



TAC In Focus

December 2009



Scout Executive Notes: It has been about a year since we last had an edition of TAC in FOCUS. We have gone through lots of changes in the year as an organization and support network. I think we have emerged stronger as we can now build on what we have as opposed to worrying about what major change is happening next. I am proud of the growth of our support and administrative team as well as the great job being done by our Scout Shop team. We have also had changes on our professional team and appreciate the great efforts they make to support our volunteers. I am also grateful for our staff that stayed to the end (or near the end) in Mannheim. It was a very uncertain work environment on how long, and when and learning different jobs, and I remain grateful for their efforts.

Thank you to our volunteers who have been patient, learned new ways of doing things, and have been wonderful in helping us to figure out the best way to support you in our "new" world. We are truly blessed with the best volunteers in the Boy Scouts of America. (I have known that for years though)

It is an exciting time for the Transatlantic Council and Boy Scouts of America. I hope you will find this update informative. We will work towards a newsletter every six weeks to keep you up to date with your district having an e-news letter in between times. There is a lot that goes on. You can keep up to date as we have information on the TAC website at www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html and what is happening BSA wide at <http://scouting.org>. If you have a Facebook social networking we are at TAC Nation and yes, we will approve you to enter but do restrict membership to do our best at keeping the page TAC focused.



Happy Holidays

Best wishes to the best volunteers in the Boy Scouts of America for a joyous holiday season. We are grateful for all you do to create the magic of Scouting all year long.

Thank you for making a difference. You are Scouting in Europe.

From your BSA Leadership,

John Rose	Bill Kavanaugh	Vince Cozzone
President	Commissioner	Scout Executive

COUNCIL PROGRAMS

Klondike Derby, Kandersteg, Switzerland 15-18 January 2010

As of 10 December, we have about 75 slots remaining for the 25th Anniversary Klondike Derby at Kandersteg. We have a great program planned and there are also a few slots remaining. Information on the Klondike and how to register is available on the home page of www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html (bookmark this page). The Klondike Derby is a troop or venture crew event in the Swiss Alps that combines scouting skills and adventure (Saturday program) with an opportunity to participate in winter activities at the World Scout Bureau center in Kandersteg.

Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet, 30 January 2010, Ramstein, Germany

The program starts at 9 a.m. on Ramstein at the shopping center (KMCC) with climbing wall and during the day there will be training, and discussions and lots of fun followed by a banquet at 5 p.m. Registration information is on the website. It is open to all Order of the Arrow Members and will represent the last chance to have the "early bird" OA registration fee of \$15..

A REMINDER! Please pay your Order of the Arrow dues, you can do this on the website..Dues are annual and \$15 should be paid by 31 January 2010 (after that dues are \$20.00)

Venture Adventure Weekend, 26-28 February 2010, London

Join us as we look for Waldo throughout London on this fun weekend for Venturers and Venture Crews. We still have room although space is going fast. We will stay at Baden-Powell House for 2 nights, have a great program, meals, and it will cost \$135.00. It is a great deal and will be a great time. Join us for the weekend. Form a new Venture Crew so you can go (others are doing that). Information and sign-up...you guessed it..at www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html

National Camp School for Cub Scout Day Camp, Heidelberg 5-7 March 2010

Cindy Merchant will serve as our Director for National Camp School for Cub Scout Day Camp on 5-7 March. This school is a requirement for Day Camp Directors and Program Directors, and certification is valid for five years. We are looking to support our Day Camp teams and look forward to having directors in attendance. Fees for the course are part of the Day Camp budget with approval by the District Executive. The course is open for a fee to other Scouters who wish to attend. Look for information beginning in January 2010 to sign up and course fees.

Scouters' Annual Conference, Garmisch 20-21 March 2010

Help us to celebrate our council's 60th anniversary and the BSA's 100th birthday at our 60th Annual Scouters' Conference. We are back in Garmisch, site of so many wonderful conferences. We are also moving to a weekend, with the goal of having more pack, troop and crew participation. Later this month, the courses will be published on the website but we will have great courses for new and experienced leaders. We will also provide a children's program so adults can attend courses. Don't miss this great event and it is for all TAC volunteers!!

As a highlight, we will have our gala Anniversary Dinner in Garmisch on 20 March. We have a great evening planned for you and your family.

Please join us as we will miss you if you not there. There is a special fellowship that happens at this conference with volunteers from all over the council joining us.

