



Monthly Newsletter

Pack 208

TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH

December 2022

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org



2022 Pinewood Derby

Time to start thinking about what you want to drive for the Derby this year

More information for this year's event to be provided

Our Pack Meeting will tentatively be on February 19th at the American Legion Hall with the use of the Legion's Screen & projector again. Car Checks will be on the 17th at the Pack Meeting.

Hopefully the District will hold their District Pinewood Derby in March and our winners can go to that event if they want. More details to follow.

January 20th ~ First Pack Meeting in 2022

February 6th ~ Scout Sunday

A Scout is REVERENT. If you don't have a church that you regularly attend, you're always welcome to join either Mr Waterstradt or Mr Raven (St Richard's) for Scout Sunday's services

IF you're interested in working on any of the religious awards please see Mr Waterstradt or Mr Raven for information and help.

(tentative) **Parent & Pal Overnight** @ Camp Miakonda April 23rd & 24th check out details at the Council's website @ www.erieshorescouncil.org/parentpal

Cub Day Camp 2022 @ Camp Miakonda

Scheduled for 5 different weeks in June & July details @ www.erieshorescouncil.org/cdc

(tentative) CDC: Miakonda Webelos Overnight

not scheduled yet, but something to look for... last year in May, tentatively again this year in May future details @ www.erieshorescouncil.org/webover

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Reminder !!

Our Account Number was changed last year to

AS052. 81834 will still be associated with the Troop.

How to get some \$\$ for normal spending.

There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 21st and 28th

Camp Alaska 2022

January 15th & 16th was our overnight Camp Alaska adventure in past years... are we camping again?

Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda

Currently this looks like a one day event on February 12th The District's Winter Camporee is fully scheduled yet, but we're looking at doing the entire weekend anyways in a cabin. More details to follow

The District's Spring Camporee is not scheduled yet, we will keep watching for it and pass that along as soon as we have the information

March 15th is our Spring Court of Honor & FOS

Awards & Recognition time for our Scouts. And our annual Friends of Scouting presentation.

PSR - Summer Camp 2022

July 3rd through July 9th

Nessle Campsite just past Ecology

This year we're looking at "Plan C" dining where we will plan and provide our own meals in camp.

Plenty of time to get ready for our current and future (the Webelos II) Boy Scouts to plan for a week of Camp.

For the parents of our Scouts - if your family needs some help to send your son to camp please let us know. There are discrete ways to help you and your son so he doesn't miss out on camp.



For our new Scouts and their parents, plus as a reminder to our older Scouts and families - if the Swanton School system cancels school for any reason (fog, snow, etc) we will not have the meeting that was scheduled for that evening. If you're not sure, you're welcome to check with us, but if there is no school then there will be no meeting. Safety is first; especially in bad weather.



Two Enemies Discover a "Higher Call" in Battle

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/09/living/higher-call-military-chivalry/> (story excerpts)

The pilot glanced outside his cockpit and froze. He blinked hard and looked again, hoping it was just a mirage. But his co-pilot stared at the same horrible vision.

"My God, this is a nightmare," the co-pilot said.

"He's going to destroy us," the pilot agreed.

The men were looking at a gray German Messerschmitt fighter hovering just three feet off their wingtip. It was five days before Christmas 1943, and the fighter had closed in on their crippled American B-17 bomber for the kill.

The B-17 pilot, Charles Brown, was a 21-year-old West Virginia farm boy on his first combat mission. His bomber had been shot to pieces by swarming fighters, and his plane was alone in the skies above Germany. Half his crew was wounded, and the tail gunner was dead, his blood frozen in icicles over the machine guns.

But when Brown and his co-pilot, Spencer "Pinky" Luke, looked at the fighter pilot again, something odd happened. The German didn't pull the trigger. He nodded at Brown instead. What happened next was one of the most remarkable acts of chivalry recorded during World War II. Years later, Brown would track down his would-be executioner for a reunion that reduced both men to tears.

People love to hear war stories about great generals or crack troops such as Seal Team 6, the Navy unit that killed Osama bin Laden. But there is another side of war that's seldom explored: Why do some soldiers risk their lives to save their enemies and, in some cases, develop a deep bond with them that outlives war?

Those are the kinds of questions Brown's story raises. His encounter with the German fighter pilot is beautifully told in a New York Times best-selling book, "A Higher Call." The book explains how that aerial encounter reverberated in both men's lives for more than 50 years.

Their story is extraordinary, but it's not unique. Union and Confederate troops risked their lives to aid one another during the Civil War. British and German troops gathered for post-war reunions; some even vacationed together after World War II. One renowned American general traveled back to Vietnam to meet the man who almost wiped out his battalion, and the two men hugged and prayed together.

The German pilot who took mercy

Revenge, not honor, is what drove 2nd Lt. Franz Stigler to jump into his fighter that chilly December day in 1943.

