

Underhill Jericho
Boy Scout Troop 627

50 Years
1963 - 2013

Betty Moore
2013



The Boys Scouts of America was formally organized in 1910, but the first documented Boy Scout troop in America is said to have started in Barre, Vermont in 1909. (Former Vermont Governor Deane Davis was an early member of the troop....in 1912.) In 1940, Henry Cook, a local farmer and long time RD mailman, tried to organize a Boy Scout troop in Underhill, but with a small population (under 700), Underhill did not have enough young boys in the Boy Scout age group (10-18) to make up a viable troop. After the end of World War II, UVM Professor Lloyd Woodward made another attempt at forming a troop and ran into the same population problem. Then in 1963, with the same small population, Gael Boardman and Roland Ellis had the idea of recruiting members in Jericho, as well as Underhill, forming a joint operation. They enlisted the support of Harry Sawyer and Eric Schuppin of Jericho to start a troop committee. They were soon joined by Bill Snyder and Roland Burroughs of Underhill.

There was a small problem, in that the chartering office of the national Boy Scout Organization did not recognize two-town troops. But with the sponsorship of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department and the support of George Plumb, the District Scout Executive, Underhill Jericho Boy Scout Troop 7 received a charter in 1963. (Bill Snyder had picked the 'lucky 7' number for the troop. In later years the national committee added extra numbers, and the troop became # 627.)



There was immediate local support. The Jericho Elementary School provided a meeting place; Wesley Jacobs, local storekeeper, bought the first troop flag. At the first organizational meeting over 70 boys showed up!. (The troop number stabilized at about 2/3 that number.) Gael Boardman served as the first Scoutmaster, but soon persuaded Bill Snyder to take over the post. Gael became his active assistant and committee chairman. The mothers, too, got involved and formed an "Auxiliary", helping especially with fund-raising dinners. (Jo Bordeaux and Mrs Truman Neal were among the founders. The "Neal Fund" helped to send the first Troop 7 member to Philmont, the national Boy Scout Reservation in Colorado.) In 1971 Bill Snyder died tragically in a Civil Air Patrol plane crash. He is remembered by the troop with the 'Bill Snyder Award'

The regular monthly troop meetings are held in the Browns River Middle School. Throughout the years the membership has stayed at around 50 boys. In 1990 the UJFD gave the troop a new American flag and a new Troop #7. In 2012 the troop acquired a new troop flag with the current number # 627 and the old Flag # 7 was presented to Gael Boardman in appreciation for all he had meant to the troop.



July 2003

Front Row: Matt Haley, Chris Bouchard, Rick Sawyer, Chris Goodwin, Tom Barlousi, Seth Lynn, Andrew Willard, Matt Newton
 2nd Row: Jeremy Audet, Warren Irish, Robbie Malinowski, Ryan Carroll, Alex Stimson
 3rd Row: Floyd Scott, Eric Eckhardt, Michael Best, Devon Mendocino, Tom Scott, Christian Eckhardt, Jason Dufresne, Kyle Joynt
 4th Row: Josh Hesler, Tom Malinowski, Ben Weir, Peter Johnson, Matt Bogaczyk, Eric Sullivan, Kurt Johnson

For fifty years, the Underhill Jericho Boy Scout troop, now # 627, has offered a strong program for the boys in the community. It is recognized as one of the outstanding troops in the state, regularly winning awards. In addition to learning Scouting skills and Scouting discipline, the troop contributes to Underhill and Jericho in many ways by helping regularly with community projects, including the food shelf and Harvest Market.

Of special note is the number of Eagle Scout Awards achieved by members of the troop, 55 awards over the years. The Eagle award requires a tangible community project and the projects have been many and varied. Trail improvements have been made and trail bridges built in the Mills River Park and the Red Mill Park as well as the Mt Mansfield State Park. Picnic benches and tables with permanent foundations, cemetery restoration and improvements and landscaping are other notable projects; especially outstanding is the landscaping at the Underhill Town Hall. The community improvements can be seen everywhere, the most recent, a large gazebo at Browns River Middle School.

In addition to the hard work, the Scouting program includes regular, year round camping opportunities at the Mt. Norris Boy Scout Reservation in Eden, Vermont, learning swimming, boating, archery, outdoor cooking, survival skills. Throughout the year special expeditions are made: white-water rafting in New York and Maine; week-long canoe trips; BSA National Sea Base High Adventure programs in the Florida Keys; hiking the ~ 270 mile Long trail from end to end in Vermont; visiting the National's Capital, Washington, D.C., Antietam, Gettysburg, Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA. It is indeed an exciting, stimulating, informative experience for the Scouts and the many fathers who help with the program.

