



## **ADIRONDACK ECHOES...**

### ***NOTES ON THE ADIRONDACK FOOTHILLS DISTRICT..***

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays fellow Scouters!

Well...despite best intentions, this did not work out to be monthly...but how time has flown...here we are almost halfway through the 2014-15 Scouting Program.

I have not received much e-mail so I take that as a good thing...I have been contacted by a few people with questions and I have kept (and will continue to keep) my commitment that if you write to me, I promise to respond in one way, shape or form within 24 hours.

My e-mail address is [jfdevlin@roadrunner.com](mailto:jfdevlin@roadrunner.com). So keep in touch and let's keep building this great program...

*A word on our Camps...*

As you know, the Council is reviewing our property holdings situation. I want to thank that committee for the *absolutely tremendous* job that they did in reviewing our properties, assessing them and then coming up with the presentation that they made to anyone who was interested. I attended the one at BOCES in New Hartford. It was a really well done presentation and it made our situation and the need for action, in my opinion, crystal clear.

We as adult leaders, both the paid and the volunteers, have a stewardship duty over all our council's assets. We have to manage them in a manner that is prudent and meets the needs of the program both now and into the future. I will not repeat the findings of the Committee here as everyone had an opportunity to attend the meetings.

We simply have too much land. This month, the Board will vote on the recommendation that we sell some or all of our Camp properties. The likelihood of selling them all is remote but it will be "on the table" as it were. It is likely that we will vote to retain one and then actively market the balance. The Board has pledged that some of the proceeds will be invested in the remaining Property or Properties to bring them up to "A" Camp status by BSA National standards.

The approach that we at the Adirondack Foothills District see for retention of a property or properties must be guided by what I would describe as a tri-pod approach. The "legs" are:

1. Our current financial situation and program needs;
2. The future of the Council and our program needs in the next 20 years; and finally

3. The needs of our constituents...our young men.

All of these factors must be considered. If we leave one out, then the “tri-pod” falls over and both the Council and our constituency will suffer.

We discussed this matter at our December District Committee meeting and I will be voting the decision of my constituency at the Board Meeting.

Any decision we make beyond the status quo is bound to make some of you unhappy. Please understand that this has been a very detailed process and much research has been done and much consideration has been given. As far as I can see, the “sentiment” has been taken out of the equation.

I need and urge each and every one of you to approach whatever decision is reached in the same manner. Do your best to remove sentiment and “...its always been this way” from your approach and your actions. We all have memories about certain camps...but...I believe that if we fail to act, all we will be left is...memories...and many regrets.

So whatever the decision, we want you to stay involved and stay committed to our youth and to the Boy Scouts of America.

### **So on to....Upcoming events...**

*Adirondack Foothills Roundtable* – Reese Road Elementary School, Frankfort, NY at 7PM

*Northern Lights Winter Camping Outdoor Seminar:*

In this two-part seminar, you will be shown effective ways to appreciate and enjoy winter camping. The indoor informational session will be held at the Scout Service Center Saturday, December 13. The outdoor session will take place at Camp Russell, January 2-4, 2015.

Email Rick Rotondi, Jr. for questions and more information. You can sign up online at the council website

*The Eagle Scout Dinner:*

Please join us to recognize our Eagle Scout Class of 2014. As always, the Eagle being honored is free and guests are \$20. It is being held on Thursday, January 8, 2015, 6:00pm – 8:30pm at the Hart's Hill Inn, 135 Clinton St, Whitesboro, NY 13492.

*2015 Camp Kickoff*

January 15, 2015- Save the date! The Revolutionary Trails Council Camp Kickoff begins at 7:00 PM. Every unit is invited to come and check out what is going on in 2015. Some important topics will include: 2015 RTC Summer Camping Program, this year's Camp Card Rollout, and changes to the Operation Sunshine program. More information will be available in our next Scoutwire. Please Email Aaron Decker [aaron.decker@scouting.org](mailto:aaron.decker@scouting.org) with any questions.

