

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

What a summer of adventure we've had! Let's see, in little more than two months, the Russian River was rushin' like it never has before...we won the campwide competition at both Emerald Bay and Hi-Sierra...we honed our cooking skills and served dinner to homeless men...two of our Scouts represented us at the National Jamboree...one Scout got trained in leadership at Bristlecone...and our three Philmont crews finished preparations and executed high adventure backpacking treks that wound nearly 100 miles over the mountains of northern New Mexico.

These accomplishments alone are enough reason to celebrate, but what really impressed me was how it was all done with great troop, patrol, and crew spirit. I think *how* we did our adventures will be remembered even longer than just *what* we did. For instance, between our two summer camps, almost every Scout in the troop had a hand in winning the competitions. And when our Scouts served dinner to the homeless men, what the men appreciated wasn't just the tastiness of the

food but the caring and conversations of the Scouts who ate with them. Finally, the experience of Crew 3 and the stories I heard from our other crews tell me that the challenges each crew faced at Philmont brought them together as a team.

The memories of those challenges and how the crew worked together to overcome them will last a lifetime. In Crew 3 ("The Cheesemonkeys"), we had a string of six days that each held an almost unbelievable obstacle. They were so ridiculous that we named them. For most of us, each tough experience flipped from being a Thorn to being a Rose—we cherished those challenges because we came through them together. Ask someone from the crew to describe Mr. Toad's Wild Slide, the Skree Slope, Frappuccino Falls, Muck Wallow, Pachinko Canyon, or the 'Cito Death Triangle.

For those who have been on high adventure treks before, you know that tough treks can alter you. You see a huge task—maybe it seems like an impossible task—and then you work hard to achieve it, side-by-side with others in your crew.

When you achieve it, you realize there is more in you than you had thought. What else is out there that you can conquer? With quiet confidence, you can tackle it.

But we didn't just discover ourselves at Philmont. One of the secrets of being in Nature is that you are not alone. As I told Crew 3 on one of our first days, if you look carefully on the path before you, you will see the footprints of God—he's been there before, and he'll be right there with you throughout the trek. During the most beautiful highpoint of the trip, he's there enjoying it with you. During the most discouraging part of the trip, he's there too. We just had to open our eyes to walk with God at Philmont. Now that we're all home from our summer of adventure, as we return to school and work we still just have to open our eyes to walk with Him wherever our paths lead through His creation.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Black Mountain Traverse

Black Mountain Traverse was one of the last Philmont preparation hikes before the real thing. This meant that it would be among the toughest ordeals prior to Philmont, and it certainly did not disappoint. Due to towering mountains, sheer distance, and misleading maps, this trek proved to be no cakewalk, possibly exceeding Philmont in difficulty.

Each crew met at 1:00 in the afternoon for the distribution of gear and the official weigh-in of the packs. Each pack was limited to one-third of the weight of its Scout; this ensured that no one was crushed under the weight of his own pack while hiking. After a short drive, everyone was dumped at a parking lot on the mountain, and the fun finally got to begin.

Our first day was only scheduled to be

6.5 miles long, a relatively short hike by our standards. Unfortunately, this did not take into account that our map-making software was not very accurate. This meant simply that we got to hike farther...yippee!! Now our short hike got stretched into about 8 miles instead. For dinner, we were rewarded with a surprisingly delicious meal of dehydrated spaghetti. After a short campfire, we returned to our tents and caught some much-needed sleep.

The next day we ate a quick breakfast, broke camp, and hit the trail for a supposedly 11-mile hike. As our luck would have it, we got stuck walking more than the map said, meaning we got forced into a 14-mile trek. Luckily, the hike ended at a ranger station, which sold sodas! Finally we each got rewarded with

one of the best tasting Dr. Peppers I have had for a while. At our campsite, we ended the day with another surprisingly good dinner of chicken & noodles. Eventually, we veered towards our tents and decided to get some well-deserved sleep.

Finally, our trek was coming to a close with our final day. Our hike took us up and over a mountain, but it was a moderately short distance, only 8 miles. However, the deceptive maps struck again. This time was especially annoying because we set a pretty good pace at the beginning. The following is the conversation we had when we discovered the actual distance of that day's hike:

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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>

“How far have we gone?”

