

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

I have been very privileged to work with an impressive string of Senior Patrol Leaders during my time as Scoutmaster. I'd like to recognize and thank Jasper W. for the outstanding job he did as SPL during the past term. The paddle he won for leading us to victory in the Fantasticade at Camp Emerald Bay will soon be proudly mounted in our display case. While there's no similar object to display for his other accomplishments as SPL, including leading Scouts in feeding the men in the homeless shelter, the way he shaped the troop will be remembered and appreciated for a long time. Thank you, Jasper!

Wesley L. has just taken the reins as our new SPL, and already I can see that he is continuing the Troop 476 tradition of excellent junior leadership. Wesley is not exactly an unknown quantity to me...I've known him since he was about 4 years old (I think he was a little shorter back then, or maybe he just had shorter hair).

Parents of our younger Scouts can take encouragement from Wesley's story. As a Webelos II, when he and his fellow denmates bridged from Pack 492 into the troop, he was not particularly interested in camping, Scouting, or leadership, and he nearly dropped out during his first year as a Boy Scout. After about a year he started getting more active and interested. It grew and grew until he was going on every campout, including high adventure and Bristlecone. His fellow Scouts came to respect him as a camper and elected him to the Order of the Arrow, and since then he has been taking on challenging junior leader positions—all the way to SPL.

Wesley has been on more campouts than any Scout in the troop, last summer passing John W., then Trevor G., and finally even that mythical camper Kevin D. Wesley has spent 122 nights camping so far, and like the Energizer bunny he's still going....and going... Although his early lack of interest in water treks was

washed away while whitewater rafting at Cache Canyon—he's going to Northern Tier next summer—Wesley's favorite outdoor adventure is backpacking. The only way he could love backpacking more would be if he could find a way to skip the part about getting out of his sleeping bag in the morning, and go straight from being asleep to being on the trail.

Despite that annoying necessity, Wesley has managed to log 300 miles while backpacking or hiking on our treks. Think of it...that's like backpacking to Camp Hi-Sierra—and back! He'll be starting on his second lap this weekend when we go to Castle Rock. I'll be going too. Who wants to join me in walking in Wesley's rather large footprints as he leads the troop to Castle Rock and points beyond in the coming months?

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

In the beginning there was Lord Baden-Powell, the hero of the siege of Mafeking in the Boer War. He wrote *Scouting for Boys* and started the Boy Scout movement in Britain.

And there was Ernest Thompson Seton, who wrote stories about wildlife, designed woodcraft games for boys, and was the chief scout in what was shaping up to be an American Scouting movement. And there was William Boyce, who was so impressed by an unknown English Scout who helped him find his way on a foggy night in London, and then refused a tip, that he decided to bring Scouting to America. And Daniel Carter Beard, first Scout commissioner. And James D. West, first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

And there was a young Dane, in his twenties, floating around the fledgling BSA program, right in the mix of all of these other men. He was head strong and sure of himself. He was one of the first

boys in the world to have experienced Baden-Powell's new movement, and was about to become one of the greatest contributors to the development of youth in modern history.



Bill Hillcourt became the hero of millions of boys and adults. He introduced the patrol method to America, wrote more than thirty books on Scouting and the outdoors, and played the most prominent role in developing the program of Scouting for decades.

His handbooks and BOYS LIFE articles defined the Scout movement for millions of boys spanning decades. His Boy Scout Handbooks have been published in copies by the millions and translated into dozens of languages throughout the world; it has been estimated that those Scout Handbooks were only out numbered by Dr. Spock's Baby Book and the Bible in total circulation.

Many people could tell the story of William Hillcourt. Perhaps, given his prolific literary contributions to the organization, it is most appropriate that he be remembered with his own words. If you get a chance, look up Hillcourt's very brief memoir, The Life of a Serendipitist on the internet. It is a fascinating read.

—Karl Darr
Committee Chair

2005 Cookie Sale Highlights

-50% participation (down from 70% in 2004)

- Total of 376 items sold (compared to 578 in 2004)

Highest Sellers

Ben H. (30 items sold)
Victor S. (26 items sold)
Kevin C. (20 items sold)
Andrew E. (20 items sold)
Devin S. (20 items sold)

Patrol Participation

Jaguars	83% (5.7 items per Scout)
Redwoods	80% (16.4 items per Scout)
Rangers	63% (6.2 items per Scout)
Timberwolves	55% (6.6 items per Scout)
Orion	44% (2.7 items per Scout)
Scorpions	40% (4.3 items per Scout)
Cobras/Tigers	33% (4.2 items per Scout)
Condors	33% (4.0 items per Scout)
Eagles	33% (2.0 items per scout)

Prizes for the top sellers:

Ben - a \$15 REI Gift Certificate
Victor - a \$10 REI Gift Certificate
Kevin - a \$5 REI Gift Certificate
Andrew - a \$5 REI Gift Certificate, and
Devin - a \$5 REI Gift Certificate
Also, the Jaguars and each of the top sellers received pizza.

Thanks to everyone that sold cookie dough and other goodies this year!

—Kevin C.

Important Websites

Troop 476 http://www.troop476.com	Santa Clara Council http://www.sccc-scouting.org/	National BSA http://www.scouting.org
--	--	---

Santa Clara County Council BSA Troop 476
10120 N. De Anza Blvd
Cupertino, CA 95014
Goat Editor: Susan Gibes
Phone: 408-730-5519
Email: SEGibes@aol.com

Scouting For Food

Troop 476 collected 1,795 pounds of food this year, 400 pounds more than last year.

