

area one

the newsletter of Central Region Area One

part of the Boy Scouts of America

Tales from the Superior Hiking Trail

Emily Hagerman
Crew 141, Robbinsdale, MN

As I lay panting on a rocky ridge, it became apparent to me that I had lived through a year of calculus only to die a couple months later backpacking the Superior Hiking Trail. Struggling up that rocky incline, feeling like an upright turtle about to topple any second, I had again begun to question my sanity. Five days was a long time to be exercising...and quite unfortunately, exercise and I have never been the best of friends. I wondered if the first hour was too soon to quit.

For nearly a year now I'd been planning this trip with my Venture Crew (a co-ed form of Boy Scouts). Looking at the pretty squiggly elevation lines on a map was one thing; it took every ounce of my willpower to even lift my foot and take another step on the actual trail. And yet, I didn't want to fail.

Honestly, the Superior Hiking Trail, being a top backpacking trail of the nation, sounds like something fancy. I remain convinced that someone followed behind a deranged deer along Lake Superior and called it a trail. Walking a mile could take nearly an hour when you would be trudging

Continued on page 2

See page 4 for details on the Area One Assemblage!



Above: Members of Crew 75 celebrate with other scouts after completing the mountain biking course at Samoset Council's weekend fall event Smiley's Amazing Race held at Camp Tesomas near Rhinelander, WI.

An Amazing Weekend

Ann Larsen
Crew 75, White Bear Lake, MN

This past fall in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Samoset Council hosted Smiley's Amazing Race. Venturing Crews from Minnesota and Wisconsin arrived on October 15th for a weekend of activities and social gathering.

On Friday night, a scouter from Samoset led Crews in teambuilding games to help everyone get to know each other. The next morning after a hearty breakfast, Crews were split up into five groups. The groups were sent to either the gun range for shooting and archery, the trails for mountain biking or geocaching, or the climbing



Above: A member of Crew 75 tries her hand at atlatl throwing, a sport based on technology used by indigenous people for hunting, at Smiley's Amazing Race hosted at Camp Tesomas near Rhinelander, WI by Samoset Council.

tower for the zipline and the C.O.P.E course.

During the previous years this event was held, there was zipline/climbing tower and shooting sports, but this year,

both geocaching and mountain biking were new. Later on Saturday, attendees also got the chance to throw atlatls that one of the Crews had provided.

Continued on page 2

"Amazing Weekend"
continued from page 1

That Saturday night, there was an informal dance and social time. On Sunday morning Crews packed up and parted ways.

Crew 75 from White Bear Lake, Minnesota has attended this event four times. For more info about them visit www.crew75.wordpress.com

"Tales from the...Trail"
Continued from page 1

up and down elevations. My vision was often filled with my feet and trying not to trip on the roots and rocks. Yet all I could do was keep moving.

Even as I wished for home or a nice hot shower, or really even a chair, I also kept telling myself that I wasn't going to let something like a mere footpath get the best of me. I nearly went cross eyed trying to convince myself that I could do it, while having annoying visions of a train huffing and puffing as much as me, going "I think I can, I think I can."

Each day as we made camp, I'd heave a relieved sigh, counting down the days until I could sleep in a real bed instead of a cramped tent on top of rocks and roots. I remember taking off my shoes, and while I surveyed my baseball sized blisters, I'd congratulate myself on making it one more day, living one more day despite treacherous roots that seemed to stretch out to catch your foot, and terrifying 700 foot drops. Really, in the face of the physical exertion that I was putting myself through, anti-derivatives and function limits seemed like a piece of . . . pi. I was proud of myself.

Emerging from the trail on the last day and seeing civilization, in all its paved and air conditioned glory, made

Continued on page 4



Left: Members of Crew 141 during their 2008 five day adventure on the Superior Hiking Trail over 35 miles of trail. Right: Crew 141 on the trail in the midst of their 138 mile biking trip this past summer.



Crew Showcase

Venture Crew 141 Robbinsdale, Minnesota is a Co-ed High Adventure Outdoor focused unit, specializing in lightweight backpacking and related activities.

In **August 2011**, our High Adventure trip will be a week-long sailing trip leaving from Bayport Wisconsin aboard two 30 foot Catalina sail boats touring the Apostle Islands. See the

www.scouting141.org High Adventure page for details.

In **June 2010**, our Crew High Adventure trip was a three day bike trek along the Luce Line trail. Medicine Lake in Plymouth to Cosmos MN and back totaling 138 miles.

Our Super Adventure event for **2009** was a joint High Adventure with the Troop to Isle Royale National Park for a 7 day 36 mile backpacking trek from Windigo to Daisy Farm.

Summer **2008** our Super Event was a five day backpacking trip along the Superior Hiking Trail covering 35 extreme miles from Castle Danger Wolf Rock to Cove Point Beaver Bay. The SHT is recognized as one of the top trails in the country.

Summer **2007** three Crews spent a week at the Sommer's Northern Tier National high-adventure base, Ely MN in the Boundary Waters Canoe area.

