

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

It's the end of our first day at Northern Tier and we are struggling to paddle to shore while being thrashed by rain. The lightning is flashing just above the treeline—it has nearly reached our lake. At the shore we haul heavy packs out of canoes, slipping and falling on rough rocks hidden underwater. Soaked, we set up camp in the rain and start dinner. The storm is all around us, at once annoying and thrilling, demanding our rapt attention. We just don't get such charismatic weather in California.

Eventually the storm hints that it's moving on to impress another crew on another lake. The bluster diminishes and the rain lets up. Thunder rumbles in the distance, its menace gone. Waves still lap at the shore, but each one is a little smaller and quieter and gentler than the last, until all is silent. Then I hear a faraway loon call and I know all is well.

In the morning I am the first one awake in the camp and I'm standing alone in a little clearing by the water's edge, entranced by the colored glory of a Northwoods dawn. I can hear loons calling from the dark corners of the lake. It's a sound I've always associated with my Minnesota childhood; it's a sound I now associate with my son's fleeting childhood. Somehow that mystical song, echoing from pristine lakes and granite

outcroppings and dense stands of pine and birch and cedar, profoundly links my past and present, connecting them and pointing to an unseen future. As I stand here in the wilderness, completely still and silent, I can *feel* that rich connection, and I thank God for His blessings.

Three years ago I stood here, almost in this same spot, wondering what it was going to be like to be Scoutmaster. Now I stand here wondering what it will be like *not* to be Scoutmaster. So much has happened in the past three years: We've welcomed more than 60 new Scouts, gone on 50 treks, commissioned 20 new Eagles...but numbers can never tell the whole story.

I feel a little chill and pull on my trek coat. It smells of wood smoke and frying bacon and dried rain and sweat. Memories immediately come back—memories of awesome experiences, of time with friends and deepening bonds, of my own Scout years and adventures I've shared with Trevor. It was here in the Quetico that he was tested beyond his limits and I proudly watched him meet the challenge. In words Sigurd Olson wrote about his own son, "his face was beaming, and in his eyes was a glory that comes only once in the lifetime of a boy, when he knows he has measured up at last." That was three years ago during our first trek together to

Northern Tier...now I wonder, is this one our last?

The next step in my journey lies just in front of me but it's hidden in a shadow. It's a bit like carrying a canoe on a portage—I'm cloaked in a shroud, breathing heavily with sweat dripping off my nose and mosquitoes buzzing around; I can only see a few feet in any direction, so I simply put one foot in front of the other as I head into the dim forest. My shoulders grow sore and I'm thinking I'll never reach the end of this portage...but then I perceive the darkness diminishing; the trees thin out and suddenly water appears at my feet. I wade into the healing balm and lower my burden. Shroud gone, the sky appears; a sweet breeze rolls off the lake and cools my sweat.

I climb aboard, ready to continue the journey. Trevor sets down his own canoe nearby. He glances at me and his eyes flash with that old look of glory. I pick up my paddle. The smooth handle feels good in my hands; the resistance of water against blade is comfortingly familiar. I lift my gaze to the far side of the lake. I know what to do now. I know where I'm headed.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

I would like to dedicate this month's Committee Chair's Corner to Adult Troop Support. During the next Committee Meeting, on August 21st, the 2006-2007 committee assignments will be presented to the troop adult membership for approval. It is the Committee Chair's responsibility to make sure the fundamental positions are filled and it is the adult membership's responsibility to "**help the Troop Go**". If you have a preference for your position, please let me know ASAP. It is my intention to have every important position filled by the

conclusion of this meeting.

We have an outstanding, award-winning Troop, with many Eagle Scouts. **Troops like this don't just happen – we all pitch in to make it happen!**

Please accept your Troop positions with the happiness that comes with knowing that what you are doing for the Troop and the Scouts are deeply appreciated and absolute necessary. If you have a special skill not captured on the current roster, please see me about including that skill.

