



Troop Tidings

June, 2007
Volume 4, Issue 5

Curt Myers former Troop 805 Scout Reaches Everest

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"It is a proud moment in the history of our troop."

*George H. Coughlin II
Former Troop 805 Scoutmaster*

If you would like to see GREAT pictures of Curt and learn about his previous adventures while climbing Mt. McKinley (Denali, North America), Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mt. Aconcagua (South America) and Mt. Elbruis (Europe), click on his web site at:

<http://www.curtmyersclimbsmountains.com>

It is possible to send an e-mail to Curt through this web site. Curt is on track to conquer the highest peak of all seven continents. The remaining two continents are Australia and Antarctica. He can also be reached through Myspace at:

<http://www.myspace.com/reachingnewheights>

He's Back!

May 22, 2007 BC 16,700 0911

The summit day was unbelievable difficult. This is not the Yosemite Valley of well maintained trails and signs that show mileage. This is the summit push on Mt. Everest in China. Four inch ledges cut into the snow by the snow by the person in front of you on a sixty degree slope with 3000 ft. of snow, ice, and rock below. On these traverses we frequently fell only to be caught by the person behind you or the rope pulled tight! Then to have to climb back up and pray your breath would catch up to you. Just to get out of camp was 70 ft. of climbing to reach the summit ridge. Then you cut right towards Everest with the first, second, third steps and summit pyramid which are your only obstacles.

The first step was approximately 80 feet of nearly vertical rock! I would not normally consider this that bad but combine the fact that it is; 1: below zero, so I was wearing four layers of clothing and a down suit, 2: I was wearing 7lbs. of boots with crampons, not the best for rock climbing , 3: My hands were either frozen or in bulky mitts making good grips impossible! So

Troop 805
Danville, CA 94526
USA

This Month's Activities

Theme: Cycling

Outings

10 Mile Bike Hike.

When: Saturday 6/9/2007

What: An easy, flat 10 mile bike ride and picnic in Osage Park.

Adult in Charge: Mr. Mahoney

Patrol in Charge: Frozen Foxes

15 Mile Bike Hike.

When: Saturday 6/23/2007

What: Second part of bike ride and picnic in Osage Park

Adult in Charge: Mr. Huen

Patrol in Charge: Frozen Foxes

Meetings

June 5th

Troop Meeting at Sycamore School

7:15- 8:30

Opening: Frozen Foxes

Activity: Start Cycling Merit Badge/ How to get ready for the outing/First Aid Merit Badge

Note: Do not bring your bike

Patrol Corners: Yes- Discuss food for June 9th outing

Closing: Ligers

June 12th

Troop Meeting at Sycamore School

7:15-8:30 pm

Opening: Panthers

Activity's: Cont. Merit Badge requirement

Patrol Corners: No

Closing: Pine Trees

June 19th

Troop Meeting at Sycamore School

7:15-8:30

Opening: Eagles

Activity: follow up on Tenderfoot Physical fitness

Patrol Corners: No

Closing: Frozen Foxes

Note: Meeting starts at 6:30 and bring bike as we will have a cycling obstacle course.

June 26th

PLC

if this challenge was on Mt. Diablo (3,000 ft. in CA) I would not think too much of it, but here with little to no oxygen it is a big problem

After ascending the first step we changes oxygen bottles at Mushroom rock and headed to the second step. This is where the reality of the situation really hit me. As I stood at the base of this totally vertical cleft of rock and ice I know that our guide Sergey is already half way up because I see a faint headlight bouncing along the route and I am still thinking, "How in the hell am I supposed to climb that!" I don't know how long I stood there in awe before Xangbu (my high altitude Sherpa), behind me and gave me a push and said go. To which my brain silently replied, "How and Where?" Somehow, I'm not exactly sure how, I made it up around and over the second step. Which is deemed so difficult that they have actually placed a ladder (15ft or so) at the final portion to make it possible. A few hours later I am at the third step. This is a large bolder pile at the summit pyramid. I really enjoy "bouldering" (type of climbing) at lower elevations. Here each movement requires rest and many breaths before the next. Even with the oxygen mask flowing 4 liters a minute each step is exhausting.

