

# **Summary Report of the Results of the 2013 National Jamboree Committee**

**Submitted by  
Steven D. Buckley  
Chairperson**

**Presented to the MC Executive Board  
October 17, 2013**



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**Chairperson:** Steven Buckley

**Staff Advisor:** Chris Quakenbush

### **Committee Members**

Mike Scotto – Health & Safety, Mike Maier – Transportation, John Kilduff (Chair), Wendy Harman, Ed Carroll, Kurt Kalafsky & Karen Bentivenga – Personnel, Peter Grasso (Chair), Brian DeShong, Terri Ostovich, Bill Cain, Ken Bonnell – Training, Tom Kraeutler – Public Relations, Steven Buckley (Chair), John Guaragno – Budget/Finance, Ed Carroll - Logo Items/Fund Raising, Adam Gross – Online, Bruce Nyman Shomer Shabbat.

### **Jamboree Troops & Crew Leadership**

#### **Troop B238**

John Guaragno SM, Frank Nastro 1<sup>st</sup> ASM, Terri Ostovich 2<sup>nd</sup> ASM, Tom Kraeutler Jr. 3<sup>rd</sup> ASM

#### **Troop C440**

Peter Grasso SM, John Marincas 1<sup>st</sup> ASM, Brad Daniels 2<sup>nd</sup> ASM, Ryan Grasso 3<sup>rd</sup> ASM

#### **Troop D418**

Kevin Sweetnam SM, Pete Placek 1<sup>st</sup> ASM, Timothy Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> ASM, Kevin Vroman 3<sup>rd</sup> ASM

#### **Crew F512**

Brian DeShong Advisor, Karen Bond Associate Advisor, Jan Rybnicky Associate Advisor, Richard Pezzullo Associate Advisor.

(The rest of this campsite was a crew from Jersey Shore Council with 7 youth and 2 adults Nancy Weber & Andy Cuber along with 1 youth from Monmouth Council)

### **Jamboree Staff Members from Monmouth Council**

Kathleen Picciano (Aerial Sports), Chris Quakenbush (Shooting Sports), Hunter Pearl (Aquatics and Boating), Tyler Bond (Day of Service OA Service Corp), Ted Apostle (Day of Service OA Service Corp), Jay Kostman (Merit Badges), Donna Huryn (Merit Badges), Sujit D'Mello (Technology Quest Exhibits), Robert Lowry (Technology Quest Exhibits), Michael DeSocia (Jamboree Today), Kenneth Bonnell (Commissioner Fox Trot Base Camp), Amanda Cregan (Subcamp Staff), Perry Jost (Subcamp Staff), Steven Buckley (Postal Services), Michael Maier (Repairs and Maintenance), Edward Carroll (Staff Dining), Peter Kizima III (Specialty Foods), Edmond Butler (Specialty Foods), Kristine Klinecicz (Specialty Foods), Ryan Bolger (Medical Services/EMS), William Faverzani (Medical Services/EMS), Craig Sherman (Medical Services/EMS), Vicki Sherman (Medical Services), Thomas Kraeutler (Media National), Thomas Foran, Adam Gross (Aerial Sports), Robert Smith (Visitors Services Mgr.).

## **General thoughts and high level statistical information:**

First I would like to say what a wonderful group of volunteers I had to work with for this Jamboree. Let me go farther with some great statistics:

### **Units going to the Jamboree**

2010 Jamboree we had 2 ½ troops about 90 scouts and 12 leaders.

2013 Jamboree we had 3 troops and ¾ of a crew of for about 144 youth and 16 leaders

This is the largest youth and adult attendance that Monmouth Council has had since the 1980's

### **Jamboree Committee**

2010 we had about 7 additional adults involved

2013 we had about 11 involved

### **Jamboree Staff**

2010 we had about 18 adults involved

2013 we had 28 involved

In all categories of involvement we had great to spectacular increases and I could not be happier.

**The following report is a combination my personal comments as Committee Chair, Chris Quakenbush as Staff Advisor, Committee Members, other professional staff members and input from the Jamboree unit leaders that I reviewed and from which I selected various pieces for this report.**

## Review of 2010 After Action Report as it applies to 2103

I would like to start by reviewing a portion of the last After Action Report from the 2010 Jamboree. I will look at the Comments and Improvements for the 2013 National Jamboree that were set and presented to the executive Board in the fall of that year looking forward to this past Jamboree and the new location in WV at the SBR. Each of these sections from the last report are inserted below with comments added afterward describing what happened in these areas for 2013.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT WHEN WE CONCLUDED THE 2010 JAMBOREE WE HAD NO IDEA THAT NATIONAL BSA WAS GOING TO PROVIDE AS PART OF THEIR FEE FOR 2013 ALL UNIT EQUIPMENT. THIS CHANGE MADE MANY OF OUR EQUIPMENT PLANNING ISSUES IRELEVANT FOR 2013. SO INSTEAD OF FILLING THIS REPORT WITH USELESS INFORMATION I DELETED THOSE SECTIONS.*

### Comments & Improvements needed for the 2013 National Jamboree

#### **Equipment Personal**

At the 2010 Jamboree many troops equipped their boys with Jamboree duffle bags, day packs, or stools. Having those things not only looks good, but works to unify a troop and give it an identity. It also gives the parents a sense of getting something lasting, other than wonderful memories, for their fee.

Equipment, such as trunks-tote box w/wheels, backpacks, duffle bags, t-shirts, mess kits, etc., should be standardized and purchased by the contingent even if that means incorporating the cost into the fee. It makes the group look well-organized and professional at Jamboree, and avoids time wasted searching for the right item by parents and leaders. It would also give us buying power to purchase supplies in bulk if we're ordering for the entire contingent. Identical Trunks would make packing the truck easier with consistent size and shaped trunks.

We need to define better what other items scouts need to buy; like cots & uniforms, and get to them earlier. Perhaps we could put together a recommended shopping list for some of these items and also buy them in bulk. The scout would be responsible for the cost

**We included many more personal items as part of the Monmouth Council basic fee. We included a Jamboree neckerchief, Slide, Mess Kit, shirts, hats, day pack, Troop JSP, Name Tags, Unit Numbers, complete MC Jamboree patch sets, Gold set of Patches, Fund Raiser patch, Recruiter Patch, luggage tags, and a Unit Picture.**

#### **Equipment Gateway**

Gateway building seemed to occupy a lot of planning time for the troops, with not much benefit. One troop stated that there was very little assistance from anyone else in the troop to help transport it back and forth to Quail Hill although they were very lucky to have a family associated with Troop 155 graciously donate their workshop, shed and property during the build process.

Gateways are great, but environmentally and monetarily a waste. It was suggested that we consider building a common gateway structure for each troop allowing them to customize a portion of it. This will make the whole process easier and less costly.

**This problem was eliminated because Gateways were eliminated by National BSA in favor of simple 1' x 8' Banners for each Unit.**

## **Participation**

Encourage older youth and Venture Scouts to serve on Staff, OA Service Corps or Band.

Explain and stress to regular Jamboree applicants the depth to which they are expected to be involved in the Jamboree troop in order to try and curb a lack of participation on some scout's part. Just showing up for the bus does not make you part of the troop or give the full experience. Just because you pay your fee does not make you able to pick and choose what you will and will not do like working on gateway. Express that parent involvement, although limited, will be required sometime in the year of preparation. One troop couldn't even get anyone to help move the gateway with a truck which was not asking much of the parents of 36 kids to have one of them help out with a simple task.

