



# SOARING EAGLES

A NEWSLETTER OF THE EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION • GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL, BSA

## The Year in Review at the Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual meeting was held at Vago Park. This has been the site of our May meeting due to its central location in



order to encourage more attendance. The purpose was again fulfilled this year as many of our members joined us for camaraderie and fellowship. Beverages were consumed and old friendships were renewed during the time before dinner. There were several displays of pictures from the year's events around the pavilion.

In no time at all, the food was delivered from Bandana's Barbeque consisting of BBQ Chicken, Beef, and Pork with all the usual side dishes. Everyone proceeded through the food line and enjoyed their fill of the delicious food.

Following Dinner, the business portion of the meeting was begun. Mark Weaver exercising his presidential duties at the twilight of his term, introduced the various committee members who gave various reports on the events that took place in the year preceding the meeting. We also heard about upcoming events as well as Larry Knopfel's report on the annual golf

tournament which had taken place just prior to the meeting that month.

As part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saint Louis Eagle Scout Association, Mark unveiled our new ESA Banner. During our sixty years, this is only our third banner adopted by our organization. The new banner was designed by Don Dotson and was



received with great enthusiasm. It will be displayed at all ESA events.

As his final presidential duty, Mark gave thanks to all the members of his board. He showed special appreciation to his officers by presenting them each with a plaque commemorating their position during the year. This was followed by the presentation of the new members of the Board for the upcoming year followed by the passing of the gavel from the retiring president, mark Weaver, to the incoming President, Jeff Kendall. Jeff then outlined his plans for the upcoming year and the meeting was adjourned until our annual meeting in 2008.

## ESA 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 7, 2007 the ESA held it's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at the Missouri Bluffs Golf Club. The move to Missouri Bluffs this year was a major change for the organization. Over ninety players participated and trophies were awarded to a Championship Flight, "A" Flight, and a "B" Flight. Each player was given a gift box containing a cap, medal bag tag, and a ball marker commemorating the event.



The tournament was a success and showed a profit a little over \$9,000. The money will be used to help make improvements to the Boy Scout Camps run by the Greater Saint Louis Area Council. This year the ESA will again hold it's golf tournament at the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course on May 5, 2008. Also plan for the next tournament scheduled for May 4, 2009.

### **The ESA has entered the World of Cyberspace!**

We have acquired our own little part of the World Wide Web at [STLESA.ORG](http://STLESA.ORG). On it you can find out what is going on in the organization, send us information for the Soaring Eagle, and see who is running the program this year. There is also the current calendar and the online copies of the Soaring Eagles. Stop by sometime and send us some comments.

## ESA Gives Trading Post Drainage



Roger McFarland overcoming the dreaded pipe snake

For our annual fall service project to assist the Greater Saint Louis Area Council, the ESA undertook the challenge of the drainage problem in front of the Beaumont Trading post. We started with the dreaded pipe snake which was forced into submission by our Executive Vice President, Roger McFarland. With the assistance of the other members of the association, the drainage pipe was put into place so as to allow the much needed drainage to occur from the trading post to an area much more able to accept the deluge of water which had heretofore accumulated in front of the Trading Post door. This endeavor was brought to fruition by the use of the muscle of many of the ESA members shoveling the rock and earth necessary to allow this drainage project to reach completion.

As with any ESA project, there was time for fellowship and the standard gourmet lunch catered by Ron Simpkins and his culinary assistants.

## First Annual ESA Trivia Night



This year for the first time, the ESA embarked on a new fundraising endeavor. Under the inspiration of Steve Silverstein and Larry Heyman, a trivia Night was undertaken to raise funds for ESA projects. This event was held at the Creve Coeur Community Center.

Donations of many services and products were available as raffle prizes for those adventuresome enough to purchase tickets from our soft sell expert himself, Ron Simpkins.

The crowd had their mental recollection thoroughly tested by the questions about the ten different categories that

were presented. Steve Silverstein acted as our Emcee and delivered the trivia questions. Once the questions were all answered and the points totaled, the prizes were awarded to our winners.

After the crowd had dissipated, and clean-up was completed, several of the members took time out to reflect on the events of the evening and the satisfaction of a job well done.



## Dedication of the Russ Hart Scout Law Plaza



On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Jeff Kendall and Mark Weaver traveled to the S-F Scout Ranch to witness the dedication of the Russ Hart Scout Law Plaza. The event was attended by a number of Russ's family and the entire camp staff. Unfortunately Russ couldn't be at the dedication ceremony but did visit the plaza as soon as he was able. Speakers at the event included John Primrose, Council Chief Executive, Pat Martchink, Director of Camping, Paul Brockland, Past Director of Camping, and Russ Hart's son. The plaza sits in front of the Rand office building at S-F and has in its center a scale color map of the camp and a compass rose all made out of blocks cut to shape. This is set in a field of red bricks which can be inscribed to honor others involved with Scouting. Remounted are the three flag poles, cannon, sundial and the original dedication plaque.

**(Continued on Back)**

Around the edge in gray block are the 12 points of the Scout Law and under each point of the law is a large gray dedication block for major donors. The ESA has its dedication under the 11th point of the law, Clean, as our organization gave a \$5000 donation to the project. Funds raised by the project will be used to help maintain the camp. But the best part came when they unveiled the matching dedication plaque to Russ Hart, his vision for the camp and his great service to Scouting. Next time you are down at S-F it is well worth your time to visit the Russ Hart Scout Law Plaza.



### Upcoming Events:

- May 5 – The Annual ESA Golf Tournament  
The ESA Annual Golf Tournament will be held this year at the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course starting as 11:30 AM. Please contact Larry Knopfel at 636-561-2280 if you wish to play or contribute to a sponsorship.
- May 21 – ESA Annual Meeting  
The ESA will be hosting the Annual May Meeting for the general membership again at Vago Park. We will be served a wonderful meal from Bandana’s Bar-B-Q. Please come and help us welcome our new President and Staff to the program.
- August 9 – Merit Badge Make-up Day

## FINE ESA ACCESSORIES

We still have nice ESA accessories available! 3” patches, beautifully embroidered, are only \$2.00. Lapel pins - brass for \$2.50, special gold “50th” for \$5.00. Ceramic coffee mugs or bill-style caps are also \$5.00 (plus mailing charges for all). To order, please call Ron Simpkins at 314/291-4308, or just see him at most any ESA function.



Do you have any ESA news, or any other item that may be of interest to other ESA members? If so, please send it to us at:

**The Eagle Scout Association,**  
**attn: John W. Bild,**  
**P.O. Box 1055**  
**Florissant, MO 63031**  
 or send it by e-mail to  
**SoaringEagles@stlesa.org.**  
 Thank you!