“About 3.5 miles.”

“Wahoo!! We are almost halfway done!”

“Umm...no, actually we have about 10 miles left...”

“AHHHHH!!!”

The final day was particularly grueling because the 13 miles we hiked occurred on what seemed to be an infinitely tall mountain. Every time we thought that we reached the peak, the trail turned a corner and revealed another

monstrous slope. The downhill portion did not help either, because it sloped so much that it would hurt your knees if you went too fast. Eventually, we did reach the bottom, and eventually came the best part of the day: seeing the ranger station with our rides home.

In the end, our 26-mile hike ended up stretching to 35 miles. This means that we completed nearly half the distance of Philmont in less than one-third the time. Yay, I think we are ready! But how did we manage to entertain ourselves while

walking on the fairly uninteresting trails? Simple, just create extremely funny conversations. For example, consider the following: what came first, the chicken or the egg? This one question kept us going for a long time with everything from analogies involving treasure chests and theories involving dinosaur chickens. Ah...what wonderful, strange things we see in backpacking.

—Kevin C.

Camp Emerald Bay

You probably have heard by now that we won the Fantasticade paddle again and about Mr. Gabriel’s amazing belly flops, so I will tell you about a few of the other activities that took place during that week.

There were forty scouts and fourteen adults from our troop who had to wake up extremely early, about four twenty in the morning, in order to board our charter bus by five forty-five. After two videos and a stop for breakfast we arrived at the ferry building. We quickly unloaded the bus, ate box lunches, and waited for the ferry to arrive. The ferry ride to Catalina Island took about an hour. It was a beautiful sunny day.

Each troop was assigned a staff “ranger” who helped co-ordinate troop activities during the week. On Monday, we were told by our ranger, Matt, that we would be going on our war canoe trip to Parson’s Bay on Tuesday. On Monday evening, scouts and adults were each given a plastic “dry” bag to pack clothes, snorkeling gear, wetsuits and whatever else we wanted to bring. The next day, our troop was woken up early (the people who work at Emerald Bay must really like waking up early) to trudge down to the waterfront. We carried canoes to the water and overloaded them one by one. Teams of eight were chosen and assigned a war canoe. Once all the war canoes were launched we headed towards Parson’s Bay. We reached Parson’s Bay in about an hour of paddling, our landing site, and had to take refuge in a kelp bed while our troop waited for all our

canoes to arrive. Then, we paddled one at a time off to the beach.

During that day, we had several activities to choose from. The scouts could either stay at Parson’s Beach and snorkel, go on a hike, play on the beach, swim or join the Rugged R excursion. I stayed at the beach so I don’t have any details about the Rugged R trip but I heard it was exciting.

That night we had beef vegetable stew and peach cobbler cooked in a Dutch oven. Because we were given little disposable plastic bowls about three and one half inches wide (I’m probably exaggerating but they were very small) everyone had to get in line multiple times for seconds, thirds and fourths. If you think our line for dinner was long, you can imagine the line for the peach cobbler!

That night we had a choice of sleeping on the rocks (the beach was mostly made up of rocks and very little sand) or the dirt. I would think sleeping on the rocks would be painful, but surprisingly the rocks were quite comfortable due to the fact that they were small and would mold to the shape of your body.

The next morning, we woke up early (as usual), packed our stuff into the plastic bags again and carried everything to the canoes. We had a little bit of trouble loading the canoes because of large waves crashing at the shore. In fact, one of the canoes flipped during the loading process, but we made it back to Emerald Bay safely.

Those of us who took the Wilderness Survival merit badge

thought that it would be one of the more interesting merit badges and I’m happy to report it was. What we didn’t expect was that when we had to sleep “under the stars,” it would be so uncomfortable. The night I had to spend in my fennel and grass shelter was one of the colder nights of the week. In addition to that, the person sleeping next to me shifted around all night with a very noisy space blanket causing me to have almost no sleep that night.

