

# Troop 54 Happenings

<http://troop54.bethel-ct.org>

BETHEL, CT



Newsletter Date  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Treasurer:  
Don Kennedy  
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Committee Chair:  
Dave Perkins  
797 - 1967  
Advancement Chair:  
Bob O'Neil  
743 - 5181  
Secretary:  
Valerie Chop  
300 - 5934  
Social Events:  
Vicki Caterson  
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Web page:  
Don Kennedy  
Camping Program:  
Brian Gorry  
748 - 3829



FYI:

THE TROOP WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED WITH PICTURES FROM RECENT CAMPOUTS. CHECK IT OUT!!

## Scoutmaster's Scoop.....Ken Darrah

With the Klondike right around the corner I thought these little hints might help remind us to better prepare for the cold. The Klondike can be an awesome time, but being cold can ruin the fun!!

### Misconceptions About Winter Camping

#### **LEATHER HIKING BOOTS WILL KEEP YOUR FEET WARM**

FALSE - The snug fit of most leather-hiking boots can limit the circulation of blood in the foot. Especially with thick socks on over boots cut generously enough to hold your foot and shoe are

much more effective. The cloth stitching in leather boots can also wick moisture into the shoe. Nothing is worse than wet feet in the cold winter.

#### **WATERPROOF CLOTHING IS IDEAL FOR COLD WEATHER CAMPING**

FALSE - To keep warm in the cold, your clothing must allow body moisture to escape. Moisture that is trapped too close to the body can wick heat away through evaporation. It is better to layer your clothing on in cold weather. Wool, Gore Tex, and polypropylene garments work nice in the cold.

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### Court of Honor Tonight

#### *Operation Home front*

*An organization that helps families of service members deployed overseas. \$5 per scout is suggested. Checks can be made out to Troop 54 & brought to the Court of Honor. See Don Kennedy for more info.*

**The Troop made \$175 from the gift card fundraiser! Thanks to Vicki for her coordinating this! You can still get gift cards for birthdays, anniversaries etc. See Vicki for more details. Thanks to all the boys who sold cards!**

To be discussed tonight: Changing the time of the weekly Monday night meetings from 7:30 – 9:00 to 7:00 – 8:30.

# Campouts

Jan: Klondike - 1/18 - 1/19 @ Rieter park, Danbury

Feb: Ice fishing or tubing- stay at White memorial - fish @ Bantam Lake (lean-tos) Maybe do some broom hockey /football to amuse the boys while waiting for the fish to bite.

March: Rifle shooting

Dues are DUE  
Please see Don if you haven't  
already signed up for next year



**Patrol Leaders:**  
Don't forget to  
remind your patrol  
of their  
advancements

## Klondike Camping.....continued

*"Arctic Conditions  
can be found in  
CT!"*



Always wear insulated underwear.

### **WINTER CAMPING DOES NOT REQUIRE MUCH PREPARATION.**

FALSE - Arctic conditions exist when the wind is blowing and the temperature drops below 20 degrees F. There are only seven states in the US that do not experience Arctic weather. Connecticut is not one of them. It is very important to prepare and even over prepare. I've never heard anyone complain about being too warm or having too many dry clothes on a winter campout.

### **MENTAL ATTITUDE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH WINTER CAMPING.**

FALSE - A positive mental attitude is the most important ingredient in the success of cold weather camping trips. The demands of winter will drain your energy

and you'll have to rely on yourself to keep your spirits high.

### **IN COLD WEATHER, TASKS CAN BE DONE JUST AS QUICKLY AS IN WARM WEATHER**

FALSE - Every effort in cold weather takes longer to complete. Be sure to bring some winter patience with you when you camp in the cold.

Remember to pack a sleeping pad; the ground can (and will) pull the heat right from your body! If possible avoid air mattresses; the air will act in the same manner. Foam, or even a quilt/comforter is more helpful.