

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends

Scoutmaster's Corner

There's a large rock shaped like a chair—we named it Wesley's Throne—on the shore of Susie Lake, high in the Desolation Wilderness above Lake Tahoe. Most of us were drawn in the opposite direction to the edge of an incredible waterfall that dropped hundreds of feet from where we stood to a valley far below, but Wesley was drawn to that rock. He spent an hour sitting and looking at the lake the evening we camped there during the T-50 backpacking trip. I just had to check it out, so I got up at sunrise the next morning and slipped down to the lake before the rest of the crew awoke.

The rock was indeed comfortable, and its coolness felt good even in the early morning. Minnows darted in the water at my feet. As I lifted my gaze across the lake, a breeze stirred up the water and I suddenly realized I was watching God at work that very moment on a piece of living art. The wind sent little ripples of brilliant color across the water toward me, and in those ripples I

saw details on the opposite shore I hadn't noticed before—the dark green pine trees at the water's edge, the rough red rocks that defined the mountain's slopes behind the trees, the white patches of snow marching artistically up that slope, and the deep blue sky above it all and right in front of me. It was a stunning vista of color in the water—a painting that had taken millennia to complete, except it wasn't complete, because the Artist was still at work as He lifted the sun and stirred the breeze...just for me?

I became aware of birds around me singing and I immediately joined them in a song of praise to our Creator as I sat on that rock, alone on the edge of Susie Lake. I don't think my voice matched the beauty of birdsongs, but worship is more a matter of how in tune the heart and soul are than the vocal chords.

Remember what Mr. Latona used to say—"Spiritual growth and Scouting go hand-in-hand." Now I can really understand one aspect of that, because

being in nature is very spiritual for me. God is just as present and at work in Silicon Valley, but somehow we can see Him so clearly on a campout. When we're not on a trek, part of our duty to God is to worship and serve Him as we go through our daily lives. And another way that spiritual growth goes together with Scouting is in the religious emblems program where we can study and grow in our faith. Please ask Mr. Saleme or me if you want to participate. We will help you find a program for your faith.

Sometimes even now I stop and picture in my mind the view from Wesley's Throne. Is anyone sitting there and enjoying the Artist at work? I know at least the birds are still singing their song of praise. It's a song we can sing even here in Silicon Valley. Spiritual growth and Scouting *do* go hand-in-hand.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

"Paddle Your Own Canoe"

From Baden-Powell, *Rovering to Success*, 1930

HOW TO BE HAPPY THOUGH RICH OR POOR

A canoe trip is like a voyage of life.

An old 'un ought to hand on piloting hints.

The only true Success is Happiness.

Two steps to Happiness are: Taking life as a game and giving out Love.

Happiness is not mere pleasure not the outcome of wealth.

It is the result of active work rather than passive enjoyment of pleasure.

Your success depends on your own individual effort in the voyage of life, And the avoidance of certain dangerous Rocks.

Self-education, in continuation of what

you have learned at school, is necessary. Go forward with confidence. Paddle your own canoe!

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This summer we have about 32 Scouts going to each summer camp (some go to both; some are only going to one or the other). We also have about 8 adults at each summer camp. At the 50-miler, there were 10 Scouts and 5 adults. And, we have about a dozen Scouts going to Bristlecone, not including those who will be instructors – although this is not a "summer camp" in the classic sense.

Our Troop is blessed with a full calendar of summer camp activities.

The level of participation in these camps underscores the Troop's alignment with Baden-Powell, that:

"Happiness is not mere pleasure not the outcome of wealth.

It is the result of active work rather than passive enjoyment of pleasure."

I strongly urge all families to send their sons – and to attend summer camp every year, so they can experience the happiness, fulfillment and achievement that comes from active work.

—Karl Darr
Committee Chair

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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>

A Brief Letter From The Editor

WOW! The Goat looks different! This is the first publication of The Goat since I took over as editor from Ida Henscheid who did such a wonderful job of keeping everyone up to date and publishing a visually entertaining web version. As you can see, I am still learning new software that will give a colorful web edition and an easily printed PDF version for those of you

who want hard copy and didn't or couldn't pick one up at the meeting.