On Friday afternoon, the Aquacade began. Until Mr. Gabriel’s “ballerina flops,” we weren’t doing spectacularly well, but we were doing okay. Our troop was really pumped up after Mr. Gabriel’s performance, and we really tried our best. The last and most important event of the day was the “Message to Garcia” relay race. First, the canoers were given a message to pass on to the kayakers waiting out in the bay. The kayakers raced over to the beach where they told the swimmers the message. The swimmers then sprinted to the docks and passed on the message to the runners. The runners ran their leg of the race and gave the message to “Garcia.” Well, I’ll just say that Troop 476’s team won by a huge, and I mean **huge**, margin.

The next day, Saturday, we woke up early (like all the previous days) and packed our stuff and cleaned up our campsite. This article is getting long so I’ll just say we won the Fantasticade Paddle for the third time on the third year we have gone to Emerald Bay.

—Matthew B.
Troop Historian

Friends of Scouting

Dear Families of Troop 476,
Congratulations to all of you ! Troop

476 has another successful year with the FOS campaign.

We have raised a grand total of \$12,355.00 with \$11,135.00 applicable

toward our goal of \$10,000.00. We exceeded our goal by \$1,135.00. EXCELLENT support from all of you.

Again, thank you very much for your generous support!

— May Lee
FOS Chair - 2005

Advancement Report – Merit Badges

Archery		Geology :(Continued)		Nature:(Continued)	
Ben H.	07/22/05	Chris E.	07/08/05	Cauchy C.	07/08/05
Robert N.	07/08/05	Billy R.	07/22/05	Jason G.	07/08/05
				Derek L.	07/08/05
Art :		Indian Lore :		Owen L.	05/19/05
Patrick S.	07/08/05	Thomas B.	07/21/05	Gareth R.	05/19/05
		Christopher C.	07/21/05		
Astronomy :		Michael L.	07/22/05	Oceanography :	
Thomas B.	07/22/05	Wesley L.	07/21/05	Luke B.	07/08/05
				Simon B.	07/08/05
Basketry :		Leatherwork :		Ernest C.	07/08/05
Huy P.	07/08/05	Jake L.	07/08/05	Lonny C.	07/08/05
		Michael L.	07/22/05	Cauchy C.	07/08/05
Camping* :		Siddhartha N.	07/08/05	Kevin C.	07/08/05
Niket D.	06/10/05	Huy P.	07/08/05	Alex D. O.,	07/08/05
Ryan W.	07/08/05	Kenny S.	07/08/05	Chris E.,	07/08/05
		Victor W.	07/08/05	Nick F.	07/08/05
Canoeing :		Lifesaving* :		Scott G.	07/08/05
Daniel C.	06/18/05	Matthew B.	06/13/05	Jason G.	07/08/05
		Daniel C.	06/13/05	Zahi H.	07/08/05
Citizen In World* :		Alex D. O.	06/27/05	Jake L.	07/08/05
Clarence Q.	07/28/05	Andrew E.	06/27/05	Wesley L.	07/08/05
		Nick F.	07/02/05	Siddhartha N.	07/08/05
Communications* :		Zahi H.	06/27/05	Bill P.	07/08/05
Niket D.	07/02/05	Ben H.	06/27/05	Huy P.	07/08/05
		Bill P.	05/22/05	Patrick S.	07/08/05
Energy :				Kenny S.	07/08/05
Eric H.	07/22/05			Victor W.	07/08/05
		Mammal Study :			
Environmental Science* :		Nick F.	07/08/05	Orienteering :	
Chris E.	06/24/05	Scott G.	07/08/05	Chris E.	07/08/05
Andrew E.	07/08/05	Zahi H.	07/08/05	Scott G.	07/08/05
Robert N.	07/08/05	Jake L.	07/08/05	Zahi H.	07/08/05
Bill P.	07/23/05	Bill P.	07/22/05	Ben H.	07/08/05
Devin S.	06/30/05	Jasper W.	07/08/05	Patrick S.	07/08/05
		Victor W.	07/08/05		
Family Life* :		Shaun Y.	07/08/05	Personal Fitness* :	
Kyle B.	06/23/05			Zahi H.	06/15/05
Matthew B.	06/23/05	Metalwork :		Jonathan Y.	05/29/05
Clarence Q.	06/13/05	Thomas B.	07/21/05		
				Personal Management* :	
First Aid* :		Motorboating :		Clarence Q.	06/19/05
Cameron R.	07/10/05	Simon B.	07/08/05	John W.	06/13/05
Patrick S.	07/12/05	David C.	07/08/05		
		Lonny C.	07/08/05	Pioneering :	
Fish and Wildlife :		Cauchy C.	07/08/05	Kevin C.	07/08/05
Scott G.	07/08/05	Kevin C.	07/08/05	Clarence Q.	07/08/05
Eric H.	07/22/05	Andrew E.	07/08/05		
Wesley L.	07/08/05	Nick F.	07/08/05	Plant Science :	
		Ben H.	07/08/05	Wesley L.	07/11/05
Forestry :		Bill P.	07/08/05		
Christopher C.	07/21/05	Clarence Q.	07/08/05	Reptile/Amphibian :	
Eric H.	07/21/05	Ryan W.	07/08/05	Billy R.	07/22/05
Wesley L.	07/14/05				
		Nature :		Rifle Shooting :	
Geology :		Ernest C.	07/08/05	Daniel C.	07/08/05
Luke B.	07/08/05	Lonny C.	07/08/05	Bill P.	07/21/05