Stigler wasn't just any fighter pilot. He was an ace. One more kill and he would win The Knight's Cross, German's highest award for valor.

Yet Stigler was driven by something deeper than glory. His older brother, August, was a fellow Luftwaffe pilot who had been killed earlier in the war. American pilots had killed Stigler's comrades and were bombing his country's cities.

Stigler was standing near his fighter on a German airbase when he heard a bomber's engine. Looking up, he saw a B-17 flying so low it looked like it was going to land. As the bomber disappeared behind some trees, Stigler tossed his cigarette aside, saluted a ground crewman and took off in pursuit.

As Stigler's fighter rose to meet the bomber, he decided to attack it from behind. He climbed behind the sputtering bomber, squinted into his gun sight and placed his hand on the trigger. He was about to fire when he hesitated. Stigler was baffled. No one in the bomber fired at him.

He looked closer at the tail gunner. He was still, his white fleece collar soaked with blood. Stigler craned his neck to examine the rest of the bomber. Its skin had been peeled away by shells, its guns knocked out. He could see men huddled inside the plane tending the wounds of other crewmen.

Then he nudged his plane alongside the bomber's wings and locked eyes with the pilot whose eyes were wide with shock and horror.

Stigler pressed his hand over the rosary he kept in his flight jacket. He eased his index finger off the trigger. He couldn't shoot. It would be murder.

Stigler wasn't just motivated by vengeance that day. He also lived by a code. He could trace his family's ancestry to knights in 16th century Europe. He had once studied to be a priest. A German pilot who spared the enemy, though, risked death in Nazi Germany. If someone reported him, he would be executed.

Alone with the crippled bomber, Stigler changed his mission. He nodded at the American pilot and began flying in formation so German anti-aircraft gunners on the ground wouldn't shoot down the slow-moving bomber. (The Luftwaffe had B-17s of its own, shot down and rebuilt for secret missions and training.) Stigler escorted the bomber over the North Sea and took one last look at the American pilot. Then he saluted him, peeled his fighter away and returned to Germany.

The True Story of Rudolph

A man named Bob May, depressed and brokenhearted, stared out his drafty apartment window into the chilling December night.

His 4-year-old daughter Barbara sat on his lap quietly sobbing. Bob's wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer. Little Barbara couldn't understand why her mommy could never come home. Barbara looked up into her dad's eyes and asked, "Why isn't Mommy just like everybody else's Mommy?" Bob's jaw tightened and his eyes welled with tears. Her question brought waves of grief, but also of anger. It had been the story of Bob's life. Life always had to be different for Bob.

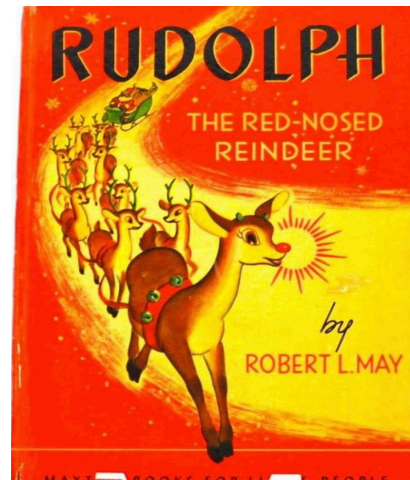
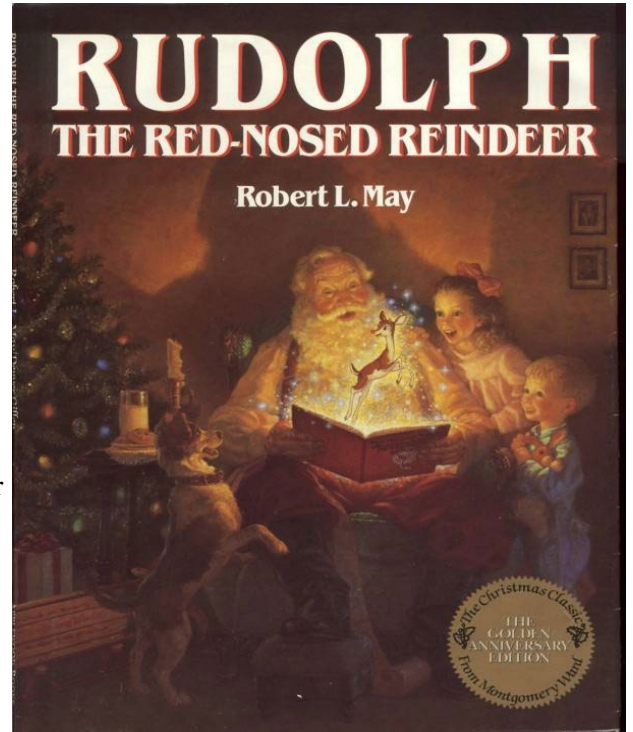
Small when he was a kid, Bob was often bullied by other boys. He was too little at the time to compete in sports. He was often called names he'd rather not remember. From childhood, Bob was different and never seemed to fit in. Bob did complete college, married his loving wife and was grateful to get his job as a copywriter at Montgomery Ward during the Great Depression. Then he was blessed with his little girl. But it was all short-lived. Evelyn's bout with cancer stripped them of all their savings and now Bob and his daughter were forced to live in a two-room apartment in the Chicago slums. Evelyn died just days before Christmas in 1938.

