

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

When my family and I were traveling in Belize, Central America, last month, we hiked through rainforests listening to birds call, seeing Howler Monkeys, swatting mosquitoes, watching for jaguars, and finding tapir tracks on the trail. Then we visited the simple home of a Mayan family living on the edge of the rainforest, and they told us the story of an ordinary Belizean man who did something extraordinary. His name was Henry Fairweather, but people called him, "The Mahogany Man."



Mahogany is a beautiful hardwood. Unfortunately, it grows only in the rainforests of places like Belize. Entire forests have been cut down to meet our demand, sometimes leaving just bare areas

with no trees or animals. Henry loved mahogany trees and he was unhappy they were disappearing from Belize. But he was also 75 years old—and what could one old guy do about it? Our Scouts probably think someone's useful life is pretty much done at the age of 75; Henry's wasn't. This is the story of how one small person made a big difference.

One day when he was 75, Henry planted 16 mahogany trees. That's nice, though not too impressive. The thing is, the *next* day he planted *another* 16 trees...and the next...and the next. It turns out he planted 16 mahogany trees every single day, and he lived to the age of 96. In the end, he had planted about 135,000 mahogany trees, which he donated to the people of Belize. There's a 400-acre mahogany forest in Belize now just because of a single, old man. And he left even more than a forest—his work inspired the country, especially young people, and started a national movement for reforestation.

Once Henry decided to plant trees, he didn't waste any time getting started.

Maybe being 75 made him realize there wasn't much time to waste. Like the Nike ad says, "Just do it," so he did. I don't think he ever imagined he would plant 135,000 trees—he just wanted to do what he could in whatever time he had remaining. Before he died a couple of years ago, he said, "I want to continue to plant as long I can continue. I want to leave a legacy behind. I want to be able to, when I get to St. Peter, give an account of my stewardship."

You might be a 10.5-year-old boy reading this, or you might be a parent or grandparent of undisclosed age. None of us knows how much time we have left, but God has given us at least today. What kind of a difference are *you* making with your time remaining? Will you leave behind a forest of trees, or perhaps even a forest of changed lives? Will you stand proudly when you give an account of your stewardship?

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

In Lt. Col. John Sieverling, Commander for the 308th Fighter Squadron's article, "Ten Quotes That Define Leadership," his number one quote is, "***The three Fs of priorities: Faith, Family and Air Force.***" Not many commanders will say your job comes in third place behind your relatives and your spiritual health, but I contend this is the proper priority for a successful Air Force career of any length. Ask any former POW what carried them through their ordeal. If you are not actively growing in your faith, please visit your local chaplain or place of worship as soon as possible -- there is nothing more important."

Well, for an Air Force Commander, his third priority makes sense – and he makes a good case for why faith is supremely important. But, for the rest of

us, our third priority should be whatever it is that we are professionally engaged in, whether it is being a student, or some other profession, be it an engineer, a pilot, an author, an environmentalist, an accountant, etc.

Indeed, the Troop's annual Mothers' Day Breakfast is a great example of how Troop 476 lives Commander Sieverling's top two priorities, in his favorite quote on leadership definition.

Our Troop's foundation stems from a deep faith based tradition with the Holy Names Society as our Chartering Organization, and, in hosting the Mothers' Day Breakfast, we join together in service to our community, in honor of the leading ladies in our families.

In every way, the Mothers' Day Breakfast is a "trek" for the Troop in the

sense of the effort and coordination required to host a successful event. And, during the event, at least from my observations, most every member of our Troop demonstrated some sense of ownership and leadership in taking the initiative to do what was needed to be done at the time to make the event a success. We functioned like a well-oiled machine, especially after the 9:30 mass got out.

This "trek" gave us a chance to observe the notion that, "the leader emerges as a consequence of the needs of a group of people and the nature of the situation within which that group is attempting to operate."

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

Important Websites

Troop 476
<http://www.troop476.com>

Santa Clara Council
<http://www.sccc-scouting.org/>

National BSA
<http://www.scouting.org>

From this perspective, I take great pride in knowing that we walk among a wonderful group of current and future leaders.

