



# THE POWDER HORN BLAST



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## From the Course Director

We had a great day yesterday, and after some dampening of our bodies there was no dampening of our spirit.

The staff have been thrilled with the enthusiasm you have shown, and look forward to our next weekend together.

Course Director

## Next Time – Different Camp

Please remember that on October 1, your drive will be about a mile shorter. We will be at Camp Sequassen. Please park in the main parking lot. Take the trail along side the Trading Post, and follow it to the Dining Hall. We will give you instructions on where to stash your gear. At Camp Sequassen, you will be sleeping in Adirondack Shelters with built in bunks. You may want to consider mosquito netting. You will need a backpacking tent for the outpost adventure hike (only about a mile) on the next weekend. You will need to boil water so each crew should be prepared with a lightweight stove and cook kit. Bring your personal mess kits as well.

## Today's Schedule August 22, 2004

6:00	Reveille
6:30 – 7:00	Breakfast
7:00 – 8:00	Scout's Own
8:00 – 12:00	Round Robin <i>Rotation by Crew</i> Watercraft – Canoeing/Kayaking Discover Scuba/Snorkeling Watercraft – Small Boat Sailing
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 5:00	Round Robin <i>Rotation by Crew</i> (same events as the morning)
5:30	Adjourn Session

## Yesterday's Activities

The morning and early afternoon rotations were an exercise in flexibility. Activities included **Climbing the Tower & Rappelling, COPE initiative games, Snowboarding, Fishing and Communicating with Computers.**

At the climbing tower, CT Rivers Council Climbing Director Suzanne Whitney and her staff did a great job of getting a number of folks to the top of the 40-foot high tower. Assistant Course Director Mark Carpenter rearranged only one of the grips on his trip up. Those who made it up were rewarded by a quick rappelling descent.

Even without snow, we had presentation on **Snowboarding** by Jim Izzo, one of the dynamic experts from Mt. Southington. He even spoke about the other snow sports while showing off both old and new ski boards.

Jerry Hollins from the CT DEP Perch Tails association was here to talk about **Fishing**. Jerry mentioned a web resource for fishing information: [www.fishingtournamentsct.com](http://www.fishingtournamentsct.com).

Today would never have been successful without the hard work and never ending bag of tricks that Mark Clifton brought us. One of the items distributed in your envelopes today is a flyer for the Venturing Rendezvous scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at Deer Lake Scout Reservation (Mark's home). Because of the reply date of August 27<sup>th</sup>, we want to call your attention to this item. This event is sponsored by the Venturing Officers Association of the Connecticut Yankee Council (the youth leaders). Activities will include rock climbing, COPE, canoeing, and kayaking. It will be a great opportunity for youth leaders of Venturing Crews to get together, share ideas, and socialize.

Tony Vogl explained the scouting sandwich to us in presenting the sweet 16 of Scouting. Tony did a great job of tying together the many tools that we use to insure the safety of those in our care.

The late afternoon was a most interesting combination of backpacking demonstration and hands on fun with gear as presented by Outdoor World Outfitters. We would like to thank Mike Rocheleau, Dave Lavado, Bob Beaumont and Randy Berry for sharing the day with us and letting us play with their toys. The drawing was a special and totally unexpected treat at the end. Thank You.



**OUTDOOR WORLD OUTFITTERS**

- Boy Scout ● Girl Scout Uniforms and Accessories
- Camping ● Hiking ● Backpacking Supplies

979 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike (Route 322)

Plantsville, Connecticut 06479

e-mail: [info@outdoorworldoutfitters.com](mailto:info@outdoorworldoutfitters.com)

web site: [www.outdoorworldoutfitters.com](http://www.outdoorworldoutfitters.com)

**860 621-8381**

After a wonderful dinner, Alice Knapp and Walter Young talked about **Cave Exploring**. They have over 8 years of spelunking experience, and are often tour leaders for groups of youths for the Mountain Workshop in Ridgefield.

Finally the day ended as we look forward to 6 AM reveille and a day of water activities.

**Your Next Schedule  
Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> 2004**

6:30 – 7:00	Registration & Set Up
7:00 – 8:00	Mountain Biking/Cycling
8:00 – 12:00	Round Robin <i>Rotation by Crew</i> Equestrian Land Nav – Map & Compass Land Nav - GPS
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00	Round Robin <i>Rotation by Crew</i> Winter Sports Land Nav – Map & Compass Land Nav - GPS
4:00 – 5:30	Group Photos
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 7:00	Physical Fitness
7:00 – 8:00	Working with Teenagers
8:00 – 9:30	Land Nav – Stars
9:30	Crackerbarrel
10:00	TAPS

Some things to bring for next time:

- Patches (for trading, sharing, or showing)
- Backpacking tent (borrow if you need to)
- Make sure your Crew has planned for the outpost (tarp, garbage bag for packing out trash, stove or two, water carriers)  
We will provide you with food for this event.
- Your enthusiasm!

The Powder Horn Traders are Open!  
You will receive your shirt(s) and any other items you have ordered when you check in next weekend.

Please leave your badges today (so we know that you left) and we will return them on the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> so that we know that you safely returned!

There will be a formal evaluation for this course. Please be prepared to help us improve!