The PDF format was easier to accomplish than the full web-ready version that Ida has been publishing. Surgery delayed my tutorial adventures with the Adobe suite software, but by the end of August another issue will be published. The August issue will include the Advancement Column. (We

have an entire flight or two of Eagles to recognize!)

I look forward to working with the Troop. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or articles to be published.

—Susan Gibes
The Goat Editor

Polaris District Camporee

At the Polaris District Camporee on May 22-23, 24 Scouts from Troop 476, under the command of Scout Trek Leader Lawrence L., clashed in a dramatic Trojan War involving more than 500 Scouts from other troops in the district. Seven adults from the troop called out encouragement from the surrounding bluffs. As the sun moved slowly across the sky, our three patrols struggled valiantly to prove themselves in a series of tests of their skill and bravery. They treated Agamemnon's wounds with First Aid; they escaped from a devious 3D spider's web thrown over them by the Trojans; they cooked a meal for starving troops; and they guided one of their blindfolded patrol members through a minefield thick with traps.

Two more of our Scouts, Ruby M. and Trevor G., served as Order of the Arrow staff for the weekend. They

tested patrols on their knot-tying ability—a skill crucially needed by the warriors for construction of battlements and a certain wooden horse.

One of our bravest Scouts, Andrew E., was felled by a fever in the thick of the battle. He was tended to by Mr. Lombardi and rescued by his father's chariot. His glory must wait for a future match.

When the smoke cleared from the battlefield known as Chesebrough and we gathered around the campfire that evening, five of our Scouts (Tony C., David E., Doug H., Lawrence L., and Wesley L.) were "tapped out" during a dramatic Order of the Arrow ceremony. They had been elected by the troop and were invited to join OA by taking part in an Ordeal. These Scouts will serve as staff for the next Camporee.

The finest warrior patrols were honored with awards on Sunday

morning. Alas, with almost half of our Scouts in their first year, we didn't win the Silver Axe. But do not despair—our patrols were bestowed ribbons memorializing their accomplishments for finishing in the last third (Condors), the middle third (Timberwolves), and the top tier (Scorpions).

One thing we know for certain: This weekend was not the end of the ongoing struggle. Even now, the devious OA staff is laying plans for another challenging weekend during the next spring battle season. But they have lost the element of surprise. Troop 476 will spend the coming year preparing for their tests. We need all of our warriors to pay attention during skill and to come on our campouts. Join us in our glorious struggle to once again win the coveted Silver Axe.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Religious Emblems Programs

We will be starting up the Catholic Religious Emblems programs during the month of August. All Catholic Scouts are invited to participate. The Ad Altari Dei program is for younger Scouts (usually ages 12-14) and focuses on Sacraments. The Pope Pius XII program is for older Scouts (usually 15-17.99) and focuses on vocations and life choices.

Any interested Scouts should contact either myself (Bob Ulicki) or Jose Saleme at the following email addresses:

Bob Ulicki RLUlicki@aol.com
Jose Saleme josesaleme@comcast.net

Mr. Saleme can also help Scouts from other Faiths contact the Counselor for their particular Faith. All Scouts should take advantage of the religious

emblems program(s) for their Faith. It is a great way to take part in the Duty to God art of Scouting.

—Bob Ulicki
Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor

Skyline to the Sea

May 29th, 2004, at 12:00, 17 scouts and adults left the Saratoga gap trailhead on a long journey through the Coastal Mountains, through Big Basin, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The first day of the three-day hike was mostly downhill, going into Big Basin

from Skyline Boulevard. It was 6.5 miles, the shortest day we would hike. We stopped on the road to Camp Chesebrough at 12:45 for lunch and a one-hour break. We reached Waterman Gap Campsite at 3:30, and had dinner at 5:00.

On the second day, we met up with Mr. Hofstetter and hiked a total of 10 miles through Big Basin, with lots of ups and lots of downs. This was probably the most taxing day of the hike. At 9:00, we started hiking, and paused for Scouts Own at the Nick

Kelly memorial a mile or so out of Waterman Gap. Then we continued until lunch, which was at 12:00. When we heard the sounds of the Big Basin Overnighter around 4:00, we knew we were at Jay Camp. We had dinner at 5:00.

