

Cub Scout Family Campout Hits New Heights at Camp Sam Hatcher

When it comes to excitement, it doesn't matter if you're 3 or 73 when you're experiencing a rocket launch, learning about space exploration, gazing into the heavens to identify planets or even watching as the [International Space Station](#) (ISS) passes overhead.

All this and more was part of the Cub Scout Family Campout at Camp Sam Hatcher this past weekend April 10-12. The theme: "Blast-Off to New Adventures" gave a hint of what was in store for the 300 campers made up of family members along with Leaders and Scouts from Pack 61 Newport, Pack 130 Morehead City, Pack 252 Davis "Down East", Pack 334 Beaufort, Pack 446 Cape Carteret, Pack 460 Havelock and Pack 551 Havelock.

One measure of success in an event like this is the eager participation, the excited pitch of young voices, and the rush to find the very next activity.

Another measure of success is the found in good leadership coupled with advanced planning and utilizing the talents of many qualified volunteers.

For another successful Campout, Croatan Trails District is indebted to Jane & Kevin Treon, Activities Chairman Ernie Giblin, Wayne McCain, Richard Bush, Monica & Tracy Kruse, Maryann & Ed Ryan and their son, William Ryan. Special thanks to Den Chief Shane DeZalia, Troop 272, Luke Smith, Troop 61, and Katie & Maegan Ashby.



Friday afternoon families arrived to set up tents, unpack their gear and acclimate to the tranquil beauty of the Croatan Forest. In contrast, youngsters were eager to explore their surroundings and quickly discovered the [full-size Pirate Ship](#) completed last June 24 with contributions from the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament and the East Carolina Council BSA.

Saturday morning began with a 9:00am with a flag-raising ceremony hosted by Pack 61 of Newport with an honor guard of five Cub Scouts assisted by four leaders.

Scouter Kevin Treon as master of ceremonies warmed up the crowd by acknowledging each the seven Packs and getting them to offer a cheer. He also warned there might be a chance of rain, so he got everyone to sing: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy, when skies are grey... Please don't take my sunshine away." And it worked! the sun came out and the rain stayed away!

Morning "Space Adventures" included: Balloon Space Derby, Rings of Saturn Ball Toss, Straw Rocket Race, Rocket Ship Relay, Stomp Rockets, and at the pavilion, a Paper Airplane making station where you could try out four different styles: arrow, dart, stealth wing and flying ring, also found at: www.funpaperairplanes.com.



At the Counting Jar display, youngsters guessed how many candy bars filled the container (97). Tiger Carson Walker, Pack 446, came closest with his guess of 96.

A Model Rocket Display including five different rockets ranging from three feet to 7 feet was set up by Jim Scarpine, member of a Rocket Club in Durham, NC.

At noon, the excitement really ramped up when Jim Scarpine prepared to launch several high-powered (and loud) solid fuel rockets from the center of the field in front of the flag display. Webelos Michael McNeill, Pack 130, Morehead City, was chosen to launch the very first rocket. After a misfire ("Nothing is guaranteed in model rocketry!") the "Stealth Wing" rocket reached a height of over 150 feet before drifting back and landing just 75 feet away. Several other launches followed and you could smell the black powder and rocket fuel in the air.

Jim Scarpine explained some of the mechanics behind hi-power rocketry and mentioned YouTube videos of [his own launch](#), any by "TomB0667", "QU8K" and even one [amateur rocket blast into stratosphere](#) captured with a video camera attached.

A source for supplies is <http://artapplewhite.com/> and anyone interested in Rocketry can get an online sample copy of [Rockets magazine](#).

Jim called himself a "BAR"; short for "Born again Rocketeer". In the parlance, that's someone who was interested in Rockets as a youth, dropped out of it for a while, but then got back into it as an adult.

After an afternoon of family free time, the Webelos Dutch Oven Cook-Off began at 4 o'clock. Mastering their recipe and technique and coming in first place was Pack 551 with their Apple Crisp. In second place was Pack 61 with their Cheesecake creation.

District Commission Nathan Broce visited the campers for a "meet and greet" and was on hand to view Pack 551's winning Gateway entry.

