

BSA TROOP 356 HISTORIAN'S REPORT
Camp La No Che, February 12-13 2010



By: Troop Historian
Timothy M.

Three Dog Night

We were all looking forward to our return trip to Camp Lanoche especially the stop at the Golden Coral on the way up on Friday evening (Yum! Yum!). It was a dark, misty and cold night when we arrived at camp at around midnight. We unloaded the bus and into our sleeping bags by 1:30 am. Can not say we all slept warm and comfortably because it got down to the mid 30's and the camp's tents do not do a great job of keeping the cold out. Not looking forward to getting out of our sleeping bags! We had to layer our clothes to keep warm.

The two patrols made quick breakfasts. Forgot the paper plates and it was tough flipping pancakes without a spatula. Note to Troop, check patrol boxes before leaving. Off to the shotgun range then met up with Troop 315 for a game of football. Finally thawing out! All back to camp for Bubba Burgers.

2:00 pm and it is time for the backpackers to get ready to move out (Will B., Wesley M., Andrew J., Mitchell B., Brandon H., Dave F., Timothy M.,) with Mr. McNalis and Tommy Ehrbar. Mr. McNalis made us locate the Florida Trail using compass and pacing. We found it and were on our way by the late afternoon. The early part of the trail brought us around the camp and through a pasture. Then it was back into the woods on what we thought was a well marked trail. That is, until we got to the area where there had been a forest fire and all of a sudden no trail markings. We lost some time as we tried to navigate our way back to the marked trail. Thank goodness we brought Wesley M. our cross country runner to do some scouting for us. 6:00 pm and we finally got to the creek we had picked out for our overnight camp.

Changed into dry clothes and set up our tents. Will B. started a fire right away and had a crappy experience looking for fire wood. Hey Andrew J. did Will B. every buy you a new Purell? Dinner was either out of cans or bags of dehydrated food. It all tastes good after a long day. Bear bag in the tree and into our sleeping bags.

We thought Friday night was cold until Saturday night came along and it got down to freezing. Backpackers were all up at 6:30 am with frost and ice on the tents. Got that fire going again and most of us just had power bars except for Andrew J. and Tommy Ehrbar who made us salivate with their warm granola. Now Will B. and Dave F. were another thing altogether with there can of frozen mini Vienna Sausage on a stick.

Did not want to leave that fire, but we broke camp by 8:15 am so we could get to Alexander Springs on time. This part of the hike was through a lot of swampy areas with board walks and standing water. We were scheduled to meet Mr. E. with the bus at 11:30 am to be picked up. We broke out of the woods and arrived at Alexander Springs at 11:20 am. Some of us were more worn out than the others but seeing the bus after the 15 mile trip comforted everyone.

Back to camp to chow down on lots of Mr. Stolar's Baloney, I mean LOTS.

When we got back we found out that the rest of the Troop had spent Saturday back at the rifle and bow and arrow ranges. Lucky them, they had dinner in the dining hall and a big warm camp fire outside. While the backpackers were eating power bars for breakfast back at camp Mr. E. was busy frying up donuts. No wonder all the pancake mix was still in the food box!

The scheduled chili cook off was cancelled by agreement so we could head back to sunny Boca Raton earlier than planned. It was cold but all in all a fun trip for everyone including our guest WEBLOS families.

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