*For our OA Members – Moosefest!*

Please join us for a weekend of Winter Fellowship and a Banquet. It starts on Fri, January 16, 2015, 6pm and goes through Sun, January 18, 2015, 10am at Camp Russell, New York 28, Woodgate, NY.

You can register on the Council's website. Any questions ? Please write to [Adviser@oalodge34.org](mailto:Adviser@oalodge34.org)

*Gold Nugget Derby:*

Gold Nugget Derby is for Cub Scouts in Lions through Webelos Dens to participate in a variety of stations rotating throughout the day to test their team skills in a variety of areas, all while enjoying the snowy outdoors. \$5.00 per Scout/Scout sibling will get you access to the event, plus the Gold Nugget Derby patch slice to help you complete your Cub Scout activity pie patch. Extra patch slices will be available to purchase for \$2.00. Adults are free. The Minute Man Meal will be available to purchase for \$3.00, and includes a hot dog, chili and a drink. Hot drinks will be available throughout the day.

Please join us for our Cub Scout Winter event at the Deerfield Fire Hall, Deerfield NY on Saturday, Jan 17, 2015. 10 am to 2 pm. Questions? Contact Diane Drake at 735-4437

*The Adirondack Foothills Klondike Derby – At Camp Russell, New York 28, Woodgate, NY*

**Save the dates for sure!!** More details in a full e-mail and a leader guide to follow soon ! More details on Scoutwire and the council's Website. Questions, please contact Dave Roberts at [dave\\_r\\_jr@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_r_jr@yahoo.com)

**Another word on the Council Calendar:**

If you are not already doing so, please get online and use the Council Calendar. Although it is not always perfect, the professional staff and our volunteers update it constantly.

You can find the Council Calendar here: <http://www.rtcbsa.org/> and click on the **COUNCIL CALENDAR** tab located about 1/3 way down the page.

You can also find the link to the latest "Scout Wire" right underneath it. If you are not getting this valuable online publication, please call the scout office, give us your e-mail address and we will sign you up right away!

**District Committee Meetings:**

We meet the first Monday of the month unless it is a holiday. The meeting then shifts to the next Monday (and the Roundtable also gets pushed back) All meetings are held at the same centrally located Reese Road Elementary School...

All are welcome to attend as ad hoc members and bring to the committee's attention any items that need action, suggestions for events, opportunities for fundraising or just to listen.

The District Committee meets at 6 PM followed by the commissioners meeting at 7 PM.

**Newspapers and the local media:**

*“Extra, extra...read all about it...”*

If your troop, pack, unit or crew does an event, outing or some activity that is nice, fun, helpful to the community or if you are holding a fundraiser (or any other activity)...it may be newsworthy and we'd like you to tell us about it so we can share it with our neighbors via the media!!

We ask that you submit it to us so we can get it to our District publicist Jim Gemza...please e-mail all submissions to the following address: [jgemza@roadrunner.com](mailto:jgemza@roadrunner.com)

Please include a couple of digital pictures and a “who, what, where, why, when and how” description of the event or a short summary and we will try to get you and your youth the recognition you deserve.

So...***Promote, Promote, Promote*** ...all the great things that our young men and women do for our community...and all that you as adult leaders do for both our youth and the community...

**Volunteers:**

We need help, plain and simple. Many of us are doing two or three jobs for the program and I fear that I may lose some of you and your very valuable assistance because of burnout...I don't want this to happen.

My initial plan is to gain volunteers for events...they need not commit year round...but chair an event...run a station at the Klondike Derby...teach a skill at an upcoming camporee...then...they are done! Unless they find out how important it is to pass on the ideals and skills taught in Scouting to our young men...and how much fun it can be!

I ask again that each of you provide me with the name and contact information for someone that you know who can help out once in a while...please send it to my e-mail address above and I will contact you so that we can work together to enlist this person...

So in closing out this Holiday letter, thank you again for all that each and every one of you do for our youth!

Yours in Scouting,

*John*

John F. Devlin, *Eagle* '82  
District Chairman  
Adirondack Foothills District