There is still money coming in from ticket sales, and we were not able to get the same level of donations that we have been able to get in years past. So, from a financial situation, we won't know how

we did until all the money is turned in. The cold, wet weather may have also affected attendance this year, which seemed a little light, compared to last year.

But, as far as our Adult and Scout Trek Leaders, Joe Gibes and Andrew E., they did an outstanding job! And, we thank them for their efforts. Each year we

seem to get a little bit better. What a tradition!!!

Please help us get to closure on this event by making sure to turn in any money from ticket sales, as soon as possible

—Karl Darr
Committee Chairman

Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast -- Trek Leader's View

I was trek leader at the pancake breakfast. I think it went very well, and many customers were pleased with the service and good food. I myself think the food was good, wait scratch that, great! I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time. (If I misspelled your name or if you went and your name is not on the list I am sorry.)

Shift 1	Shift 2	Shift 2 (continued)	Shift 3
Lucas B.	Lucas B.	Alex C.	Clarence Q.
Nick F.	Doug H.	Clarence Q.	Peter S.
Ben H.	Chris E.	Marshall D.	Alex G.
Devin S.	Kenny S.	Kevin C.	John W.
Chris E.	Wesley L.	Tony F.	Ryan W.
Victor W.	Michael L.	Brian Q.	Shaun Y.
Peter S.	Ernest C.	Lawrence L.	
Zahi H.	Tony C.	Peter S.	— Andrew E. Trek Leader – Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast

Committee Chair's Corner

Thank you to the following families who have pledged in this year's FOS campaign:

Anderson, Baran, Bill, Bunzel, Burke, Campion, Cheadle, Chen, Cheuk, Choi, Chu, Conroy, Crane, Dalle Ore, Darr, Doherty, Endo, Enright, Erickson, Fishler, Flores, Gabriel, Gibes, Granstedt, Guthrie, Hakim, Henscheid, Hofstetter, Iskarous, Kwag, Lee (L.), Lee (M.), Lincoln, Lucas, Min, Murugesan, Parks, Qian, Quah, Robertson, Rouse, Schaadt, Schramm, Shannon, Shia, Song, Spence, Wan, Wedig, Weng, Yee

Special appreciation to our alumni who participated as well:

Guttadauro (LT), Guttadauro (Nick), Maguire, Parker, Ulicki

For the 10 families that have yet to turn in the pledge cards, please try to bring it to the troop meeting on Thursday. We are getting close to wrapping up the campaign for this year. Please remember no amount is too small, every dollar counts. Another significant reason to turn in the pledge card is to obtain the 100% participation in the FOS drive to meet one of the criteria for the "Quality Unit" award. Troop 476 has been able to maintain that high standard for many years; it is our goal to continue the good work.

For those who have pledged at the pack or council level, would you please

still fill out the cards with the amount and level indicated. This will count towards the participation requirement.

In terms of donations generated so far, we have collected \$10,920 with \$9,700 applicable towards our goal of \$10,000 for this year. There is also \$1,030 in company match. Thank you very much for all your support!

If you have any questions or need another pledge card, please call me at (408) 253-8303 or e-mail me at mayplee@comcast.net.

— May Lee
FOS Committee Chair

Gleanings For The Hungry – My Family Life Project

This is part of a report I gave to Mr. Wedig describing my family project for the Family Life merit badge. Some of you might be interested in different projects you can do, and going to Gleanings for the Hungry is a great way to volunteer your time and energy. Gleanings is a Christian, non-profit organization in Fresno, CA, that dries, packs and ships donated fruit to missionaries in over 100 countries where they will be distributed to the poorest people in the world.

Gleanings asks local fruit growers for the fruit that would be thrown out because it does not look good enough

to sell, but is actually perfectly fine. During the summer the workers use an assembly line that cores, cuts in half, and washes the fruit. Then the fruit is treated with sulfur, laid out to dry, and packed into buckets that were washed by other people who came earlier in the year. Finally the buckets are shipped all over the world to distribute among the people who need it most.