There was an extra treat in the afternoon when Pack 61 Cubmaster Jeff Adkins broke out a few of his own model rockets which he launched much to the delight of the youngsters who joined in the countdown: "5, 4, 3, 2, 1..."

"I messed with these as a kid," Jeff explained. Each of his rockets deployed a small parachute to bring it safely back for a soft landing. For anyone interested, Jeff showed how to load up the charge, place a starter wire inside, and run the electrical wire to the launcher box. The Rocket demonstration ended when all the charges were used up.

After the 6:45pm Flag lowering, Kevin Treon opened the evening Campfire with some entertainment and then invited the following "Galactic Cheers" from each Pack:

"Pack 61, let's have fun!"

"North, South, East, West, Pack 130 is the best!"

"We're from outer space, how about you? We're Pack 252!"

"Hear us scream, hear us roar, we are Pack 334!"

"We're not the droids you are looking for!" – Pack 446.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how we wished we lived on Mars, Pack 551 Space Cadets!"

ROCKETS

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The “apogee” of the evening (to use a space term) was a Spaceship skit performed by Pack 446 under the direction of “Captain Tom” (Dave McCubbin) and Co-pilot Marty Martz, along with Stewardess Darlene McCubbin and willing victim Josh Faulkenberry as the spacecraft engine experiencing a meltdown. When all else failed, emergency crews were on hand to pour on plenty of foam and buckets of water to avert disaster and make sure the “spaceship” returned safely.

The “Movie Under the Stars” was a 20 minute NASA video of a Space Shuttle Launch with a dramatic audio track you could feel in your chest. Later that evening, at 9:10pm, the International Space Station passed overhead to the southeast.

This Family Campout was such a “high” point, that Scouts are already looking forward to go to the Croatan Trails District Day Camp, June 15-19.



Pack 61 of Newport had the honor of providing the Saturday morning flag ceremony which opened the 2015 Croatan Trails Cub Scout Family Campout at Camp Sam Hatcher. Members of the Color Guard are (left to right, front) future Tiger Cub Aaron Adkins (3 yrs. old), Tiger Ethan Adkins (NC state flag), Bear Keither Blocker (American flag), Tiger Loudon Blocker (CT District flag), Webelos Jeremy Wolsworth (flag raiser), Webelos Kevin Richardson (holding Pack 61 flag), Tiger Den Leader Krystle Adkins, (back row) Cubmaster Jeffery Adkins, Den Chief / Eagle Scout Luke Smith and Webelos Leader Kevin Richardson.



Respect and Honor for our flag brought everyone to attention as they saluted and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.



Pack 446 Tiger Den Leader Darlene McCubbin (center) helped line up these Scouts for the start of the Rocket Ship Relay. Each “rocketeer” propelled their craft by blowing a blast of soap bubbles to make their way around a series of orange cones.



This series of informational posters on the Solar System, Planets, Moons, Asteroids and Constellations also included the requirements for the [Astronomy Belt Loop](#).



Kevin Treon helps Scouts prepare their paper rockets for the Stomp Rocket Course.



Constructed of 1 inch pvc and a plastic soda bottle, these Stomp Rockets were a hit.



The Rings of Saturn Ball Toss was operated by sisters Katie and Meagan Ashby for Scout siblings (left to right) Milo Davis-Taylor, Cooper Gossert and David O'Brien.



Ian Lau wrote down his guess to win a jar full of candy bars – winning number was 96.



Scouts used their lung-power to blow up a balloon and carefully hold it pinched off while it was taped to a straw on a fishing line. On the countdown “3-2-1 Blast Off”, they released their grip and the balloons raced the length of the course to the finish. Getting ready to race are Pack 446 Scouts Ian Lau, Trevor O’Brien and Chance McCubbin.



Even blowing up balloons can be a spirited source of competition among Scouts.



The Paper Airplane station provided explicit plans to create four different styles: arrow, dart, stealth wing and flying ring, found at: www.funpaperairplanes.com



Pack 61 Gateway included suspended planets and a "Saturn's Rings Toss" game.