

# Sea Scout Ship 681 - Old Ironsides

## July 26, 2018

The month of July has been pretty quite around Austin.

Most of our Scouts are out of town at one event or another or family vacation time.

Our oldest Scout spent 10 days on Galveston Bay taking the Sea Scout Experience in Advanced Leadership (SEAL) course. This is 10 days of working with a crew you don't know, swapping out responsibilities of Bosun, Navigator, Helmsman, deck hands and look-out. Before arriving for the course you have to pass a 100 question Mariners exam covering all topics nautical from knots, weather, helm commands, navigation, piloting, rules-of-the-road, day and night sailing/motoring, light identification, ATON's and buoys, anchoring, etc. The candidate must also outline the complete Sea Scout manual Chapter on Operations and Safety. Candidates must already be proficient at sailing as this is primarily a leadership course. They spend a week on a 44' boat performing all hands on skills and include man-overboard, fire and abandon ship drills. They learn how to work as a team, and train each other in Sea Scout skills, all of which they bring back to their home ships to enhance the local program. We have now had 3 Sea Scouts to complete this course with high scores.

Another of our Sea Scouts spent a week at Worth Ranch in Palo Pinto county. The Fort Worth based BSA Council hosts this annual week long training event to train Scout Summer Camp aquatics staff in the teaching of Swimming, Life Saving, Canoeing, Rowing and Public Speaking merit badges. Also included are the Mile Swim and BSA Life Guard training. Similar to SEAL in that the attendees learn to work as a team and develop teaching and presentation skills.

We have plans to participate in the next Moon Burn race and possibly camp overnight on our boat and move our shed on Saturday morning.

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides