

# VENTURES IN SCOUTING

A PUBLICATION FOR GREENWICH SCOUTING VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY LEADERS

## New Publication to help spread the "Good News" of Greenwich Scouting!

**Welcome to our new publication!** Communication is a vital key to Scouting's success nationally and locally, and in the coming months you will see several new communication vehicles introduced to assist the Greenwich Council in spreading our "good news!"

In addition to this publication look for enhanced features on our council website, introduction of a new council blog, and the development of a new Greenwich Scouting Facebook page. Each is a part of our goal to improve communication to our unit leaders and assist them in delivering the best program opportunities to our Scouts!

We hope you like the direction we are headed, and we very much appreciate your input! Contact our Scout Executive Mike Robertson and share your opinion - he'd love to hear from you! You can reach him at [MRobertson@GreenwichBSA.com](mailto:MRobertson@GreenwichBSA.com), or call 203-869-8424 ext. 3007.

## From the President of the Greenwich Council...

Dear Volunteer Leader,

As 2008 quickly draws to a close we can take pride in the fact that we had a very good Scouting year here in Greenwich! Throughout the year each of us is an ambassador of Scouting, answering questions of our friends who know of our volunteer commitment to this great program.

While we have a lot to be proud of, here are a few points that I enthusiastically share whenever I get the chance to chat about Scouting in Greenwich:

1. The Greenwich Council served more than 2,500 boys and girls this year through nearly 400 registered, dedicated adult volunteers.

2. In Scouting we focus on teaching values and developing character. Our goal is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the timeless values of the Scout Oath and Law. We take seriously helping young people develop a sense of "duty" to God, country and our fellow human beings while inculcating the virtues of remaining physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight.

3. Our "Programming For Future Leaders" initiative led to improved facilities and program opportunities at our Seton Scout Reservation - now celebrating its 50th Anniversary - which attracted more boys to our summer camps than ever before!

4. And for the 15th consecutive year our Greenwich Council has earned the National Quality Council Award - quite a distinction!

I'm sure you have your own special reason on why you have decided to devote your time, talent and treasure to Scouting. Whatever your reason let me take this opportunity to simply say - **"Thank you!"**

Scouting only happens because of you and hundreds of other dedicated adult volunteers in Greenwich. You can be proud of what our Council has accomplished. Please know that we are proud of you!

On behalf of the Greenwich Council we wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a healthy new year!

Yours in Scouting,

Bob Nalewajek  
President



President Bob congratulates Eagle Dinner Co-Chairs Bob DeLaney and Jim Adams.

## 13 NEW Eagles Honored at Annual Recognition Dinner

The **Eagle Scout Class of 2008** was honored in June at the council's annual Eagle Recognition Dinner. The event, held at the Greenwich Country Club, attracted more than 250 family members, friends and fellow Eagle Scouts, and this year included a "Gathering of Eagles" from years past.

The Dinner, featured in the December issue of *Greenwich Magazine*, was co-chaired by Eagle Scouts **Jim Adams (Eagle Scout Class of 1955)** and **Bob DeLaney (Eagle Scout Class of 1951)**. Special Guest Eagle Scout **Alvin Townley**, Author of *Legacy of Honor*, gave an inspirational talk on the importance of Eagle Scouts in our American history, and included a presentation to the Eagle who earned his award closest to his 18th birthday, Michael Pittocco (see below). Each new Eagle received an assortment of items, plus a copy of Alvin's book which he inscribed.

Co-Chairs Jim and Bob are busy planning the next dinner scheduled for June 2009. For further info check [www.GreenwichBSA.com](http://www.GreenwichBSA.com) or contact Scout Executive Mike Robertson.



## ARE YOU AN EAGLE SCOUT???

In 2009 we are making a top priority identifying Eagle Scouts living or working in Greenwich. If you know an Eagle (or are an Eagle yourself) please contact us so we can add to our list! Additional information is available on our website: [www.GreenwichBSA.com](http://www.GreenwichBSA.com).

# Council Highlights from 2008

2008 kicked off with a bang for programs in the Greenwich Council, as January was filled with Pinewood Derby races for all of the Cub Scout Packs in Greenwich, while the Klondike Derby challenged the Boy Scouts to test their skills and also brave the cold.

March is the time we annually collect food for Neighbor to Neighbor through the Scouting for Food initiative. This year Greenwich Scouts collected just under 2 tons of food to benefit families in need in Greenwich.

In May the Boy Scout Camporee recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Seton Scout Reservation, while the Cub-O-Ree was dubbed the Cub Olympics, and the Order of Arrow inducted a record number of brothers at their Ordeal Ceremony.

In June we honored the Eagle Scout Class of 2008 (see picture above and article on page 1), and kicked off a record-setting Summer Camp that concluded in August (see article and pictures below.) On August 28, we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council acquiring the property

which 18 months later was dedicated as the Seton Scout Reservation. In September the Council closed the reservation to prepare for the dredging of Hillegas Lake. However, that did not stop us from holding a great Cub Scout Fun Day and Boy Scout Fall Camporee. The Cub Scouts and Cub Scout Leaders took over Byram Shore Park for a beautiful afternoon the first Saturday in October with over 300 returning and new Cub Scouts attending (see pictures at right and below).