News from Twin Valley Council

Rene' Maes Jr., Senior District Executive, Twin Valley Council

On **Nov. 19**, crews in the Redwood Falls Area participated in a Live Nativity Lock-In! Live animals, followed by a fun filled night of games and food! A great time was had by all in attendance!

On **Dec. 10 - 12** and **Jan. 7-9** Crews, Scouts, and families were invited to participate in Skiing activities at Mount Kato! Huge Discounts to Scout members and families (Scouts, Crews, Post, Ships) (1/2 price on lift tickets and equipment rental.) - an anticipated 100 members participated in both events and had a blast. We have another Skiing

event lined up at Mount Kato **March 11-13, 2011**. All registered Scouts are invited to participate (all you have to do is tell them you are registered or show them your Scout ID). A blast on the slopes was had by all.

Unfortunately, the Shetek Outing [a weekend at Lake Shetek Scout Camp for individuals and families] over New Years was cancelled due to a snow storm.

Selected Upcoming Events:

Jan. 29 – Scuba Diving

Leaving Redwood Falls at 9am, back at 9pm (in the water all day Scuba), includes food and loads of fun!

Contact Jim Pingel to sign up – 507-640-0292

Feb. 12 – The Great Klondike Race (a day adventure at Camp

Norsland, St Peter MN)

Team building stations (14 total!) ranging from a sled obstacle course, emergency shelter building, lashing, rescue and cold weather first aid, geocaching, Tomahawk throw, black powder rifles, and fire building. **Cost:** \$6.00

Oct. 20-23 – Venture Cuyuna!

Cost: \$40.00 per participant
Camp Cuyuna, Cross Lake, MN

Contact Paul Nuessmeier for more info. 507-520-1055

To learn more about Venturing in Twin Valley Council, contact Jim Pingel from Redwood Falls - 507-640-0292 pingjings@redred.com

President's Corner

It is now January, the new year is upon us. What will we make of 2011?

Are we going to change differently from last year? Will we do something we have never tried? What goals are we going to set for the whole year?

Personally, I will be working to complete my Eagle rank and Gold Award. (Oh, and keeping my room organized)

What will you do?

I'm challenging you to set goals for yourself, your crew, and your council.

The task of setting a goal is easy. Ask yourself, "What needs improvement?" Once you find those things, write them down, and select some that are easy, and some that are hard. Just remember, you can't change the world in one day, but every day you can make the world better.

In April, we have our 2nd Area 1 Assemblage at the Wilderness Resort and Waterpark.

I invite you all to come and bring your friends.

One thing that excites me is the new friendships I have made at our previous Area events and conferences. I will be looking forward to seeing the people I met at those events, along with the new people I'll meet at the Assemblage. I think creating these new relationships with people around the Area will not only make Venturing even more fun, but it will also give a bigger reason to come to future events,

and complete the picture of what Venturing is all about.

As an Area, let's set a goal of 50 people to come to the Assemblage to make it successful. So make sure you consider coming to this very fun event at a great price, and sign up before March 1st!

See you in the Dells!

Thomas Spargo
Area 1 President



Above: Crew 93 during their backpacking trip in Wyoming in 2009.

Crew Showcase

In the summer of **2009** Venture **Crew 93** took a 10 day backpacking trip to the Wind River Range in Wyoming. We rented three llamas to help lighten the load on our journey through the mountainous terrain and to provide comic relief. To read more about this amazing adventure you can check out our journal of the trip at <http://kjmwindriver2009.blogspot.com/>

This past summer Venture Crew 93 took a two week camping trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in the rugged northern New Mexico wilderness. Throughout our two week journey we backpacked over 50 miles, summited Mount Baldy (the highest peak

in Cimarron Mountain range), learned to throw tomahawks and shoot black-powder rifles, explored an old mine, and made a lot of new friends.

Over this past year our Venture Crew has taken a backpacking trip to the Superior Hiking Trail, learned to shoot guns at a rifle range, gone tubing, practiced our archery skills and did the high ropes course at Base Camp at Fort Snelling. We have also gone skiing and snowboarding many times, canoed the Namekagon River in northwestern Wisconsin, taken scuba lessons, gone dog sledding in the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness, and have held several very successful fund raising bake sales. We also did a

service project which involved making Stations of the Cross to go alongside a pathway outside of St. John the Baptist Church in New Brighton.

Venture Crew 93 has an upcoming trip in **March** to Sea Base in the Florida Keys where we will spend a week sailing and living on board a sailboat. We are looking forward to many more adventures throughout this next year.

To learn more about Crew 93 or for info on joining, visit www.crew93.org or contact the Crew Advisor Maggie Ayers-Johnson at ayer0039@umn.edu

Now Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the position of **National, Regional and Area Venturing Presidents** and **Vice-Presidents** for the 2011-2012 term of office.

All submissions are due by **February 1, 2011** for National Venturing President, February 15, 2011 for Region Venturing President and Vice-President positions, and March 1, 2011 for Area Venturing President and Vice-President positions. The complete submission pack-

age and must received by the deadline listed and should be mailed to:

National Youth Development Team, S209
C/O Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75061-2079

For more information about these positions and minimum qualifications, please refer to the Venturing Standard Operating Procedures available at: <http://www.scouting.org/Venturing>

Please note: For those of you who may be interested (or know someone who is interested) in submitting an application to be on the 2011-2012 Central Region VOA, there is a very important meeting you/they need to be aware of!