Attendance at troop meetings – at what point does a parent/Scout get told they can't attend the Jamboree because they haven't attended any Troop meetings? This is a very difficult question. Not only does the rest of the troop have to pull the weight of the Scout who's not there, but then has to address the many questions that result because they aren't at the meetings to hear the information first-hand? We should try and shield the troop leaders from needing to deal with this situation. Expectations should be clearly communicated during the registration process so parents & Scouts can make an informed decision on time requirements for attending Jamboree.

**We only had two Scouts be part of the OA Service Corp. See the next section for the various levels of participation in meetings for 2013. We had various levels of participation and this area still has weaknesses.**

## **Training**

Training for the leaders needs to be worked on. We need to provide them with more information on how all the logistics work before they get to the Jamboree so they are better prepared. One of the biggest issues continues to be what needs to get accomplished at the pre jamboree troop meetings. Leaders were left to their own devices as to what to do at troop meetings. It has been suggested that putting together a pamphlet of information that needs to be accomplished during these meetings would be a good idea. A timeline of what troops should be doing at troop meeting through the year before the Jamboree might help. Items to include would be: Team building, Cooking, Cleaning, Youth Protection, and the Emergency Preparedness Award. Photos from previous years and other materials are helpful to leaders and scouts. Many leaders felt at the beginning that they were guessing at what to do for troop meetings, learned from each other, but by the time they got good at it, it was almost too late.

Emergency Preparedness training & the First Aid training course that helps the units earn this award was discussed, with a suggested plan of action but ultimately, nothing was done about it.

**There was a Big Improvement in this area. Peter Grasso with input of many created our first Monmouth Council Training and Leaders Guide that can and will be revised and used into the future.**

## **Training Weekend / Shake Down**

A better agenda is needed up front, so that everyone understands the plan and the importance of the weekend. We had one created by one unit leader that can be used as a starting point, but it was lacking in detail. It was felt that this weekend was very important to the success of the Jamboree experience. It was suggested that we move this weekend one month earlier so that it would not interfere with all of the activities that take place surrounding the end of the school/scouting year. Many details of the shakedown were not in place until just before hand which does not give a feeling of control.

Expectations for the shakedown weekend should be better defined and made known up-front during the registration process to Scout parents that it is ever so important or should I say MANDATORY for their son to attend. Scouts who did not attend were at a disadvantage, and a patrol in one troop who had the least attendance at the shakedown had the most issues during the Jamboree (i.e. patrol leadership, cleanliness, order, etc.)

We should also try to move the shakedown training weekend from its historical June placement to May so as not to coincide with end-of-year exam schedules, which caused a lot of grief for the Scoutmasters.

**Bill Cain accepted the task as chair of the Training Day experience held at QHSR. It was determined that due to changes in the way this Jamboree was run that a whole weekend of Training was no longer required. Bill with help of many did a great job. We did move this activity from June to April.**

### **Transportation - Bus**

The buses were great and comfortable. We need to anticipate better how long the trip will really take next time to West Virginia because the troops had a lot of time to waste going to VA. We should continue the overnight bus trip as this was a very good idea as we had the entire day to set up camp. The stop at the Golden Corral restaurant on way home was much appreciated. We need to identify a buffet such as Golden Corral for breakfast. The IHOP was not suitable for breakfast. The budget was not sufficient for IHOP and the restaurant is not ideal for a large group and they were not open early enough. John Kilduff reported that he understood the problem but in the time allotted him to locate a place for breakfast a better choice was not found. Next time we will be in WV so new places for both meals will need to be identified.

**The travel situation improved a lot. We used a Golden Coral again for the after Jamboree meal. We will serve the breakfast meal with food we will bring on the bus with us. This breakfast has been contracted with a local supplier. After years of my complaining to National they should contract with a professional Travel Company to arrange transportation issues they did it. One feature we took advantage of was we arranged our bus transportation directly with them. It appears we got a reasonable price with minimal up front work. Bill Maier has done a great job handling this area.**

### **Logo Items**

We should pick a theme for the council logo wear and communications within the first couple of meetings so that all patches t-shirts and hats can be designed off of that theme. The contingent provided hats, shirts, patches were not well coordinated. The designs and the items themselves were late to arrive for distribution. It was suggested that we might ask the boys who attended the 2010 Jamboree to help design our logo for patches and other items.

According to one person the hats, patches, & t-shirts were very disappointing to some and the patches were not very exciting and quite frankly not very good one person said. One comment was that the boys were misled as to the availability. We have to speak to them earlier about patch trading and what is the norm. Many boys did not understand and were disappointed. Purchasing of a large supply of patches by staff affected the availability to scouts who were still looking to purchase.

The OA for the first time had a Jamboree patch but it also came very late. We need to order more Monmouth Council Jamboree Shoulder Patches. A set of Jamboree Shoulder Patches was created, instead of one patch for all troops and staff members. One design could be used with the word staff or a troop number added. Our "patch traders" were at a disadvantage because, while our CSP's were

nice, they were not “cool”. We need to identify a person to work on this early in the game. We also need to find out if staff members are interested in these items, before the order happens.

Many boys did not want to wear their hats, so they would conveniently misplace them. One troop developed a procedure that would require the boys to buy a new hat, if they were unable to find theirs. This apparently worked well, but should be communicated with parents before the trip, so that there are no surprises.

Patch design in general was not very popular among the Scouts. Patch trading turned out to be a popular evening (daily) activity, and afforded the boys an opportunity to meet other Scouts. Attention should be given to the design of the patches for 2013.

We will focus on all these related issues starting at the first meeting for 2013 starting in January 2011.

**In so many ways this situation was much better with many of the previous problems solved. I must say however that many new challenges were discovered as we went along so we had new problems that need to be addressed for 2017 as you will see latter in this report.**

### **Communications – General**

The Leader’s Guide was invaluable. Guidance from past leaders on what to focus on in the guide would have been very beneficial (think it was done at one committee meeting, but I don’t think it really sunk in with the troop leaders).

The monthly committee meetings were beneficial in keeping things on track. Many felt finances seemed to be the main topic of discussion at most meetings, however, and more time should have been spent on troop operations and details of the Jamboree itself.

One leader commented that a lot of time was spent repeating the same information/answering questions that had already been discussed at troop meetings, or through other e-mails. One unit tried using a Facebook site, but not everyone had a Facebook account, so we had to use e-mail as well.

While it’s impossible for exact consistency between troops, given the make-up of each troop (especially the leaders), but it would be good if the same information was communicated to all troops by all leaders (i.e. equipment to bring, no. of Class A shirts to bring/purchase, amount of spending money to bring, gateway construction, etc.) Disparity among the three troops may have caused a little friction and confusion, not only among the boys, but the leaders as well.