Eagle Scout Reception, Heidelberg, 29 May 2010

We will have our first Eagle Scout reception to congratulate the 2009-2010 Class of Eagle Scouts in Heidelberg on 29 May. We are still working on the details on the price but the reception is open to all Eagle Scouts and their parents as well as adult Eagles and spouse or guest. This will be the largest gathering of Eagles in Europe and we look forward to a wonderful night of fellowship.

For an invitation, please register at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/tac100yearsofscouting/home/tac-alumni-connection/eagle-scouts-and-tac-1>

There are three different categories. Please share this with those at work, other organizations, and anyplace where we might find Eagle Scouts!!

Feel free to gather names from colleagues and throughout the community. We would like all Eagles to be invited (no matter how old) and whether or not they are currently active.

Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree

Transatlantic Council has a full troop attending the jamboree under the leadership of John Cass, Troop 324, Scoutmaster. John and his team have done a great job organizing the jamboree and keeping in touch with our TAC families. We had a large waiting list at one time and have been able to join with the Virgin Islands to have 13 TAC Scouts join with their contingent to so we have the most Scouts ever from TAC attending the jamboree. Bill Goss will serve as our coordinator and Scoutmaster for the TAC/VI contingent. We currently have no open slots but we also do not have a wait list. Typically 15% of the Scouts who register have a last minute change of plans and if not we will work with other councils to try to place any Scout who wishes to attend. To register, go to the <http://bsajamboree.org> web site. You will be placed on the waiting list.

100th Anniversary Celebration

What a great time to be a Scout and Scout Leader! It is our 100th Anniversary as a movement! Our council team is headed by Mike Kaiserauer and each district has celebrations planned during the year from a time capsule in Wiesbaden to a camporee at Gilwell Park in England, to an international camporee in Belgium, there are wonderful activities to celebrate Scouting and help us to move into our 2nd century of making a difference. Check out information on our council and BSA activities at <https://sites.google.com/site/tac100yearsofscouting/>

There is more.....

Check out our website for information on Wood Badge 2010, (more specific information in the next newsletter), National Youth Leader Training, and our next issue will also highlight our summer camping program. We do have **two new camps!!!** in 2010. We are bringing back Bayern High Adventure Camp on 11-17 July, headed by Tom Slavicek the 1987-88 Camp Director in Garmisch and Camp Tuscany Cub Scout Resident Camp on 30 June – 2 July at Camp Darby, Italy headed by Ray Vail. Camp Alpine will be directed by Carroll Palmore and Camp Freedom by Brian Raymond.

Reservations for the 2010 camp season will open in mid-January 2010 (no reservations will be accepted before 15 January).

Normandy Camporee is 15-17 April 2011 with information and registration forms available by September 2010

The Financial Pages

Friends of Scouting, We are Scouting in Europe

Friends of Scouting is our annual giving campaign to sustain our council's annual operation. Briefly, we need to raise our entire operating budget in order to maintain a BSA presence in Europe and we do it with the families of our members.

Some key points:

- There is no funding from the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America to financially support our program. We must be entirely self-sustaining to maintain our organization in Europe
- There is limited corporate support for program and we truly must depend on the families of our membership to financially sustain our program as we have done for the past 60 years.
- Morale, Welfare and Recreation Support and the Overseas Council Fees account for 1/3rd of our annual budget. We must raise \$1.1.million on our own. Our Friends of Scouting goal is \$200,000
- The campaign starts in January 2010 and our victory celebration is in April 2010

We need your help right now to provide dates for presentation. The best dates are:

Blue and Gold Banquets for Cubs

Courts of Honor for Boy Scouts

Parent Nights for Venturers

The presentation is short (or should be short), informative and give people an opportunity to contribute. Our goal is to let everyone know that they play an important role in Scouting from serving as volunteers, supportive parents, and helping to maintain the infrastructure to have scouting overseas. There is no one else...just us, so let's join together and do our best!

To provide your presentation date please e-mail fos@tac-bsa.org with your unit and preferred date.

We appreciate your generous support of the 2009 campaign. We raised \$190,000 in pledge and cash. That was our goal for the year as we knew it would be difficult with the transition (our goal was \$10,000 less than our 2008 campaign of \$200,000). If you contributed and did not receive your recognition for your gift, please contact us at fos@tac-bsa.org so we can provide the proper recognition for your support!

To earn Presidential Unit entitling your unit to a 10% discount on all TAC Scout Shop purchases until February 28, 2011, your unit needs to have a minimum 40% participation and the average gift is \$40 with pledges paid by 30 June (or an agreed later date).

