



Pack News

January 2003

Cubmaster's Corner

This month's theme is Strike Up the Band. This is a great theme to begin the new year. The boys will have an opportunity to develop confidence through personal achievement, have fun and adventure, practice cooperation, and learn the value of perseverance.

Paul Harvey had this to say about music. "Music is everywhere in bird song and in bubbling brooks and in laughter, even in the stars. Music is the universal language that transcends time and space. Music is one of the seven forms of human intelligence, all equal in stature and in potential. And yet education — as is — is almost totally geared to nurturing linguistic and logical-mathematical abilities along, leaving the other five forms — including music — neglected. We tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions, and undisciplined emotions keep getting us into trouble. The ugliest headlines are about somebody who may have been smart as all get-out — smart enough to be a bank executive or a politician or a scientist. But if emotionally color blind, he's an unguided missile inevitably destined to self-destruct. Without the arts — including music — we risk graduating young people who are 'right-brain damaged.' For anyone to grow up complete, music education is imperative. There is a correlation between the study of music and such critical work-place performance factors as self-esteem, self-discipline, the ability to work in groups and higher cognitive and analytical skills. Should we not be putting all our emphasis on reading, writing and math? We need self-discipline? The arts, inspiring—indeed requiring—self-discipline, may be "basic" to our nation's survival."

As we start the new year we enter the busiest season for the Pack. Your pack committee has several exciting events planned for the next few months. February is the month we celebrate the Birthday of Cub Scouting at our Blue and Gold Dinner. We also hold our annual Pinewood

Derby in addition to celebrating Scout Sunday, Scout Week, and Scout Sabbath. In March, we'll have an ice skating party and an awesome ceremony to celebrate the graduation of our second year Webelos to Boy Scouts.

Recharter

The Pack Rechartered on January 11th with 57 Cub Scouts, 18 Adult Leaders, and 13 Tiger Partners. We also have several boys who have just joined the Pack or are considering joining the Pack to add to that number. Rechartering is an annual undertaking by the Pack Committee to collect and pay annual dues to maintain our membership in scouting. The Pack paid \$1182.00 to recharter this year. Thank you to all those parents that paid this year's registration and dues on time. Your consideration greatly assists the Pack Committee in delivering the best program possible to our boys. In recognition of the effort and high program standards maintained by the Pack Committee, the Pack 1559 has earned designation as a Quality Unit.

Calendar

- Pack Meeting January 22, 7:00 p.m.
- Pinewood Derby Speed Clinic January 25, TBA
- Whittlin Chit Instruction ... January 29, 7:00 p.m.
- Scout Sunday February 2
- Scout Week February 2-8
- Leaders Meeting February 5, 7:00 p.m.
- Scout Sabbath February 8
- Pinewood Derby February 8, 1:00 p.m.
- Roundtable February 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Blue and Gold Dinner February 21, 6:00 p.m.
- University of Scouting February 22, 8:00 a.m.
- Lord Baden-Powell's Birthday February 22
- St. Edwards Scout Sunday March 2.
- Leaders Meeting March 5, 7:00 p.m.
- Leader Training March 11-13, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Roundtable March 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Ice Skating Party March 15, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Webelos Bridging March 15, 5:30 p.m.

Fellers Cake Bake

We will have a Fellers Cake Bake contest at the Blue and Gold Dinner. The cakes will be our dessert.

1. Cakes must be baked by the Cub and another male. (If there is no father in the home, then an uncle, older brother, or neighbor may help. Or, you may want to check with other Dads in your den - I am sure they'd be happy to help!) CUBS MUST HELP WITH CLEAN-UP!!!
2. Cake mixes may be used.
3. Entire creation must be edible - including ALL decorations. (HINT: you may use celery, carrots, anything edible for trees, canoes etc...).
4. All cakes must have a title to show as part of the cake decoration or on a card attached to the cake. Cakes will be registered and numbers issued for judging purposes.
5. All cakes must be on a "Give - Away" tray or board.
6. Cakes can be purchased before dessert for \$10.00 each.
7. Cakes will be judged by outside guests and prizes awarded in the following categories:
 - a. Judges' Choice (Best Overall)
 - b. Tallest Cake
 - c. Most Original in Theme
 - d. Prettiest Cake
 - e. Most Unusual
8. 1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be given in the Judges' Choice category.
9. Cakes must have a Scouting or Patriotic Theme.

Pinewood Derby Speed Hints

Let's state right here and now that *it's the fun of working together, learning and the sportsmanship in racing that's really important in the Pinewood Derby event.*

1. Understand and follow the rules. The fastest car can't win if it never gets a chance to race.
2. Fast cars usually have a low profile that offers the least resistance to the air-stream. Character

figurines glued to the car and other excessive trim can slow down a car, even if just a little. The aerodynamics of a car can effect the car's performance but it is not the highest priority.

3. Axles. The "nail" axle out of the box will look pretty bright and shiny but its appearance is deceiving. First, it will have at least two metal webs that reach from the nail head to the shaft. These are small but will ride next to the outer wheel surface. Use a fine mill-cut file to remove these webs. Mount the axle in a drill motor or drill press and rev it up to perform the filing tasks. Next, you'll find that axles are out-of-round by as much as 2 to 5 thousandths of an inch. Again file them to make them regular then use 400 grit wet-dry sandpaper with water or light oil to polish them back out. Axles should be polished to provide a surface for the wheel to roll without restriction. Use a good metal polish and soft cloth for this step.

4. Weigh the car to the maximum, 5.00 ounces. The higher mass per volume helps overcome drag and friction. Just get it close. We'll have weights at the Derby to zero in on the maximum.

5. Try putting the weight towards the rear of the car. It won't make a huge difference but then every little bit helps. The theory is that the higher weight pushes the car for a longer period of time.

6. Insure that your car is tracking straight. A car that bumps the lane guide more often gets slowed down more often. A "front-end alignment" may be necessary. Make sure the axels are square to the block and the same distance from the bottom edge.

7. Use a good dry lubricant. Dry graphite seems to still work better than the white Teflon compounds now available. We'll have graphite at the Derby.

8. Ensure your wheels roll smoothly and are not binding. A good test is to spin each of your wheels with your finger and let them run to a stop. It should take 20-30 seconds for well tuned and lubricated wheels to stop completely.

9. Never, never, never roll your competition pinewood car on the ground or concrete. These rough and dirty surfaces can ruin the car's wheels, axles and alignment.

10. Don't ruin a good thing. Even with this (good?) advice, your car may already be as fast as it can be. Changes can sometimes work in the reverse of best intentions. A pack pinewood winner will not want to change his winning design but use these ideas for improving next year's design.