The 2008 Fall Camporee, titled "Return to Windy Goul," was held at the Pomerance Property in Greenwich. This is also the site of the residence of Ernest Thompson Seton, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, and is now a historical landmark. That same day the Order of the Arrow introduced Webeleos to

Boy Scout skills as part of the annual Webeleos Woods, with nearly 100 Webeleos Scouts participating. In November the Order of the Arrow were guests at the Pray Achievement Center and helped celebrate Mr. Pray's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday (see picture at right), while in December we celebrated the upcoming holidays at festive and fun holiday parties.

As you can see lots of great program in Greenwich Scouting during 2008, and even more planned in '09, starting in January with Pinewood Derby races and the Klondike Derby right around the corner!

We hope your 2008 was great, and '09 even greater!



## 2008 Day Camps Set New Records

This past summer the Day Scout camp program included a trip to Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, and set new records for attendance with nearly 700 boys attending the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Day Camps.

A Climbing Wall for Cub Scouts and a 40-foot Climbing Tower highlight plans for 2009. More info will be available shortly on our website.

"Over the years Greenwich Scouting has enjoyed tremendous success in our summer programs," said Council Camping Chairman Bob Moore. "Camp Directors Diane Warzoha and Brian Landi, along with their outstanding staffs, did a great job with the program this summer, and especially handling the record number of Scouts all season." Over the six-week summer session nearly 1,400 camper weeks were recorded.



Boy Scouts attending Day Camp work on a nature project in front of the new Nature Lodge. Next to the Lodge is a new open-air pavilion. Both facilities are now open for use.

2008 saw the opening of the new Nature Center and BB range, as well as doubling the size of the archery range (see picture above). The Boy

## Dredging Completed at Seton

2008 saw the completion of a huge project for the Greenwich Council: the dredging of Hillegas Lake. The project, a \$2 million undertaking, was necessary due to the 50-year accumulation of sediments. 13,000 cubic yards were removed from the lake, some of which was used for other camp improvements.

"We needed to complete this project now in order to keep our lake usable for boating activities in the future," stated Bob Jones, project chairman for the council. "Camp programs are a top priority for our Greenwich Council Board."

Due to the dredging the camp was closed from September to December, but Ranger Scott Stewart reports that most of the camp is now open for use.



## “Fireside Chats” great opportunity to share your thoughts

Council Marketing Chair Camille Broderick has announced a series of “fireside chats” with Scout Executive Mike Robertson meeting volunteer leaders from Greenwich Scouting. “The chats will serve as a great opportunity to listen first-hand to the concerns of our Scoutmasters and Cubmasters,” stated Camille.

In an effort to give each unit leader an opportunity to participate in the chats there are several dates scheduled, with each session in the Activities Building at Camp Seton, discussion beginning at 7:15 pm:

- ★ Monday, February 2nd;
- ★ Wednesday, February 4th;
- ★ Tuesday, February 10th.



Every Pack and Troop leader in the Council is encouraged to attend. Camille further stated that “although Mike has already chatted with many unit leaders, he still wants additional input, as well as the opportunity to share some preliminary ideas for 2009.” Discussion topics will include communications, Scout Shop hours/days of operation, service to units and leaders, program activities, and summer camp, plus anything else leaders in attendance wish to discuss. Light refreshments will be served, and some fun items (like the patch above) will be shared.

“We hope every unit leader will join us at one of these important sessions for a candid, open discussion about Scouting in Greenwich.”

## Greenwich Scouters attend Wood Badge

Six Greenwich Scouters participated this fall in Scouting’s most comprehensive adult training course: Wood Badge. Attending the course, offered at the Alpine Scout Reservation in New Jersey, were (left to right below) Rev. Tom Nins, Art Landi (Wood Badge Staff), Craig Jones, Bob Jones, Tillis Roberts, and Brian Landi. Congratulations!!!

For additional information on training courses visit our website: [www.GreenwichBSA.com](http://www.GreenwichBSA.com).



## A Note from our Scout Executive...

*It’s hard to believe that I’m finishing my eighth month as your Scout Executive! It seems like just yesterday I was meeting with First Selectman Peter Tesei and he was welcoming me to Greenwich. My how time flies when you’re having fun!*



*The welcome that I’ve received has been overwhelming, starting that very first day with the committee that selected me, then the Council Officers and our Board, and continuing with leaders from our community...little did I know Peter’s warm welcome was just the beginning!*

*Along the way I’ve had the pleasure to meet so many of our unit-serving volunteer leaders...from Cubmasters and Scoutmasters to Den Leaders and Unit Commissioners...and one common goal ties us all together, whether you’re serving in a unit or on our Board: an incredibly strong desire for outstanding Scouting programs for our kids!*

*Working together I know we can deliver the very best Scouting programs possible. I strongly believe that kids today need to learn our “words to live by” more than ever before, and I promise to do my best to create and support programs that kids will want to join! Please attend one of the “fireside chats” and share your thoughts about Scouting. Together we can continue to build a great Scouting program in Greenwich!*

*My very best wishes to you and yours for a happy and safe holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year!*

Warm regards,

Mike Robertson, Scout Executive  
Eagle Scout Class of 1970



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Questions or comments about this publication should be directed to editor Mike Robertson at [MRobertson@GreenwichBSA.com](mailto:MRobertson@GreenwichBSA.com).

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*The Greenwich Council wishes you and yours  
a wonderful holiday season,*



*and a happy and healthy new year!*



**GREENWICH COUNCIL - BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

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**words to live by**

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