

## **Troop 316 Scoutmaster Steps Down After a ...Job Well Done!**

Troop 316 Boy Scouts, leaders and friends said "Thank You" to their Scoutmaster Rick Bunnell at their summer Court of Honor. Rick Bunnell, a New Hampshire native, is stepping down as the troop's Scoutmaster. He held this position since 2002 and served as an assistant scoutmaster for the 2 years prior.

Bunnell arrived in North Carolina in the summer of 2000 with his family and immediately continued on his scouting trail. He was the Cubmaster and Den Leader for his son's unit in Greenland, New Hampshire from 1995 to 2000. Bunnell, like other scout parents got involved when there was a void in needed scout leadership, and he hasn't stopped for the past 12 years. When his son's Cub Pack unexpectedly folded, Bunnell stepped up to the call for help. He followed in his father's footsteps who in the late '60s was a Cub Scout leader. Unfortunately, when it was time for young Rick Bunnell to crossover to Boy Scouts there was no local troop to join. But scouting never left him.

Rick Bunnell is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoutmaster in Troop 316's history. When asked what goals he set when he took over as scoutmaster, he responded, "First, make camp outs more interesting by introducing new activities that the entire troop could do such as indoor rock climbing, snow skiing, biking & deep sea fishing; secondly, do more high adventure activities such as backpacking, kayaking and whitewater rafting to keep the older boys interested; and finally, actively recruit Cub Scouts." He admits he sets high goals for himself. He far exceeded his target goals on the first two, but will say, "Recruiting for any Boy Scout troop is always a challenge, and requires constant work, so you may never fully achieve your recruiting goal."

Bunnell is very proud of the many events that took place during his tenure as Scoutmaster, but he is the most proud of "assisting ten scouts to achieve Eagle Scout rank and earning his Wood Badge beads." Wood Badge is the top adult training course in Boy Scouts. One of the troop's most recent Eagle Scouts was his son Kyle, which Bunnell admits was a great and emotional event seeing his son rewarded for his hard work and dedication.

Looking back over the 7 years as a leader in Troop 316, Bunnell reminisces over his major accomplishments, "Building up the troop to over 40 boys, keeping and training strong troop Senior Patrol Leaders, taking the troop to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and making becoming an Eagle Scout a realistic goal for every boy."

The troop showed their appreciation to Bunnell by presenting him several items. Two certificates were from Governor Easley; The Honorary Tar Heel was presented by Bob Harrison and Joe Fitzpatrick presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the troop's committee. The National Eagle Scout Association presented a Scoutmaster Award of Merit certificate and uniform knot to Bunnell for his unit achieving the Quality Unit Award under his leadership, development of youth leadership through the patrol method, positive relations with the troop's chartered organization, an extensive outdoor program including strong summer camp attendance, and a positive image of Scouting in the community. This award was presented to Bunnell by Eagle Scouts Cameron Harrison, Kyle Bunnell, and former Senior Patrol Leader Alex Klavon. In addition, a porcelain statue depicting Norman Rockwell's famous 1956 painting entitled, "The Scoutmaster," was presented as a gift of appreciation to Bunnell from the entire troop. The current troop Senior Patrol Leader, Corey Ames, on behalf of all the troop's scouts, presented Scoutmaster Bunnell a hiking staff hand crafted by Boy Scout Jordan Lang.

Bunnell has some simple advice for his replacement, Brandon Smith, "Don't get too focused on every detail and delegate whenever you can. The troop has a good group of adult leaders and you will either use them or lose them." He went on to say the key to success was his passion for the job, "I loved doing it and therefore spent a lot of hours planning and working on activities with the troop's youth leadership. In our mind, every meeting and every campout had to be successful and if it wasn't, we learned from our mistakes and did better the next time."

Although being a Scoutmaster meant many hours away from his family, Bunnell says, "I think overall it was positive. In our case, it gave my wife some one-on-one time with our daughter as well as allowed me to be around my son." When asked if he will stay in scouts, Bunnell said "I am going to back off for a short while and let the new scoutmaster make his mark, but I will definitely stay involved in Scouting."

It was obvious to all associated with the troop that Rick Bunnell's leadership style could be summed up in these words "The scouts do not care how much you know.....until they know how much you care."

Finally when asked if he would do it again, he responded without any hesitation, "Absolutely, it has defined my life. It has made me a better manager and a better person." Well Done.....Scoutmaster Rick Bunnell!