Also at the Sunday, September 10th

Court of Honor we will be officially 'changing the guard' as Eagle Scout Russell Schaadt transitions into the Committee Chairmanship role and I transition to being an Assistant Committee Chair, along with Joe Gibes and David Bunzel.

—Karl Darr
Committee Chair
408-420-3000 – mobile

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

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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 |

Half Moon Bay

On the weekend of June 24th-25th, six families met in Saint Joseph's parking lot at eight in the morning. They were all going to the Half Moon Bay State Beach campgrounds to enjoy sunny beaches and leisurely bike rides. Kristin C. was ready for her very first campout ever. Three of the seven scouts were ready to cook up Second and First Class meals. Bikes were placed on racks and in trunks and everyone was set to go. The Scout trek leader, with a little reminder from the Scoutmaster, gave the OK for departure and everyone hit the road.

The drive up was uneventful despite projected traffic problems on Highway 92 and we checked in at campsites one through six without an incident. But instead of sunny beaches, there was only foggy, misty, chilly beaches. So, we took

our bikes off the racks, strapped on our helmets and went riding. The first thirty minutes of the ride were relaxing except for the fact that one scout's bike was attacked by a wild rabbit. The round trip was about four miles. Then, some scouts decided to stay at the beach, while the rest of us went on another 45-minute ride. This time, however, we went off-roading and careened over dirt jumps and slipped on tree roots. Everyone had a great time except when one scout had a minor fall. Both bike rides totaled around eight miles.

When we arrived back at the campsite, we enjoyed a lunch of Gatorade and sandwiches. The weather had somewhat warmed up, so we all went down to the beach. The scouts alternated between digging pits, burying each other and playing at the ocean's edge. After

three hours of fun, we trekked over to our respective campsites and set up tents and stoves. The First Class cook for our patrol dished up a great meal of spaghetti with meat sauce. Following dinner, we roasted marshmallows and performed skits, which included several siblings.

The morning presented us with fog soaked tents and soggy shoes. We quickly packed up our stuff and ate breakfast. The camp was swept and we had Scout's Own. And finally, we packed up and headed for home. All in all, the campsites were great, the food was especially good and the weather was just right (for me at least). I'd recommend you all to go to this campout if the opportunity presents itself again.

— Kyle B.
Scout Trek Leader

Alcatraz

On the warm afternoon of June 17, we packed our gear and got into the cars at SJC to drive up to pier 45 in San Francisco. We walked over to pier 39 to wait for our guide, John, who took about 2 hours to arrive. At the pier, most of us played a game called Tic-Tac-Check, a mix of chess and Tic-Tac-Toe.

At 4:30, we took a ferry to Alcatraz. In the small boat, some played cards while others enjoyed the view of the sea lions at the pier, Angel Island, Alcatraz, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Once there, we were explained the rules for our stay on the island. Then, we went to watch a 12-minute video explaining the history of Alcatraz. We learned that Alcatraz was a military fort, then a military prison, a federal prison, Native American land, and now a national park. We then took a

“stroll” around the island while doing our service project, picking up trash and bones brought by the birds. Our service project ended at the entrance of the cell blocks, where we started the very very very very very very long audio tour.

We then picked out our cells in Cell Block D-Solitary Confinement. Many people fought over the Birdman's cell, number 42, but at the end our trek leader, Michael L., got it. When we were all settled in, we went down to the deck to cook and eat dinner. Most of the patrols made burgers on a grill, which turned out to be quite delicious. It was about 8:30 when we finally got back to our cells. We finished settling and brought our flashlights to go on the night tour. We explored the whole island, except for the parts, which were closed because of

nesting season. The tour guide took us to many places not shown to the public, like the spot up in the hospital room where the movie *The Rock* was filmed.

After the long day, we got back to our cells by 12:30. Some went to sleep right away, but others stayed up and played cards. Most continued to play but by 2:30 everyone had gone to sleep.

In the morning, everyone got up quickly, packed their bags, and went to the pier where we had breakfast before taking the ferry back to San Francisco. We had Scout's Own, led by Michael L. and Mr. Schaadt. We all got back in the cars and went back to SJC reliving our favorite moments in Alcatraz.

