and learn about "living" maritime history
- ★ Right in Picturesque Mystic CT
- ★ Make new Scouting Friends

### Easy Location for Travel

- ★ Nearby Groton Airport GON Served by Regional Airlines
- ★ TF Green Airport in Providence about 40 Min Away
- ★ Amtrak in Mystic CT
- ★ Bus Service and Train Service to nearby New London CT





## September 16 –18, 2016 LEGACY 4.0

### We Want To See You at LEGACY 4.0

LEGACY 4.0 is the largest Venturing event in Southern Region Area 5. Make plans to join us in September for an amazing weekend in the beautiful foothills of North Carolina. You don't have to be from Area 5 to attend – we had Venturers and Sea Scouts from throughout the Southern Region and beyond join us last year, and the National Venturing President and the Southern Region President are expected to attend again this year. So, wherever you are, make your travel plans and register now before the registration fee goes up on September 1st.

At Legacy you'll have the opportunity to experience a ton of fantastic outdoor activities. In the aquatics area you can paddle board, kayak, canoe, swim, or participate in the Cardboard Regatta. In the shooting range you'll get to try out rifles, shotguns, bows, cowboy action shooting and chalk ball! Camp Grimes has a one-of-a-kind frontier area, with a period correct cabin, outhouse, garden, and layout. There you'll also find a working smithy where you can learn to forge metal like a pioneer and then try your hand at tomahawk and knife throwing.

Register today at [www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome](http://www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome) and join us at Legacy 4.0! All Venturers, Explorers, and Sea Scouts are invited. For more, visit [sr5venturing.org](http://sr5venturing.org) or [facebook.com/sr5venturing](https://facebook.com/sr5venturing)





## Legacy 4.0 Fees and Registration

Early registration is **\$49**. The fee covers Meals, T-shirt, Patch, and BSA Special Activity Insurance. There is an additional fee of \$6 per person for Shooting Sports. Register early, the fee for Legacy 4.0 increases to \$59 per person on September 1, 2016.

Crews can register online at: [www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome](http://www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome)

Legacy 4.0 will feature some amazing vendors, such as the National Whitewater Center and the Nantahala Outdoor Center. As you enter Camp Grimes, you'll pass the Indian Village on your right, and the First Scout Camp on your left, and finally the Frontier area as you pull up to the office where you will be met by the smiling faces of our staff and the wondrous views of the foothills of North Carolina.

Our program of 101 Things to do at Legacy will include, but not limited to, Cowboy Action Shooting, a 5K race, Archery, Climbing, Blacksmithing, Paddle Boarding, Mountain Biking, Human Foosball, Tomahawk Throwing, Slack Line, Cardboard Regatta, and so much more! Plus there will be a star-studded campfire to top it all off. Register today!

For questions concerning Legacy 4.0, please email [MCCVOALegacy@gmail.com](mailto:MCCVOALegacy@gmail.com)



## My Gulf Coast SEAL Course

The Gulf Coast SEAL course was one of the best experiences I have had in my scouting life. Since I am from the landlocked state of Colorado it was unlike anything I have ever done before. I learned very quick that SEAL is not your typical leadership course, in fact it is quite far from it. While the leadership skills taught and learned in SEAL may be similar to NYLT and NAYLE, the format is much different as it is almost entirely underway. That means that the classes and skills are taught on a boat. I don't know of any other courses like that.



SEAL training is conducted underway: that means decisions have real consequences and a team can get into a dangerous situation very quickly. Thankfully, Skipper Freas, the skipper for my SEAL course, was there to guide us in the right direction when we were not comfortable enough to make the best decisions.

One of the best parts of SEAL, and one of the things that sets it apart from the from the rest, is that it

brings six or seven strangers to one place and they either come together and succeed as a team or fail as individuals. My team found this out first hand. We had four female and three male Sea Scouts all coming from different parts of the country. All of us had different strengths and weaknesses when it came to sailing. Unfortunately for us, our biggest weakness was a lack of knowledge on how to sail because of how little sailing experience the members of my team had.



Most of us were from inland landlocked states where it is difficult to get sailing experience. Individually every single one of us would have failed miserably; collectively we knew enough to proficiently sail to where we needed to go. As a team, we bonded almost immediately. This is partly due to the nature of the SEAL course and how important teamwork is for success; but the friendship and trust we gained will last forever. All the nights with little sleep, all the early mornings, all the orders from skipper, and all the fun that was had (or lack thereof) was shared as a team.

## My Gulf Coast SEAL Course

My SEAL experience was 10 days long, but in my opinion it could have been 20. It was a time of learning and self-discovery, just as much as it was about leadership. I got a glimpse of who I am inside and how far I can push myself to be the best I can be. I learned that I could thrive in any environment I'm thrown into no matter how unfamiliar and that accomplishing goals is much easier when you have a team and when that team is able to work as one. I may have learned more in 10 days at SEAL than I did in 13 years of public school. I believe that each individual member of my team grew personally but perhaps more importantly my team grew together and we will always cherish the memories we made as a crew. I HIGHLY recommend SEAL for anyone who wants a challenge and wants to be the best leader they can become.



## Thoughts on My First Long Cruise

In the Summer of 2013, I underwent one of the most fulfilling experiences a Sea Scout can ever hope to encounter: My first Long Cruise.



I had been with the SSS Heatwave in Arizona for no more than a year when my ship and I were invited by the SSS Conquest in Long Beach, CA to join them on their 49 foot powerboat for a week long journey through the Channel Islands.

