

## **Diamond Anniversary for Boy Scout Troop 316**

Current and former scouts, along with leaders and families gathered on February 19, 2006 to celebrate Troop 316's 10-year anniversary. Since March 31, 1996, Troop 316 has grown from a humble beginning of a few scouts and leaders to one of the most active troops in the local area. Former Scoutmaster, Ed Walsh, spoke for all the past scoutmasters in saying, "I'd like to thank each of the parents and friends who were involved in the operation of the troop over the last 10 years, the troop could not have run without your help." The anniversary event started off in the traditional Troop 316 fashion with a potluck dinner attended by over 50 scouts, leaders, family and friends. This very special anniversary event was organized by Cynthia Pizzurro, Barbara Lang, and Claudia Klavon all members of the troop's committee.

Following the buffet spread of home cooked food, the troop held its winter Court of Honor. Senior Patrol Leader and the event's Master of Ceremony, Nick Allen, welcomed everyone especially the troop's former scouts and leaders. The troop's color guard presented the colors followed by Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Nicholas Pizzurro, leading the troop in the Scout Oath and Law. Besides a former scoutmaster attending, the troop was honored to have a former scout attend, Eagle Scout Brian Cullip.

The real purpose of the evening was to recognize the amount of hard work the scouts accomplished over the past six months. 30 merit badges and 15 rank advancements were presented to 23 scouts of the troop. The awesome responsibility of keeping track of all these accomplishments falls on the shoulders of Barbara Lang, the troop's Advancement Coordinator. The awards spread across all ranks and ages...well done scouts! The troop's newest Eagle Scout, Kyle Bunnell, was introduced as the troop's 14<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout, carrying on a tradition of having at least one Eagle Scout per year.

Scoutmaster, Rick Bunnell, mentioned the troop has done very well with media coverage, and especially recognized The Cary News for carrying stories about the troop's activities. Bunnell further told the audience, "Today we are celebrating ten excellent years of Troop 316 scouts, scouters and parents. We are indebted to this organization for teaching our boys valuable life lessons in planning, teamwork, and working hard to achieve their lofty goals. We look forward to continuing this tradition by welcoming next month the largest group of incoming scouts in troop's history."

The court of honor ended in its typical fashion of a pictorial slide show of all the activities the scouts were involved in over the past six months. Activities included the Occaneechee Council 2005 Camporee, wilderness camping at Camp Campbell, shotgun shooting at Camp Durant, tour of Pope AFB, snow skiing in West Virginia, indoor climbing at the Raleigh Rockyard and hiking at Umstead State Park. Patrol leader of the Purple Cobras, Hunter Smith, then officially closed the evening activities by directing the troop's color guard to retire the colors.

Troop 316 is sponsored by St. Andrew's Mens' Society (SAMS) and meets at St. Andrew Catholic Church at 7:00 PM every Tuesday. SAMS has been the troop's charter

organization for the past 10 years. Anyone interested in joining Troop 316 please contact Rick Bunnell, Scoutmaster, at 303-3672 or Lloyd Allen, Committee Chairman, at 380-1254. Please visit the troop's website for additional information at <http://home.earthlink.net/~troop316/id22.html>