Kurt Johnson served as Scoutmaster for 10 years, a record for the troop. He is still involved as a member of the troop committee. Gael Boardman, one of the original founders of the group is actively involved, as are many Scout leaders who have had sons in the troop that have moved on. The current Scoutmaster is Ken Thurgate and the Committee Chair is Jean Kleptz. The commitment of parents and community members contributes to the excellence of the program and its continuity for 50 years.



2013 Troop 627 50th Anniversary

Community Projects



BRMS Gazebo



Butterfly Way Station



Sand Hill Cemetary Fence



Mills Rive Park Gazebo



Cross Country Trail bridge



Cemetary Fence Painting



White Water Rafting - Hudson River, 2008



Florida BSA SeaBase, February 2005

Kurt Johnson, Peter Johnson, Andrew Willard, Tom Scott, Floyd Scott, Tom Malinowski, Derek Layton-Schlagen, Ben Weir kneeling.



Long Trail Journey's End @ Vermont/Canadian Border August 2005
Tom Malinowsky, Peter Johnson, Josh Hesler, Andrew Willard, Christian Eckhatdt.

<u>Scout</u>	<u>Year</u>
Frank Mullins	1977
Brian Walsh	1977
Greg Waters	1977
W. Scott Douglas	1978
Larry Staab	1978
Chris Lane	1983
John Trombly	1985
Matt Messier	1987
✓ Rick Wheatley	1989
Stephen Messier	1990
Alex Leonovich	1991
Dan Atherton	1991
✓ Scott Collins	1992
Mike Leonovich	1993
Jason Jankowski	1994
Ryan Dudley	1994
✓ David Crowe	1994
David Cameron	1995
✓ Mike Audet	1996
✓ Don Howard	1996
Ian Browne	1997
David Levasseur	1997
Dan Gardner	1998
Jason Scott	1999
Ryan Decker	2001
Brian Malone	2001
✓ David Manz	2001
Andrew Osborne	2001
Derek Hyde	2001
Grant Clarke	2001
Kurt Schaberg	2002
Alex Stimpson	2002
Mike Strong	2003
Ben Courtney	2004
Matt Newton	2004

Eagle Project

Mobb's Hill Park Trail work
 Girl Scout Camp nature trails
 Underhill/Jericho Seniors help network

 Compiled notebook for Senior citizens adult handbook
 Ladder replacement on Mt Mansfield hiking trail
 Underhill Green monument/flagpole/fence
 Bird houses at Ft Ethan Allen Nursing homes
 Organized blood drive at Richmond school
 Replaced bridge on Taylor Lodge Trail
 Cleared trees and pruned apple trees
 Mill's River Park benches
 Nebraska notch trail bridge
 Sunset ridge trail bridge
 Jericho/Underhill historical sites tour pamphlet

 Underhill state park lean to renovations
 BRMS bleachers
 Sterling / Madonna Mtn Long trail foot bridges
 Mobb's Hill Park Trail work
 Eagle Cut trail work
 Park St cemetery fence painting
 Mill's River Park trail bridge
 Underhill school/park picnic tables
 WVA Winooski river signs & guide update
 Mill's River Park bridge fence
 Mill's River Park tent platforms
 Montclair Glen Outhouse
 Brown's river water quality study
 Mill's River Park trails
 Town Pond picnic tables platforms
 Cougar Trail

Erich Sullivan	2005
David Kennedy	2006
Tom Scott	2006
Josh Hester	2006
Peter Johnson	2006
Tom Malinowski	2006
Christian Eckhardt	2006
Andrew Willard	2006
Derek Lautenschlager	2007
Brian Kennedy	2007
Ben Weir	2008
Chris Bouchard	2008
Andy Chamberlin	2010
Warren Irish	2010
Joseph Freitas	2011
David Polson	2011
Rudy Bentlage	2011
Donald Tynion	2011
Matthew Sem	2012
Robbie Malinowski	2013
Kyle Polson	2013 ?

Cross country ski trail bridge
 LVHS sports field bleacher
 Mill's River Park Signs
 COTS fence
 Sand Hill Cemetery fence
 Red Mill Park benches
 Moore Park table/bench platforms
 Sterling Pond Outhouse
 Mill's River Park campsite relocation
 Mill's River Park butterfly waystation
 Underhill town hall floor reconditioning
 Good Shepard Church entrance
 Underhill Town Hall landscaping
 BRMS benches
 Underhill Flats Park Picnic Tables / landscaping
 JES outdoor classrooms
 Castle cemetery fence
 Underhill Town Hall shelves and front access area repairs
 Mills River Park Gazebo
 BRMS Gazebo
 BRMS Gazebo

Sources: Gael Boardman, Kurt Johnson
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