Committee Chair Update – Kim Lonie

New Committee Chair – In mid Dec, John Hager stepped down as Committee Chair, after 5 years of service, to spend more time with his youngest son and his activities. A special thanks goes to John for his leadership and commitment to Troop 84. Kim Lonie, currently the Assistant Chair, agreed to assume the Chair position.

Annual Registration & Dues – Thanks to all of you who have paid your annual dues. For those who have not, please submit your payment to Kim Lonie as soon as possible. The annual dues are $100 per Scout, $95 for a second Scout in the same family and $15 for Eagle Scouts. A subscription to Boys’ Life magazine is an additional $12. Checks should be made out to Troop 84.

Scoutmaster’s Corner – Mike Brown

Adult Leaders – Mike thanked all the parents who have offered to help with merit badges and other troop activities. Troop 84’s continued success requires active involvement from a large number of adults. An updated list of the upcoming merit badges and new merit badge counselors will be published soon. Parents are also reminded that they must complete the Youth Protection Training before serving in any leadership capacity. See Other News for details.

Treasurer’s Report (as of Nov. 30, 2010) – Rick Martin

Past Activities

Scouting for Food – In November, Scouts from Troop 84 worked with Cub Scout Pack 842 to collect food for a local food bank. Al Nichols reported that the district collected almost 40,000 lbs which is slightly more than last year. Thanks to all who helped out.

Scout Leadership Training – On Nov. 26, Mike Brown led a training session for Troop 84’s Scout leaders. They discussed how the troop is working and things they’d like to change. The Scouts indicated they liked the focus on merit badges, but agreed that more emphasis needs to be placed on Advancement for the younger Scouts. More details on upcoming changes will be shared in next month’s newsletter.

Mistletoe Sales – The final figures for Troop 84’s mistletoe sales are 7% less than last year, but nearly 40% more than 2 years ago. This is in spite of a difficult economy and the fact that several shifts were not filled. Thanks to all the Scouts and parents who helped out. A special thanks goes to Candy Slanec for organizing the event and the Lees for opening up their garage for the bagging!!

Upcoming Activities

Court of Honor (Jan 25) – Troop 84’s next Court of Honor is on Tues. Jan. 25th at 7:30 pm at COV. Scouts who have completed all the requirements for advancement need to contact Mr. Brown to schedule a Scoutmaster conference and then Mrs. Nichols for their board of review. All Scouts and their parents are invited to attend. Full Class A uniform is required. In addition, Umesh Apte will make a brief presentation on the Friends of Scouting (FOS) and will be taking contributions.

Merit Badge Weekend (Jan 28-30) – Troop 84’s annual merit badge weekend, held at Camp Herms located atop the El Cerrito Hills, will take place Jan. 28-30th. First year Scouts are encouraged to attend as the focus will be on rank advancement. Please have your Scout let Kathi Nichols know as soon as possible if they plan to attend, if they have not done so already. She needs an accurate count of attendees so she can finalize the merit badges being offered.

Merit Badges

Personal Fitness (Brown) – Beginning in Jan, Eagle-required.
Family Life (K. Nichols), Underway, Eagle-required.
First Aid (Poitras/Lee) – Starts in Jan. Eagle-required.
Hiking (Brown) – Ongoing, Open to all Scouts.
Cit in Community (Rettig) – Starting soon. Eagle-required.
Cit in Nation (Brown) – Starting soon. Eagle-required.
Communications (K. Nichols) – Underway, Eagle-required.
Scholarship (Houston) – Open to all. Email Mrs. Houston if interested.
Reading (Houston) – Open to all. Email Mrs. Houston if interested.
Disabilities (Rettig) – Underway.
Inventing (Kennedy) – Open to all. Starts in Jan.
Skating (Koupal) – Open to all. Starting soon.

Key Dates for Upcoming Events (www.troop84bsa.org)
Jan
25 Troop 84 Court of Honor (COV)
28-30 Merit Badge Weekend (Camp Herms)
Feb
Tbd Troop 84 Annual Planning Meeting

Announcements / Other News

BSA Youth Protection Training – All adult leaders, merit badge counselors and adults participating in any Scouting-related activities are required to complete the BSA’s Youth Protection Training. It is an online course and takes about one hour to complete. For more details and instructions, go to www.BSA-MDSC.org/training.

Happy New Year to all!!