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Leadership, awards, and recognition for Troop 349

Falls Church, Virginia, 10/4/2010 – It's been a busy 6 months for Troop 349, with new scouts and leaders, numerous individual and troop awards, and a change of leadership at the top. In September the Troop accepted four new scouts into its ranks as well as two new adult leaders, Michael Keays and Monique Wong, and a new Junior Assistant Scout Master, Eagle Scout Matthew Hunt. These new leaders are a welcome addition to the Troop and will help it continue with the tradition of having a high leader/parent-to-scout ratio. This high ratio also helps to ensure that the troop provides all of its scouts with a well-designed and supervised program. To all of our new members, Welcome Aboard!

In July the Troop travelled to Camp Rock Enon in Gore, VA for a week of merit badge work, swimming, and outdoor activities. Of the 17 scouts in the troop at the time, 15 went, an impressive 90% attendance rate! While in camp each Scout worked on a minimum of 4 merit badges, and on average each scout finished 3 badges for a total of 57 merit badges earned. Troop 349 was honored with three prestigious BSA Camp awards from Rock Enon. They were: The "Rock Enon Elite Award," given to units who demonstrate the "Extra Effort" in Scout camping by meeting 15 different criterion including excellence in leadership, service, and basic scouting ideals; and the "Recycler Award," given to units that demonstrate "Do a good turn" work in their campsite and follow strict recycling guidelines the entire week. Because of those 2 awards 349 also won the "Enon 500 Award". Next summer, Troop 349 scouts will attend Sea Base High Adventure camp in the Bahamas, where sailing, teamwork and nature-based merit badge classes will be taught.

Troop 349 was founded on the principle that change is good, and the Troop's founders decided that key leadership positions should turn over on a regular basis. One key role in any troop is that of Committee Chair. Steven Valley, the first Committee Chair of the Troop, now passes that role on to Ash Johnston. "Ash will bring new ideas and management concepts to the troop and we all wish him luck in his new role," stated Mr. Valley. Mr. Valley now serves as an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 349 and as Vice Chair of Communications & Marketing for the George Mason District. This past May Mr. Valley was awarded the Key-3 award for his work on training & compliance in the George Mason District.

ABOUT TROOP 349: The Troop is open to any boy between the ages of 12 and 17, who has graduated from the fourth grade, and/or has received his arrow of light award. Boys desiring to join the troop are welcome at any time to attend a meeting and present themselves to the Scout Master for admission. Troop 349 meets every Tuesday evening at 7 PM between September and June at the American Legion Hall on Oak St. The troop web site contains more information about joining. For more information go to: www.troop349.us

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Troop 349 Back Row L to R: Steven Valley, Bill McAllister, Preston Custer, James Coppock, Truman Custer, Jack Ulses, Noah Saberhagen, Davis Hagigh, Matthew Valley, Jonathan Gilmour, James Custer. **Middle Row Seated L to R:** Ian Griffin, Dave McAllister, Holden Saberhagen, James Pala, Michael-Andrew Keays. **Front Row Kneeling L to R:** Timothy Gilmour, Neil Johnston, Michael Keays.

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