At the top of the third step, a ten minute rest reveals the slope of the summit pyramid. A 45 degree field of snow exceeding 400 meters to the top. Again this is where oxygen played a very big role. One step, 6 to 10 breaths, and every 10 steps a 5 minute break. This makes for very slow going. It gave me a lot of time to get cold and think "What the hell am I doing here?"

At the top of the snow field a right turn took me out over one of the most treacherous parts of the climb. One hundred meters of walking sideways on a 70 degree slope to work my way around to a slight draw that led to the final summit ridge. As I walked the final path to the summit, the sun breaks behind my bringing much needed warmth. Looking around me it is easy to see that this is the top of the world.

As I reached the summit I dropped to my knees (because I can't stand) and begin making my summit calls and taking my pictures. As I continue turning around and around taking in the panoramic view that only the top of the world can offer the scene is broken by Minima (the Sitar Sherpa (head Sherpa)) yelling at me. "Go down", "Summit to long, not good", "Look at your hands". As I look down at my hands that are holding the book of photos that I brought I see a mixture of blue black and pink.

It is at this point the words of my mother enter my head, on the summit, of every big mountain, I call my parents among other people. One of these calls went as follows:

Curt: "Mom I made it, I am on the top"

Mother: "That's nice honey, now go down"

The trip down in the light was more terrifying than the trip up. I could now see the bottom of all the drops and slopes from the route that I have been walking. Some 1000 ft, others 5,000 ft. of nothing to stop you if you fall. With almost no energy left, the trip ragged on and on. At camp 3 (27,000 ft.) I collapsed into the tent for a 15 minute nap before continuing to camp 2 (25,000 ft.) and finally North Col (23,000 ft.). At 9pm I was awakened by a violent cough next to mine followed by Hannah calling my name. As I reached her she entered into another aggressing coughing fit bringing up what she described as, "Brown, Green and Chunky", she asked for a Dr. I went to other camps attempting to find one to no avail. I got a radio and spoke to many guides around the mountain. It was clear that she needed medication and a quick descent.

I gave her a shot of Dexamethazone and then 2 of our Sherpa's and 1 from another group quickly took her down to ABC. The next morning I followed stopping for an hour at ABC before continuing the 20 km. down to Base Camp. Close to 2 months to get up and 2 days down. A fast end to a good climb.

Curt Myers

My home 360ft

Danville, CA

Summer Camp – Medicals, etc.

By Kent Screechfield

As you are all aware, Summer Camp this year will be at the Southern Sierra Council's Camp Kern, Lakeshore CA.



July 29 – August 4, 2007
Camp Kern, Lakeshore CA.

Our reservations are set and now we need to get the final paperwork handled for our scouts' attendance.

Each attendee will need:

- Camp Kern Permission Slip
- A current Class 1 and 2 medical forms

The Class 1 has to be signed each year by the parent and the Class 2 requires the scout have a medical examination within the last 36 months and needs to be signed by your son's doctor. Please turn in all signed forms to Joan Martin.

For more details on the requirements see the form itself:

<http://www.scouting.org/forms/34414.pdf>

Also, don't forget each scout will need a **full Class "A" uniform** when attending Summer Camp. The Troop has some used extras if you are interested. We can arrange to have them brought to a Troop meeting for any interested families; let the Troop QM know if you are looking for uniform parts.

Code of Conduct and your Scout

By Susan Oki

How do we ensure our scouts treat one another appropriately? Is boisterousness always acceptable? There are multiple answers to these questions and I am sure each one of us likely has our own interpretation. Bad behavior is not condoned by BSA and certainly not acceptable in Troop 805.

What are the rules we follow as a scout Troop?