—Zahi H. & Mark I.
Scout Participants

High Sierra – Uncertainty to Victory

Camp High-Sierra is a yearly 7-day camping experience enjoyed by adults, older, and younger scouts all around from troops with varied origins. Troop 476, us, signs up and registers to go to High-Sierra every year. For older scouts, High-Sierra is just a week of fun and friendly competition with their friends. Its actually a bit rougher and harder on the younger scouts, as they are not used to being so far and long away from home. Thankfully, with the moral support of their friends and adult leaders, younger scouts always manage to pull it through the arduous week. This year was a little different from many of the previous years out troop has

experienced. This year our troop was represented by a swarming mass of younger scouts who came looking for fun and experience. Sadly, there were only a few older scouts to keep them under control, and there should always be a representation of both old and young.

Every year at High-Sierra our troop is represented by a very capable Senior Patrol Leader, last year it was Wesley L. who got us first place. This year a new face arrived, Thomas B. stepped up and took the position for SPL for the week. Tom was known to be a myriad of things including a kind optimistic viewer and a very athletic person, but did he have what

it took to be a leader? In the beginning I think that there were some people who doubted in Tom's abilities and he had one week to prove them wrong. Throughout the very first days, younger scouts eagerly signed up for their merit badges and dined at the mess hall. Everything was going actually pretty well, except that we were very disorganized in the beginning.

On the first day, either from the younger scouts' inexperience or from a distanced communication between the experienced and the young, we scored only 83 on the first day. An acceptable score but mediocre nonetheless. Throughout the next few days Tom and

Chris E. pulled us together to do much better on the score-sheet, ranging from 99 on the second day to an impressive 104, 105, and 108. We grew organized, yet we were enjoying ourselves at the same time. During this time, younger scouts were beginning to have a few problems, including being homesick, and they had longings to be with their families. However, thanks to courageous efforts by Tom and Mr. Hakim, a very worthy adult leader, the younger scouts were able to eat food and stay nourished instead of sitting in sorrow. We had an impressive crew of leaders up at High-Sierra, Tom the SPL, Chris E. the ASPL, Mr. Hakim the adult trek leader, and Kenny, me, the AASPL for 45 minutes while Tom and Chris were away.

Everyone pulled through the merit badges and the week successfully and we quickly advanced toward Friday or the day of the Sea-Dog Cruise. Our mass of younger scouts eagerly awaited to compete and try their best in the games, hoping that they would be chosen for the events they were good at. The older scouts got up that morning wondering how we would do based on spirit and aggressiveness. Everyone had a little bit of competitiveness in them throughout Friday morning as we finished up LADS and hard

merit badge requirements we had struggled to complete throughout the week. We had won first place last year, but would we win it again?

As we steeped up to each event during Friday afternoon we gave a hearty yell followed by pulses of cheering, demonstrating our enthusiasm and spirit. There were interesting events set up throughout the camp such as tomahawk throw, wall climbing, the wheel of nature, and much, much more. For many of the events, even though some of the older scouts could have done better, Tom chose to give the younger scouts the opportunity over the already experienced. I believe this was a very admirable move by Tom and this was one of the ways he proved himself to be a good SPL. Many of the events included competing against one other troop and our younger scouts proved their mettle and won basically all the events except a few.

Finally, we came to the aquatics half of the sea-dog cruise. For the five-man oar-less Tom and four young scouts bravely took up the challenge and triumphed with the best time in first place. For the scoutmaster row, Mr. Low represented us and even though he had a good lead in the beginning he fell back a little; however, nonetheless we cheered

him on to show our spirit. Next, Tom went up for the SPL watermelon grab. After a valiant battle one SPL was running to shore with the watermelon. Nimbly, Tom leaped and tackled him; however, it was in vain as the SPL managed to recover and struggle to shore. A valiant effort by Tom and we responded with cheering and bravado.

