



From left, Jon Gross, Michael Yeung, Matt Kaiser.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left to right, Michael Young, John O'Connell, Jon Gross, Kevin Bock, Connor Foody, Matt Kaiser

Boy Scout Troop 382 conquers Jennings Peak

By John O'Connell

TENDERFOOT SCOUT AND 6TH GRADER

As I looked down the steep face of the cliff I gaped in awe at the sight; there were trees as far as the eye could see. Here was Troop 382, on Jennings peak one fine October afternoon looking at the amazing vistas.

Boy Scout Troop 382's fantastic trip began somewhat mundanely with a drive to the Osceola Vista campground in Waterville Valley, N.H. Though the weather was chilly the troop unpacked their gear, cooked dinner, and turned in early, so that everyone would be well rested. The next morning was chillier than the prior night but luckily the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) and Patrol Leader, the senior scouts on the trip, had brought delicious pancake mix to fuel our bodies for the day. We had our pancakes, washed the dishes and started to pack our packs for the challenging hike that lay ahead of us.

After we drove to the trailhead everybody unloaded their packs from the cars, put on gloves and hats and we were off. The morning was cool and clear and luckily there wasn't a breeze. The troop enthusiastically marched along

the first part of the trail, which was wide and not very steep, though as we hiked further the trail became steeper. Our troop surprisingly didn't slacken its pace and marched on. We stopped to take a break next to a beautiful stream we'd been following, then we hiked further until we found the perfect lunch spot; next to a stream with a small island in the middle, protected from the wind by the trees and with the sun peeking through the trees' branches. We were all hot and sweaty after several hours of hard hiking so we took off our coats, only to discover that the cold mountain air chilled our bodies quickly as soon as we stopped exercising.

After about four hours of hiking along the shady, tree covered trail we finally reached Jennings Peak and could enjoy both the views and the warm sunshine on the treeless, rocky summit. We all felt

rather tired but the satisfaction of reaching the peak was obvious on our faces. We had some candy to boost our energy levels and stared at the views of trees and mountains stretching out before us. We couldn't stay long and still finish the return hike in the daylight, though before we left we paused for a group picture to prove that we had conquered the peak.

When we returned to our campsite after a rather tiring day we cooked our dinners, had a campfire, and roasted marshmallows, which served as a relaxing way to finish an exhausting day. The next morning started with chocolate chip pancakes and another campfire to keep us warm until the sun came out. After this we packed away our tents, then cleaned up the campsite to the scout standard of "leave no trace."

Troop 382 will continue its activities throughout the colder months with an urban hike through Boston in December and a region wide freezeout (winter camping) in January. For more information about these activities, and to see pictures of our Mount Jennings hike and of previous events, please visit www.troop382westborough.org.



From left to right, Michael Young, Connor Foody, Matt Kaiser, Kevin Bock.