The people who receive the buckets are literally dirt poor and malnourished, so the fruit is an important source of nutrients they don't normally get. Sometimes, the families who receive the four-gallon buckets

treasure them as much as the food—storing water or food, keeping the food away from rats, even bathing kids in them. Often their bucket is the best possession they own.

My family was one of ten that worked at Gleanings May 1-5. We were part of the second shift so on May 3 we left for the long drive to Fresno. The next morning, we had breakfast and a mini-church service of singing and praying for the people working in other countries as well as the poor people that would receive the food. Then I worked with Kyle and some other men loading rotten wood into a trailer. After lunch, I

helped dry, stack, and run buckets to different stations. Once we were done, we enjoyed dinner and everyone swam in the pool.

Later that evening we viewed a movie about Smokey Mountain located in the Philippines. Smokey Mountain is a trash pile that is actually the size of a small mountain. It is smoking because of the continual decomposition of the trash. Amazingly, many people live there. The movie included an interview of a family with three children that lived on Smokey Mountain. All day they would collect plastic, clean it, and sell it to recycling companies somewhere.

They showed us this movie so we could see one of the many places where they give the fruit and to show us how important it was to the people. We often don't think of poor people as individuals who have real lives. It was important to see them as regular people who happen to be poor!

The next day, each family got to lead a song during the mini church service. It was raining so I worked in the dining hall being built for the hundreds of people that will come in the summer to dry and package the fruit. I helped put grout in between the tiles and when they were dry, I cleaned them with a sponge.

Altogether we washed over 3000 buckets, or one-sixth of the total needed for the summertime. Not bad for a bunch of kids and moms. The kids also packed over two pallets of donated raisins into bags since the poor kids otherwise have to carry the raisins in their shirts. Overall, everyone worked very hard at what they did. I feel like it's really important to help those less fortunate than ourselves when we have too much of everything. It felt really great to be able to help in a small way.

— Matthew B.
Troop Historian

From An Old Scoutmaster

Scouts,

You will no doubt discover that much of the planning that you do at meetings, most of the skills that you learn or teach to others, and all of the organization you do for campouts and Troop meetings depends heavily on communications. In fact, almost everything you do as a family member, student, scout, church member, or community resident involves constant communications with other people. The better that you communicate, generally the fewer problems that you will encounter as you work with others.

Communications is not just "speaking" or verbal, although this is a skill well worth developing. Communications involves such things as body language, listening skills, and eye

contact, and the ability to allow all members of your group (Patrol?) to share their ideas. If you monopolize a conversation, if you put down other people's ideas, or if you don't take the time to "communicate" information to a group that you may lead (Patrol Leaders), you create a possibility that information may be miscommunicated, misunderstood, or confusing. This can cause other people to either do the wrong thing (miss meetings, buy the wrong food, bring the wrong equipment, and so on), or many times it can be the reason for arguments and major disagreements.

You have opportunities to improve your communications skills in Scouting. Take advantage of them! They will be valuable to you throughout our life.

Work on the Communications Merit Badge with some vigor.

Consider the Public Speaking Merit Badge.

Look for Merit Badges that teach you various ways to communicate.

You may even want to explore things like Morse Code, semaphore signaling, or Encryption as a way of coding messages.

Learn how to communicate better and it will help you at home, at school, and in your future career. And there is also a free benefit - you'll enjoy good communication with other people!

—Bob Ulicki
SM from the past

Gleanings For The Hungry – My Family Life Project

Pinnacles provided yet another good training experience for the Philmont backpackers. This hike didn't prove to be quite as hard as Big Basin, but it let us experience many different terrain types. Also, although rain threatened us, it never actually came enough to ruin our good time.

We arrived at the Pinnacles State Park early Saturday morning under a thick layer of clouds. Just their presence brought about an ominous feeling, because it always in threatened to rain throughout the day. Once there, the three different Philmont crews confirmed their routes and departed their separate ways. Early on, the trail seemed extremely easy because it just seemed to keep going downhill. However, because it was a gradual

downhill it wasn't hard on our feet. After a few junctions, we took a peek at the map to discover that we were actually making good time! That was a welcome change from our normally turtle-like pace. By midday we had reached our first major landmark: the caves.

