

THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends



Scoutmaster's Corner

When we reminisce about memorable treks we've been on, we usually think back to what we felt when we were backpacking or paddling, setting up tents or cooking, learning new skills or laughing around a campfire. Of course, I love all those things. But the adventure of a trek doesn't only happen when you're out in the wilderness. Last year, as we pulled up to the trailhead to go backpacking at Nisene Marks State Park for the second time in six months, I realized that the adventure actually starts before you even take your first step. I discovered there is a magical moment of anticipation *just before* a trek begins that is very special to me. I wonder if anyone else feels that way, and if you can picture and feel what I'm about to describe...

Car tires crunch to a halt in a dirt parking lot and the engine falls silent. The mechanical sounds of driving are instantly replaced by that holy stillness that can only come from a redwood forest—the thick duff on the ground and the tall canopy of soft-needed branches hanging overhead combine to muffle the sounds of others getting ready...doors creaking, packs jostling, friends joking. You open the door and immediately the surprising coolness of the deep forest air seeps in, surrounding and refreshing you, bringing with it the tang of tannin and forest life going through the endless cycle of growing and decomposing. You plant your boot on the ground but there is no sound, and all you feel is a soft bed of redwood needles underfoot. Even before you step completely out of the car, you know

you're in a different world. Thoughts of school or work slip away effortlessly and unnoticed. As you stand up, you stretch and think about the trail ahead. Behind you is civilization with all its demands and distractions. Ahead of you is a small island in time and space where life will slow down and you will feel *connected* once again—to the Creator and His creation, to comrades young and old, to outdoor adventures stretching back through your childhood. It's all there in front of you, almost like a lifelong friend waiting patiently and eagerly to welcome you once again. With anticipation, you shoulder your pack and the journey begins.

—Mr. Gabriel
Scoutmaster

Committee Chair's Corner

During October we will be transitioning into a new troop fiscal year – (our 49th!!!), activities calendar and adult leadership roles. I want to thank all the adult leaders for their wholehearted support of the troop this past year and look

forward to serving with you during this coming year. It is important to recognize all the “behind the scenes” leaders we have, allowing the troop to run as smoothly as it does. If you do not have a

permanent position within the troop please see me, if not, be assured I will see you.

—Karl Darr
Committee Chair

Philmont – An Average Day

An average day in Philmont normally started with Alex waking us up around 6:00 in the morning. Of course this meant we would actually move in about half an hour or so. When we eventually chose to leave the comfort of our sleeping bags, we packed up all of our gear and loaded our backpacks. If we finished quickly enough, then we were treated with our breakfast at the camp; otherwise, we had to eat on the trail after hiking for a while. Anyways, this whole process of breaking camp normally took us anywhere from 1_ to 2 hours.

hiked until we reached our assigned campsite. Occasionally we would stop for an activity, but otherwise we only charged straight to our destination. Once there, we located our campsite, sump, and bear line and proceeded to set up our tents. Then the duty roster would be called upon to determine who got stuck with setting up the bear bags, while everyone else started playing cards.

and packed all of the smellables into the bear bags, which were then hoisted up.

Following this came Scout's Own; the closing of the meeting signaled one important thing: bedtime! Crawling into our sleeping bags at night was excellent, especially towards the end of the trek when our bodies were beaten up and tired. Our sleep would be short-lived though, as Alex would wake us up again early in the morning to start a new day.

—Kevin C.
Except from Kevin C.'s Report on Philmont

Once we were on the trail, we just

At about 5:00 in the afternoon, the cooking group started cooking supper; of course everyone else just continued playing cards until the food was served.

After supper, we cleaned our dishes

Philmont – Trek Leader's Opinion

Philmont was a great experience of being able to survive on your skills and being able to depend on eleven other people to help out for ten days in the wilderness. We had lots of fun activities and developed some very good camping skills despite the rain, heat, and the mental strain of being on your own in the wild for

two weeks. We achieved a lot of good things including climbing 5 peaks all over 8500 feet, hiking in canyons along rivers, and climbing mountains while it was pouring. We had a lot of memorable activities including shotgun and black powder shooting, burro racing, rock climbing on Betsy's bra and milking cows

and goats, chasing chickens, and making candles. Overall I think everyone had a great time.

—Alex G.
Except from Kevin C.'s Report on Philmont

Fort Ross

On August 26, 2005, 16 scouts and 7 adults headed for Fort Ross State Park near Jenner, CA. A special guest for this year's campout was an “expert” abalone diver, Mr. Tad Davis. Tad Davis helped Mr. Wedig, our resident, yet still beginner abalone diver to catch their combined limit of six abalone for Saturday evening dinner. Mr. Wedig had arranged with Sarah Gould, a Fort Ross Senior Park Aid, for the troop to do a service project. Sarah had arranged for us to split wood

using a wood splitting machine and stack it inside the fort. Also, a small group of 6 scouts and two adults went off to another site and stacked lumber. The adults worked the wood splitter and the scouts carried and stacked the wood. It was hard work but everyone pitched in and we got a lot done.

were able to assist in the firing. The cannon was quite loud when it finally fired and it was interesting to get a feel for what it must have been like to experience such an event long ago.

After the cannon firing, the fort was closed to the public and we had the fort to ourselves. A few boys wanted to earn their totem chip so Mr. Wedig worked with them while dinner was being

We finished stacking wood at about 3:30 pm and then proceeded to participate in a cannon firing. Because our boys were doing a service project, some of our boys

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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>

prepared. Mr. Low also worked with three other boys to earn their fireman chit.

