

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

Picture yourself on a Monday morning: You're back at school, and a friend, slumped on his desk yawning and with half-open eyes, asks you, "So what did *you* do last weekend?" If you were one of the hardy few who trekked to Tahoe-Donner, you can answer that you went to the mountains, dug a cave in the snow, crawled in, and slept in it. I think their eyes will widen and their opinion of you may change. They will either grow in admiration of you—or they'll think you're crazy. It doesn't really matter which, does it? They're *your* memories. You had a great adventure, trudging through waist-deep snow in a winter wonderland. Over the course of a day of hard work, you and your buddies fashioned a sturdy shelter. Once you finished, thick silent snowflakes descended all about and suddenly you were on both the sending and receiving ends of a few low-flying snow missiles. After dinner—does any food taste better than something warm following a day of

hard work in the snow?—you stood around the campfire with your hand on your heart as two aging flags were honored and retired. Then you crawled into your snow cave, perhaps surprised at the silence and the relative warmth, and you and your sore muscles quickly fell into a well-deserved sleep.

All in all, it was a typical Scouting adventure, wasn't it? I think when you're older you'll look back on your time in Troop 476, remembering snow camping and rope bridges and rock climbing and whitewater rafting and backpacking in the mountains of northern New Mexico and you'll say, "Did I *really* do all that?" Yes, you really did. You set down the remote control, logged out of IM, turned off the cell phone, got up from the couch, stepped out of the climate-controlled house...and you really *lived* your teenage years. Each of our treks stands out like a beacon in my memory, connected to form a map of my life during the past few years. Some day

you may be lucky enough, like me, to relive those teenage years and experience another set of adventures, sharing them this time with your own children and building even more memories.

You're heard me say it before: Go on as many treks as you can. There's so much of Scouting—and life—that can only happen on an outdoor adventure. And for those going to Philmont this summer, you'll want to go on every backpacking trek you can in the next few months as you build your crew and prepare yourself for the great high adventure awaiting you this summer...an adventure that will become another enduring beacon in your memory. You'll have a pretty good answer waiting for a future yawning, slumping friend who asks, "So what did *you* do with your childhood?"

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

Hat's off to Dave Bunzel for his leadership in organizing our Troop's first Trail-to-Eagle Program, meeting, on Feb. 27. Russell Schaadt, Cal Gabriel, Richard Anderson, Bob Wedig, along with Dave, (and a presentation written by Dana Drysdale, presented by Russell) provided much food for thought, while Scout Lawrence L. was the meeting's "toastmaster." This was such an informative meeting for all families with Scouts that are aiming for Scouting's highest rank, that the Troop will conduct similar meetings in the future. By helping families and Scouts to more clearly understand how to become an Eagle, earlier in the process, we believe that more

Scouts will achieve this honor, and that our Troop will be stronger.

The following was taken from <http://www.eaglescout.org/final/coh/optio.html>:

What It Means To Be an Eagle Scout

by Greg Gough

It means that I have the ability to be a leader. Not of a gang or criminal organization but a leader of like minded individuals that uphold a creed, a sacred oath. A passion for life and the principals that founded the United States of America. Patriotism is a loyalty I will never break. If called on I would voluntarily give my life for my country. But more importantly, I

will work to make it better. Duty to God is an ongoing learning and incorporating of similar moral values that ensure that I will be a compassionate and productive citizen. Eagle Scout is not a patch, an award or certificate to hang on the wall. It is a way to live your life. Although the trail to Eagle is hard work and fun; it is much more. The Eagle rank is an education. Each rank is a chapter. The conclusion is that by earning the Eagle rank the individual has the tools to be a responsible consciences citizen who would gladly advance the group before the individual.

—Karl Darr
Committee Chairman

Snow Camping '05

Ah...the joys of snow camping: the cool mountain air, building the snow caves, and, of course, waking up at 5:30 in the morning for a five-hour drive.

