



May 2004
Volume 1, Issue 3

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Troop 805
Danville, CA 94526
USA

Troop Tidings

Congratulations



Please join the Troop in congratulating

Billy Andrew

on achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.

Look for the details of his Eagle Court of Honor which is scheduled for June 12.

Summer Camp – Camp Marin Sierra (August 8 – 14)

Bob Schleicher is coordinating Summer Camp, collecting deposits and arranging transportation.

If you have any questions regarding camp, Bob will have the details.

Meeting Time Reminder

The schedule for Troop meetings is as follows:



Start: 7:15 pm
End: 8:30 pm

Please try and be prompt to each meeting, and at the end of the meeting don't forget it is everyone's responsibility to clean up.

Parent Meeting Minutes

By Josette Dala

Minutes for April 20, 2004

Attendees: Octavio Ricart, Karen Moroz, Steve Garavaglia, Barbara Valdriz, Ed Angle, Nancy Banish, Al Banish, Bob Schleichler, Josette Dala, Greg Moranski

Agenda Items:

1. Approve Minutes from March 16th Meeting: Ed motion, Steve second, all approve.
2. New Parents: Committee would like Mr. Matsunaga to give his presentation on Merit Badges and Advancement to the new parents. Octavio will follow up.
3. Nancy asked if Troop 805 attends a Merit Badge college. Octavio will ask the Scoutmasters to look into this at the District or Council level.
4. Treasurer: No report
5. Scoutmaster report: Mrs. Oki emailed from Norway, or somewhere, and asked Octavio to present on her behalf!
 - o We need parent volunteers for summer camp. Mr. and Mrs. Garavaglia plan to attend.
 - o Parent Volunteer opportunities are: Court of

Honor mailings, Database Maintenance, Newsletter, and Summer Camp Coordinator. Al Banish volunteered to be Summer Camp Coordinator.

- 6. Report from the Scoutmaster meeting:
 - o Please return camping equipment that is left at your house.
 - o How to handle T-shirts. We will continue as is but have the shirts available for sale at each Court.
 - o Uniform Exchange at each court is also a good idea.

7. E-Scrip: Octavio provided a hand out regarding scrip which is attached to these minutes. There was a long discussion about E-Scrip. Much of the information regarding scrip and membership dues that is on the web site is out of date and needs to be revised. The web site will be revised once the Scrip and dues policies are voted on. The parent committee must take a vote on the scrip policy. By the next parent meeting, we will know how much money the troop earns from the scrip program and what our budget needs will be. The Parent Committee plans to discuss the E-Scrip policy again at the May 16th parent meeting. The Parent Committee feels it is important for all parents to participate in this discussion. A vote will be taken on the scrip policy at the June 15th meeting. Any one that is unable to attend the June meeting can provide a written proxy vote to Octavio by the beginning of the meeting on June 15th.

8. Summer Camp: The cost of summer camp will be the camp fees plus \$10.00 for lunch on the way home. Bob wanted to know if the troop pays for the adult leaders fees and, by troop policy, we do. It was noted that there was a substantial donation to the troop for the specific purpose of funding the adult leaders' fees.

A Blast from the Past!

by Eric Nivers



Hi there,

Talk about a blast from the past! I accidentally wandered onto the Troop 805 website searching for hiking trails I remembered from my time in scouts.

I was looking over the list of eagle scouts, and I couldn't believe some of the names... last time I saw these guys they were eleven or twelve years old. If you would, please pass on my congratulations to them, and all the scouts who are working their way towards the Rank of Eagle. I was one of the few scouts in my "year", but looking over that list, it seems that I came at a transition time for the Troop. I know (or have at least met) every scout on that list except for one or two of the most recent.

My very first event with Troop 805 was Tim Price's Eagle Court, and the last thing I remember doing was the 50 miler in the summer of '97. So, if you ever need embarrassing stories (like the time a game of capture the flag got way out of hand thanks to a

This Month's Activities – Sports

May 2 – Eagle Court of Honor
3:00 pm

United Methodist Church

Celebrate the accomplishments and successes of Craig Schleicher.

May 4 – Troop Meeting
7:15 – 8:30 pm

Sycamore Elementary MPR

A track & field event to fulfill some requirements for the Sports merit badge.

May 11 – Troop Meeting
7:15 – 8:30 pm

Sycamore Elementary MPR

SPL & PL elections.

May 15/16 – Spelunking Trip
California Caverns Cave Exploration

Organized by our Shark Patrol -- a one night campout, and cave exploration at the California Caverns.

*Permissions slip can be found on the Troop website – deadline for signing up is **May 11.***

May 18 – Troop Meeting & Parent Meeting

7:15 – 8:30 pm

Sycamore Elementary MPR

A kickball tournament to fulfill some requirements for the Sports merit badge.

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May 23 – Eagle Court of Honor
1:00 pm
Athenian School

Celebrate the accomplishments and successes of Drew Scanlon and Mark Totten.