**National combined the Old Leaders Guide and the Council Guide into one publication. Since this combined guide was for a brand new type of Jamboree at a new location this guide was less helpful as much of the needed materials were not written until after it was published. Electronic updates were provided as we went along but again not real good. I hope now that we are past this Jamboree they will be corrected and expanded by the 2017 Jamboree. I should point out that lots of good council and unit information did make its way into the 2013 Jamboree Base Camp / Subcamp Operations Manual so we used this a lot. I would guess that much of this material found there will also be placed in the 2017 combined council guide book.**

**The finance issues that seemed to come up at too many meeting for 2010 were eliminated by more work being done off line and in a subcommittee. Much more time at monthly meetings was spent on troop operations and details of the Jamboree itself.**

### **Communications - Council Jamboree Web Site**

Committee and leader communication could be and will be improved by use of the new Monmouth Council Jamboree Website. We now have a Jamboree page for our use.



Before the Jamboree other Council websites dedicated a significant amount to time and effort into creating a website dedicated to the Jamboree, to be used as a resource not only for perspective attendees, but to leaders and eventual contingent members. One Council in California partnered with Scouts in England to develop a Video Historian program, issuing Flip cameras to chosen Scouts to document the event. There's so much technology out there now (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) that can be leveraged going forward.

**One new communications feature added for 2013 was social networking and web site. Each unit had a Facebook group page along with our committee. The Jamboree web page was used more effectively this time around by posting past committee minutes, our budget and all our forms. In addition various e-mail distribution lists were created. The vast majority of this improvement can be credited to Adam Gross our online guru.**

### **Post Jamboree Party**

The after Jamboree party in 2010 was appreciated but not overwhelmingly attended and we were glad we held it at Quail Hill vs. going out somewhere.

**After much discussion it was suggested by the group not to try and hold a Reunion party at QHSR in August of 2013 but at a nicer facility possibly January 3, 2014. For this event I have nothing at this time to report on how this change might work out.**

### **Fundraising**

I would not recommend having council wide fundraisers next time. In general there was a lack of involvement. I know some people helped, but in general those that supported the council wide initiatives spent a lot of time and did not see any savings for themselves or much impact. I would still encourage troop fundraisers, since they benefited the individuals who participated. It was suggested we provide some standard Monmouth Council guideline right up front to explain what can and can't be done.

**For our 2013 Jamboree, with the help of Ed Carroll, who took over all Logo creations of items and their sales we did a better job of raising some funds. The basic problem turned out is how to estimate what profit you will make to lower the fee charged at the beginning. One Unit our Crew also did a unit fundraiser with good results.**

### **Finance**

The financial burden could have been eased a bit if John Kilduff was given accurate lists of equipment to buy. John did amazingly well with what he had to work with.

One unit leader was a bit alarmed by the finances and never felt like they knew where we stood in that area. The comment was we would talk about all of the costs but they never had clear readout on where we stood. The unit leader said that we also handled things quite different in each troop and that led to confusion. The leader perceived that one troop spent what they needed to and that the other two were doing their best to spend everything that they could, especially at the end when two troops handed out lots of trinkets and the other one did not. I think for 2013 I need to put more control on the contingency & discretionary funds, or at least encourage a similar handling of the funds between troops.

Payments of the Jamboree fee should include non-refundable amount of \$50 of the initial payment and \$100 of payments within 1 year of Jamboree in addition to any fees advanced that are not replaced by a replacement Scout.

We might actively seek jamboree sponsors for tents, transportation, tour meals on route, camperships, duffle bags, hydration, etc., reduce amount budgeted for gateways and eliminate the budget for photos since national did not provide that service for the first time at the Jamboree.

**The concerns listed above virtually all went away for the 2013 Jamboree.**

## Comments, Improvements & Goals for the 2017 National Jamboree

### **Office Staff**

Marjorie A. Ramirez | Camping & Program Specialist

Her tasks mainly were the collection of payments. Chris Quakenbush set up a payment spreadsheet and she maintained it. When he sent out payment reminders, parents would call her to find out exactly what was owed. In addition she made a spreadsheet for all the Jamboree orders of Tee Shirts, Polo's, Shirts, patches, etc. Marjorie processed the payments for these items, but she was not involved in the delivery of the product. Marjorie was given some additional patches to sell from her office.

Marjorie did get a lot of call regarding problems logging on to the National Jamboree site, with all expecting her to have the answers to solve their dilemmas - which she didn't have any answers. Most calls were passed to Chris Quakenbush.

Chris noted that next time we need to inform people of what type of questions can be answered at the Service Center and which ones families need to directly contact National BSA.

### **Promotion / Recruitment**

First the chair should not do this task as we need a separate person.

As chair I did a lot of research into what units had participated or not in several of the preceding Jamborees. It had been my intent to try and contact units with no past Jamboree history to determine why and seek future involvement. This task really never got done.

This task in general got off to a slow start due to the delays of national getting their web site and information up and out to Councils for use.

We need to assign a person from each district who attends Round Tables to be the point of contact for recruitment and to be a person to try and answer any general questions for unit leaders.

We need to determine in advance what size the Venture crew we want from the start to eliminate the problems we had with the ever increasing size we had last time. We started sending 10 and we ended up with 26 youth and four adults. The reason for this was as momentum built we had to keep increasing its size and this caused recruiting situations, opportunities and problems. One situation that developed was that we started to encourage some of the older boys who had signed up to be part of our three Jamboree troops to move into the Venture Jamboree crew. We cross registered them from their home troop into Crew 347 the one we use to place summer camp staffers if needed. This worked well but it striped some older boys out of the troops and thus in some cases made selecting troop leadership harder. It did allow more if not all on our waiting list to attend. We must early on try and maximize our youth currently in crews to go to the Jamboree and thus minimize the need to do what was just described.

Just as a side comment it had been rumored that possibly starting in 2017 Explorers from the Learning For Life program might be able to go to a Jamboree. Even if National does not make that happen we should, right here in Monmouth Council, recruit Explorers' to go and register them in our special Crew 347. We should absorb their registration fee into the Jamboree budget. This will greatly enhance our program for that age level. It would add new complexities in organization but I feel it would be worthwhile to extend this Jamboree opportunity to Explorers.

The starting solution to what is mentioned above concerning Venturing is for 2017 ask for 4 crews of 10, 36 youth 4 adults at first and then if can't fill one or more released then.

This situation also made team-building for the Crew a challenge, since we were adding people up to the last month before we went. Not to mention the scramble to find additional adult leadership for the Crew. Brian DeShong, the main crew advisor, is not sure why 4 adults were necessary for the Crew. Brian thinks we don't need to follow the same model as the troops. I'm not sure of this for two reasons. First with girls & boys we might need two deep leadership of both sexes. Second if as suggested in another section that the Crew if its once again a large group gets its own bus we might need more than two leaders on the bus. This needs to be addressed for the 2017 Jamboree. The Jamboree process for Ventures was not set up well for a large group from one council. It appears they expected one Crew of 10 per council to attend. We will need to see if they react to this situation for 2017.

### **Personnel**

An excellent suggestion made was to at least choose the main Scoutmaster(s) and Advisor for each unit very early in the process with the thought that the Scoutmaster(s) / Advisor will lead the recruitment for his/her unit. I am suggesting that we start general adult recruitment in late 2014 & complete in early 2015.

Most if not all that follows was submitted by the subcommittee chair John Kilduff and his helpers were Wendy Harman, Ed Carroll, Kurt Kalafsky, Karen Bentivenga, Bruce Nyman.

The committee was composed of a great group of insightful people who made the difficult task of adult leadership selection go surprisingly easy. We initially had a strong group of candidates to select from.

