



RENDEZVOUS



Issue 4

* Council Camping Committee – Evangeline Area Council, BSA * OCTOBER 2005

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KATRINA & RITA

The fury of Mother Nature.

For more than a few years our own Jerrie Rainey has portrayed Mother Nature in wonderful skits. She's done a pretty good job, but she may have trouble trying to follow the real Mother Nature's recent display.

The National BSA's website lists ten councils as having been impacted by Katrina and Rita. The Evangeline Area is one of those ten. Our camps missed the bullet with only a few trees downed after Rita, but of course, many of our Evangeline Area Council were not so lucky. Some of our brothers and sisters have lost their homes; while others have significant damage from flooding and / or wind damage. Physical damage is severe, but more important is the damage to the heart and soul. Yet, with a belief in the almighty this too can be healed.

Mostly Katrina's impact on our council, were the thousands of evacuees who sought refuge. Our Scout Executive Jim Rees, immediately reacted and sought ways that our council, units and individuals could help. Units were literally "biting at the bit" to find ways to help and help they did.

Rita brought us not only more evacuees, but they were us. Thank God the rain and rain wasn't as severe as forecasted, but there is still plenty of damage from a terrible, giant hurricane. But, we all now know, that the real story is the tidal flooding that destroyed homes, business and lives. How could we not ALL, be affected?

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WHERE TO GO CAMPING

It's always time to go camping.


It's finally turned cool and as the mosquitoes thin out, "I'd rather be camping".

Leaders have to be aware that hunting is going full steam and deserves real consideration when planning on where to go camping.

I've been told that some state parks have been / are closed because of role in housing evacuees.

Even our own Camp Steen is being used to house hurricane volunteers until further notice.

But Units and Scouting families have an "ace in hole" by being able to utilize Mt. Bayou, Camp T or Brownell council camps.


Instead of camping at Mt. Bayou's main camp, how about trying something new and visit the South camp (old JLT area) and the northern part of the property that offer some great camping sites that most units have never seen. 

HIGH ADVENTURE

Philmont.

Ernie Thibault, the council's High Adventure Chairman recently reported to the Camping Committee that the council is looking at a Philmont contingent for 2006. Those of you that are familiar with Philmont know that because of its popularity it requires a real plan and long term commitment.

Other high adventure bases such as the Sea Base and Northern Tier Canoe Base are also very popular, but Philmont remains the premier destination.

Ernie is a wealth of information for units interested in getting some first hand knowledge about these kinds of adventures. He can be reached via e-mail at Ernie1egt@bellsouth.net 

CUB ADVENTURES

Attendance Low?

Attendance at Session One of the Cub Adventure was low, but considering the fallout of the hurricanes, understandable. The effect continued and the Second Session was cancelled. Disappointing for a Cub Scout program that usually has a waiting list where people are turned away. Things did get better and the last two sessions were standing room only and sadly some applicant had to be turned away.

Another session was considered to accommodate this last minute surge of applications, but manpower and schedule conflicts just didn't permit.

Hopefully next year we will get back to our regular schedule and have maximum attendance at all the Cub Adventures.

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LAWSON'S

OOPS!

For years through the generosity of the Lawson / Chappuis family units have been able to enjoy camping and day activities at a wonder piece of the outdoors located just North of Crowley.

I remember attending a district camporee there back in 1966. A primitive camp with not much more than a place to park and put up a tent; there is a small pavilion available for use.

So it was with a little surprise that when one of our Scout leaders visited the property to "scout-out" its' condition in preparation for a unit outing was confronted by a fellow who claimed that they'd leased the property for hunting.


A quick check did discover that we'd inadvertently let the lease lapse back in 2001. However; inquiries with members of the family assured us that they wished continued usage by Boy Scouts and plans are underway to secure the paperwork necessary.



THISTLETWAITE!

Hurricane Damage!

Clean up and Camp T took a little step back due to hurricane Rita. Overall, our council properties came out ok, but Camp T lost some more trees and wouldn't you know that one fell across the just repaired incoming power line.

Oh well, the council is dedicated to getting Camp T back to quality condition, so the work continues. Camp T representative Bob Gassman reports that the power has been restored and water leaks repaired. Still a lot of cleanup work to be done, but the camp is "campable". Units, groups, individuals wanting to help are encouraged to contact the Scout Office at 337-235-8551 or camp cleanup coordinator Bob Gassman at 337-942-5620. 

SILVER ANNIVERSARY!