That night we had another campfire, after an hour or two of skits the staff moved on to announce the winners of the camp-wide games. Troop 14 received third, Troop 209 got 1st, and we marched off proudly with an amazing second place. Everyone was proud of the job they had done for the whole week. Tom and Mr. Hakim did an amazing job as the two main leaders for our trek and they deserve a round of applause from the whole troop. Not much is left to say, the next day we gave waves of applause for our leaders and got on our car rides back home. High-Sierra is more than just a regular summer camp. It's a team building, mind inspiring, just amazing place to go. Will you go next year?

— Kenny S.
Troop Historian

Camp Oljato

Camp Oljato is a pleasant summer camp, which is located on Huntington Lake in Fresno, approximately 210 miles from Cupertino. It is a very congenial resort to spend the days for fun and especially for working on merit badges! Being ranged in elevation between 7,000 and 8,000 feet, the thin air is replete with the site. Fortunately, all of our scouts and escorting adults had no difficulty adjusting ourselves to such dissimilar surrounding which is in sharp contrast to cozy Cupertino.

On July 2nd at 7:00 a.m., about 55 attendees gathered in the St. Joseph's parking lot. After being given a brief driving instruction, we anxiously got started on our trip. With about 5-6 hours of driving, we finally approached our destination. There is a dock leading to Camp Oljato since the campsite is not directly accessible. At the boarding dock, we promptly unpacked our gear from the cars and waited for the pontoon boat to transport us to Camp Oljato. Between 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the boat picked us up and gave us a relaxing 15-minute ride to our campsite. Everyone obviously enjoyed the shimmering lake, extravagant view,

and the warm, pleasing day as we headed for Camp Oljato.

Upon arriving there, we were cordially welcomed by our assigned staff member. He led us to our campsite, Cheyenne. Swimming is obviously an essential skill there since we were requested to do our Swim Check in no time before the real activities began. Astonishingly, the water of the lake was a lot colder than expected. The moment to jump in the freezing water was the toughest part to face. But everyone seemed to have no problem conquering the fear of cold water. Consequently, almost all of the scouts were successfully ranked as a qualified Blue swimmer. This is truly a remarkable achievement for our troop considering how chilly the water was then! Being a Blue swimmer gave the scout all privileges to do various kinds of waterfront activities, which are especially good for earning water-based merit badges.

After finishing the challenging part of Swim Check, we couldn't wait to unpack our gear and get our wet clothing changed. We were allowed to choose our tents and were subsequently offered a very

informative camp orientation about the campsite and coming camp activities. Before going to Camp Oljato, each of the scouts was already asked to specify the three merit badges they would like to target. The mostly sought badges undoubtedly are Citizenship in the World and Citizenship in the Nation. Camp Oljato becomes an attractive camp in terms of the classes instructed to particularly earn these two tough badges. During the entire trip, most of the scouts were busy working on the badges they were eyeing on. Not everyone successfully earned the merit badges they originally planned. But generally speaking, all of the scouts eventually got their target badges or alternative ones to show when they were home.

With a whole Sunday night of full rest, we woke up energetically on a fresh Monday. Starting from Monday, the majority of the scouts began their merit badge classes. A few were doing such special projects as TtFC (Trail to First Class) sessions and C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience(s)). In Camp Oljato, the classes to earn the merit badges were conducted in a very educational and

entertaining manner. The counselors were very friendly, helpful, and easy to work with, making the learning experience at Camp Oljato a very pleasant, productive, and enjoyable one. Aside from offering intensive classes for diverse merit badges, the activities given there were also worth mentioning. Such special activities as archery and rifle shooting are good ones for those scouts who enjoy hitting the targets! This needs concentration and sound eye-hand coordination.

The food part is always an important factor to consider when judging whether the camp is overall an attractive one to take part in. The food served in Camp Oljato was tasty. The Friday dinner meal – freshly-baked pizza – was the most liked one! The food served for Friday supper was sensational not only for pizza but also for a special treat of “Neapolitan-style” ice cream. The special treat was offered because Michael R. turned 17 that day. The hearty dessert of ice cream was gone

in a twinkling since it was so tempting that no one could easily resist.