After the long ride to the camp, we all gathered together to receive an inspirational speech on how to stay safe and not die while camping. Following

that, everyone bundled up lightly and started piling snow to provide the

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
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Email: SEGibes@aol.com

foundation for his cave. Once the mound had reached a sufficient height (about five or six feet tall), the Scouts chowed down on their food while waiting for the snow to settle. After an hour, they grabbed their shovels and began the tunneling.

Slowly, but surely, each cave group chipped away at the snow until they were thoroughly inside. Then the process expanded, by forcing the Scouts to dig up and around to carve out the sleeping area. Gradually, each cave expanded to fit two, or even three Scouts, each. Once the caves were completed, the gear was moved inside out of the now snowy weather. Then, the festivities commenced. Several

caves constructed idols to place atop their fortress of snow, while the rest of the Scouts split into teams and began hurling chunks of snow, until dinnertime.

After a nice warm supper, everyone headed over to the campfire where we warmed ourselves until the ceremony. Two tattered, old flags were retired at this campout, and we honored them with a proper burning while we paid our last respects. Following this, everyone drowsily lumbered to the Porta-Potty and then dragged themselves into their caves for a well-deserved rest. Finally, the morning came and brought breakfast and the frantic dismantling of caves and

packing of gear. Then came Scout's Own and the warm ride back home.

In several ways, this year's snow camping was better than last year's. First, although there were still many "newbies" to the experience, everyone had assembled an approved shelter to stay in, which led to no one sleeping in cars. Second, people seemed to pack better which resulted in fewer frozen toes and whiny Scouts. Finally, the weather was significantly better than last year's, as the low of 20°F was considerably better than last year's -5°F!!!

— Kevin C.

A Novice Parent's Experience Snow Camping

We are very pleased that we acted on Jan Wedig's suggestion of taking a family day trip to the troop's snow campsite in Tahoe Donner. For those of you prospective snow campers worried about avalanches, there was nothing to fear since the site was in a relatively flat area. The site also had the luxury of a clean porta-potty, which doesn't smell in those temperatures.

My husband, Glenn, helped out some of the younger scouts, who were struggling to finish their cave by the troop deadline (their alternative was to sleep in a tent), while my son, daughter and I helped out my son's patrol. It was a lot of work, but extremely fun. I enjoyed getting in the cave for short periods to help dig and push out snow. I also wandered around talking to the digging teams although it was a little strange speaking to the only

visible part of the body, people's boots, or getting on my hands and knees to carry on conversations with people in the caves.

I found the snow digging position awkward (on your back and side, digging over your head). Our opening was short and small and I felt like a clumsy seal each time I entered. I confess that while in the tunnel digging position, before the tunnel was big enough to widen into a cave, I did feel claustrophobia.

One of the scout challenges was establishing teamwork for pushing out the snow; the further the digger burrowed in, the more important the teamwork was.

Before seeing the cave digging process, I couldn't imagine how one could keep the cave from falling in. I quickly realized it was packed down

very well as I watched the boys climb over the outside while their partners were taking their turn digging. Each cave had it's own unique charm, some were decorated with flags and snowmen, one had 2 entrances, and one had 3 stairs and a grand entrance.

The weather was nice, even when we weren't working hard digging. It began to snow around 3:30, so we left around 4:00 to avoid putting on chains (we like putting on chains as much as we like having our teeth drilled).

We have decided that this overnight will be a "must" on our calendar next year and that we will take turns going, so that both parents get the opportunity to do it.

— Louise Fishler

Skill-o-Rama

On March 5, 2005, Troop 476 held its first Skill-o-Rama. Our scouts arrived promptly at 9:30 AM to set up and prepare for the Webelos at 10:00 AM. The Scorpions prepared to teach the Webelos how to light a backpacking stove by checking out 4 stoves and setting up on the baseball diamond. The Orion and Ranger Patrol set up in the field with lots rope and short pieces of pipe to teach the Webelos knots. The Cobras and the Condors set up near the school to get ready to teach different first aid carries. The Redwoods and the Jaguars set up in the field with a few troop tents to prepare to teach the Webelos how to best pitch

a tent. Finally, the Timberwolves started to work on setting up the rope bridge they had already built two times before.

