

LIFE-ALTERING ACCIDENT CAN'T KEEP VOLUNTEER LEADER FROM HIS DUTY

By Sandra J. Pennecke
Correspondent

BAYSIDE

Boy Scouts vow to be trustworthy, loyal and brave, among other characteristics. A local volunteer leader displayed those traits by not letting a life-altering accident stop him from the commitment he made to the boys many years ago.

Tim Rarick is a committee chairman and one of two main leaders in Troop 375, chartered by Old Donation Episcopal Church.

Rarick, a Pembroke-area resident, has been volunteering with the Boy Scouts since 1996 and proudly watched his own son, Chris, now 27, achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

"I saw many of them from brand new Scouts to today," Rarick said. "It's very rewarding and satisfying, especially to see the ones who make Eagle Scout."

On the afternoon of Dec. 3, Rarick was on his motorcycle heading home from work

See RARICK, Page 16



COURTESY PHOTO

Tim Rarick, center, Troop 375 committee chairman who lost a leg Dec. 3, with Christian Sorenson, left, and Josiah Winter.



COURTESY PHOTO

Josiah Winter high-fives Tim Rarick, who teleconferenced from his hospital bed on Dec. 27 so he could participate in Eagle Scout reviews for Winter and Christian Sorenson.

RARICK

Continued from Page 1

on a local highway when he crashed.

"I'd been riding for 10 years and I'd ridden that road countless times," Rarick said. As he reached the top of a slight incline in the roadway, Rarick was met with stopped traffic on the other side. With no time to stop, he careened into the vehicle in front of him.

"It was an unexpected thing; there was no way to see it coming," said the 52-year-old who spent the next four weeks in Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. He suffered a broken hip, broken left forearm and the amputation of his left leg above the knee.

"The Scouts were very supportive to me and my family; a lot came to see me in the hospital," Rarick said.

But it was Rarick who, despite his injuries, made sure he was able to be a part of the Eagle Scout board of review for Christian Sorenson and Josiah Winter.

"The boys wanted to get their board of review done before the end of the year," Rarick said.

Other Scout leaders wanted to make sure Rarick was in on the process, as he'd always been.

So, on Dec. 27, a laptop computer and phone beside Rarick's hospital bed allowed him to participate via teleconference.

During the board of review, which normally takes an hour or longer, the boys' paperwork is looked over, along with their advancements, merit badges, projects and letters of recommendations. Leaders also interview the scout.

Both 11th-graders at Ocean Lakes High School, Christian, 16, and Josiah, 17, completed their Eagle Scout

projects as follows: Christian built a floor and support joist system in an animal pen at Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge; Josiah replaced the main entrance sign at First Landing State Park.

"I am honored that Mr. Rarick went to the trouble to be on my Eagle Scout board of review from the hospital," Josiah said. "The event is a testament to Mr. Rarick's personal capacity, but his tenacity comes as no surprise to those who know him."

For now, Rarick said he is adjusting and waiting for his body to heal so he can be fitted for a prosthetic. He has started back to his work, in computers, part-time.

As for his future in Boy Scouts, Rarick said he will remain with the troop, at least a little while longer. "I enjoy being a part of it," he said.

Sandra J. Pennecke,
Pennecke@cox.net