Our selection method involved the following steps:

Review the candidate applications

Select the top 4 ranked applications for interviews for the 4 top leadership positions.

Interview the candidates (15 minute interviews)

Select 1st and 2nd Assistants from remaining application rankings

Select alternate candidates in case of future openings.

The initial interviews went well and all 4 interviewed were selected for the top leader positions. These included 2 who had been assistants on the 2010 Jamboree. We did not initially fill 3rd assistant Scoutmaster Positions because we had no applicants. That was soon rectified when the leaders we selected helped to recruit the 3, 18-20 year old Scouts needed for the position. Assistant positions for the Venture crew were also left unfilled due to lack of applicants and lack of information about the final make up of the Venture contingent.

One of the challenges that we faced was the death of one of the Assistant Scoutmasters after the Troops had begun meeting. We were fortunate to have an alternate leader ready to step in. Additionally, the Venture crew kept expanding requiring us to find 3 additional leaders. This was accomplished by recruiting from parents of youth who joined the expanded Venture ranks. We were able to find adults who were experienced in leading Boy & Girl Scout groups to fill the positions.

Thoughts for the 2017 Jamboree:

Begin recruiting now for the 3rd Assistant Scoutmaster position from among the participants in the 2013 contingent.

Continue to mix experienced Jamboree leaders with new applicants.

Continue to draw from the experience of past Jamboree leaders for training and other support for the contingent.

Promote Venture opportunities at the Jamboree well before the opening of registration for the 2017 contingent. This will help to have a greater pool of youth and adults earlier in the process so we can fill the contingent and adult positions earlier.

Respectfully submitted, John Kilduff

### **Equipment Unit**

It was suggested that we purchase a “trunk” on wheels for each unit to store items such as patches, medicines, and other valuables. A large hand truck could be purchased for each unit for the Scoutmaster to move his personal items and the trunk once the unit arrives at the Summit.

Each unit should be held to ONE trunk. The Crew experienced issues with bays in the buses being prematurely filled because multiple troop leaders brought large trunks, creating a space issue for the Crew. We also felt like third-wheels, always coming after the troop’s needs which seemed to be dealt with first. This last situation might be solved if we get them their own bus as is suggested in another section.

Coffee pots and coffee was not provided to the units and each unit was required to provide their own. (The Crew didn’t find this to be a big deal at all.)

### **Equipment Personal**

Suggest maybe providing a Nalgene and some carbeeners in the future.

Luggage tags should be bigger and brighter.

We should provide not 2 but 4 Troop / Contingent shirts. You want to have your troop in the same shirts for the arrival day at the Jamboree, Jamboree Trek day, the opening stadium show, Tech Quest day, and Day of Service, and closing show (if weather is too hot for Class A).

It was suggested that we might, instead of using the standard Jamboree neckerchief that we get our own generic Monmouth Council Jamboree patch placed on our own neckerchief.

### **Equipment Gateway**

The very large Gateways as were previously seen at Jamborees were eliminated by National BSA in favor of simple 1’ x 8’ Banners for each Unit. The design we settled on was the use the individual Unit JSP in the center right, the words Troop C440 (top line) Monmouth Council NJ (Bottom Line) center left, far left generic Monmouth Council green Indian Bonnet patch, far right our center patch with the 5 unit JSP’s around it. It was our intention to use this at follow on Jamborees so we don’t waste time trying to be more creative.

Although flagpoles were provided to each unit, units that shared sites like the venture crew had to find creative ways to display all banners. A problem the Crew encountered is that only 2 flag poles were given by National per site. Since we were a mixed crew with Jersey Shore, they couldn’t mount their flag (although they weren’t tremendously disappointed by that). If National isn’t going to provide enough poles, where we know it’s a mixed unit, we should be prepared ourselves. Since the Crew was paired with another Crew, we were short one flag pole.

## **Unit Organization**

B238

This troop scattered the home Troop scouts among the Patrols; it worked just fine

Troop D418

The adult Leaders formed the patrols and selected the four Senior Leadership positions holding interviews for the SPL, ASPL, Scribe and QM positions. The Senior Leadership was selected based on experience. We also selected senior leaders from different troops.

Patrols were formed to keep scouts from the same home troop in the same patrol. We also balanced out the patrols based on age/rank. We tried to avoid having too many young scouts in one patrol. The Patrols elected their Patrol Leader.

The Senior Positions and Patrol Leaders were announced at the December Troop Meeting. Keeping the home troop scouts together worked well for us since the scouts had been working with each other for years.

Troop C440

This troop did a hybrid of the two methods. Through an interview process the Adults selected the Senior Patrol and the Scouts then chose their own patrols and elected their Patrol Leaders. This did lead to some issues. Two Troops had a large number of Scouts attend. One Troop in particular exceeded the number of Scouts in a Patrol and one or two of their scouts had to be assigned to other patrols. It also left the Troop with a large number of young Scouts concentrated in one Patrol. This led to issues when sending Scouts for food or doing other tasks where older scouts would be useful. Formation of the Troop should be left in the hands of the Adult Leadership but a full understanding of the issues will need to be addressed in future adult training and possibly included in the Monmouth Council Unit Leader Manual.

Crew F512

Crew leaders were selected by fellow members which was difficult since a diverse representation of crews across the council were present. There was also an unwillingness to run for a leadership position by almost all the Crew members, which made determining Crew leadership a challenge in the first couple of months along with the ever increasing number of youth added to our crew over the months as we swelled from one crew of 8 youth and two adults to 26 youth and four adults.

Establishing a new Crew had its own challenges, especially given the size of the Jamboree Crew compared to the size of most natural Crews. This presented both an organizational and leadership challenge. In fact, one Crew member remarked that the team-building activities we were doing at Crew meetings felt too "Boy-Scout like". Since Crews are usually the older youth, there seemed to be a sense of "been there, done that", although there were many who had not been in Crews long, or at all (having joined a Crew solely to go to Jamboree, exacerbated by the fact that several were members of Crew 347, and inactive Crew only utilized for Forestburg Staff). Crew elections were held, but were almost non-existent, since almost no one stepped up to run. It took several months before leadership was elected / selected.

The age range is 14 -21 but most natural crews have a smaller size 10 20 while we had 26 youth and 4 adults. This does not fit well with the Crew model as a Jamboree is organized based on a campsite of 36 boys and 4 adults. We had 2 adults and 8 youth from Jersey Council to share our site as well.

## **Participation**

In one troop participation at monthly troop meetings was very good for the scouts. We had a couple scouts that did not attend and waited months before dropping from the Troop. We only were missing a

few other scouts at each meeting. However the attendance of the parents was not so good. Only about 50% of the parents would stay for the meeting. At each meeting the Adult Leaders would spend 30 minutes discussing important topics with the parents and answer any questions. With the poor attendance the parents that did not attend had to rely on the email communications. All email communication to the troop came from the Scoutmaster. We felt that it would be best if parents only received communications from one person. We also tried to avoid sending too many emails to them.

With one Troop this is still very much an issue. We had Scouts never attend a meeting. We found ourselves repeating information that was distributed via email, Facebook, newsletters, and Troop Meetings. Not sure what the solution is for Adults and Scouts that don't attend meetings and don't read the material.

