

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

In the nonfiction book *Black Hawk Down*, when the terrible fighting started in Mogadishu some soldiers managed to escape the trap and retreat safely back to base. There the commander ordered them to return to the battle to rescue their trapped and injured buddies. One Ranger, who had just passed through a gauntlet of furious people shooting at him, was scared and said he wouldn't go. His sergeant—what a leader!—went to him and said, "Listen, I understand how you feel....I know you're scared. I'm scared...I've never been in a situation like this either. But we've got to go. It's our job." And he added something that to me defines the meaning of bravery. He told his Ranger, "The difference between being a coward and a hero is not whether you're scared, it's what you do *while* you're

scared." The Ranger joined the mission. Could you have done that?

But "A Scout is brave" is not just about battlefield bravery. During that part of a Scoutmaster conference where I want to find out if you are showing Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life, I asked one of our young Scouts if he was brave. He looked away from me, put his head down and said, "No." He explained how certain boys always bullied him, and he found that if he walked a different way home from school, he wouldn't see those boys, so he wouldn't get bullied, so...he must not be brave. I asked him what he would do if he came upon those same boys teasing or hitting his friend or someone in his patrol. Would he walk around them? The Scout immediately looked up and said, "No, I would make them stop." Even if they hurt you? "*Even*

if they hurt me." I said that sounded pretty brave to me, and I signed him off.

Scouts, being brave doesn't mean looking for trouble—it means avoiding pointless trouble but having the strength when it's needed to stand up for what you believe in, for what is right, and on behalf of others who need help. Being brave means taking action *even though you're afraid*. We're all scared of something—spiders, bullies, bad grades, deep water, illness, divorce, the death of a pet or a family member... When you come face-to-face with whatever that is, do you have it in you to keep on going, and to do what is right and good, even though you're scared? Remember, a Scout is brave.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

Consider that enlightened souls do not see an "us vs. them," or a "we – they," but instead they see a, "we." Now also consider that the foundation of a Boy Scout Troop is the "we" practiced in the Patrol Method, and that the Adult leaders and elder members of the Troop are the extended "we." The bottom line is that we are all in this together, and what a wonderful journey it is to share these years and growth with our sons, in Scouting.

Scouting teaches that simple words like honor, promise, trust, faith and integrity can build a young person and become not only a part of the young person's character, but also define the character of the community.

The Santa Clara County Council, By Scouts of America serves over 10,000

youth through the assistance and membership of nearly 5000 adult volunteer leaders. This makes our organization one of the largest youth-serving programs offered in our community.

Santa Clara County Council has an operating budget of roughly \$2,500,000. Seventy Five percent of the operating budget is used to help the program of its units through Hi Sierra Scout Camp, Chesebrough Camp, the Scout-O-Rama and many other wonderful events. The average cost per boy for the Scouting program is \$250 so we ask each family to help contribute for at least one boy. If your family can't contribute at that level, we ask that you give whatever you can. If your family is more fortunate, please

consider that the boys who need Scouting the most are often those whose families can afford it the least. For those of us who are not able to contribute at all, please participate in this campaign by signing and returning your cards, which the Troop needs to qualify for the Quality Unit patch.

We will be officially kicking-off our FOS campaign at the Feb. 20th Committee Meeting. Please bring your checkbooks

If you have any questions, thoughts or comments, please call me. Thanks!

—Karl Darr
Committee Chair

Religious Emblem Programs

We will be interested in hearing from any scouts who may be interested in earning their Roman Catholic religious medals next year. The medals programs

start in August for both Ad Altari Dei (12-15 year olds) and Pope Pius XII (14 - 21 year olds).

Scouts can contact me or Bob Wedig if they are interested.

—Bob Ulicki

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Important Websites

Troop 476

<http://www.troop476.com>

Santa Clara Council

<http://www.sccc-scouting.org/>

National BSA

<http://www.scouting.org>

National Youth Leadership Training Programs

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), formerly known as Junior Leadership Training or JLT, is an important part of troop activity and individual rank advancement. This year, Bristlecone Leadership Camp, our Santa Clara County Council NYLT program, will be held the week of August 7 through 13 at Camp Chesebrough in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A scout must be 13, have attained First Class rank and be recommended by his scoutmaster. The cost is \$210 per participant. Because this session overlaps with Northern Tier, participants in Northern Tier need to make other arrangements in order to participate in an NYLT program. Louise Fishler investigated a number of

other programs offered through other councils.