RULES OF CONDUCT

As scouts we have rules that we agree to, to hopefully avoid confusion on our code of conduct. We have the Scout Law, Scout Oath & Youth Protection guidelines we can refer to for what is appropriate.



o SCOUT LAW

At each Troop meeting we recite the Scout Law and Oath and commit to follow them. Baden-Powell derived these rules of life in the early 1900's and they still hold true today. In the law some of the things our scout's pledge themselves to are, to be

Trustworthy, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, and Obedient.

o SCOUT OATH

In the Scout Oath we hear the words, "To help other people at all times."

o YOUTH PROTECTION

Youth Protection is just another process that we adhere to as scouts, and parents. Each year the adult leaders are required to take this training. The rules of Youth Protection also apply to the scouts however. The basic principles that apply to conduct are to mindfully be aware of others and their feelings, and it also covers the issues of diversity - what might be alright for one person may not be acceptable behavior to others.

If we think about these statements & words whether an adult or a Scout we can answer any question on how we are expected to behave. Whether scouts or just individuals we need to think of the consequences of our action; not let our boisterousness lapse into something others would find negative or interpret as hazing. After all we all want to have FUN but this should not be at the expense of others.

CONSEQUENCES

It is important that each scout and family too is aware of what might result from inappropriate actions. Every action has a consequence; it could be just a reprimand, a Troop reflection on how to improve the situation, an adult leader discussion with parents, or even being sent home.



o PROBLEM ESCALATIONS

Each situation has to be evaluated at the time. What might be a small issue at one event could be an extreme issue at another. The first step is always to talk to the scout in an attempt to address the situation. Beyond that it depends if the issue continues. In a scout Troop whether on an outing or at a Troop meeting our scouts will be held accountable for their behavior. A single boy not adhering to the code of conduct can make it a sad event for everyone else. As a Troop we can not afford this. When an incident goes beyond normal boisterousness parents will be alerted either on the Troop's return or if called for during the event. When necessary, parents (or a scout's emergency contact) will be contacted to deal with a situation and if a scout is too disruptive parents will be asked to come get their child.

The role of the parents is not an easy one. We reinforce good behavior and are held accountable for our children's actions. Your help to encourage and support appropriate manners is essential. The last thing anyone wants is a phone call asking for a scout to be picked up because of non-scout like behaviors.

Time for a Parade!

By Kent Screechfield



Next month is the 4th of July parade and Kiwanis, our Troop Charter Organization, gave us a special 6 foot by 8 foot flag to carry in the parade. In addition, we also have been asked to help carry the banners that lead the parade.

If you are going to be around during the Holiday, come and help out. The event does count for service hours.

<http://www.troop805.org/forms/2007-07-04%204th%20of%20July.pdf>

Whitewater Rafting

Our annual Whitewater rafting outing will be on July 14th to 15th this year. Please see the permission slip for all the information.

Don't miss out on the fun – sign up NOW!

The permission slip for the White Water Rafting trip is available on the web at the following URL:

<http://www.troop805.org/forms/2007-07-14%20White%20Water%20Rafting.pdf>

and the release form is at:

<http://www.troop805.org/forms/2006-07-08%20White%20Water%20Rafting-%20Release.pdf>

Both forms must be filled out.

Please download the file and encourage your Patrol to attend. The permission slip needs to be returned to your Patrol Leader by the June 12th meeting.



June Parent Meeting – Date Change

The date of the June Parent Meeting has been change.



The new date is:

Date: June 12, 2007

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: Sycamore MPR – Stage

Agenda:

- 2007-2008 Program Year – Budget
- Parent Education: Summer Camp
(*Required Attendance for Parent of Scouts attending Summer Camp*)
 - Preparation
 - Checklist
 - Q&A

Unit Scouter of the Year

Congratulations **Neal Matsunaga** for being selected as this year's "Unit Scouter of the Year".

Neal is a true leader, a great teacher, and a friend to all.

Troop 805 is honored to have him as a member of their Adult Leadership.

Next Month's Activities Theme: Aquatics

Outings

4th of July Parade.

When: Wednesday 7/4

Where: Downtown Danville

Adult in Charge: Mr. Screechfield

Patrol in Charge: OA

White Water Rafting.

When: 7/14-15

Adult in Charge: Mr. Isaeff

Patrol in Charge: Ligers

Summer Camp.