Though it was our troop’s first time to explore this remote site, we were doing surprisingly excellent there by achieving tremendously. For example, nearly all of the new scouts (1st year scouts) successfully completed several TtFC requirements. It was estimated that over 100 merit badges were completed by our scouts in Camp Oljato. A couple of experienced scouts even managed to complete C.O.P.E. at Camp Oljato. In the special program called Olympiade occurring on Thursday, Kyung M. won the “Surprise” event. The best achievement was that the troop was cordially best known for its scouts doing the Mile Swim. Kyle B., John W., and Brendan D. completed the mile swim in very freezing water. We truly admired their courage and determination. The most notable part of the Mile Swim was that Kyle finished the Mile Swim in only 30 minutes and 30

seconds. We were overjoyed and felt very proud when they announced that Kyle won first place in the Mile Swim.

Though most of our scouts devoted ourselves to working on the merit badges and making different achievements, we had lots of fun and an unforgettable time at Camp Oljato. After receiving our blue cards for merit badges, it was time to say goodbye to this fascinating campsite. It was a place that would remind us of our hard work for merit badges and achievement. On Saturday, we left the camp and drove home. Some scouts may feel nostalgic because of being away from home almost one week. However, obviously some of us still left our heart on this irresistible place. It was indeed a fruitful trip to Camp Oljato from which we brought home merit badges and merry memory.

— Eric H.
Troop Historian

Religious Emblems - Resources for All Faiths and AAD/PPXII Announcement

As part of a scout's Duty to God, it is important that each scout learns as much as he can about his faith and why it is such an important part of his life. Earning the religious medal for your faith (whatever Faith you belong to) is a great way to practice your Duty to God and to see how God is indeed a very important part of all of our lives.

The scout office has a flier that lists contacts for most all faiths in the area for their emblems programs.

There is also a very good Website that offers information for programs of all Faiths at:

http://www.ccsf.homestead.com/files/resources/religious_emblems_program.htm

Bob Ulicki and John Czerniec will be Counseling Scouts for the Roman Catholic Religious Emblems programs for this year. The two programs are the Ad Altari Dei program geared towards scouts from 12-15 years old and the Pope Pius XII program geared towards scouts from 14-18 years old. The AAD program focuses on the Sacraments and the PPXII program focuses on vocations and Life Choices.

The AAD and PPXII programs will begin in mid-September if we have enough interested scouts. The programs involve eight two hour meetings, two each month from Sept.-Dec.. There is a Board of Review in January or early February and a Cathedral ceremony two weeks before Palm Sunday in 2007.

It is important for all scouts to consider earning the Religious Emblem for whatever Faith tradition they are part of. I am publicizing the Roman Catholic programs now because I will be one of the Counselors this year. If any scouts are interested in earning their AAD or PPXII Religious Emblems, please contact me by August 21, 2006. I would like to have a very short orientation meeting for scouts and their parents before the first actual program meeting. But at least I would like to have an idea who is interested and be able to answer any questions that anyone may have about these programs.

— Bob Ulicki
RLUlicki@aol.com
(408) 446-3718

Troop 476 Calendar

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| August 15 | Holy Name Room Clean-up | September 28 | Junior Leader Elections |
| August 18-20 | Fort Ross | October 7 | Patrol Outing |
| August 21 | Troop Committee Meeting | October 7 | Coyote Cycling Classic (date estimated) |
| August 24 | PLC Meeting | October 14 | Monterey Bay Sea Kayaking |
| August 31 | Aluminum Cans Due | October 26 | Pie/cookie dough sales end |
| September 10 | Court of Honor | October 28 | Troop Leadership Training |
| September 15-17 | Del Valle Family Camping | October 29 | Junior Leadership Training |
| September 24 | Fall PLC Calendar Planning Meeting | November 4-5 | Castle Rock –Beginner Backpacking |