25 Years of Fun

2006 marks the 25th year of Summer Camp at Mt. Bayou. This alone will be enough for some units to want to attend Mt. Bayou Summer Camp, but plans are in the works to make next year the year to remember. No one is content just to make the old programs bigger and better, but new programs are being developed, as you read this, to add new and exciting adventures.

The entire Camp Staff, Council Camping Committee and the Professional Staff has dedicated itself to making Mt. Bayou's Summer Camp program something we can all be proud of. A Summer Camp program that you will not want to miss.

It's never too late to select your choice for your 2006 Summer Camp. Make that choice Mt. Bayou and you and your Scouts will not be disappointed. In fact, if you traditionally go "Out of Council" for Summer Camp, you may find that you've been overlooking a great camp right here at home.

Don't put it off, call the Scout Service Center (PH. (337) 235-8551 E-MAIL. eac@evangeline-bsa.org), to let us know that are planning on attending Mt. Bayou. No money required at this time. Your pledge and an estimate of the number of campers are all we need to set you up for the right week and the right campsite. By the way, you can contact me at: Mike Hinson PH. (337) 314-8084 or e-mail mhinson@pegasus-international.com and I'll be glad to help you with this process.


Be sure and check out the "Sign Up" chart on page eight of this newsletter to pick out your favorite campsite for your favorite week. 

CAMP STEEN:

A Scout is helpful!

We all can be proud that our council has been able to be a part of the hurricane(s) recovery by providing Camp Steen as a haven of sorts to some of the many volunteers who have come to Acadiana to help. SE Jim Rees has informed the Council Camping Committee that Vermilion Parish made the request and the council was immediate in it's response to allow the use of Steen as a housing location.

Obviously, unit camping at Steen will be halted for the duration, but hopefully the knowledge that we are helping in a great cause will assuage any inconvenience.

A lot of work has gone into cleaning up Steen since hurricane Lilli did a number on it. With additional trees taken down by Rita, Steen is showing a little wear and tear. Needless to say, the council will benefit in the long run, since some work will be necessary to prepare Steen for it's temporary inhabitants. Hopefully, it won't be too long before Scouts are back at Steen, doing those things Scouting. 

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OA INDUCTIONS WEEKEND (ORDEAL) - MT. BAYOU LAKE SCOUT CAMP
Nov. 11TH, 12TH, & 13TH.
SCOUTING'S HONOR SOCIETY.

WINTER CAMP - MT. BAYOU LAKE SCOUT CAMP
Nov. 18TH THRU 22ND.
VOTED THE BEST WINTER CAMP IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

CUB SCOUT RESIDENT CAMP - MT. BAYOU LAKE SCOUT CAMP
APR 7TH THRU 9TH.
VOTED THE BEST RESIDENT CAMP IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

2006 SUMMER CAMP - MT. BAYOU LAKE SCOUT CAMP
WEEK 1
JUNE 11TH THRU 17TH
WEEK 2
JUNE 18TH THRU 24TH
WEEK 3
JUNE 25TH THRU JULY 1ST.
THREE (3) WEEKS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUMMER CAMP AT MT. BAYOU.

2006 AQUATICS CAMP - BROWNELL CANOE BASE
JULY 3RD THRU JULY 7TH
5 DAYS OF "WET" HIGH ADVENTURE. 

WATER HEATERS!!!

Faster than we thought.

You know, it won't be long before we'll hear, "Mt. Bayou has always had hot water showers in the campsites".

Of course, there are still some campsites without, but Mr. "Hot Shower" Henry Broussard is working on getting the piping all done and the latrine privacy stalls installed in preparation for the acquisition of the heaters. The heaters themselves will be installed as they become available.

It's never one person, but often there is that one person who is the key. As OA Lodge Advisor Henry worked with the lodge youth to kick off this project to get these first water heaters installed, but I can tell you that it was because of Henry dedication and hard work that the job got done.

I can only smile as I suggest to you that as you are taking your hot shower at Mt. Bayou that you should think of Henry. Now that's a lot to think about.

Interested in helping? Contact OA Lodge Advisor Henry Broussard and he can give you all the information necessary to help with the purchase of one of these units. (A unit includes water heater, 40 lb. propane tank, fittings / pipe / valves and special shower heads.)



NATIONAL CAMP SCHOOL

We Are Looking For a Few Good Men and Women.

The following article is a repeat from the last newsletter. We are still waiting on the calendar from National / Region. Keep your eyes and ears open for this opportunity.

"Most of you already know that for our Camps (Summer, Resident, Cub Scout Day Camps) to be accredited, certain positions must be held by adults who have attended and certified at a National Camp School. Camp and Program Directors, Aquatics and Field Sports (Shooting) and COPE and Climbing to just name a few of the more common positions.

