



In Memory of Ken Metz

Troop 850 suffered a great loss on Tuesday, November 24 with the untimely death of Ken Metz by an apparent heart attack on the eve of his 66th birthday. Ken was the longest-serving Assistant Scoutmaster in the Troop's 52-year history, having joined the Troop along with his son John in 1984.

Ken was a lifetime resident of western Cincinnati. He was an active Scout in his youth, achieving Eagle Scout rank and working as a camp counselor at Camp Friedlander. Ken attended St. Xavier High School and Xavier University where he received both undergraduate and graduate degrees. He served in the Army Reserves for a number of years, and taught generations of physics students as a professor at the Ohio College of Applied Science.

Ken loved vigorous outdoor activities and was an expert backpacker, kayaker, canoeist, skydiver, pilot, and scuba diver. His lifetime love of backpacking began with his trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in the late 1950's. In recent years he led an annual cave diving expedition to the Yucatan peninsula, and was scheduled to do so again this December.

Upon joining Troop 850 in 1984, Ken promptly stepped up as an active Assistant Scoutmaster. As his son John advanced toward his own Eagle rank, Ken served the Troop by providing aid in organizing its monthly camping trips and, in 1987, assumed the role of High Adventure Coordinator. That year he coordinated a week long canoe trip on the Au Sable River in Michigan. Even after Ken's son John made Eagle in 1992 and entered college and then a career as an architect, Ken remained active with the Troop, planning each summer's High Adventure Trip after 1987, including our backpacking trip in the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming this past summer.

Not only did Ken organize 22 High Adventure trips between 1987 and 2009, he went on 21 of them, missing only one due to his mother's illness. Ken inspired a generation of young men — and their fathers! — to love the active outdoor life. All of the Troop's current leaders learned most of what they know about outdoor adventures from Ken, and Ken's legacy will live on through the continuation of the High Adventure program he started. Ken's sudden death was a terrible shock to all of us and we'll miss him greatly.