Popcorn Sales

Well done to all of our units...we have sold 19 ½ pallets of popcorn out of 20. Popcorn sales make a difference both to our unit and council operations. We appreciate the support from those who participated. We look forward to even greater support next year. We will have the pre-order available starting at the Conference. This way, you can count on having the product mix that you would like for your community* *(please understand though that we have to order by the pallet and not mix products on pallets in order to have a significant price break and to make the sale possible..i.e. enough profit that it is worth doing both at the unit and council level)*

If you would like to sell any of the 20 cases of popcorn remaining please contact program@tac-bsa.org for information.

Bowl-a-thon

We appreciate the support of units participating in the 2009 bowl-a-thon. We have had great results so far with units earning funds for activities and helping to sustain our council. Although our grand prize winners will be announced later this week, your unit can still conduct the bowl-a-thon and receive individual prizes that are in the brochure. You can find information at www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html

Membership Report

FALL ROUNDUP

Thank you for your support so far with recruiting and registering new youth and adult leaders. We have had a great start but still some units have not registered any new youth. Of course a youth or an adult must be registered to participate with the Boy Scouts of America. Please make sure that all youth and adults participating are registered. They are not members of the Boy Scouts of America if they are not registered.

Here is how we stand to date (10 December) with traditional membership. Congratulations to Mediterranean, Horizon and Rheingold for showing a gain in membership. Thank you to all units who have worked to ensure that the youth in their community have an opportunity to join.

We also have a plus in Venturing and are just Boy Scout short of having a plus in Boy Scouts!

Please note figures are the # of youth who were on your recharter plus all the additional youth minus transfers and not the number of youth attending each meeting.

TOTAL TRADITIONAL MEMBERSHIP (Cubs, Scouts, Venturers)

Area	2009 Total 10 December	2008 Total Year End	Net Change
Mediterranean	603	568	+6.2%
Horizon	414	392	+5.3%
Rheingold	1092	1062	+2.8%
TAC	5113	5291	-3.3%
Barbarossa	610	654	-6.7%
Mayflower	868	938	-7.5%
Charlemagne	846	921	-8.1 %
Edelweiss	670	752	-10.9%

Please turn in your registration forms and make an effort to bring more youth into Scouting!

New District Alignment, 1 January 2010 and TAC points of contact

In an effort to provide better district service and to provide every district in Transatlantic Council with a District Scout Executive and that no District Scout Executive has more than two districts, the following re-organization will take place effective 1 January.

Mediterranean District will now include, Cyprus, Turkey, Albania, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Italy and will be served by Ray Vail (de_mediterranean@yahoo.com)

Mayflower District will maintain the same geographic territory and will also be served by Ray Vail (de_mayflower@yahoo.com)

Rheingold District will maintain the same boundaries and will continued to be served by Brian Raymond (brian.raymond@tac-bsa.org)

Edelweiss District will include the same communities it serves now and will add central and northern Europe including the Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Austria, Slovakia and will be served by Brian Raymond (brian.raymond@tac-bsa.org)

Barbarossa District will maintain the same district boundaries and we are hiring a new District Executive to serve Barbarossa

Charlemagne District will serve the same communities in addition to Geneva, Switzerland and we are hiring a new District Executive.

The Assistant Scout Executive responsible for the administration of scouting in Transatlantic Council and Training is Tony Dvorak (tony.dvorak@scouting.org)

The Finance Director responsible for fund-raising and council programs is Karen Meier (karen.meier@scouting.org)

The Scout Executive responsible for the overall operation of the Boy Scouts of America in Europe is Vince Cozzone (vince.cozzone@tac-bsa.org)

Rather than keeping track of who is currently on our administrative support team and Scout Shop team, please use the following addresses (although, I have included our "incumbents" in these key positions)

Business Manager: Tina (tina.conard@scouting.org)

Accounting Specialist: Carmen (maria.garcia@scouting.org)

program@tac-bsa.org (Jessica)

admin@tac-bsa.org (Jessica)

advancement@tac-bsa.org (Stephanie)

training@tac-bsa.org (Stephanie)

tourpermits@tac-bsa.org (Stephanie)

registration@tac-bsa.org (Lindsay)

fos@tac-bsa.org (Lindsay)

scoutshop@tac-bsa.org (Sarah, and Christine)

In addition, you can call the TAC Headquarters at DSN: 633-7753 or +39 050 547753. Hours are Monday-Friday 0900-1630.

You may call the Scout Shop at 49 (0) 9845 985471 (Sorry, no DSN number). You may call Monday through Friday 0900-1530.

We would like to thank Jeremy Woods who leaves us after two years of service as the District Executive for Mediterranean and Horizon Districts. Both districts have shown growth and there are much stronger programs thanks to Jeremy's efforts to visit and support units. Jeremy has also served the past three years as Camp Director at Camp Freedom and has touched the lives of numerous youth and adults. Jeremy will continue with the website while studying at Trinity Divinity School. We wish Jeremy all the best and he will always be a part of our TAC family.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Unfortunately many adult applications are delayed in processing because they do not have or have wrong social security numbers. Boy Scouts of America requires social security

numbers in order to perform background checks on our adult leadership. Failure to provide a social security number means you may not serve in a leadership position. That is our position as an organization.

We do have volunteers who have not been issued Social Security numbers. For those applications we do need the country of citizenship. Units also must follow up on references.

We process over 1,000 adult applications annually and all of them must have some type of background check before being approved to work with our youth.

If a leader informs you that he or she is not willing to provide their social security number, you must inform them that BSA will not process their application form and they cannot be a leader in your unit. (Their child can still participate).

Thank you for your help with that. If you would like to replace your adult applications with the newest BSA version just e-mail us at program@tac-bsa.org. The new application forms explain in bold print the current BSA policy.

Peacelight of Bethlehem . . . What is the Peacelight ?

In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is an oil lamp that has been burning continuously for centuries. This is the PeaceLight flame. All the Christian nations in the world take turns contributing oil for this lamp.

The Peacelight of Bethlehem movement started in Austria as a Christmas collection for the poor called the "Lichts in Dunkel" or "light in the dark" sponsored by ORF, the Austrian radio and Television Corporation. In 1986, to thank the Austrians for their generous donations to the poor, and in the spirit of the Christmas season, ORF in collaboration with Austrian Airlines, organized a trip to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to light the first PeaceLight lantern from the eternal flame burning in the Church Grotto. The flame returned by plane to Austria and was then distributed throughout the country by the Austrian Railways with the help of the Austrian Scouts, who put into practice the Scouting motto, do a good turn daily.



You can order your Peace Light Patch from the Transatlantic Council Scout Shop for \$2.00. The patch also has a year segment for \$.80. We have 2007 and 2008 year segments available for order. You can order in advance. It is a great patch designed by Munich Cub Scout Leader, Stephen Rider. Besides the warm feeling from participating in this activity, it is a great reminder of this international scouting event.

Peacelight takes place this weekend, and thank you to all the Scouts traveling to Vienna to represent our council and to the units participating in the program.

Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath

Scout Sabbath is on 13 February and Scout Sunday is on 7 February, Scout week kicks-off on 7 February with Scout Anniversary Day on February 8th. It is a great time to remember to do our duty to God and that a Scout is Reverent. Encourage active participation in worship services in uniform. Some communities do organize Scout services respecting the religious diversity in our organization. You will find great links for support at <http://www.tac-bsa.org/tacbsa/Resources.html> and link on Scout is Reverent!

Centennial Quality Units

Now is the time to submit your application to be a 2009 Centennial Quality Unit. Please review your form and see if you have earned this prestigious award. If you have questions please discuss with your Unit Commissioner or your District Executive. This award recognizes excellence in unit operation based on goals you established earlier in the year.

Registration Fee Increase

Effective 1 January the Boy Scouts of America registration fee is \$15.00 per year. Please take that into account as you figure your recharter fees and additional enrollment fees. (\$1.25 per month). This also includes units that recharter in December as the membership is effective 1 January.

There is no increase in Boy's Life and it remains a great bargain at \$12.00 per subscription

Silver Beaver Award

Of the thousands of volunteer scouters in the Transatlantic Council, up to four are selected for the Silver Beaver. The Silver Beaver is awarded for service to not only scouting but also the community. Nomination forms are available on the website: www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html

Nominations are due January 29, 2010!

Scout Shop News

Our Scout Shop looks forward to serving you and helping you to deliver a quality program to youth. We have a great team!

Of special interest is the whole line of 100th Anniversary and 60th Anniversary merchandise. If you have not seen it please visit <http://www.tac-bsa.org/ScoutShop.html>

We also have special BSA 100th Anniversary Calendars on sale for \$10 at the shop!!! Don't miss out...once they are gone...they are gone forever....

Make sure your signature card is up to date at the shop

One More Thing....

We are developing a directory for "Scouter Home Hospitality" for our council. We would like to know if you are willing to host a Scouting family as they visit your community. We would need contact information, how many people you could host. If there was a request for hospitality in your town, we would contact you to let you know the details and ask you to contact the family. We hope that Scouters would get to know each other, and help each other to visit Europe for less money.

Look for more next time.....

Your Friend in Scouting,
Vince

Vincent P. Cozzone
Scout Executive and Editor...