There is fee; and attendance is subject to approval by the Council Scout Executive. Participation is limited and preference is given to those who pledge service to our camps and camping program. This is a real opportunity of being a part of Scouting that few are able to do.

Contact SE Jim Rees at 337-235-8551 for more info on how to be a part of this fantastic opportunity to give back to Scouting and particularly our council".



MT. BAYOU LAKE


Oh Yeah, it's Ours.

Some of you may be surprised, but up until a few weeks ago, we didn't own Mt. Bayou. It was a long-term re-negotiable lease.

Well, after many years of wishing. A controversial timber operation and a lot of haggling by some great council legal minds we now own 100% of the camp, lock, stock and campsite.

Big deal? Maybe, but it does give us an opportunity to do some things at camp that just wasn't practical before.

An improved timber management plan and an upcoming capital campaign (camp improvements) are just a couple of examples. Ask anyone who owns their home the advantages of owning over versus renting / leasing.

2005 will likely be remembered by most as the year of the hurricanes, but it will also be fondly remembered by the faithful as the year, we bought our home – Mt. Bayou. 

VENTURE WEEKEND 2005


Slowly catching on.

It was a pleasure to be involved in a recent Venture Weekend that took place at Mt. Bayou.

About 35 young men and women and their leaders participated in a loosely organized schedule of fun events.

As an old Scouter it was somewhat of a challenge working with teenage boys and girls who have few (if any) Scout skills. A knot tying relay race wouldn't have gone far, but give them a challenge and they are full of spirit and enthusiasm and the willingness to try.

Climbing, canoeing and shooting were all on the schedule. We weren't able to give them the rifle and shotgun, but these young men and women took to BB guns, slingshots and archery with a vengeance. We threw in a few fun games to keep the blood flowing and the adult leaders laughing.

The Venture program has its own challenges and recognitions for its coed members. It has really taken off in some parts of the country and I wouldn't be surprised if that happened here. 

WINTER CAMP 2005


Time is near!.

Yup! Winter Camp Director David Begneaud reports that he and his staff have everything under control for the best Winter Camp ever.

If you've been around very long you know that Mt. Bayou's Winter Camp is one of the best because of the quality of its all volunteer instructors who teach more merit badges than you could possibly take. Of course, recruiting those instructors, organizing the schedule and handling the 101 issues that come with the territory of putting together a program have a little to do with the tremendous success of Winter Camp.

For those of you who put off registering to the last minute, be forewarned that this camp and its merit badge classes fill up fast. This doesn't mean that you'll be turned away, but it may be that your Scouts will have to settle for 2nd or 3rd choices when it comes to the merit badges available.

With the nearby councils still recovering from the hurricane(s) it won't be surprising to see an influx of some "out of council" units.


Sign up now. 

BROWNELL AQUATICS CAMP

To steal a slogan from Nimbeaux's "Can you find us?"

Russell Cardinal, Brownell representative reported that Brownell survived the hurricane(s) with minimal tree damage and that it is ready for camping / boating.

Russell also informed the camping committee that some new Hwy signs have been placed; which will greatly aid everyone in locating the camp. Not that it is that hard to find in the first place.

Plans are underway in the near future to add another pavilion and ultimately a large building to store boats and other equipment necessary to run a first class Aquatics program. 

MT. BAYOU TIME CAPSULE

What will we think and be in 25 years?

WHO: All registered members of The Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.


WHAT: A ceremony to bury a Time Capsule (marked with a monument) dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Summer Camp at MtB.

WHEN: Actual date during Summer Camp in 2006 is to be determined. To be opened in 25 years (2031).

WHERE: At Mt. Bayou Lake Scout Camp (Possibly, next to the dining hall flag poles)

I am extremely excited to announce that long-time Scouters JoAnn and Keith Lejune have accepted the challenge of co-chairing the Time Capsule Committee.


As far as we know, this is the first time our council has buried a time capsule. The recent purchase of Mt. Bayou by the council makes this occasion even more significant.

You should be hearing soon, from the Lejune's, but let me take this time to suggest that you may want to put on your thinking caps about what you'd like to see in the capsule. Get your unit youth involved to become a part of the "history" of the Evangeline Area Council. 

WORK AND SERVICE PROJECTS

Service!

This list was prepared by Ranger Bobby, but believe me, it is only a small example of the thousand and one things that must be done on a regular basis to keep our camp(s) in top condition.