Before going on this trip, the largest vessel I had ever been on in Sea Scouts was my ship's 25 MacGregor Sailboat on Lake Havasu. Let's just say I was overjoyed for the opportunity to not only cruise on the ocean in a new vessel, but also to meet new Sea Scouts from another ship for the first time.

Upon arrival, my ship and I met the welcoming crew of the Conquest in the galley of their vessel to begin going over the extensive list of duties and preparations to be made before undergoing a weeklong voyage through the sea.

As a new scout with Apprentice Rank knowledge and even less so of vessel nomenclature, I found myself smiling and nodding frequently as new, unfamiliar terms came my way. As the list of tasks was concluded I found myself bursting with many questions, such as, "What in the name of Neptune was a lazarette and how was I supposed to clean it?"



But with some guidance and encouragement from the experienced crew of the Conquest, I soon gained my bearings in no time, learning the ins and outs of the vessel and all the duties that needed to be accomplished in order to effectively run it over the span of the next week.

## Thoughts on My First Long Cruise

Some of the biggest highlights of the trip included seeing marine life such as dolphins for the first time and getting to experience weather out on the ocean. It was also very exciting taking on new roles, such as helmsman, look out, anchor watch, kitchen patrol, and also getting to apply the skills I had learned from the Sea Scout manual in practical, real life situations.



The Sea Scouts of the Conquest were very intent on helping my ship and I to master these skills and expose us to new ones. In doing this, I learned the importance of knowing and honing these skills, because when you're out to sea, you have nothing but the knowledge you have gained and the trust that you will have the ability to use it when the time comes.

Overall, this trip opened my eyes to the significance of making connections with other Sea Scout ships and the preservation of the knowledge and skills gained through Sea Scouting. My first Long Cruise was very memorable and more than I could have ever asked for and I encourage all Sea Scout ships to reach out to new ships and share these incredible experiences.



## Sea Scout Long Cruise On Kauai

Summer is here and for many Sea Scout Ships this means it's time for a Long Cruise; getting out on the water, putting our seamanship skills to work, and having fun. Some ships in Area 6 are underway right now, like ships 111 and 1542 in San Diego.

Our ship Decisive, on Kauai, plots a course for two cruises every summer: "Kauai Cruise," which is underway right now, and "Summer Cruise." Kauai cruise is usually 5-7 days and we stay close to home. We circumnavigate Kauai anchoring at different beaches along the way, staying a night or two at each one and we have a family cook out. Sometimes we go over to the island of Niihau which is close, 17.5 miles, and it's visible from Kauai.



**Kauai Cruise gives us a chance to get our teamwork down, get the hang of provisioning and cooking on the boat, and to make sure the boat and crew are squared away for Summer Cruise, which is longer, usually 14-25 days.**

**On Summer Cruise we travel much farther, we cross the channel from Kauai to Oahu, which is 120 miles away; Oahu is not visible from Kauai.**

**We like to get underway before dawn and the trip takes approximately 8 hours depending on the sea conditions. Most of us get at least a little seasick crossing the channel, but it's quickly forgotten. After that we anchor in a bay off Oahu for a rest. Sometimes we circumnavigate Oahu over the course of our long cruise and sometimes we cross another channel from Oahu to Molokai, which is 66 miles. From Molokai you can see the Islands of Maui and Lanai; it's really cool.**



We have had a lot of great experiences on our cruises. We try to go into port at the Coast Guard Station at Sand Island, on Oahu, there we eat a meal with the coast guard and look around the base. We also go into port at the Honolulu yacht club and check out the city. One of my best memories is when I was on the helm for night watch when we were anchored off the coast of Molokai, the sun was just about to rise, everyone else was asleep and it was really quiet when a Manta-ray jumped up out of the ocean about a foot, it was amazing. The conditions can get rough out there, the wind swells get big.

## Sea Scout Long Cruise On Kauai



I remember one day we were crossing the channel and we were just about in the middle, so you couldn't see Oahu or Kauai, it was just us and the ocean; I was sleeping in the galley but suddenly a huge roller (wave) comes, it goes through the bridge and splashes on my face, I quickly woke up to see the stairs from the bridge to the galley rushing with water, as if it were a waterfall.

When out at sea together for this amount of time your ship bonds, it's basically like a big family. My Skipper likes to plan the timing of



our Summer Cruise so that we return home one or two days before school starts, this way when we start school we can sit in class and think about the amazing adventure we just had the week before, almost like a dream.

These days at sea count toward your Long Cruise Badge once you make the rank of Ordinary Sea Scout. The Long Cruise Badge represents 14 days at sea and after that you earn a red arc for each additional 14 days at sea, when you reach 5 red arcs you earn a white arc.

Sea Scout Ship 111 from San Diego put together an amazing YouTube video of their 2015 Long Cruise that you can view at this link:

For more photos and updates on Area 6, please follow my Instagram: [bms\\_tessa](#)  
Thank you!



# Websites

## National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

## National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

## Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

## Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

## Northeast Region Sea Scouting

<http://www.nerseascout.org/>

## Southern Region-Venturing

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

## Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://sregion.seascout.org/>

## Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

## USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/>

## UniformingFAQ.asp

## Venturing Magazine

[www.venturingmag.org](http://www.venturingmag.org)

## Yahoo Groups

### Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

### Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

### Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

### Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

### National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



# the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National..

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The **FORUM**” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

**Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief**

**Pete Mapes—Associate Editor**

**Bernie Suess - Webmaster**

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