At the caves, we stopped for lunch. There we got to finally take our packs off, run free, and, of course, eat. After a while, we eagerly loaded up again in anticipation of our coming attraction. Traversing the caves definitely wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. The first segment had us climbing up rocks and through a narrow opening. In order to do this we had to remove our packs and pass them up to each other. The same thing applied to our next segment,

which was very similar. Some people could fit through the opening this time, but others had to pass their packs up the steep rock incline. We then walked down some rock steps and into the most interesting obstacle. Presented before us was a long passageway. However, mixed into the passage were very narrow openings where the rock pinched together. The problem was these channels were never quite big enough for the scout and the backpack. You could inch in a few feet but then you would just become stuck, unable to move forward. Finally we would give in, take off our pack, and drag it at our side. Relieved, we would load up our packs again, turn a corner, and see yet another narrow passageway! This of course would repeat several times

before the cave let us out of its dark grasp. Man, who designed this place?

After the caves, we regrouped and continued onward in our hike. By this time the rain started to drizzle, prompting us to stop and don our rain gear. As soon as we finished this and started walking, the rain would stop! However, now we couldn't stop and we had our rain jackets on making us hot and sweaty. Eventually we came to the bottom of our final impediment: the massive mountain. The mountain seemed to climb higher and higher, and no matter how many switchbacks we traversed, we never seemed to get any closer to the peak. Up and up we

climbed, and eventually we reached the peak. Unfortunately, even with all of the work we did to reach the summit, we had no time to enjoy it. We shot straight from the uphill battle, across the viewing area, and straight down the other side. Thankfully, it didn't seem quite as long going downhill. At the bottom of the mountain, we were only a short distance from camp and sprinted back to our awaited campsite.

At the campgrounds, we were blessed with ice cream from the gift shop and Frisbees with the other scouts. We then pitched our tents and prepared a surprisingly good meal of freeze-dried spaghetti. After that we enjoyed a

campfire with s'mores and our special blend of Tang. Once the sun had fully set we given a beautiful view, because the full moon illuminated most of the campground. The next morning, we finished breakfast, packed our tents, swept the campsite, and hit the road for home.

— Kevin C.
Troop Historian

Editor's Note – This was Kevin's last article as official Troop Historian. I hope he keeps writing and submitting articles and encourage our other scouts to do the same.

Editor's Column

The Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast article from the Adult Trek Leader, Joe Gibes, will be published in the next issue of The Goat. According to Mr. Gibes, he is deeply appreciative of all the work that both the adults and scouts did in making this a successful event. This was his first year as trek

leader for this event and he, as he put it, "needed all the help he could get".

Two of the Moms who regularly attend the event (one a mother of young children and another whose children have "flown the nest") told me that they look forward to attending this event every year. It is truly family-oriented

and a great way to start their Mothers' Day. As a mother attending the event, I appreciated the food, the camaraderie, and the effort all participants made in making this an enjoyable morning. Thanks to all.

—Susan Gibes
Editor – The Goat

Advancements


Scout	Tenderfoot	Second Class	Star
Michael L., 04/28/05	Daniel C., 05/12/05	Victor W., 05/05/05	Lonny C., 04/28/05
Mohti M., 04/28/05	Nathan F., 05/12/05		
Ryan S., 04/14/05	Bill P., 05/05/05		

Merit Badges

Citizenship In The World
Niket D., 05/06/05

Personal Management
Trevor G., 05/09/05
Doug H., 05/12/05

Troop 476 Calendar



May 19	PLC Meeting
May 21-22	Camporee at Chesebrough
June 11-12	Russian River Canoe Trip
June 16	Court of Honor
June 24-26	Emigrant Wilderness advanced backpacking

July 3-9	Camp Emerald Bay
July 17-23	Camp Hi-Sierra
July 30-August 12	Philmont (New Mexico)
August 7-13	Bristlecone
August 26-28	Fort Ross