Dining Hall - Campers need place to wash hands	Ranger Bobby
Campmaster Hut - ceiling fan over table - bad bearings	Fred & Mike Zerangue
Attakapas - bad water cutoff	Ranger Bobby
Dining Hall Utility Closet - roof penetration leaking	Ranger Bobby
Attakapas - dead tree	Andy Guthrie, Charles Boudreaux, Ranger Bobby
Opelousa - dead tree near latrine	Andy Guthrie, Charles Boudreaux, Ranger Bobby
Water Front - re-install vent on storage bldg door	Keith LeJune
Mailbox Post - replace	Ranger Bobby
Dinning Hall - P/U & Install Ice Machine	Henry Broussard, Ranger Bobby
Disconnect remaining urinals	Frank Barker
Store 1st load of Jambo Equipment	Keith LeJune, Ranger Bobby
Store 2nd load of Jambo Equipment	Andy Guthrie, Charles Boudreaux, Ranger Bobby
Construct 20 bench's for Dinning Hall	David Begnaud, Ranger Bobby
Dining Hall - nails missing from roof north west gable	Andy Guthrie, Ranger Bobby
Camp Steen Post Hurricane Cleanup	Atchafalaya Lodge 

UNITS GOING TO MTB FOR 2006 SUMMER CAMP

CAMPSITE	1ST WEEK 6/11-17/06	#of Scouts	2ND WEEK 6/18-24/06	# of Scouts	3RD WEEK 6/25-7/1/06	# of Scouts	ADOPTED BY
OPELOUSAS - EAST	T955	18	T420	8			
OPELOUSAS - WEST	T158	18					T158
ATTAKAPAS - NORTH	T61	6	T14	15			T14
ATTAKAPAS - SOUTH			V14	6	T405	15	V14
HOUMA	T103	7					T103
COUSHATTA							
CADDO							
CHOCTAW							T156
CHITIMACHA	T162	20					T162
MUSKOGEE - NORTH	T563	10	T563	10	T563	10	T271
MUSKOGEE - SOUTH							
TUNICA	T5	11					T64
NATCHEZ					T17	50	T17
CATAHOULA							T446
AVOYLES - NORTH							
AVOYLES - SOUTH							
Total Scouts (opt - 125)		90		39		75	



DONATIONS

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Just a few of the people and/or companies who have made a difference. How about you?

Staff Area - Refrigerator	Pam & Ronnie Rayburn
Staff Area - Stove Top	Pam & Ronnie Rayburn
Campmaster Hut - Refrigerator	Robert Andries
Parts to Repair 5 push carts	Knights of Columbus - Patterson, Breaux Bridge, Opelousas, St. Edmond Catholic Church - Lafayette
Purchase Water Heater	Troop 162
Purchase Water Heater	Russell Cardinale
Purchase Water Heater	Henry Broussard
Donation of Treated Lumber	Elder Wood Preserving, Mansura
Purchase Water Heater (3)	Atchafalaya Lodge #563 Order of the Arrow.
Donation Paint	Doug Ashy Bldg Materials - Johnston Street
Use of trencher @ Camp Steen	Stine's Lumber, Abbeville
Supplies to install Dining Hall Kitchen A/C	F & R A/C, Abbeville
Lumber for Cub Adventure project	New World Wood Products, Crowley
Tables for Dining Hall (8)	Chevron-Texaco through Donna Rowell
<small>From page 1</small> 18,000 BTU A/C for trading post (used)	Claude Hoover
Chain & S-Hooks for Dining Hall Shutters	David's Hardware-Lafayette
Materials and Labor for Poolside Pub Storage Building	Rick Viviano 

In the scheme of things, how the storms have affected Scouting is less of an issue, but then this is a Scouting newsletter and a Scouting website. I'll let others with real talent tell the bigger stories. As Katrina and Rita were destroying homes and tearing apart families it was also destroying Scout units, council property and dashing the hopes and plans of the Scouts themselves. When Katrina flooded the Louisiana gulf coast, the Scouting families ran for their lives. They may have left behind the uniforms, camping gear and literature, but we all know that Scouting is more than some physical items. The founder of Scouting's Honor Society, Dr. E. Uner Goodman always called the Order of the Arrow, "A Thing of the Spirit". I would add that Scouting itself is also "A Thing of the Spirit".

Where we are today? Recovery will happen, but may take a long time. But our youth don't have that luxury of time. They will continue to grow and develop regardless of where they live or go to school. Scouting and all that it teaches is as important, or more important now, than it has ever been before. Not only do evacuees need the diversion of those things Scouting, but so do those of us who, by the Grace of God, were spared the hardship.

As things begin to settle down, new and old Scouting families will again, look to Scouting. I challenge our Scout units to receive them with arms and heart wide open. 