During this time, the boys were preparing their dinner and the adults were preparing the abalone. To say the abalone was succulent is an understatement. You don't know what you're missing if you've never had fresh abalone.

After dinner, the boys played a rousing game of capture the flag. This was especially fun because the boys could use the entire fort in their game. The boys especially enjoyed this game and were reluctant to stop when it was time to go to sleep. Sunday morning, we all woke up late at about 7:00am. We made breakfast,

cleaned up, were packed up, and ready to go by 10:45am. On the way home, everyone was quiet; some scouts slept and we all dreamed about coming back to Fort Ross next year.

— Bob Wedig
Assistant Scoutmaster

Del Valle

Cal Gabriel reports that the Campsite Punta Vaca at Del Valle was "Great". It was a private, scenic setting. Chris E., Scout Trek Leader, did a good job of directing the camp set-up. He kept the patrols together and out of the arroyo.

A total of 67 people attended. 25 scouts and 19 adults from Troop 476 and 23 guests including 15 Cub Scouts (from 6 different packs), 6 parents, and 2 siblings.

One dad experienced his first campout, a "Special Scout Moment" for

father and son.

Thirteen scouts completed their Canoeing Merit Badges and one scout completed his "Map & Compass" requirement during the 5-mile hike enjoyed by 27 people (wow!). The hike lasted 4.5 hours!

Four new scouts were inducted into the pack during this trek. They are Andrew S., Chris L., Patrick M., & Kevin C..

Three scouts completed their 1st class

cooking requirement, 4 scouts completed their 2nd class cooking requirements, and 2 built campfires. Evening Campfire events included s'mores, skits, and guitar playing.

Although there were some glitches, including large patrols due to late sign-ups and some extreme cooking experiences, a good time and eventful trek was had by all.

— Sue Gibes
Editor, The Goat

Editor's Note

The preceding article was written from the Troop Committee's 9-19-05 Meeting Minutes, as reported by Allison Granstedt, Recording Secretary. Thank-you, Allison.

In the next issue, I would like to

publish a column on the Del Valle 2005 Trek composed of one or two (or more) line comments or anecdotes from scouts and adults who actually experienced this year's trek. I have good memories of the 2004 Del Valle trek and want to publish

participant's reactions to this trek. Please submit your thoughts/reactions/stories.

The article deadline for the November issue of The Goat is November 6, 2005.

— Sue Gibes
Editor, The Goat

Cookie & Pie Dough Sales

Informational Bulletin: Cookie & Pie Dough Sales are scheduled for October 6, 2005 through October 27, 2005. Flyers and order forms will be distributed at the troop meeting on October 6, 2005. Orders should be turned in to Kevin C. by

Thursday, October 27th. Pick-up time for the orders is Tuesday, November 15th from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. Due to the lack of freezer space, it is very important that you arrange to pick up your items at this time.

Further information will be provided at troop meetings. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Crane, Wei-Jen Hsia, Grace Sheu, or Dave Bunzel.

Scouting for Food

Informational Bulletin: The 'Scouting for Food -2005' sign-ups will be on

October 24, 2005. The kick-off event is going to be held on Oct 27th.

Further information will be provided at troop meetings.

Advancement Report – Merit Badges

Camping* :

Kevin C.	08/25/05
David E.	09/08/05
Clarence Q.	08/20/05

Canoeing :

Christopher C.	09/17/05
Ernest C.	09/17/05
Jason G.	09/17/05
Eric H.	09/17/05
Mark I.	09/17/05
Jake L.	09/17/05
Derek L.	09/17/05
Michael L.	09/17/05
Robert N.	09/11/05
Huy P.	09/17/05
Billy R.	09/17/05
Andrew S.	09/17/05
Kenny S.	09/17/05
Victor W.	09/17/05

Citizen In Community* :

Kevin C.	08/23/05
Eric H.	09/24/05

Environmental Science* :

David E.	09/14/05
Victor W.	08/25/05

Family Life* :

Wesley L.	09/24/05
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Music :

David E.	09/18/05
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Photography:

Mark I.	08/31/05
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Pioneering :

Jacob S.	08/20/05
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Swimming* :

Ernest C.	08/25/05
Jason G.	08/18/05
Eric H.	08/23/05
Mark I.	08/18/05
Jake L.	08/18/05
Michael L.	08/17/05
Huy P.	08/18/05
Billy R.	08/17/05
Andrew S.	09/15/05
Kenny S.	08/17/05
Jacob S.	08/11/05

Theater :

Andrew E.	08/21/05
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*Required for Eagle

Advancement Report – Rank

Tenderfoot :

Jason G.	09/22/05
Eric H.	09/29/05
Michael L.	09/08/05

Mohti M.,	09/29/05
Siddhartha N.	09/01/05

Billy R.	09/22/05
Jacob S.	09/15/05

Troop 476 Calendar

October 6	Pie/Cookie Dough Sales Begin	November 15	Pie/Cookie Dough Distribution
October 8	Troop Junior Leader Training	November 17	PLC Meeting
October 13	Uniform/Equipment Exchange	November 19	Scouting For Food Bag Pick-up
October 16	Troop Junior Leader Position Training	November 19-20	Castle Rock Beginner Backpacking
October 17	Troop Committee Meeting	December 11	Christmas Tree Cutting for SJC
October 26	PLC Meeting	December 15	PLC Meeting
October 27	Pie/Cookie Dough Sales End	December 15	Gift Exchange
October 29-30	Alcatraz Island	December 17	Planite Granite Rock Climbing
November 12	Scouting For Food Flyer Distribution		
November 14	Troop Committee Meeting		