

Families Have a Blast at Pack Meetings

Becky and Lorin Jones add a creative touch to Pack events

By Dianna Troyer

Cub Scout pack meetings are rarely routine when Becky and Lorin Jones help with their creative ideas. Instead of simply shooting off a bottle rocket, Lorin tops it off with a parachute and skydiver.

“We both like to think of ways to make the pack meetings interesting for the Cubs and their whole family,” says Becky, committee chairwoman of Malta Pack 28. “If I have an idea, I tell Lorin, and he can make just about anything I come up with work.”

Using his scroll saw or welder, Lorin has made Boy Scout emblems for table decorations, wooden frogs and Model T cars for the Turtle Race, and a flag pole stand from a used brake disc.

For the rockets, Lorin cut a wooden figurine of a Cub Scout and attached it to a small parachute made from a plastic grocery sack.

“The kids love trying to catch the skydiver when he comes down,” Lorin says.



Lorin Jones sets up a plastic bottle rocket using a 2-liter bottle and compressed gas.

To make bottle rockets, Cubs invert a 2-liter pop bottle filled with a little water. The bottle is attached to a compressor and filled with air to make it blast off.

“They fly well above the utility poles,” Lorin says.

Besides having a blast with the bottle rockets, Becky says the Cub Scouts look forward

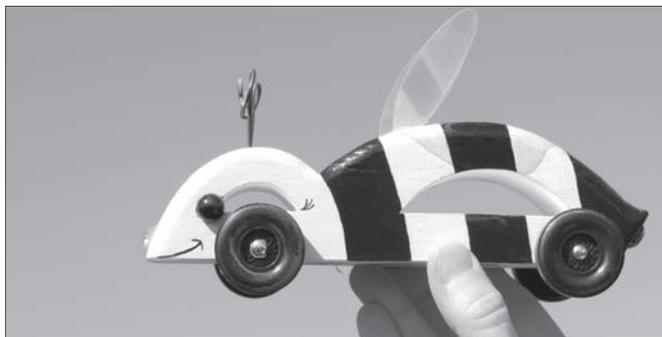
to the autumn programs: a fitness event in October and a carnival in November.

Later in the year, they go Christmas caroling, race boats in a rain gutter regatta, practice safety at a bike rodeo, and make and race pinewood derby cars and rocket ships.

While it is gratifying to see the boys’ enthusiasm at

the meetings, Becky says it is more satisfying to watch them develop as they progress through the program from ages 8 to 10 or second to fifth grades.

“At those ages, they’re so excited about what they’re learning, whether it’s tying knots, science experiments, knife safety or performing in



a skit or magic show,” says Becky. “You can see them gain self-confidence as they complete their requirements for Wolf, Bear and Webelos.”

Their ultimate goal is to earn the Arrow of Light and Youth Religious Square Knot.

“They’re thrilled when they do it,” says Becky. “They’re all smiles at the awards ceremony. Whatever our activities, we hope they’re learning to do their best, to do their duty to God and country, help others,

be leaders, build character, and to be self-motivated, respectful and persistent.”

As committee chairwoman, Becky coordinates administrative tasks, schedules programs and tracks each Cub’s required activities. Since starting as committee chairwoman in 2011, she has kept meticulous handwritten charts and records for about 73 boys.

“Leaders have told Becky, ‘You’re a perfectionist and keep us going,’” Lorin says.



Clockwise from bottom, Becky Jones entered a bee-inspired car in a recent derby. She keeps meticulous records to make the job easier. The Jones’ grandson, Nathan, earned his Arrow of Light award and holds a wooden cutout Lorin made for the occasion. Lorin says the Scouts enjoyed trying to catch his small wooden paratrooper as it fell from a bottle rocket.

When Becky became chairwoman, she says she was nervous.

“I didn’t know much about the program because we have five girls,” she says.

Although not a Cub Scout Master now, Lorin was one in the mid-1990s, devoting himself in his spare time from farming. Lorin enjoyed working with the boys.

“Between the two of us, we’ve been involved for quite a few years,” says Lorin. “It’s been fun.”

As she became involved, Becky learned of the behind-the-scenes responsibilities required for planning meetings, keeping updated records and keeping the leaders updated on their training.

The Scout leaders meet monthly at a district roundtable in Burley for training and activity ideas throughout the year, which begins in September to coincide with the school year.

“Locally, we have great leaders who make it all

happen,” Becky says. “We love to see the families coming to the pack meetings the second Tuesday of the month. Then at the den meetings on Wednesdays, the boys come individually to work on badge requirements.”

A popular family event is the Cubanapolis 400. Cub Scouts hold up cardboard boxes around them they have decorated to look like cars.

“They run laps around a gym and pause after each lap at their pit stops with their family,” Lorin says.

To fuel up, they eat crackers and drink juice through a straw. To change a tire, they put their socks on inside out. To keep their windshield clean, they wash their safety glasses.

“Whatever they’re doing, it makes us happy to see the boys earn their badges,” says Lorin.

“We’ll be involved as long as we can,” Becky says. “We’re glad to help and watch them grow up and move into Boy Scouts.” ■