The Webelos showed up at 10:00 AM or before eager to learn their skills. Niket, our SPL, had worked out a system where the Webelos would each receive a "passport" that listed each of the skill stations and left a box for each station to be signed when the Webelos completed the skill. Each Webelos was assigned to start at a different station and to work his way down the list. Approximately 30 Webelos arrived and began to take part in Skill-o-Rama.

The Scorpions had a slow start because sometimes even senior scouts need to be reminded on how the equipment works. However, a flame always seems to draw boys like moths so once the kinks were worked out, the Webelos were quite enthralled with just watching the Scorpions start the stoves. There were quite a few quizzical looks on the faces of Webelos over at the knot station. However, the Orions and Rangers were especially prepared with a professionally constructed knots flyer and a set of instructions on how to tie the various knots. With this documentation and the help of the Orions and Rangers, eventually the

Webelos walked away with the knowledge of how to tie knots. The stretcher carry was also a hit. It seemed as though it was more fun to be the carryee rather than the carrier. The tents went up and went down the entire time and they also provided a place for the Redwoods to “crash” at the end of the day. Finally, even though the Timberwolves had previously built the

rope bridge twice before, it took about one half hour into Skill-o-Rama before the bridge was ready and operational. However, the Webelos dutifully lined up and were quite excited when they each got their turn to cross the bridge.

By the end of the day, there were lots of smiles on the faces of the Webelos, their passports were all full and they each walked away with a

couple pieces of candy for their work. All in all, it appears that the troop’s first Skill-o-Rama was a success. Of course it is always up to the Patrol Leaders’ Council to decide, but it seems as though this may turn into an annual event.

— Mr. Wedig
ASM, Troop 476

Operation Care & Comfort

Operation: Care and Comfort
Santa Clara Valley Chapter’s Military
Care Package Program

Fellow Scouts,

A few months ago, I told you about a local program to create care packages for our troops over seas. The program was initiated many years ago during Desert Storm by an Eagle Scout candidate in Saratoga, named Jared Sowards. Over time, his program merged with others and finally was adopted as an official Red Cross entity. Your participation with



Operation Care and Comfort can range from attending packaging events for a few hours to sponsoring your own neighborhood drive to collect items for the soldiers. If you and/or your patrol would like more information, read on, or you can contact me at

nancyacheadle@sbcglobal.net,

or contact Julie DeMaria (information below) and tell her I sent you!

Our Mission

The Operation: Care and Comfort Military Care Package Program exists to provide support and comfort to 25-30 “adopted”

units of deployed U.S. military service members, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and conflict regions, by sending care packages containing needed items. We ship to these units on a monthly basis, until they return home. We then adopt another unit to take their place.

What We Have Accomplished

From April 2003 through January 2005, Operation Care and Comfort has shipped over 2300 shipping boxes totaling more than 76,000 pounds of needed items for distribution to Marine, Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard personnel deployed in the conflict regions.

Why Operation: Care and Comfort is Successful

This volunteer driven, community based program derives strength from

1) Our Community who donates the needed items to be shipped as well as the financing required to cover packaging and shipping costs. The enthusiastic support from the many individuals, families, schools, businesses, youth groups, senior groups, churches, public safety and military organizations are the driving force.

2) Our “Care and Comfort” Volunteers who donate their time and expenses, manage the program infrastructure and coordinate the receiving, inventory, packaging, allocation and shipping logistics required to move the product overseas. The volunteers also spearhead the program marketing and fundraising.

3) The Santa Clara Valley Chapter Employees and Management including the

Armed Forces Emergency Services, administration, accounting, marketing and development provide the behind the scenes support that enables the program to function.

