

## **ROB STERBA**

**Troop One Scoutmaster**

**Tenure Dates: 1992-1997**

As I am writing this and reflecting on Rob Sterba, it breaks my heart that very few people in this Troop know who he was. Mr. Sterba was a son, brother, father, husband, scoutmaster and friend. I knew him since I was 15 years old and his oldest son and I were in Boy Scouts together. We were in a very large troop with over 100 scouts and was like a fast train and, unless you were a great student, clean-cut, well-behaved scout, the train would leave you standing back wondering "what just happened?"

Rob decided to start Troop One at his new church home that was being built, Sandia Presbyterian Church. Rob wanted the troop for a few reasons: 1) To spend more time with his own boys; 2) To bring the Scouting program to a new area of the city; and, 3) He wanted all boys (short, fat, tall, white, black, long hair, short hair, A student, F student) to have a place where they could come and be themselves and grow. He would say "They are having fun and learning how to be responsible without knowing it." Mr. Sterba was also a woodworker and he built the first Troop chuck boxes and the first Troop One Klondike sled (both of which are in the shed). In addition to building the Troop equipment, he built all the furniture by hand that is in the church on the altar, including the cross. Mr. Sterba did not have high hopes for Troop One. He had hopes it would stay around until his youngest son, Nate, would earn Eagle. I don't think he ever thought it would be around 20 years later. Mr. Sterba died in the fall of 2005 and is greatly missed by me.

One of the funny memories that stand out with Mr. Sterba was on the Klondike Derby where there was a good 3 feet of snow. The scouts were cold and came to Mr. Sterba and said they were cold. He said to walk around, so off they went. They came back 30 minutes later and said they were cold. Mr. Sterba said, "Keep walking." So, again, off they went. They came back another 30 minutes later and said they were hot. Mr. Sterba said to sit down. They sat down and started to play chess and they were fine the rest of the trip. Mr. Sterba had a very caring, fatherly disposition with all the scouts. He loved them, supported them and disciplined them when they needed it. I know for a fact that the day Mr. Sterba threw a pebble in this ocean of life, he had no idea 20 years later, Troop One would have produced many Trustworthy, Loyal, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent men. I will always be thankful Mr. Sterba started Troop One, and for being the excellent role model to me throughout my young life.

~~submitted by Mr. Meyer