We have been pretty successful in getting every Scout on the list into a troop. In addition all youth assigned to a wait list should be assigned to a unit on a temporary basis so they get all the required information and training in preparation for their possible attendance at the Jamboree. Being assigned late is not good for the youth.

We had a number of Scouts withdraw very late in the process.

One unit leader commented:

“I think these problems might have occurred because there was very little penalty. This was not fair to the Troop or to the Scouts on the waiting list. If there was more of a monetary penalty I think they would have withdrawn much earlier thereby giving those on the waiting list more time with the troop”.

B238 had the majority of scouts attend a number of the Troop meetings. The few that missed were usually different every month so not an issue for us.

It was suggested that we need to draw up attendance guidelines to ensure Scouts and their Parents participate in the Troop. These Guidelines need to be followed by all contingent troops. We found this to be a similar problem in the Crew with very little attendance / participation by some.

I think the adventure in New York City failed for the Crew because it did not cause them to come together. Much of the activities were focused on Scouts/Venturers who were familiar with the Boy Scout program and set up when in fact you had some members who had not even camped before. This was quickly overcome by age and maturity, but this was an issue. There should have been at least one shakedown with an overnight component for the crew to overcome some of this.

It was suggested that we consider some mandatory penalty requirements for late drops and poor attendance while giving a reward for good attendance. We have to force families to drop early if they need to. We need a larger non refundable deposit. If you drop after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2017 then an additional \$100 would not be refunded. If this was done we would have \$200 in penalty in the worst case and a family based on our 2013 fee of \$1,350 would only get \$1,150 back. We still would have the penalty if there is no one to replace a youth then no refund at all.

More discussion is needed.

### **Training**

The new Monmouth Council Leader's guide was very valuable for planning but since it's a first edition and we have gained a lot of experience updates will be most valuable. We went into this Jamboree with inadequate information from National. We had a great group of Leaders who will be encouraged to add their input into a revised Leaders Training Manual. Some early suggestions:

Don't start holding unit meetings until January of 2017 was suggested. We don't need to cover as much material as we have had to in the past.

Troop D418 held monthly troop meetings from November through May. They spent a lot of time at their meetings discussing personal equipment, high adventure activities, curriculum activities, showed the YouTube promo videos, menus, duty rosters, tent assignments, and team building. It was difficult to plan the meetings since a lot of information from National did not come out until shortly before the Jamboree.

For the future, Troops should concentrate a lot of time explaining the Curriculum activities and everything that is available for the scouts to do at the Jamboree. Parents need to understand the importance of signing up on time for the activities. They also need to understand the time it takes to get to an activity because of distances involved between their camp and the adventure areas. They also need to understand that the scouts lose 3 days at the Jamboree for the Day of Service, Jamboree Trek Day and the Sunday Day of Rest. That limits the amount of time the scouts have for "Free-Time".

A slide show needs to be created for the Troops to show at their meetings.

It was stated that at least one and possibly more than one video about the Jamboree was developed by some people in the Units. We need to find these and use them for training and other purposes next time.

### **Training Day/Shake Down/Camp Out**

One comment was while there was an improvement in the Training Day there is still a lot of work that can be done to better organize it. Many of the details were left until the day of the event. This event should be detailed in the Training manual so that Leaders can plan troop meetings accordingly. There should also be a committee formed for this event so that we have adequate help on hand. Course material should be developed so that the instructors have material to cover. A number of adults were trying to determine what needed to be covered on the day of the event.

One suggestion was there is no need for a complete day long training event. Keep it to ½ day event.

Another suggestion was to consider eliminating it all together and have the individual Units add the Youth Protection video and patch trading session to their monthly troop meetings. There is no need to talk about equipment or have team building games at the Training Day since the Troops have already included that in their monthly meetings. If this is done delivery of logo items and related items would need to be done at a different time than was done for 2013.

One person said "IMHO (In My Humble Opinion) it seemed rather lame that the shakedown for a National Jamboree was in the format of a Cub Scout day camp, but we made it work."

A Venture Leader suggested an overnight with skits and ways that the Venturers could be in one place to get to know each other. Also, having the gear for the shakedown would be ideal even if it were just the gear provided by Council.

I found the discussion I held during the morning of the Training Day with parents to be very useful. This was only the second time since the kick off open house at Monmouth Regional High School that this group got direct access to the Chair of the Committee and the Staff Advisor.

### **Health & Safety**

This task has been led by a jamboree subcommittee chair for several Jamborees and I feel now that it has a much more limited scope that it can be eliminated from the committee next time for 2017.



## Medical Forms

In short, the Medical Forms process in 2013 was a disaster. More was put on the leaders to understand the electronic process, which we then couldn't do anything to fix. Despite everything being electronic, we still had to provide paper copies of much that was submitted upon check-in. For the Crew, this process took hours. This is a situation that only National can improve and we hope they got the message.

We need to change the process for 2017. All medicals should be reviewed by the units themselves, mailed by them and copies made by them. The idea of sending them to the office for review was poor at best.

## MC Emergency Preparedness Handbook

We took the generic one supplied by National and used it as a template to derive ours. The usefulness of this handbook needs to be determined for 2017. The emergency contact information that it included for use will always be needed

## **Transportation Bus**

### Misc.

B238 bus had no AC on the way back and it should be illegal for a bus to travel only 50MPH; the combination of those two made for the worst bus ride ever. TMS indicated that we needed to contact them as soon that there was a problem. However, I don't think they would have been able to do anything without causing a significant delay in our return trip.

If TMS is the Transportation Coordinator for 2017, my recommendation would be to go with them as TMS handled the coordination with the bus company to include giving them bus permit which saved potential aggravation. I would only contact to other bus companies to just check TMS pricing.

Have cash, \$50 bills, for the bus driver's tips as there were multiple drivers.

Continue to have the early arrival time resulting in our Scouts getting a jump on Program Areas.

### Sizes of Buses & Number

One issue is to avoid the splitting of a unit on different buses, if possible. This made the process for the Venturers more difficult than needed particularly when the size of the bus changed on the return trip unexpectedly. Additionally, the split groups should be allowed to sit together on the bus (i.e. the group that is sharing the bus should be grouped together) so that the smaller group is also together. Although this sounded like an easy request, the Venturers had to request others to move so that they could be together as a group. This group time served to be the most valuable bonding time for this group.

There was a small mix up on the return trip since we did not know the correct size of the buses. When you calculate the number of seats needed we should calculate two seats for each adult. We needed the extra space to store food (bagels) and to do work (organize packages including medicals, photos, etc.).

It might be consider for next time to get smaller buses for the troops, if available, and an extra one for the Crew. This is a budget issue also as an extra bus is an expense but it may be worth it to lessen confusion. I agree with this suggestion. While it was nice to be on the bus with the troops, particular individuals were somewhat less than accommodating at times. It also delays both the Crew's departure, and Contingent's departure, since the Troop buses had to wait in a LONG conga line of buses to pick up the Crew from Foxtrot. If we had our own bus, this would be alleviated, and possibly eliminated.

## Breakfast

There was a concern about the temperature of the bagels while waiting for departure. Suggestion was made to use disposal Styrofoam coolers, but an issue is what type of ice should be used. You don't have to have 2 bagels per scout. One bagel and a juice was enough. Continue to use the local supplier of the bagels as they were very easy to deal with and pricing was good.