4) Financial Integrity. Contributions designated to the Operation: Care and Comfort program are used specifically and solely for the shipping, packaging, or product purchasing costs required for the program. There are no hidden costs or administrative overhead fees.

How You Can Participate

Any person or organization who would like to help send care and comfort to our service members can participate by donating needed items (click on [see list](#) at the website) to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter. The program also accepts cash donations to cover the cost of shipping packages overseas. Please make checks payable to: Red Cross Operation: Care and Comfort and your tax deductible contribution will be used specifically for this program. Credit card donations are also accepted online. For [other easy ways to help](#), please contact the program coordinators:

Randy Bye /Brian McCormick –
(408) 577-2192 occrjb@yahoo.com
Julie DeMaria (408) 373-8635
troopsupport@comcast.net
Cookie Crissman (408) 249-6031 or
Cookie@piperitesystems.com

— By Nancy Cheadle

Editor's Column

Two items are on the agenda for the Editor's Column this issue: Religious Emblem Programs Column and Friends of Scouting.

Item 1: Religious Emblem Programs Column — Bob Ulicki, our Pope Pius XII Counselor has suggested we include a monthly column/notice about Religious Emblem Programs and

has discussed this with Mr. Wedig and others in the adult portion of Troop 476.

I am inviting the Scouts of Troop 476 to provide articles on their experiences in obtaining their Religious Emblems. This would be a chance to display leadership skills through encouraging fellow scouts to participate

in the programs and leading by example. I am including a Religious Emblem Programs Column in this issue. Mr. Ulicki stated: "Scouting respects all Faiths and is not afraid to speak openly about Duty to God."

The Goat will publish information and articles on Religious Emblem Programs when furnished by program

counselors and/or any adults who know about the available Religious Emblem Program available to all faiths. But since Troop 476 is a Scout-led Troop, I am presenting this opportunity for our Scouts to take the lead.

Item 2: Friends of Scouting — Chairman May Lee requested in her recent e-mail that anyone who has not received their pledge card and brochure by March 14, 2005 to contact her at (408)253-8303 or by e-mail at mayplee@comcast.net.

The cost to support one scout in the district is \$225.00 and no donation is too small. Please be sure to check for possible donation matching by your employer. And, last but not least, we hope to finish the campaign by April 30, 2005.

— Susan Gibes
Editor, The Goat

Religious Emblem Programs

Roman Catholic Religious Emblem Programs

Ad Altari Dei — Ages 12-14 Aug. – Jan.

Pope Pius XII — Ages 15-21 Aug. – Jan. (Venturers also!)

Contacts: Bob Wedig, Jose Saleme, Bob Ulicki

Catholic Scouts please mark your calendars. Summer gets busy and you don't want to forget to sign up at the appropriate time.

Advancements

First Class

Matthew B., 2/10/05

Life

Ben H., 2/10/05

Merit Badges

Citizenship In The Community

Lucas W., 01/27/05

Citizenship In The World

Matt S., 2/28/05

Family Life

Matt S., 2/27/05

Victor W., 1/27/05

Personal Fitness

Matt S., 2/25/05

Personal Management

Michael R., 2/10/05

Matt S., 2/10/05

Special Awards

World Conservation

Matt S., 02/28/05

Troop 476 Calendar



March 13	Spring Planning Meeting	April 18	Troop Committee Meeting
March 18	St. Patrick's Dinner Service Project	April 21	PLC Meeting
March 18-20	Big Basin Campout/Philmont Dayhike	April 23-24	Pinnacles Backpacking
March 21	Troop Committee Meeting	May 1	Jr. Leader Position Training
March 24	PLC Meeting	May 8	Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast
March 24	Order of the Arrow Elections	May 16	Committee Meeting
March 31	Junior Leader Elections	May 19	PLC Meeting
April 9	Patrol Outing	May 21-22	Camporee at Chesebrough