### Religious Observance

Under the Venturing Oath we promise to do our duty to God. This morning there will be a "Scouts Own." All are expected to attend the Scouts Own,

### Staff Spotlight

**Michael Golrick** is the Assistant Course Director for Instruction. Michael's day job is as the City Librarian in Bridgeport. He grew up in Central Massachusetts and graduated from Brown University. He proceeded immediately to the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) where he earned a Master of Science in Library Science and met his wife, Jill. They moved to Tucson where he earned a Master's in Business Administration at the University of Arizona. His professional career started at the Tucson Public Library. After several years there, he accepted a position at Bridgeport Public Library as the

Head of the Technology and Business Department. From 1985 through 1994, he served as the Library Director at the Wilton Library Association. Beginning in 1995, he was the Executive Director of the Southern Connecticut Library Council in Hamden. SCLC serves the libraries (school, public, academic, and corporate) for 38 towns in New Haven and Middlesex Counties. In November 2000 he began in his current position.

Michael lives in Bridgeport with his wife Jill who is the librarian for Norwalk Hospital. Their son Gregory, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Brown in 2002. Their son Brian, also an Eagle Scout, is a junior at Roger Williams University in Bristol RI. Their daughter Megan is a Girl Scout, and will soon be a freshman at Boston University.

Michael began his scouting career as secretary of the Troop Committee, served two years as Advancement Chair, and three years as Committee Chair. He has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for the past three years. He is Wood Badge trained (used to be a Buffalo), has earned the Scouters Training Award and District Committee Key. He has received the District Award of Merit, and was recognized with the Silver Beaver. This past June he was recognized with the Bronze Pelican. He has served on JLTC staff for the past seven courses and served as Scoutmaster this summer. Next summer he will return to the ASM – Administration position. He is now the District Commissioner for Pomperaug District.

**Gil Thompson** is our Assistant Course Director for Crew Guides. Gill's Scouting career has brought him through most scouting volunteer positions in his years with units in Marlborough, Connecticut; from Pack 39, to Troop 39, and now the new Crew 39. A member of the Algonquin District Training Staff of Connecticut Rivers Council, Gil has brought his experience as a training specialist with UPS to Powder Horn staff this year.

During his Scouting career, Gil has attended Wood Badge; a proud member of the Bobwhite patrol. Gil has earned the

District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, both the Scoutmaster of the year award and the Cubmaster of the year award. He has also earned many other training awards.

Gil is an Eagle Scout and has also earned the Silver Award, at the time the highest award available in the Exploring program as a member of Air Explorer Squadron 250. The Silver Award is still achievable to Venture Crew members. Gil has two sons, Todd and Matt, both of whom are Eagle Scouts, and both of his boys continue to give back by working with youth both in and out of Scouting.

As a scouting goal, Gil hopes to expand the Venturing program in Connecticut River Council and seeks opportunities to offer this rich program to as many young people as possible.

For a large collection of Boy Scout graphics, many of which are animated, visit the Troop 39 web site at <http://www.ct-troop39.org> and navigate to the graphic page. Feel free to download and use any of the images on the site.

Gil Thompson has a really neat business card which he and members of his crew distribute wherever they go. The front has the venturing logo and the Crew number and town in large type. It then has the usual contact info. The back says: "Ask me about Venturing! Venturing is for young men and women ages 14 to 20. It includes challenging high adventure activities, sports, and hobbies for teenagers that teach them leadership skills, provide opportunities to teach others, and give them an opportunity to learn and grow in a supporting, caring, and fun environment." There is a great photo from the Venturing literature with a Venturer beginning a descent down a cliff.

**Diane Usas** is our Assistant Course Director for Program. Diane is Wood Badge trained (and was a fellow Buffalo with Michael Golrick). She started her scouting career in Cub Scouts with her twin sons. She was a Den Leader, Assistant Cubmaster, and many other positions in the Pack. When her sons

moved to Boy Scouts, she went along for the ride. They were active in Troop 76 in Ridgefield. Diane served as a Committee Member, Advancement Chairman, and Troop Committee Chairman. During that time the troop grew from 18 to 63 scouts. One of her sons is an Eagle Scout.

On the District level, she served in many various positions. She has been recognized with the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. She has served on the training committee for 17 years. She has also been active in Girl Scouts having served as a trainer in outdoor schools for 17 years. She is active in her church where she is a religious education teacher and on the governing board.

She has been to Philmont and to the 1997 Jamboree with a troop. She has climbed Mount Washington, attended several international camporees, and many other high adventure activities.

Diane started working with Explorer Post 789 about 12 years ago. It became a Crew when Venturing was introduced. It is a Safe Rides crew. Currently, Crew 789 has 157 youth members and about 42 adults. She has served as the Vice President for Venturing in the CT Yankee Council, and was an active participant on Connecticut's first Powder Horn course in 2002.

Diane has a medical technology background and works at Ridgefield High School where she coordinates all of the labs in the science department (22 teachers).

## WE WANT YOUR PICTURES!!

If you have taken digital photos, we would love to get copies of them before you leave. If you have taken film photos, we would love to get a copy either at the next weekend, or via email. Please send them to Michael Abrahamson ([mabrahamson@earthlink.net](mailto:mabrahamson@earthlink.net)) What we promise is to provide a CD with photos from this weekend and most of next weekend – before you leave next time!