



# SMOKE SIGNALS



February 25

The Official Newsletter of Troop 555

Sponsored By: Saint Bartholomew Church

## Upcoming Events

### February:

- Monday 4, – 7:00 p.m. Troop Meeting
- Monday 11, – 5:30 p.m. PLC, 7:00 p.m. Troop Meeting
- Monday 18, – 7:00 p.m. Troop Meeting
- Monday 25, –7:00 p.m. Troop Meeting
- Friday 29, to Sunday 31, – Patrol Outings

## PLC Minutes

**Scribe’s notice:** The PLC minutes are recorded by the Scribe of Records published by the Scribe of Media. I would ask that the Scribe of Records gets these minutes to me for the next newsletter.

## Patrol Spirit

### By: Thomas Luehrmann

As I was trying to decide what to write about, I remembered that our patrols had recently undergone a reorganization. Since I knew that patrol spirit in a new patrol is likely to be tenuous, I decided to publish this excerpt from the Troop Leader Guide that lists several ways to foster friendly rivalry between patrols:

- Pitting patrols against each other in games and skill competitions (rather than creating ad hoc teams each time)
- Recognizing patrols that do the best in uniform or campsite inspections
- Rewarding the patrol with the best overall attendance each month
- Holding a troopwide Dutch-oven cook-off where the Scoutmaster does the winning patrol’s dishes

I thought that the list was a nice piece of information to provide the Troop with as it is something that we have struggled with in the past. I hope this information has helped you readers better understand the patrol method.

## Patrol Articles

### 5 Not 3

#### By: Will Brunner

Hey, I’m the new leader of the old Scout patrol. Hope for a good term!

**Scribe’s Notice:** As can be seen, the boxes assigned for the articles of the patrol leaders are of a designated size. I would ask that the patrol leaders make their articles of a sufficient size to fill them. Thank you.

### Knights of the Round Donut

#### By: Jacob Sherman

My patrol went on the Winter Rendezvous and had a ton of fun. We had fun on our first Klondike sled race. It was a good experience. There were many fun activities like tomahawk throwing, snowshoe racing, and other activities. I think and hope my fellow patrol members enjoyed the Winter Rendezvous.

### Rohirrim

#### By: Thomas Luehrmann

Fellow members of Troop 555, the Rohirrim patrol had a wonderful past few months. One of the most memorable event that happened recently was the Winter Rendezvous. Our patrol did very well in the activities of that campout. In fact, we even walked twenty minutes to where the events would be Friday night in order to practice one of the competitions only to find out that were not having that event this year. Just two meetings ago, we received two more members, Trip and Derek, and lost one member, Alex, due to the patrols changing slightly. Currently, the Rohirrim patrol is brainstorming ideas for the Patrol Outing.

## MTFFFGA

**By: Mr. Luehrmann, ASM**

Congratulations to all you Scouts that were elected to Troop Positions of Responsibility (PoR)! Troop 555 has placed their trust that you will Make Troop Five Five Five Great Again! Do you think we need MTFFFGA hats? So, you may be asking how to MTFFFGA for another 6 month term. The answer is no further away than your PoR contract. Your PoR contract has all the things you need to do to be a great leader in your position. And if we have great leaders in every position then this Troop will do great things because of YOU. Each of you have your part in how the Troop runs. Make the commitment to yourself and the Troop to review your contract regularly (I suggest every week or two), if you have something completed have it initialed by the Scoutmaster or other appropriate person, and decide what to do next. If you do that, you will see the progress you are making to MTFFFGA!

## Funnies

*Hababa*

**By: Thomas Luehrmann**

What did Batman say to Robin before he got into the Batmobile?

Get into the Batmobile Robin.

**Scribe's Notice:** If you want to see more jokes in the newsletter or want to see a certain joke or puzzle in it, please contact me to turn it in.

If you have any questions or comments about how to make the newsletter better please let me know. Or if you want to put an article in the next newsletter get it to me by the second of the month. You don't have to hold a troop position to place an article in the newsletter. Email me at: [T.A.Luehrmann@gmail.com](mailto:T.A.Luehrmann@gmail.com) or call me at: 812-546-5811

Scribe of Media-Thomas Luehrmann

## Explaining the Newsletter

**By: Thomas Luehrmann**

Due to the length of time that it has been since the last Smoke Signals Newsletter was written, most people do not understand what the Newsletter is or if they have to contribute any articles to it. Because of this, I will now explain how the Newsletter works.

The Newsletter is a way of updating members of the Troop via a reliable method of general information such as the state of other patrols, the results from the PLC about certain issues that otherwise might not be communicated to the patrol members, pictures from the last outing, adult articles, and odd pieces of info.

Because the Newsletter requires that so many different articles be turned into it, several different positions of responsibility have an obligation to turn in information. The following positions have to write articles for the newsletter:

- Quartermaster: He writes one article.
- Scribe of Records: He turns in PLC minutes each month.
- Librarian: He turns in a list of overdue books each month.
- Chaplain's Aide: He turns in at least two religious articles—preferably more.
- Historian: He turns in pictures with captions at least three times during his term.

Due to needing to get the newsletter out at a reasonable time such that people can see the PLC minutes on a timely schedule, I plan on printing the Smoke Signals the week after the PLC. Therefore, I will require articles for the newsletter a week in advance or at the meeting directly following the PLC meetings.

Again I do understand if you did not turn in an article because you were not aware. Now that you know please turn them in at the scheduled date that I mentioned. Not just PoR's can turn in articles. I will welcome articles from anybody and everybody. I hope to see a fuller newsletter next month.

Visit the Troop 555 Web Site at: <http://www.bsa555.org/Troop>