May 25 – Troop PLC
7:15 – 8:30 pm
Sycamore Elementary MPR

The planning meeting for our June activities. Mandatory attendance for Patrol Leaders and key Junior Leadership staff.

For more details of any of these activities see your Patrol Leader or SPL.

whole lot of rope), a critical review of Mr. Coughlin’s never-ending series of lectures on the merits of the tripod lashing, the abridged edition of “wrestling for merit badges: how to earn 14 merit badges in one week at Camp High Sierra”, or whatever else you might come up with, don’t hesitate to ask.

Well, enough waxing sentimental for one morning, I just wanted to say great job with the website, keep up the good work, and feel free to add my contact information under the adults section. Have a great day!

Quartermaster Corner

By Mr. Carstensen

First of all, thank you to those scouts and scouters who turned in “Missing in Action” equipment. We now have a total of 6 usable green kits, which will be sufficient on all outings occurring before summer camp. Please double check to be certain that you don’t have a green kit still at home. I don’t want to purchase new ones unless absolutely necessary.

This month’s message will address the issue of **tents**.

In preparation for the Pinnacles outing, I noticed a couple issues with the troop tents. First of all, some tents are being returned still damp. In a sample of six tents, two were returned wet and beginning to mildew. Luckily I caught this early enough to completely clean them and let them air out. Second, three of these same six tents had missing or broken poles. Each of the new style tents uses a total of 4 poles – Two long, one medium, and one slightly shorter one. It is impossible to pitch these tents with the wrong size poles. I believe this is what led to some

broken medium length poles. Finally, a common complaint with the new tents is that the tent bag is much too small to repack the tent, poles and the tarp. I can attest to the fact that it is nearly impossible!

The troop will be purchasing larger tent bags to address the latter problem. To address the other issues, we will begin inspecting 100% of returned tents. We will inspect the tents to ensure they are clean, dry and returned with the tarp. In addition, we will be checking make certain that the proper number/size of poles and stakes are returned. The scout quartermaster will conduct inspections during the regular weekly meetings.

Our goal is to make the scouts responsible for the use and maintenance of tents and doing away with the requirement of pre checking tents to make certain they are suitable for use on outings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me during our meetings if you have any questions regarding this subject.

eScrip Discussion

by Octavio Ricart

Attachment to Minutes of Parent Meeting:

- To:** Parent Committee
From: Octavio Ricart, Committee Chair
Date: April 20, 2004
Sbj.: Scrip Program

I have prepared this memo to make sure that we have all the relevant information to make an informed decision. With everyone’s busy schedule, it’s difficult to gather all the facts, but I think I have enough of

them to move the discussion forward. Please feel free to let me know if there are any corrections.

As early as September 2003, Barbara Scanlon, the eScrip Coordinator, recommended that we change our eScrip policy to ease the administrative burden. The issue again was raised at the January Parent Committee meeting leading to further discussion about possible changes.

The eScrip program is described on the Troop's website in the Finances section. I've included a copy as Attachment 1.

CURRENT PRACTICES

The eScrip coordinator currently tracks contributions from the eScrip program for each family. The first \$75 of contributions is allocated to the Troop (in lieu of registration fees). Amounts in excess of \$75 are first credited to the scout's summer camp fee. If the scout attends summer camp, the family is reimbursed from the summer camp fund (if he doesn't attend, the money is allocated to the Troop).

Contributions in excess of the \$75 plus amounts reimbursed for summer camp fees are allocated to the Troop's general fund. In addition, we continue to receive, and keep, funds from purchases made by families whose sons are no longer in the Troop.

The eScrip program details the contributions attributable to each family. Participants can view their status online. The Albertson program does not itemize their contribution; Barbara has asked the Albertson's families to submit receipts, from which she calculates the amount to credit each family. My understanding is that contributions from Albertson's are quite small and mainly from one family.

I don't have final numbers, but the following should indicate how much we collect from the program.

Through October 2003, collections from eScrip totaled \$2,577. In 2003, 13 families were refunded a total of approximately \$1,500. For 11 months of 2002, we collected \$3787 from eScrip [\$4,082 less \$295 "service fee"] with 27 participating families. Of this amount, \$1,375 is "Troop" money. The remaining \$2,412 was credited to the Scout's summer camp account.

ISSUES

Here are a few of the issues to consider as we decide what to do.

1. **Ethics / Legality:** It appears to me that earmarking funds to the benefit of the contributing family, whether by refund or credit against summer camp fees, is unethical, and expressly prohibited by the rules of the eScrip program. The donation is made by the merchant to the Troop, not the family.
2. **Should funds be treated differently if a family opts to pay in lieu of participation?** Why should the source of the funds matter in how they are treated? The troop nets \$75 from participants in eScrip, but \$150 from non-participants.
3. **Does the individual tracking of contributions make sense from a cost/benefit perspective?** Families may designate multiple eScrip donees, so there is no guarantee how much the troop will receive.