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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

Scouting



POWDER PLAY

Scouts enjoy a weekend of skiing at a fraction of the cost.

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Scouting

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BY MARK RAY

The legacy of Green Bar Bill lives on.



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The Chief recalls the big impression William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt left on him and Scouting.

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Check out what wiener dogs, Bigfoot and superheroes have in common in January's issue. In February, *BL* follows Order of the Arrow members working at a Florida National High Adventure Sea Base program. Plus, Boy Scout-aged readers learn about teamwork and wilderness survival skills taught at the West Point Camporee.

ABOUT THE COVER: Tysan Tuck from Troop 1207 in Helena, Mont., sports a snowy helmet and goggles, thanks to an early morning storm. Read about the skiing adventure Scouts from his troop and others had in Montana on page 22. Photo by W. Garth Dowling.

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PETER O'TOOLE; W. GARTH DOWLING; COURTESY OF JOSE GALETTI

IN THE NEWS

Eagle Scout Helped Make Selfies Possible

The latest iPhones and Androids are mere millimeters thick but contain cameras capable of capturing magazine-quality photos.

It wouldn't be possible without Eagle Scout Eric Fossum.

In 1992, Fossum developed the little sensor that allowed cameras to be smaller, cheaper and gentler on battery life. It's called the complementary metal oxide semiconductor image sensor, or CMOS sensor, but most people don't even know it's there. They just know their smartphone, webcam or other small device with a camera takes photos better than the ones giant cameras could take decades ago.

Fossum developed the CMOS sensor while working at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. He figured the sensor would have applications beyond deep space, but he said he's been surprised by all its modern uses, including smartphone selfies and cameras that can look inside your body.

In 2017, Fossum was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Prize, a British award that honors groundbreaking innovations in engineering. He said he hopes his story and his award will encourage young people, like Scouts, to pursue education and careers in STEM fields like engineering.

"In school, children are often taught to get the right answer, but in engineering and invention, you don't often get the right answer at the right time," Fossum told *Time* magazine. "It took us several years to get CMOS right, and that was just in the research lab. ... You have to repeat and try again. It's really important for students and teachers to learn and understand that lesson."

Fossum learned that lesson early on, as a member of Troop 94 of Simsbury, Conn., part of the Connecticut Rivers Council. He became an Eagle Scout at age 14 — on May 9, 1973 — and went on to earn degrees from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and Yale University.

In August, Fossum became a Distinguished Eagle Scout (photos are from the ceremony). The award recognizes Scouts who earned Eagle at least 25 years ago and have received national-level recognition or fame within their field.

Jack O'Toole, an Eagle Scout who helped present the award, said Fossum is "an amazingly successful scientist and a great person. I think that he would be an inspiring example to Scouts." — *Bryan Wendell*



MICHAEL J. LABBE (3)