Monday, day three, we left with the Big Basin guys on their day hike at 8:15. At 10:30, we broke up, us following the main trail, them taking a side trail. We had lunch at 11:45, and sat around until 12:45. After lunch, we

hiked down a road until we hit Waddell Beach at 2:30. The total trip had been nearly 30 miles, with the last day being 12.5 miles. At Waddell Beach, we stood in the water and watched kite surfers fly around in the incredibly high wind.

Something about the trip that was rather unplanned for was the mosquitoes. These insects provided us all a few bites, with some people getting dozens. There were few people who brought bug spray, so we kind of had to fend them off with hands, dead leaves,

anything. It was, needless to say, a relief to get in the tents and away from the mosquitoes.

The food was very good, and didn't weigh much, because Mrs. Lucas dehydrated much of it. It may have had something to do with how hungry we were, but it also may not have. Overall, this was a great trip, and I will be coming back if we schedule it again.

—Wesley L.

Troop Historian

The T-50 50-Miler

From June 19-26, 10 scouts and 5 adults backpacked a 50-mile stretch of the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). Most of the hike was along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), where it is collinear to the TRT, and also in the area called Desolation Wilderness. We were divided into two groups: Crew 1, the fast group with 7 people led by Steve Parker; and Crew 2, the slow group with 8 (led by Kevin D.). Mr. Lucas was the adult trek leader. The trip took 8 days and 7 nights. Many surprises awaited us, including snowfields, loads of mosquitoes, and awesome panoramas of Lake Tahoe.

On the absolute first day, which we'll call Day 0 for convenience, the crews drove up to the Barker Pass Trailhead, the starting point, and pitched camp. The next day, Day 1, after everything had been organized, we left for Richardson Lake, our campsite for that night. There, some people went swimming, and we saw lots of crayfish on the rocks near the shore. After a good night's sleep, we woke up for Day 2,

and Crew 2 hiked to Middle Velma Lake, while Crew 1 hiked three miles further, to Dick's Lake. Crew 2 said that Middle Velma was one of the best campsites they had.

On Day 3, we scaled Dick's Pass (9360'), the highest we would go on the entire trip. It was hard but fun, and Crew 2 stayed at Susie Lake that night while Crew 1 went 2 miles further to Lake Aloha. Day 4 was rather easy, with Crew 1 going to Ralston Lake and Crew 2 going mile further to Tamarack Lake. There were some really cool views of Echo Lake from a hill nearby, and there was a really cool waterfall over Ralston Lake.

The next day, Day 5, was the best day for some reasons and the worst day for others. It was the longest day of the entire trip, but we got to stop at a store for junk food, and when we got the last 2 day's food from the Lombardi's at resupply, they cooked some really good hamburgers on a two-burner Coleman. The hardest part of the entire trip was

the three miles after resupply, because we were already tired, and it was incredibly steep. The campsite was bad, because we were in a meadow instead of by a lake, and the water we pumped was disgusting. We all slept fairly well, and left for our last campsite, Round Lake, on the morning of Day 6. The campsite was good, and we all went for a swim. The last day, Day 7, was very easy, only 2 miles. When we reached the parking lot we had Scout's Own and went home.

The trip was altogether very fun, and was worth doing again. Some suggestions were: continue along the 110 miles of the Tahoe Rim Trail that are left, do a 50-miler in Desolation Wilderness only, or do more of the Pacific Crest Trail. I personally would go on any of these hikes, and a lot of people agreed they would too. This trip was a great learning experience for me and everyone else.

—Wesley L.

Troop Historian

Troop 476 Calendar

July 31-August 1 Sunol Beginner Backpacking Trip
 August 1-7 Bristlecone JLT Training
 August 3 Holy Name Room Clean-up
 August 15-21 Camp Whitsett
 August 23 Committee Meeting
 August 26 PLC Meeting, 6:30 pm
 August 26 Aluminum Cans Due
 August 27 Fort Ross Campout
 September 7 Holy Name Room Clean-up

September 11 Court of Honor
 September 18-19 Del Valle Car Campout & Canoe Training & Webelos Outreach
 September 20 Committee Meeting
 September 23 PLC Meeting, 6:30 pm
 September 25 Monterey Bay Sea Kayaking
 September 26 Fall Planning Meeting
 September 30 Junior Leader Elections
 September 30 Aluminum Cans Due