Breakdown of bagels need to be potentially done by bus, not by Troop or Crew as there was a problem with the Crew needing to distribute their bagels at the first rest stop. This situation is avoided if we get the crew there own bus see comments above.

Cream cheese and butter should be frozen / refrigerated prior to travel. After sitting on the bus for hours, it was not the best food service practice to serve at room temperature. Also, since the Crew was split up on 3 buses, it made dividing up the food a challenge, done in a rest stop parking lot since the bag for the Crew was given to us as we were getting on the buses, not divided amongst 3 buses.

A recommendation was made concerning stopping for a hot breakfast. Research was done but there are limited restaurants in the towns located about 4 or 5 hours from SBR let alone a 24 hour one. This needs to be researched further.

## Return Meal

Continue to stop at the Hagerstown Golden Corral as the Scout enjoyed the selection of food available.

## Departure / arrival from Monmouth Council:

I could have reported on better plans for the departure from QHSR and our return to QHSR which we did not plan well at all in fact we did not plan it at all. **Many good suggestions were made but when one e-mail arrived I felt this was the best solution which just eliminates QHSR altogether. The suggestion was to use a large parking lot with lighting at a large Mall or similar site. This suggestion makes so much sense that we should write a plan for 2017 using that idea.** The main problem among many with QHSR was that in the past we had two buses and a much smaller group and it was overlooked that we now had three buses and next time we might have four so a mall lot will work best.

## General Departure / arrival Suggestions

Hopefully there will be better coordination at SBR concerning departures of Contingents. Misdirection of a bus and the delays at picking up the Crew at Base Camp Fox Trot lead to major delays in arriving at both Golden Corral and Quail Hill.

**The items mentioned above and Departure / Arrival details illustrate the need for a Contingent Coordinator, whether it's an official title or not. A person who is the point for logistical issues is needed. Each leader was left to our own devices to try and find a solution.**

## **Logo Items**

### Misc. Topics

As I said earlier in this report, in the comments for improving what occurred for the 2010 Jamboree, many things improved but many new challenges were discovered for 2013 as we went along so we had new problems that need to be addressed for 2017 as you will see in what follows.

The committee needs to decide early what items will have the logo and begin to investigate suppliers so as to know where items can be obtained

It was felt by some that the committee decision on colors was ignored.

Many of the decisions about which item to order and what color were eventually made by me (Steven Buckley) after delays resulting from folks not understanding what was being asked or wanting to have other items considered. When asked to select a backpack from those listed many folks went online and sent more ideas. This situation cannot continue and must be resolved responsibly for next time.

Bids from a number of sources were requested and it appeared that the best buys have been from the regular local suppliers. It is suggest we simply begin with them and work through the process with folks we know and understand our situation.

The theme for the 2017 Jamboree Patches and Logo Items needs to be chosen ASAP. It was suggested that the Youth involved in the 2013 Jamboree be consulted and included in the decision. This could be done this fall/winter using the Reunion as a forum to gather ideas and thoughts. An email reminder should go out to the contingent asking for ideas shortly after the jamboree. Others feel that it has not worked well in trying to get youth ideas so this needs additional consideration.

There needs to be an order form for pre order and an additional form for post order for participants. There was some confusion regarding orders after the main order was posted. An out of Council order form needs to be developed clearly stating what can and cannot be purchased and in what quantities. While there was no restriction on the \$100 or \$5 and \$10 Fundraising items or shirts etc. we did restrict the quantities of patches that could be purchased by non-council members so as to protect our youth from traders. The out of Council Pricing should be perhaps twice what participants pay.

It is suggested that the "Council" advertise the preorder items to council members more aggressively. Sales to council members who are not parts of the contingent helps to reduce the overall price of items thereby saving contingent members money.

A listing of those that purchased the \$100 Gold border sets needs to be obtained and these folks need to be contacted once we begin taking orders for 2017.

A more responsive order filling system needs to be put in place. While Marjorie Ramirez was responsible for receipt and recording the orders it was the responsibility of the DE to fill the orders. This resulted in unacceptable delays in filling orders (some orders where over two months before one person received their purchase.) It is suggested that the person receiving and recording the orders also fill the orders once the payment has been verified.

The division of the excess patches among the units worked out well and should be continued.

Scoutmasters need to understand that they are a key element in fundraising for the overall contingent. We need to set up sales tables at various council/district events in order to sell fundraising items.

Troop B238 sold a couple hundred dollars worth of patches while at the Jamboree. The most popular traded set was the 5JSPs and center patch.

### Patch Design

More time should be spent up-front on patch design, pursuing a licensed design concept. At the jamboree some of our Unit Leaders spoke to several leaders who approached various companies (i.e. makers of Pokemon, Marvel, etc.) who had approached the companies, and the companies were very happy to oblige, sometimes even taking on the design and production themselves. This makes for a more popular patch, a better trading experience for the youth, and better interaction amongst the units. One Leader said the beach badge was a nice idea, although he thought we were left with many leftovers despite valiant efforts by Venturing leaders to hand out as many as possible. In fact we purchased 10,000 and we had left about 300. Focus should be on what the patch represents, and the

experience it could elicit, and not solely as an extra fundraising activity (i.e. ordered too many gold sets). It was stated that if we get a company to allow us to use their image that their internal graphics people would be used so they could protect their images.

It was suggested to help the JSP for the Venture group stand out that the Venture symbol be included and this might also work for the troop JSP's as well. It is still hard to understand why National would not allow the actual unit numbers on any of our logo items.

The patches were much better but there was still tension among the group. Some people felt it was hard to get a better patch design. In the end Unit leaders came up with the design but holding a subcommittee meeting to work out the details just did not work. Reduce the various patch designs. Work with OA early to have a consistent set. We should consider getting rid of the different colored borders, recruiter, etc. Get rid of the non-cut set. Make sure there is a full set. There was an issue with the set not having a patch on the bottom. Some traders thought that the set was not complete. If no OA patch for 2017 then change the shape of the center patch to accommodate its absence and leave no blank space.

Venturing patch should have the venturing logo on it. I think designs should incorporate something contemporaneous and those that had contemporaneous figures (i.e. minecraft, Yugiuoh, Dr. Who) were coveted. Suggest going the extra mile to get a licensed character or idea.

#### Day Pack

It was generally agreed that the size and quality of the "day pack" was not suitable. We spent less for these than was in the budget but getting a larger one for what we had budgeted would be better. We gave every scout \$50 from the money we saved. Most participants didn't use the day pack, and before the Jamboree was even over, those who did complained the patch sticker was falling off, and the bag didn't hold up well. There was barely enough room for one water bottle, let alone the lunch we had to carry with us. Some Unit Leaders apologized to our scouts and suggested they leave them home. There were no pockets for the two 1 liter water bottles recommended by Jamboree for lunch. The bladder is less than ideal in this situation, powdered drink mix was provided with lunch that should not be added to a bladder. The color, black, was a poor choice for a hot environment. It might turn out that the real cost of what might be need could be in the \$50 not \$75 range not the \$50 or below range we had planed on.

#### Class B T-Shirts

"T" shirt sizes for the "supplied / free" contingent shirts needs to be reconfirmed prior to placing the order. It is suggested that each of the Unit Leaders be responsible to see that all the members of their "troop" fill out a separate form. The t-shirt design was great and the wicking t-shirts are the way to go. Scouts were trading for Monmouth Council's t-shirt because of the Jersey Devil design. Consider putting something on the back of the t shirt next year like their Unit number.

