

## Troop 316's Court of Honor has Special Meaning

Boy Scout Troop 316 held its semi-annual Court of Honor on August 25<sup>th</sup> to recognize the recent accomplishments of the scouts and leaders over the past six months. It was a bittersweet event as the scouts, leaders, family and friends said thank you and good bye to Scoutmaster Rick Bunnell, who is stepping down after five years at the Troop's helm.

The Troop had the largest turnout for both the dinner and ceremony ever with over 90 in attendance. Once again Cynthia Pizzuro coordinated the dinner, rounding up troop volunteers to bring a variety of delicious entrees and desserts to feast on.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Corey Ames promptly called the Court of Honor to attention at 7:00 pm introducing the Troop's Color Guard to post the Colors. He also lead the troop in the Scout Oath and Law, this being a long standing tradition at Boy Scouts of America events. When introducing Scoutmaster Bunnell, SPL Ames said, "Being a Scoutmaster isn't just about making camping trips educational; it's about making them fun and interesting too. Being a Scoutmaster is about caring, and Mr. Bunnell is all of those things." He concluded his remarks by these simple words, "Mr. Bunnell is the definition of what a Scoutmaster's supposed to be, but he's been more than just a Scoutmaster, he's our Scoutmaster."

The troop continues to grow as evidenced by the number of merit badges and rank advancements presented by the scoutmasters. Over 150 merit badges, 57 Eagle-required, and over 30 rank advancements were presented.....a troop Court of Honor record! Troop Committee Chairman, Lloyd Allen commented on the awards, "We've never seen so many Scouts get so many ranks in so short a period of time." Two brothers, Daniel and Christian Pedersen, together earned five rank advancements and four merit badges in the past five months, quite an accomplishment for the Pedersen household. It kept their mother, Jane Pedersen, very busy coming forward to receive her rank advancement Mother's Pins.

The following Troop 316 scouts were honored for their hard work in rank advancement and/or earning a merit badge, or for their years of participation:

Nick Allen	Corey Ames	Seth Bartholomew	Roy Carlsen
Ryan Carlsen	Ben Dallas	Michael Fitzgerald	Albert Gartside
Cameron Harrison	Austin Horne	Austin Jones	John Kastl
Alex Klavon	Ben Klavon	Henry Kuehr-McLaren	Michael Kunath
Jordan Lang	Rodney McCaskill	Christian Pedersen	Daniel Pedersen
Nick Pizzurro	Chase ReBarker	Michael Rodgers	Daniel Ruck
Nick Ruck	Nick Schaefer	Stephen Schneider	Michael Schwab
Hunter Smith	Brian Spellman	Alec Stewart	Brandon Summers
Brian Watson	Justin Wygal	Kyle Wygal	

The troop said goodbye to Scout Michael Schwab who left the troop when his family moved to Hong Kong this summer. We wish him well as he continues on his Eagle Trail; his positive attitude will be deeply missed.

New Scoutmaster Brandon Smith addressed rank advancement by saying, "Advancement is made possible by the high level of commitment, dedication, planning and delivery of each scout." Smith said Daniel Pederson earned the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class, and joked that Daniel far exceeded his brother Christian, who at the last Court of Honor earned two difficult ranks and earned STAR at this one.

A troop doesn't succeed without the help of outstanding adult leaders; Troop 316 is not short in this category. One leader, former Scoutmaster Ed Walsh, was presented his Silver Anniversary (25 years) pin for his involvement in scouting...well done Ed!

Before the evening was over, SPL Ames orchestrated a symbolic passing of the Troop Flag, first handing it to outgoing Scoutmaster Bunnell who passed it on to incoming Scoutmaster Smith who returned it to SPL Ames. This symbolizes the continuity of the Troop's leadership.

Concluding the ceremony, the scouts and families watched a 20 minute slide show highlighting a few of the major events of the past six months. You can see Troop 316 is a very active troop:

Order of the Arrow Pow Wow	Catholic Camporee and shake down campout
Crosswind District Camporee	Order of the Arrow Conclave
Biking the Virginia Creeper Trail	Order of the Arrow Spring Inductions
Cameron Harrison Eagle Ceremony	Camping and Fishing at Ft Fisher
Summer Camp at Camp Durant	
High Adventure Summer camp at Claytor Lake Aquatic Center	

Troop 316 is sponsored by the St. Andrew Mens' Society (SAMS) and meets at St. Andrew the Apostle 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 Brandon Smith, Scoutmaster, at 387-1487 or Lloyd Allen, Committee Chairman, at 380-1254. Visit the Troop's website for additional information at <http://home.earthlink.net/~troop316/id22.html>