Bob struggled to give hope to his child, for whom he couldn't even afford to buy a Christmas gift. But if he couldn't buy a gift, he was determined to make one - a storybook! Bob had created an animal character in his own mind and told the animal's story to little Barbara to give her comfort and hope. Again and again Bob told the story, embellishing it more with each telling.

Who was the character? What was the story all about?

The story Bob May created was his own autobiography in fable form. The character he created was a misfit outcast like he was. The name of the character? A little reindeer named Rudolph, with a big shiny nose. Bob finished the book just in time to give it to his little girl on Christmas Day. But the story doesn't end there.

The general manager of Montgomery Ward caught wind of the little storybook and offered Bob May a nominal fee to purchase the rights to print the book. Wards went on to print, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and distribute it to children visiting Santa Claus in their stores. By 1946 Wards had printed and distributed more than six million copies of Rudolph. That same year, a major publisher wanted to purchase the rights from Wards to print an updated version of the book.



In an unprecedented gesture of kindness, the CEO of Wards returned all rights back to Bob May. The book became a best seller. Many toy and marketing deals followed and Bob May, now remarried with a growing family, became wealthy from the story he created to comfort his grieving daughter. But the story doesn't end there either.

Bob's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, made a song adaptation to Rudolph. Though the song was turned down by such popular vocalists as Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore, it was recorded by the singing cowboy, Gene Autry. "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was released in 1949 and became a phenomenal success, selling more records than any other Christmas song, with the exception of "White Christmas."

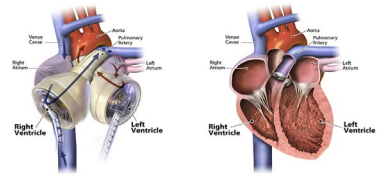
It eventually sold a total of **12.5 million**. Cover versions included, sales exceed 150 million copies, second only to Bing Crosby's "White Christmas". Autry recorded another version of the song in the fall of 1957 and released it the same year through his own record label, Challenge Records.

December Historical & Current Events

www.aboutfamouspeople.com

December 2nd

The first successful artificial heart transplant was completed at the University of Utah Medical Center. The recipient was Barney C. Clark, age 61, 1982



December 3rd

The first American flag was raised aboard the "USS Alfred," 1775



December 4th

General Washington bade farewell to his troops, 1783

December 5th

The Medal of Honor was presented to Captain Roger H.C. Donlon, U.S. Army, for heroism in South Vietnam, the first person to receive the medal since the Korean War, 1964



December 6th

Construction of Washington Monument was completed, 1884

December 7th

Japanese warplanes attacked United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941



December 8th

United States entered World War II, 1941

December 9th

A bill was introduced to create the Congressional Medal of Honor (Navy), 1861

December 10th

The first college basketball game was held, 1896



December 12th

Joseph Rainey became the first black in the House of Representatives, 1870

December 13th

The first savings bank in the United States was organized in Boston as The Provident Institution for Savings, 1817

December 15th

The Bill of Rights went into effect, 1791



December 17th

France recognized American independence, 1777



December 18th

The first celestial photograph was taken, 1839

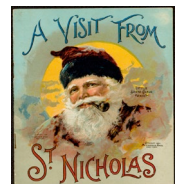
December 21st

The (Navy) Congressional Medal of Honor medal was approved and authorized by Congress, 1861

December 25th

"A Visit From St. Nicholas" (The Night Before Christmas) by Clement C. Moore, was published in New York, 1823

The state of Maryland gave ten square miles for the District of Columbia, 1788



December 24th

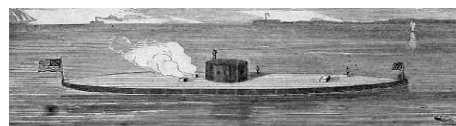
The Methodist Church was organized in America at a conference in Baltimore, Maryland, 1784

December 25th

The first recorded Christmas was celebrated in Rome, A.D. 336

"Silent Night" was performed for the first time at the Church of St. Nikolaus, Oberndorff, Austria, 1818

George Washington crossed the Delaware River, 1776



December 30th

The "USS Monitor" was lost off Cape Hatteras, 1862

December 31st

The Manhattan Bridge, the third span across the East River in New York City was opened to traffic, 1910