Troop D418 created their own Troop T-shirt. We included our Troop # on the back of the shirt which made it very easy for the Leaders to spot our scouts in the crowd. We used those shirts at the Trek Day and the stadium shows.

Having more Class B shirts available was great. The Venturers traded them with other Venturers from around the world. We should consider building in the purchase of more into the budget (i.e. fee charged each participant), rather than having them buy more on their own.

The Crew did a roadside cleanup fundraiser, which allowed them to get our own Crew Class B shirts. The back of the contingent shirt was not used. Like the D418 shirt, something identifying us would have been better than a blank shirt, and a small logo on the left chest. There are full-shirt designs that

were utilized by a Council in Seattle that were extremely eye-catching, made relevant to the Seattle area, and was a different design for each unit. They were wicking shirts, but were more expensive, we should invest in what's really used at the Jamboree – the shirts worn every day.

### Logo Item Distribution

It must be determined for next time when to distribute Logo items. Virtually all the logo items and anything else that needed to be distributed to all the participants was sorted for delivery on Friday evening the night before the training day. Never do that again. Sorting and bagging needs to be done at least one week in advance. We had no idea how big a task this would be and it requires at least 10 people.

At the time of the distribution(s) all left over items shall be taken by the Unit Leadership for distribution.

The order form for non unit participants like staff members must have the date of the distribution on it so they know when to come and get their items.

### Jamboree Hat

The hats were not used except for a Troop photo and were poorly chosen. Black was not the approved color and showed a complete lack of common sense. The hats were also not adjustable and a complete waste of money.

One comment was a poor color choice was made as we should pick a bright fluorescent color so we can easily find our Scouts in the crowd.

### Beach Badges

The free beach tags were a hit. Perhaps we could provide stickers for back side with Scout Name and contact info? One Leader said, I very much appreciated the beach tags because I could “reward” scouts that I met who did good deeds, were friendly or who took the time to learn about our patches. I enjoyed being able to give them out.

### **Communications - Council Website**

We should consider having a volunteer be in charge of sending out the communications to everyone as needed and not the Professional Staff Advisor.

### Unit Rosters Crew

The roster lists were essential, but due to the way that National was set up, the Venture crew could not get one list since the venture crew was split among its leaders and National only tracked Crews in groups of 10 and we had 30 or 3 groups. For example, Brian DeShong had one part of the list, Karen Bond and one part of the roster and Jan Rybnicky had one part of the roster. Getting a complete roster at one time was totally impossible. This also made it impossible for the Crew Advisor to see any full Crew information on the National Website.

### Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings could be designed to cover a topic as well (training, patches, etc.). It was suggested more emphasis be put on the Sub-Committee Chairs to be in attendance and provide reports.

### Facebook

Facebook – was very useful. Emails still needed to be sent since not everyone has a Facebook account. Facebook is better in some ways since the info stays on the page and you don't have to go looking through multiple emails. Crew members barely used Facebook to communicate with each other. Not sure the Scouts are really using it any more to communicate on a regular basis. Consider Twitter or other social media means for 2017.

For the Jamboree Committee members, we set up a private Facebook group that was used to share ideas and links leading up to the Jamboree.

For each of the individual units, we set up a private Facebook group and two @monmouthbsa.org email lists (the first was a one-way list for the unit leaders to reach parents and participants, the second was for anyone to reach the unit's leaders). These groups and lists were used to share information about unit meetings, deadlines, and other related information leading up to the Jamboree. The Facebook groups were particularly useful during the Jamboree - unit leaders posted photos and updates throughout the entire Jamboree, allowing parents to quickly interact and follow along with their child's adventure.

### E-Mail

Email lists maintained by council were a great idea but with so many changes they were not always accurate. We need to determine how we can add or subtract individuals easily. Adam was great but he didn't always have the info. Since Adam was on staff at the Jamboree 2 weeks or so before we left this caused a problem while we were at the Jamboree.

Adam commented on the above about editing email lists during the Jamboree - if I remember correctly, I did actually make some changes to the lists while I was already at the Summit (Chris sent me some before he left), but I don't think this actually caused a problem. If anyone wanted to get onto an email list and couldn't, I was not aware.

You are correct in saying that having only one person with access causes a bottleneck, and this will be even more of a problem if the Council-wide Webmaster that follows me isn't as well-versed with Google Apps as I was. A few paragraphs down in the report, I wrote about email lists for the committee, units, etc. I kept that general because it is absolutely not necessary to use the system I used. Google Groups is an alternative that would allow multiple administrators for each list (i.e. unit leaders).

### Newsletters

Newsletters seemed to work well but they are labor intense. We got little participation from the Scouts. Will be easier next time since we have templates to go by now.

### Website

The main component of our public online presence was the Council's Jamboree website (<http://jambo.monmouthbsa.org>). It was created after the 2010 Jamboree and originally contained historical information about Monmouth Council's past contingents. For this Jamboree, we used it to host Committee meeting minutes, budgets, forms, and files for our contingent participants to download.

### Summary

For the 2013 Jamboree, we significantly improved our online communication methods, both within the Jamboree Committee and between Monmouth Council's staff and participants. The vast majority of this improvement can be credited to Adam Gross, our online guru.

Since technology changes so rapidly, who knows what services will be available online in 3-4 years :)

Additionally, working with Monmouth Council's Social Media Team, news from the Jamboree was shared with everyone back home using Monmouth Council's Facebook page, Twitter feed, YouTube channel, and the hashtag #mcjambo.

For the 2017 Jamboree, there are few areas for potential growth:

For communicating within the Jamboree Committee, we can compile email lists for committee members, staff members, and friends of the committee, so that everyone is aware of a universal email list to reach everyone else (and no one has to keep track of which email addresses should be where).

We can also look into a more secure way of sharing files between everyone on the committee. Many emails were sent around with various attachments and it can be difficult to keep track of them all. While it is possible to add password protection to portions of the Jamboree website, the best solution would be to use a service such as Google Drive. This would provide a way for everyone on the Committee to share files with everyone else, all history/versioning would be automatically tracked and searchable, and multiple email attachments would no longer be necessary because everything would always be in once place.

Another area we can explore is getting the staff and youth participants to interact more with social media and share their experiences at the Jamboree. For the 2013 Jamboree, this was a huge focus area for The Summit's marketing department and there is still plenty of room to grow. For the 2017 Jamboree, we can explore ways to educate our youth about the proper use of social media, while still following BSA's Youth Protection policies.

One leader comments that each of the ways we used to communicate information had its short comings so using them all gave us the best hope for getting information out to youth and parents.

As Brian DeShong stated the Jamboree Application for smart phones was a bust – rarely worked, and the social media component was lost on the participants and the maps were poor.

### **Finance**

We need to move this task from the committee chair to a separate individual. Once this is done the finance person needs to go out of their way to get a detailed finance report each month to make sure that no incorrect entries are posted to our account. With this in hand as money comes in and bills are paid this can be compared to the budget to see how we are doing vs the plan.