Mount Diablo Silverado Council (Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga, Walnut Creek) offers 3 courses during the year. One is held 2 weekends during the school and 2 are offered during the summer (June and July). There are two sites, one in El Cerrito Hills and one in Boulder Creek. A scout must be 13 and have attained First Class rank in order to participate. Applications are due May 1 or 15, depending on which one you are applying to attend.

Pacific Skyline Council had a tentative date of June 17-23 for their NYLT, but the website for that council was not updated when last checked. Requirements are age 14 and Star rank.

Scouts who will be 13 or 14 this summer, are attending Northern Tier or cannot attend the Bristlecone session in August, and haven't gone to Bristlecone Leadership Camp yet, should check the websites for the Councils listed and contact council representatives as soon as possible to evaluate which program would work with their family's summer schedule and when the appropriate applications are due. If a scout has any questions about attending Bristlecone or one of the other leadership camps, he should contact Mr. Gabriel.

—Louise Fishler & Sue Gibes

Castle Rock

On November 19, a fine Saturday afternoon, our Troop drove to Castle Rock State Park, once at least partly inhabited by Native Americans. Here, they intended to go backpacking, which is one of the many things you can do at the park. After we arrived, two groups were formed. One group would hike to the camps quickly to the campsites to ensure that the both groups would receive campsites. This was necessary because we left later due to Scouting for Food, which also happened on that day. The other group wouldn't go as quickly because some scouts needed to complete the 5-mile map and compass requirement.

The faster group moved at a quick pace. Everything seemed to go fairly well, the trail was not very rocky, but then a minor setback occurred. A sleeping bag had managed to slip out of its well-secured position. After reattaching the bag, the group hiked on over the compacted dirt path. Wildlife, for the most part, generally kept to itself except for the occasional lizard or squirrel running in the underbrush. Briefly, the dirt path turned to a sort of stairway made of dirt held back by wood. Then it turned to rock, then back

to dirt again. As they hiked higher and higher, the view grew better and better. Soon, one could look out over the trail and see a vast expanse of trees and hills.

The hiking did not go uninterrupted after the sleeping bag incident. Unclear topographic maps led the group into two dead ends, one of which happened to be a rather scenic view. After an hour or so of hiking, signs designating a nearby campsite loomed into view. There were a sufficient number of campsites. Packs could finally be set down; tents were pitched at various campsites. Now came the wait for the other group and dinner.

An hour of chatting, joke telling and snack eating passed before the other group arrived and pitched their tents. Both groups divided into their respective patrols and soon began cooking dinner. Immediately, a battle began between some boys and their obstinate stoves, in which many matches were wasted. After finally succeeding in lighting their stoves, meals were cooked, ranging from noodles boiled in hot water to 1st class cooking. Accidents happened in the time between dinner and the evening campfire, such as running into one another and falling over unlit fire pits.

After cleaning up any mess from dinner, the campfire was lit. The campfire was small and generally consisted of jokes with a small number of skits. In addition, there was a cake and two jars of icing to go with it. The cake soon disappeared leaving half-empty jars of icing, which were also devoured. After the campfire, everyone retreated into their tents.

The next morning, after breakfast, packs were loaded and strapped on, and soon, all were on their way back down in one group. They stopped frequently to take breaks and to stand aside to let fellow hikers go by. At one point, some rocks slowed down part of the group and split it. It took time for everyone to get back together again. Later, they arrived at a waterfall and took a packs-off break. Snacks and trail food were shared on a platform with a view of a now fairly dried up waterfall. Minutes later, everyone resumed hiking. Pictures were taken at the parking lot, and Scouts and adults got into their respective cars and drove home exhausted and happy.

—Ernest C.
Troop Historian

Snow Camp

On January 28, a chilly Saturday morning, fifteen Scouts and five adults drove to the Alder Creek campground in Truckee, and spent a night there. The trip took several hours and was punctuated by several stops for gas, food, and tire chains. What was to be a fairly short trip was soon made a little longer by the need for tire

chains, which were necessary because it was snowing all day on Saturday and slowed the cars down to a speed of about thirty miles per hour.

Once at the campground, work immediately started on the snow caves. The first step was to make a huge pile of snow, which was roughly five or six feet

tall. After this was accomplished, we waited for the piles to settle. While waiting, we began excavating picnic tables from the snow and sat down to our lunches, which ranged from candy to sandwiches.

After lunch, work on the snow caves resumed. Now came the process of carving

out the entrance tunnel. After it was complete, the main snow mound was hollowed out. During this time, the powdery snow gave way in one of the snow caves and collapsed. Thankfully, the cave was repaired and became a “quinzloo” or “quigloo” which was a snow cave (quinzee)/igloo hybrid. While constructing their cave, some creative builders began personalizing their snow caves with a pirate flag, pathways, and, in the Scorpions’ case, a tunnel connecting two caves.