Although the initial sign-ups fell short, Muru asked for additional adult and scout participation; Mr. Gabriel informed everyone that they could participate in both Castle Rock and Scouting for Food;

and they got an encouraging response.

This was the first year that scouts and their families were asked to donate food in addition to that collected. The troop family contributions made a significant difference in the amount of food collected.

Our adult trek leader, Murugesan Sinnassamy, e-mailed his thanks to the

troop and we extend our thanks to him for taking on and doing such a big job so well. Thanks, also to Kevin C., our scout trek leader for his hard work on this extensive, but meaningful, service project.

—Sue Gibes
Editor - The Goat

Working On Trevor's Eagle Project

Early one slightly cold morning, a number of people got up to work on an ark, a large container which holds some of Cupertino's emergency supplies, at Valco, just a few hundred or more feet from Benihana. The task? Perform some maintenance on this ark and inventory its supplies. So, armed with wire brushes, people set to work scraping rust off of the ark. Then came the washing, and it wasn't uncommon to see a dropped sponge when someone stretched to far out on a ladder. After the washing was finished, the

messiest process of ark maintenance took place. Priming was, by far, easily the messiest task we had to accomplish. It was still fun though. The entire ark (and some of the ground around it) turned white. We rested while the primer dried. As all this work took place, people got inside the ark to tally up the supplies, which, surprisingly, showed that Cupertino had more wrenches than water bottles in its emergency inventory. On top of that, the ark was generally disorganized and very dark. Why would we need so many

cervical collars anyway? When the primer finally dried, the actual paint was sprayed on. While the paint was sprayed, others began to work on the other sides of the ark. Finally, when the paint was sprayed on all four sides of the ark, the job was finished, and everyone could go home. The best part is I can still see the results of this project at Valco!

—Ernest C.
Troop Historian

Alcatraz Island

On October 29-30, 2005, Troop 476 went on an exciting trek – Alcatraz Island! Alcatraz Island is an isolated island out in the middle of San Francisco Bay. It used to be a military barrack and was subsequently converted into a prison. But who can imagine that nowadays it has become one of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's popular resorts for its past unusual inhabitants and breath-taking scenery.



Altogether thirty-three people contentedly attended the trek. Twenty-three scouts escorted by ten adults met at St. Joseph's School's parking lot at around 11:30 a.m. on October 29. After all the attendants showed up, we drove to Pier 45, San Francisco, followed by Pier 41 and then took the "Blue-Gold Fleet" to reach our final destination of Alcatraz Island. The moment we stepped on such a mysterious island, we have already loved

it at first sight and could not wait to start our adventures on Alcatraz Island Prison.

With our foods and gears unloaded, Benny Baton, our tour guide, gave us a warm welcome and an interesting but educational briefing regarding the island's history and its values. He then told us that our service project was to help clean up unwanted wastes and leaves on the island. We distributed our job loads efficiently. It was quite amazing to see how the adults and scouts cooperated so well to get the jobs done in a twinkling. Subsequently, we had an audio tour, which displayed vividly the island's history and its inhabitants with a focus attention on the prisoners and their cells. I thought it was quite fascinating how the background music of the audio tour improvised with the real world around us then.

Then the joyful supertime came. We had BBQ and many patrols chose to have hamburgers and hot dogs as their main course. We all felt very relaxed and delighted during this mealtime since we could socialize, play and have the tasty foods simultaneously. We had an exciting and real tour right after the supper. Led by Benny, we explored many secret spots such as the gun gallery, the kitchen, the prisoner' cells and even the forbidden areas that are usually closed for the general visitors. Some of us particularly

enjoyed the very end of the tour – the underground of the Old Citadel. Gradually we realized what a prisoner's life was like long time ago.

The climax of the day came when we had to choose the cells to sleep. We mainly selected the cells of the D-Block. Some scouts were very adventurous to get Cell #42 because it used to hold a notorious criminal! Obviously, some of us were too excited to sleep and still chatted with each other or played around for a while. At 11:00 p.m., everyone hit the sack and had their most unusual night in a prisoner's cell!! That was indeed an unforgettable experience to everyone!

In the end of the trip next day, we had a Scout's Own with everyone showing their sincerest gratitude to God for giving us the most awesome and inspirational trek. Almost everyone desired to have this trek again next year. We thanked Benny Baton for the great job he has done to present us such a unique island resort with historical values. Then, we headed home, enjoying every moment we had on the island and wishing we can all explore the Alcatraz Island again soon.

— Eric H.
Troop Historian

Advancement Report – Merit Badges

Personal Fitness*:

Erickson, Andrew 10/01/05

*Required for Eagle

Advancement Report – Rank

Scout:

Kevin C., 10/20/05
Derek L., 10/06/05

First Class:

Chris C., 10/27/05
Victor W., 10/06/05


Second Class:

Owen L., 10/13/05

Star:

Peter S., 10/06/05

Troop 476 Calendar



December 11	Christmas Tree Cutting for SJC
December 15	PLC Meeting
December 15	Gift Exchange
December 15	Recycling
December 17	Planite Granite Rock Climbing
December 19	Troop Committee Meeting

January 16	Troop Committee Meeting
January 19	PLC Meeting
January 26	Recycling
January 28-29	Tahoe-Donner Snow Campout