When: 7/29 to 8/4

Meetings

July 3th

Troop Meeting

7:15- 8:30

July 10th

Troop Meeting

7:15-8:30 pm

July 17th

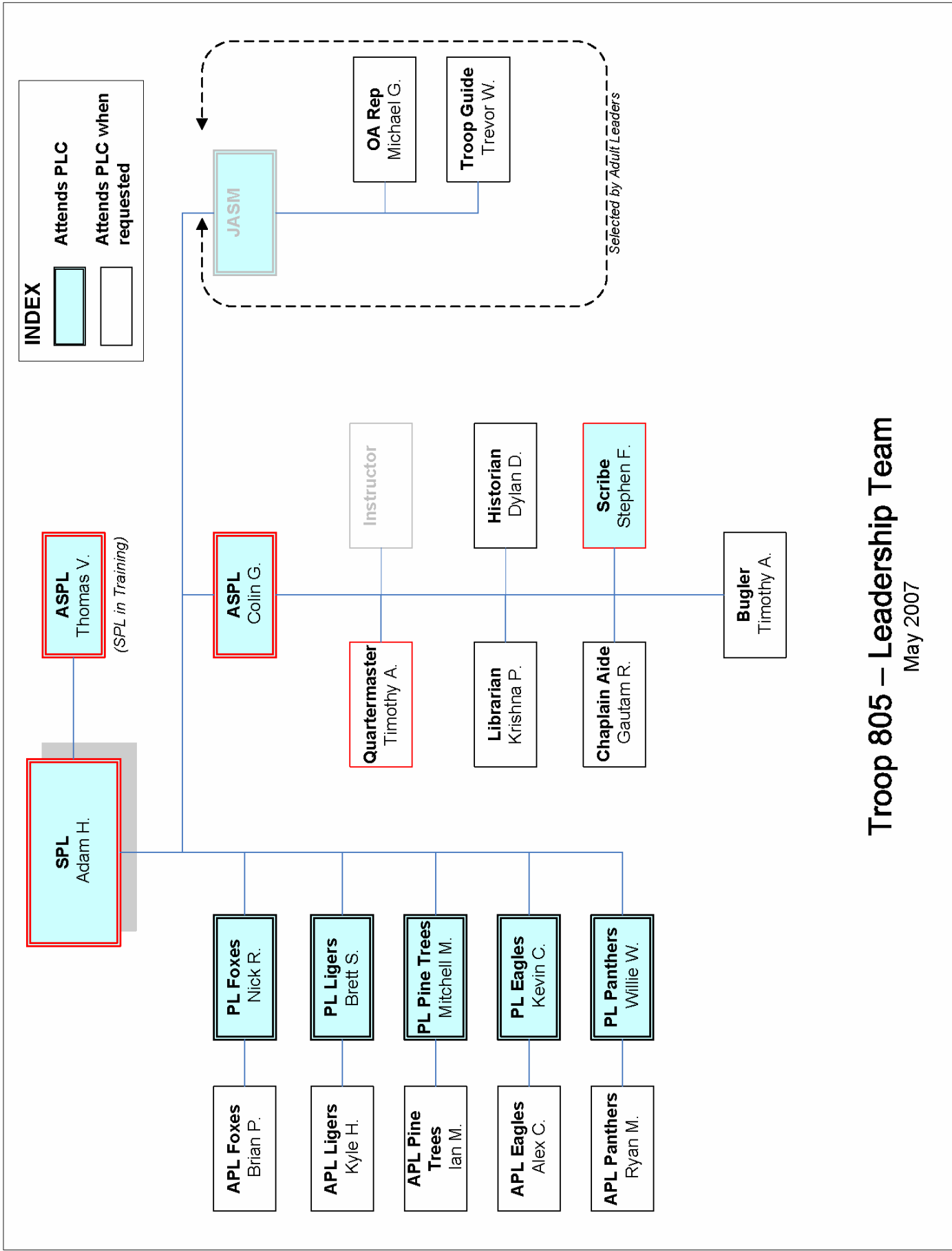
Court of Honor

6:30 pm

July 24th

Troop Meeting

7:15 pm



Troop 805 – Leadership Team

May 2007