After the completion of the seven snow caves, dinner was served. Like lunch, it ranged from clam chowder to burnt soup. The campfire came after dinner, and some Scouts went straight to sleep and missed it, some chatted, and others worked during the night on completing their tunnel. Afterwards, we all crawled into our cozy sleeping bags.

The next morning was a struggle to get out of the warm sleeping bags and to collapse the snow caves. First we had breakfast, which again ranged in its quality and variety. After breakfast we used

pickaxes and shovels to pound our snow caves. The caves, which took hours to build, were crushed in minutes! Soon the cars were loaded and everyone went home after Scout’s Own. The camp was memorable in everyone’s mind, not only because it was enjoyable and challenging, but also because it was the first time in Troop history that every camper had slept in a snow cave.

— Ernest C.
Troop Historian

Snow Camp II

The Warmth of Snow

Prancing around, the Wind gently touches
Our rosy cheeks with his gentle, cold hands.
Soft, harsh snow covers camp, a wonderland,
Delicate snow like cream, in our clutches
As we construct our snow caves, in the cool
Subzero air, memories of laughter
Are warmly engraved in our hearts. After
The sun’s set, we know friendship is the fuel
For our lives. We stay within the thick walls,
The cold walls that trap in heat and warm us
Making the cave as hot as a furnace,
Melting away barriers between all
Of us, and the cozy cave lets us know
The beauty of nature; the warmth of snow.

-Clarence Q.

Planet Granite

Our Planet Granite rock-climbing event was a great success. Nineteen scouts and eight adults spent the afternoon negotiating the various pitches of this large facility.

Match racing rapidly became the norm as scouts vied to see who was fastest up particular walls. This is certainly an event that should be included on the Troop calendar next year.

Thanks to the adults and senior scouts who devoted much of their day to belaying the younger guys.

—Craig H.
Adult Trek Leader

Advancement Report – Merit Badges

Citizenship in Nation*:

Kyle B., 01/19/06
Alexander G., 01/15/06

Communications*:

Doug H., 12/07/05

Family Life*:

Kevin C., 01/19/06

First Aid*:

Ernest C., 11/13/05
Andrew ., 11/13/05
Zahi H., 11/13/05
Eric H., 11/13/05
Michael L., 11/13/05
Ruby M., 11/13/05
Kenny S., 11/13/05

Personal Management*:

Lucas B., 11/08/05
Wesley L., 12/26/05
Brian Q., 12/01/05

*Required for Eagle

Advancement Report – Rank

Tenderfoot:

Shaun Y., 12/01/05

Second Class:

Ernest C., 01/19/06
Jason G., 01/12/06
Eric H., 11/10/05
Michael L., 01/26/06

First Class:

Eric H., 01/19/06
Bill P., 01/26/06
Kenny S., 11/10/05

Star:

Nick F., 01/12/06
Zahi H., 12/15/05

Eagle:

Niket D., 01/12/06
David E., 01/19/06

Advancement Report – Training

Troop National Youth Leadership Training:	Derek L.,	10/08/05	Billy R.,	10/08/05
Chris C., 10/08/05	Michael L.,	10/08/05	Andrew S.,	10/08/05
Ernest C., 10/08/05	Mothi M.,	10/08/05	Kenny S.,	10/08/05
Eric H., 10/08/05	Siddhartha N.,	10/08/05	Victor W.,	10/08/05
	Huy P.,	10/08/05		

Troop 476 Calendar

February 23	PLC Meeting, 7 PM	April 18	Holy Name Room Clean-up
February 25	Mt. Diablo Rim of the Bay Hike	April 20	PLC Meeting, 7 PM
February 27	Troop Committee Meeting	April 23	Junior Leader Position Training
February 28	Holy Name Room Clean-up	April 28	Recycling
March 14	Holy Name Room Clean-up	April 29-30	Point Reyes Intermediate/Advanced Backpacking
March 17	St. Patrick's Dinner Service	May 1	Holy Name Room Clean-up
March 19	Spring Planning Meeting	May 7	Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast
March 20	Troop Committee Meeting	May 15	Troop Committee Meeting
March 23	Order of the Arrow Elections	May 16	Holy Name Room Clean-up
March 25-26	Uvas Canyon Car Campout	May 18	PLC Meeting, 7 PM
March 30	Junior Leader Elections	May 20-21	Camporee at Cheseborough
March 30	Recycling	May 25	Recycling
April 4	Holy Name Room Clean-up	May 30	Holy Name Room Clean-up
April 17	Troop Committee Meeting		