

**Gary Bernstrom**

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**From:** Tom Davidson [tomd@flash.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 8:59 PM  
**To:** all@454.org  
**Subject:** Fwd: Troop 454 Meeting minutes and Longhorn Caverns/Inks Lake campout review

Scouts and Parents,

The troop held its last regular meeting on Tuesday Feb. 3rd and held its Longhorn Caverns trip and campout this past weekend Feb. 6-8th.

Below are the minutes from the meeting:

An announcement was made that the Troop will hold an Order of the Arrow election on our Tuesday Feb. 17th meeting. It was pointed out that 50% of the Troop roster must be present for a vote to be held. Requirements to be a candidate for the Order of the Arrow election were reviewed.

The Troop's new attendance sign in procedure was used for the first time to record those present for the meeting. This procedure will be used on meetings, campouts and Troop projects/events. The Troop scribe (Josh Smith) will then compile this information and submit it monthly to the Advancement assistant scoutmaster, Dr. Lightsey.

Mr. Davidson spoke about the plans for the Troop's Summer trip to Durango Colorado. A short meeting was held before the troop meeting to gauge interest and firm up the date for this trip. A firm travel date of June 7th to June 14th was set and adults took assignments on how to best transport to Durango. A followup meeting for the trip will be held this Tuesday Feb. 10th at 6:45pm.

Mr. Gerling has generously agreed to organize our Troop's participation in Summer Camp this year. Summer camp will be held at Lost Pines Scout Camp in Bastrop, TX. Our Troop will attend on July 12th through July 18th. For those who are new to our Troop, this is a great way for your son to gain experience, advancement and have fun in Scouting.

Mr. Davidson discussed the new trailer set up and asked that parents volunteer to assist. Mr. Bucher and Mr. Bernstrom both offered to help in setting up the interior of this new trailer so we can get it on the road!

Mr. Hilton spoke of our weekend's campout at Inks Lake with the Longhorn caverns activity.

Patrols broke out for meal planning, after which the meeting was closed.

Our Inks Lake campout with the Longhorn caverns tour was our most well attended campout to date with approx. 20 Scouts and 18 adults participating. One boy and father camped as our guest and another Webelo and Dad came for our Longhorn cavern activity.

We camped in mild weather but with high winds that really kicked up the dust! As mentioned, on Saturday the troop visited the nearby Longhorn caverns where all but 7 choose the "Wild Cave Tour". We did not realize quite how wild it would be with one group having to stomach crawl for 50 yards through 20" tall passageways! Fortunately all survived and lived to brag about how difficult it was.

This campout marked the first time that we used the Patrol based KP (Kitchen Patrol) clean up system. On this campout all patrols (even the Adult patrol) cooked and cleaned their own pots, pans and dishes. While the system will need some fine tuning, overall it went off without any major hitches.

It is safe to say that this campout went smoothly with a minimum of Scout or Adult injuries or complaints.

This Tuesday there will be a Scout leadership meeting.

Our next General Troop meeting will be held Tuesday Feb. 17th, the night of our Order of the Arrow elections. Please make every effort to attend so we can hold these important elections.

Best Regards,

Tom Davidson  
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