With the removal of our need to purchase and then resell equipment our ability to budget improved a lot. By May of 2013 we had eliminated almost all the risk items in the budget that our contingency would have been used for because all soft estimates were eliminated with actual expenditures. It was determined that half of the contingency funds set aside could be returned to the Units for spending on the participants as part of Unit discretionary funds which was warmly received by the leadership. The down side was you can't plan well not knowing additional funds would come.

**Final financial figures will not be available until early next year** but from preliminary figures provided by Lee Marconi and revised by Chris Quakenbush I can assure you that this activity ended in a positive financial situation as shown below.

Income of \$206,254

General Expenses of \$191,383

Administrative fee Expense to be paid to Monmouth Council \$10,289

Working Capital remaining \$4,582

We have one major expense left the Reunion Dinner.

We also will continue to sell off our patch inventory.

Even if no patches are sold we will be in the black at about breakeven per our budget for this event.

The Venturers loved the idea of the Jamboree bucks card for spending money which they didn't expect to have. I think the parents liked this too. The drawback was that these cards were given out so we could spend unforeseen extra money we had.

There was some confusion concerning Unit discretionary funds. There were insufficient funds early on for things like Patrol Patches but an overabundance of funds later on that we handed out \$50 gift cards. Managing Unit discretionary funds needs to be improved and better funded at the start. We also need upfront to set a figure adequate for the need. For 2013 the amount was set with what we had left to give them because the process used to set the fee was not based on developing a good budget first but by taking the 2010 fee and adding the additional \$50.00 increase that National was charging.

It was not clear in the week leading up to Jamboree just how much money each Troop had and how they would get those funds. Each Troop ended up with over \$2,000 in discretionary funds. I believe each Troop figured out how much they had. There was no plan on how each Troop was going to hand out or spend \$2,000+ of funds. It is not reasonable to expect volunteers to front this amount of money. The Troops had to push (pretty aggressively) to get gift cards so that we could distribute the funds easily.

The whole situation on Unit discretionary funds got out of control. As time went on way to many good things happened but all towards late spring that increased this amount to a very large number and we had little time left to come up with a good plan on its spending. If we had been better able to forecast this abundance in advance perhaps we could and should have lowered the basic fee charged.

It was stated that it was disappointing that all scholarships were awarded before all members were signed up but this is out of our control as it is a National & Regional funding source.

### **Post Jamboree party**

It had been thought that as part of the fee Unit Pictures would be provided but it turns out that not all units have one that can be used to make copies of.

It is suggested that for the future we should have someone take pictures of the troops prior to boarding the bus for the Summit.

It was decided that the reunion party be held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014. Karen Bond a Crew leader ran this one by her daughter and she thought it was a great idea. In August, some people were away and Jamboree just happened. It would be nice to reunite with old friends.



## Closing Thoughts

### **New Jamboree Site**

This Jamboree moved from the Virginia location at Fort A.P. Hill that we had used since 1981 (8 times) to our new home now owned by the Boy Scouts in West Virginia called the Summit Bechtel Family Reserve (SBR). The risks & opportunities of changing from the A.P. Hill to the Summit in 2013 were many. We had our own challenges repeating the success Monmouth Council has had over the last few Jamborees at the A.P. Hill and a new venue added challenges. I think this is a good change in many ways but we had to accomplish this in only three years between the 2010 Jamboree and 2013 which concerned me greatly. Monmouth Council had to plan to make this new adventure go well and it required a large effort among many people both new to Jamborees and veteran Jamboree folks. Well we did it and in fact we exceeded our goals,

### **International Scout Hosting**

We attempted to be an internal host council again but after many months of inquiry National; announced that all international guests would be housed in the same base camp as Venture Crews so that need went away.

### **Shomer Shabbat troops**

The situation of Monmouth Council continuing to be the Host Council for this group needs to be reevaluated. Monmouth Council should not assume that it should be continued just because we have done it in the past. This needs to be headed by the VP of program and others assigned as support people to review our previous experience of doing this.

Bruce Nyman said we can probably eliminate the Shomer Shabbat liaison position from the Jamboree Committee. Bruce e-mailed them a few times but they were not very interested in collaborating on patches or purchases. They get their program organized after ours so they were behind us.

### **Summary**

I would like to thank the Executive Board under the leadership of President Kurt Kalafsky, Scout Executive Lee Marconi and our Commissioner Edwina Howell for their support of the National Jamboree as our council Key 3 leadership.

In particular I would like to thank our Staff Advisor Chris Quakenbush for a job extremely well done especially with all the new electronic data base registration complications he had to deal with that were new for this Jamboree. It was extremely easy to work with him as he even attended a recent Jamboree as a participant from Monmouth Council. Chris also had to handle details related to the Shomer Shabbat troops which we support as their "Host" Council which was not easy.

I would also like to thank Marjorie Ramirez who handled a lot of patch sales and fee payments as they were received.

Let me also mention that I actually had two other Professional Staff Advisors before Chris got the task and handled it to conclusion. Kathleen Picciano came first as we just got started and then Stacey Ehling who came just in time to help produce a lot of the recruiting materials in the spring of 2011.

This report attempted to provide an overview of my personal, our Professional Staff and the Councils 2010 Jamboree Committee's experiences.

I hope you have found this information informative concerning the activities of the Council's 2013 National Jamboree Committee. In some cases I have included more details than needed and in other areas perhaps not enough. My rationale in preparing this report was to provide enough information in this document so it could be used as a resource for future planning at the expense of keeping it short and concise for the Executive Board.

## **A Personal comment**

### Resignation of Steven Buckley as Jamboree Committee Chair

The first time I became the chairperson of our Monmouth Council Jamboree Committee it was caused by the then chair resigning 6 months before the 2001 Jamboree and it was a rocky start. I have served as the Monmouth Council Chairperson for the last four Jamborees, a committee member starting in 1991 and a Jamboree Troop Leader 93 & 97. So for the better part of 22 years all of this has been a lot of work, good fun and well suited to whatever abilities I may have.

The time has come for me to announce to the Executive Board and to all my Scouting friends my resignation as Chair of our Jamboree committee.

During my 57 years in Scouting I have attended 12 National Jamborees all while living in Eatontown right here in Monmouth Council. I went once as a Scout, two times as a Jamboree Unit Leader and nine times I served on Staff with various assignments. I started as a boy in 1964 going to the Valley Forge Jamboree right here from Monmouth Council as the SPL of one of our contingent troops.

By the time late 2014 / 2015 rolls around and it's time for the Jamboree Committee to start its preparations for the 2017 Jamboree it is very likely that my wife Jean and I would be retired. I cannot in good faith be sure that I would be in a position to lead our committee at that time thus my resignation. Jean and I are planning to spend most of the first few years, as we start retirement, in Greenville SC and summer possibly back in New Jersey in Ocean Grove. I intend to stay active in Scouting in my retirement in the Blue Ridge Council. I hope to possibly work at the area, region or national level on tasks related to the National Jamborees in the future.

It has been a great pleasure, to say the least, to have been able to serve the Scouting community here in Monmouth Council in Jamboree tasks since about 1991 and latter as Chair. You might even say it was my dream position to hold on your behalf.

I have great confidence that Monmouth Council and its volunteer leadership will continue the great Jamboree traditions we have in our Council.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Buckley  
Chair of the Council 2013 National Jamboree Committee

See everyone at the SBR in 2017