If an individual is selected to serve in this capacity, they will be expected to attend the Central Region Venturing VOA in June. This meeting is vital and will provide them with the knowledge of infrastructure and key individuals in Venturing throughout the region. This knowledge will be their greatest asset as they prepare themselves to fill this role.

The application can be found on Central Region's website at <http://www.crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=1&id=85>



Come make a splash at the Area 1 Assemblage on April 1-3!

The second annual fun event will be at the Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells--home of "America's Largest Waterpark resort". The Area will come together in a weekend retreat filled with food, fun, and fellowship to meet other crews from around the upper mid-west. From Sioux Falls to Green Bay, and Waterloo to International Falls, this will be the largest and wettest Area-run event in Area 1 History; make sure you are part of the action! The Wilderness Resort features 4 indoor waterparks each consisting of a different theme, filled with a variety of activities:

Klondike Kavern features several tube and body slides, a giant Tornado slide that will rock you side to side, and a lazy river to float and relax on.

Wild West contains a tube slide, 4 high speed body slides, a cannonbowl where you spin and swirl in this giant bowl, a large raft ride, a fun interactive play area, and an Indoor/Outdoor spa to relax and loosen up in.

Cubby's Cove is a Waterpark area aimed for younger kids, but fun for all ages featuring a multi-level play structure, pools, and fun water basketball.

Wild WaterDome is an in-

novative see-through roof structure that allows you to tan indoors, "The Giant Wave" wave pool will simulate the ocean, or you can challenge your friends on dueling raft rides.

The **price for the entire weekend** event is only **\$80** per person before **January 31st**, and **\$90** after. The final Registration is **March 1st**. Registration fees include all meals, lodging inside spacious 4-bedroom condos, and Waterpark admission to all 4 indoor waterparks.

Signup will be available on the Area 1 page of the CRventuring.org website, or can also be accessed by going to <http://crva1.org>.

Any **questions** related to

this event can be answered by **Thomas Spargo**, the Area 1 President by emailing him at **area1president@crventuring.org**

The Wilderness Resort also offers several indoor attractions for an additional fee that can be purchased optionally onsite. Additional attractions include: Bumper Boats, 3D Mini-golf, "Tombstone Town" mirror maze, and a Mega Arcade. "Zip Line tours"; an outside attraction (will be open weather permitting) features 5 zip lines, a tower height of 60'; fly as fast as 25 MPH, soar above the Canyon floor 55' below you with the Longest run of 914 feet.



Above: Photos from Crew 820's recent 'Discover Scuba' session, an event where other scouts can try scuba diving.

Crew Showcase

Crew 820 in the Twin Cities runs an exciting year round program based on building diving skills and going on great dives. All they do is dive!

They are chartered to Northland Scuba which has supported them for nearly 12 years and provide them with almost a million cubic feet of air.

For more information on

joining or participating in one of their 'Discover Scuba' sessions contact Dean Soderbeck at (651)-483-8596 or deansoderbeck@yahoo.com

"Tales from the...Trail"
Continued from page 2

me shout a hooray and do my happy dance. I grinned ear to ear as I walked into a public restroom, (with doors and walls!) and listened to the beautiful swoosh of the flushing toilet. But all that lovely civilization wasn't even the

best. I was thrilled that I had roughed it for five days over thirty five miles without once giving up. As we walked into a restaurant to eat a real meal, I openly admit that I swaggered in and smiled at everyone. Not only had I achieved what I had once thought impossible, but my self-esteem was through the roof. Wince that arduous trip this summer, I've come to realize that I really can do anything because I refuse to give up.

Crew 141 spent 5 days in the summer of 2008 tackling 35 miles of the Superior Hiking Trail.

THE ULTIMATE VENTURING EVENT

BAY JAMMER

2011



DATE: JULY 15, 16 AND 17TH 2011

**GREAT LAKES MEMORIAL MARINA,
MENOMINEE MICHIGAN**

Bay Jammer, is the nation's oldest continuous Scouting event designed for Venture aged Boy/Girl Scouts. It is held each summer in beautiful downtown Menominee, Michigan and utilizes the facilities of the Great Lakes Memorial Marina. Now in its 63rd consecutive year, Bay Jammer has played host to thousands of youth participating in Sea Scout Ships, Venturing Crews, Explorer Posts, Boy Scout Troops, and Senior Girl Scout Troops from all over the Midwest region. Events at Bay Jammer have changed and evolved over time, but still include the essence of what Scouting is all about.

21 Events to participate in including:



Canoe Race
Pull Boat Race
Log Sawing
Log Rolling

Sand Sculpting
Marlin Spike
Compass Relay



Triathlon

Bucket Brigade

Volley Ball
First Aid
Street Dance



Tug-o-war
Obstacle Course
"Lip Jam"
Semi-Formal Dance



For More information Please Visit:

WWW.BAYJAMMER.HTMLPLANET.COM