Rifle Shooting :(Continued)

Michael R. 07/08/05

Rowing :

Wesley L. 07/08/05

Shotgun Shooting :

Michael R. 07/08/05

Small Boat Sailing :

Kyle B. 07/08/05

Daniel C. 07/08/05

Nick F. 07/08/05

Trevor G. 07/08/05

Zahi H. 07/08/05

Ben H. 07/08/05

Soil and Water :

Thomas B. 07/22/05

Clarence Q. 07/08/05

Michael R. 07/08/05

Swimming* :

Derek L. 07/08/05

Robert N. 07/08/05

Shaun Y. 07/08/05

Weather :

Christopher C. 07/22/05

Wilderness Survival :

Luke B. 07/08/05

Simon B. 07/08/05

Wilderness Survival :(Continued)

Kyle B. 07/08/05

Matthew B. 07/08/05

Daniel C. 07/08/05

Andrew E. 07/08/05

Trevor G. 07/08/05

Wood Carving :

Ernest C. 07/08/05

Trevor G. 07/08/05

Jason G. 07/08/05

Derek L. 07/08/05

Kenny S. 07/08/05

Victor W. 07/08/05

Shaun Y. 07/08/05

Advancement Report – Rank

Scout :

Jason G. 06/02/05

Eric H. 07/14/05

Jake L. 06/30/05

Robert N. 06/09/05

Huy P. 06/30/05

Billy R. 05/19/05

Tenderfoot :

Ernest C., 07/14/05

Alex D. O. 06/09/05

Kenny S. 07/14/05

2nd Class :

Mark I. 07/28/05

Bill P. 07/28/05

1st Class :

Patrick S. 05/19/05

Life :

Bryce D. 06/23/05

Eagle :

Alexander C. 05/26/05

Matt S. 06/09/05

Advancement Report – Special Awards

Firem'n Chit :

Simon B. 07/08/05

Jason G. 07/08/05

Jake L. 07/08/05

Derek L. 07/08/05

Robert N. 07/08/05

Huy P. 07/08/05

Totin' Chip :

Ernest C. 07/08/05

Jason G. 07/08/05

Jake L. 07/08/05

Derek L. 07/08/05

Robert N. 07/08/05

Huy P. 07/08/05

Kenny S. 07/08/05

Shaun Y. 07/08/05

World Conservation :

Clarence Q. 07/28/05

Michael R. 07/08/05

Troop 476 Calendar

August 25 PLC Meeting
 August 25 Aluminum Can Recycling
 August 26-28 Fort Ross Campout & Service Project
 September 11 Court of Honor
 September 17-18 Del Valle Car Campout & Canoe Training
 September 19 Troop Committee Meeting
 September 22 PLC Meeting

September 25 Fall PLC Planning Meeting
 October 1 Coyote Classic Cycling
 October 16 Troop Junior Leader Training
 October 17 Troop Committee Meeting
 October 26 PLC Meeting
 October 22-23 Castle Rock Beginner Backpacking
 October 27 Pie/Cookie Dough Sales End