

Sea Scout Ship 681
Old Ironsides
July 28, 2016

Ship 681 has been having a successful summer so far. Last month we held a smashing recruitment event here at AYC. It was wonderful to have all the resources so close. We started the day off cleaning off one of our boats, a 23 ft. Hunter, using AYC's lift and hoses. After lunch in the clubhouse we got a large group of youth out on the water on our two 420s. It was a bit windy but everyone had a great time. We had the Hunter out as a chase boat motoring around. Finally, after a long day we came in and had a satisfying dinner with some of our greatest supporters. All in all we had a wonderful event and gained another member. I just want to thank AYC for giving us this wonderful opportunity to explore our talents and enjoy the elements.

The Ship has also been able to serve the other ships around us. The Hunter I mentioned was donated to us and we have made great use of it. Many scouts have learned how to sail and improved their skills on it, but we have made the decision to move it along to another owner. In San Antonio there is Sea Scout ship that is just starting out and need a boat, just as we did when we were starting. They are considering their options and hopefully they will take it on in the next few months. I can't think of a more appropriate move it on. If we are ever in need of a bigger boat, we have certified sailors who can use Captain Polly's boat and others have offered us rides here at AYC.

Another activity that the Ship is planning to attend in August is an event called Not an Ordinary Weekend. Hosted by Capital Area Council, it is a weekend where Sea Scouts can come to learn and practice their skills. The name, Not an Ordinary Weekend or NOW, is a play on words spawned from the Sea Scout rank "Ordinary". The funny thing is, NOW is mostly based around the Ordinary rank. Anyway, someone thought it was funny. NOW is an event that prepares ships for Minto Rendezvous, an event held in September that tests the ships skills, teamwork, and time management by competing with up to 25 other ships from around the Southern Region.

In conclusion, Ship 681 has, and will continue having a great summer thanks to the efforts of our crew and the fantastic people here at AYC.

- Heidi Schuttger - Bosun - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides