



March, 2008  
Volume 5, Issue 2

# Troop Tidings

## New Troop 805 Eagle Scout



Please join the Troop in congratulating

**Thomas Valdriz, Jr.** on achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.

Look for the details of his Eagle Court of Honor in the coming

months.

committee and retains his registration as a T-805 ASM.

George's other notable community contributions include a term as president of the Diablo Valley Estate Planning Council and another as president of the East Bay Chapter of the Financial Planning Association. He served a total of six years as the public member on two California State Bar advisory commissions followed by another five years as a public member on the Board of Legal Specialization.

George and his wife, Becky, reside in Alamo. Their son was the first Eagle Scout in Troop 805.

## Silver Beaver Awarded to George Coughlin

Troop 805 cofounder George Coughlin received the Silver Beaver Award at the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council's Annual Recognition Dinner on February 22 in honor of his distinguished service to youth. Mr. Coughlin was among nine recipients of the award that evening. The Silver Beaver is the highest honor that a local council can bestow on a volunteer Scouter.

George Coughlin began his adult Scouting career as the Field Sports Director for two summers at Stanford Area Council's Camp Oljato. He first served as Scoutmaster in 1970-71 for Troop 134 at Fort Ord. After returning to civilian life, George became ASM and then Scoutmaster of Troop 733 in Castro Valley. In 1984, he cofounded Troop 805 in Danville and served as its first Scoutmaster. In total, his active unit service includes eight years as a Scoutmaster and another seven as an ASM. Along the way, George accumulated over 1,300 miles of BSA high adventure backpacking and fulfilled the duties of Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 332 at the World Jamboree in Australia. He currently serves as a member of the MDSC's endowment

## Rock Climbing in Concord – Don't Miss It!

OK. Guess what uses the Yosemite Decimal System and has used more than 23 miles of duct tape? You guessed it (or maybe not) Touchstone Climbing in Concord and we will be there soon for an overnight climbing event. Saturday evening March 15 through early Sunday morning March 16 you will have an opportunity for tons of fun and to work on the Climbing merit badge. Come join your patrol and learn some great climbing techniques.

The cost per person cannot be set until we know how many climbers sign up to go. Yes Touchstone Concord (soon changing their name to Diablo Rock Gym) charges an hourly rate for the Troop to be there after hours so the more climbers that attend result in a lower cost per person.

By the way the "Yosemite Decimal System" is a subjective difficulty level assigned to each climbing route. Every number is preceded by a '5' to indicate technical climbing - followed by a dot - followed by a number from 1 to 14

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## This Month's Activities Theme: Leadership

### Outings

#### 10-Mile Bike Ride

**When:** Saturday, March 1, 10:30  
**What:** 10-Mile Bike Trip  
**Where:** Iron Horse Trail  
Adult in Charge: Mr. Screechfield  
Patrol in Charge: Eagles

#### Rock Climbing

**When:** March 15-16  
**Where:** Touchstone, Concord  
Adult in Charge: Mr. Rolens  
Patrol in Charge: Pine Trees  
Permission slip due: 3/4/08

### Meetings

#### March 4 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Sycamore School\*  
**When:** 7:15pm-8:30pm  
**Opening:** Ligers  
**Activity:** Steal the bacon; bring patrol flags to show Webelos Scouts; Webelos planning for designs on their flag

**Patrol Corners:** Yes  
**Closing:** Panthers

#### March 11 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Sycamore School  
**When:** 7:15-8:30 pm  
**Opening:** Pine Trees  
**Activities:** Learning knots; flag presentations

**Patrol corners:** No  
**Closing:** Eagles

#### March 11 – Parent Mtg.

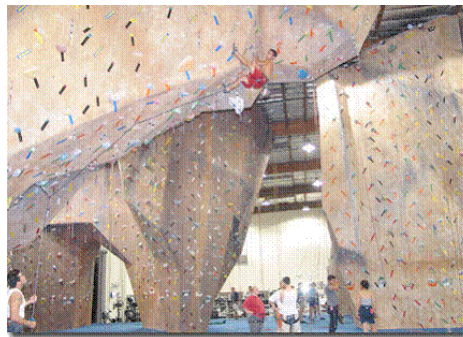
#### March 18 – NO Troop meeting

#### March 18 – PLC/Board of Review

\* 2200 Holbrook Drive, Danville, CA 94506

which indicates increasing difficulty. Hence, a climb rated 5.3 is relatively easy while a 5.13 is the domain of the elite. The “duct tape”? The climbing routes are designated by colored tape, which they work hard to place in a manner that makes the route obvious while climbing - note: try modifying the taped route to either increase or decrease the difficulty rating.

The permission slip for the Rock Climbing Outing at Touchstone Concord scheduled for March 15-16 is now on the web at [www.troop805.org](http://www.troop805.org).



## March Parent Meeting (Date change!)

Due to Spring Break, the March Parent meeting will now be scheduled on March 11th. We will be welcoming the new scout parents at this meeting and looking to establish our calendar for parent education for the remainder of the year.

## Pre-Camporee Weekend – April 4-6

*By Kent Screechfield*

The Liger Patrol is sponsoring the Pre-Camporee Weekend April 4-6, 2008 (first year scouts to arrive Saturday, April 5th).

The event traditionally is intended to teach scout skills and encourage Patrol spirit in the form of inter-Patrol competitions. It enables our scouts to prepare for attendance of

the District Camporee at the end of April.

The event offers younger Scouts a chance to work on their Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements. Once the skills have been taught, the fun begins as the Patrols test themselves on how well the skills have been learned. Older scout too hone their skills and leadership by signing up to teaching a skill or run a competition.

The permission slip for the Pre-Camporee outing is now on the web at [www.troop805.org](http://www.troop805.org). Please download the file and encourage your Patrol to attend this skills event. The permission slip needs to be returned to your Patrol



## April Court of Honor



Date: April 15th  
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 pm

The Court of Honor is the Troop's

opportunity to celebrate the achievements of all its membership. Rank advancement, acknowledgements on participation, and special awards are highlighted.

ALL family members are welcome to attend the event and share in the celebration. The Troop holds a Court of Honor every three months – April, July, October, and January. Some events are handled as pot lucks with each family bringing a food dish to share, and at others the scouts make a food selection and the food is purchased and a nominal charge per person is made. Lori's email is: [awards@troop805.org](mailto:awards@troop805.org).

## Next Month's Preview Theme:

### Outings

#### Scout Skills Camping

**When:** April 4-6

**What:** Scout skills/pre-Camporee

**Where:** Sugarloaf Open Area, Walnut Creek

**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Screechfield

**Patrol:** Ligers

#### Service Project

**When:** April 19 (a.m. tentative)

**What:** Service project

**Where:** Sycamore Elementary

**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Mahoney

**Patrol:**

#### Camporee

**When:** April 25-27

**What:** Camporee

**Where:** Rancho Los Mochos, Livermore

**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Mahoney

**Patrol:** Frozen Foxes

### Meetings

April 1 Troop Meeting

April 8 Troop Meeting

April 15 Troop Meeting-Court of Honor

April 22 Troop Meeting

April 29 PLC/Board of Review

## 2008 Meridian Camporee

*By Mr. Mahoney*

What Is a Camporee? A Camporee is many things. It is camping fun for boys, the thumping of hundreds of feet on the way to an evening campfire, the air-splitting shouts of hundreds of boys giving their Patrol and Troop cheers. It's the patter of rain on many tents at night. It's the ripple of windblown flags in the morning sun. It's catching the idea of teamwork in a patrol. It's learning to carry out an order you don't really like. It's the challenge of competition and it's a tradition as old as Scouting.

A Camporee can be a perfect show-place for the Scouting program and, therefore, goes far beyond just being a gathering of boys. A Camporee starts with the recognition that a patrol is the basic (camping) unit. The patrol demonstrates its very best camping techniques and shares its experiences with other patrols. Camporees are held on a Council or District basis and the programs may include contests and demonstrations of outdoor Scouting skill as well as campfires, games, and field events. These activities can show Scouting at its best. They stimulate overnight camping; they help units to attain part of their annual commitment to 10 days and nights of camping; and they help prepare units for long-term camping in the summer.

The goals of Camporee are: 1) Improve Scout Skills, 2) Meet other Scouts in the area, 3) Provide an environment for teambuilding through competition, 4) Promote Leadership, 5) Improve self confidence, 5) Build friendship and trust within the Patrol, 6) Have fun doing it all!

Patrol competition includes: First Aid Tent, Fire Building, Pancake Throw, Campfire Skits, Log Lifter, Kim's Game, Jump, Bomb Squad, Sponge Relay, Archery, Bull Whips, Tomahawk Throw, and Patrol Flag.

Our Meridian District Camporee will be April 25-27 at Rancho Los Mochos Scout Camp, south of Livermore. We will be joining 300-500 Boy Scouts from San Ramon, Danville, and Alamo. This year's theme is: American Heroes, paying tribute to the Americans who made our country great. More information and the permission slip will be available soon.



## Service Projects

*Hosted by OA*

*Lead By Mr. Mahoney*

It's time for us to give back to Sycamore Elementary School for the use of their wonderful facilities. We will have our annual service project tentatively on the morning of Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>. The project will involve preparation and painting of the numerous benches around the school.

The second service project is with our troop's charter organization, the Kiwanis Club. Details are still in the works but the date for the Kiwanis One Day project will be Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Note: the 15-mile ride will be rescheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>).

Both of these events will count for service hours. More information and the permission slips will be available in the near future.



Scouts work on last years project.

## 2008 Summer Camp Update

**Troop 805's final 2008 Summer Camp Payment is now due at the April 1st Troop meeting.**

At our parent meeting on Tuesday, February 19th, the Troop decided to Charter a bus for the trip down and back. More specific details will follow but the plan is to leave very early Sunday morning and to return Saturday evening. The total cost for bus transportation will be about \$130. A \$100 deposit will be due May 20, 2008 and the balance will be collected when the scouts return. Food on the way down and back will be coordinated when we get closer to the trip.

As you know, Troop 805's 2008 Summer Camp is scheduled to take place the week of **July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

This year's camp will be held at Camp Cherry Valley, operated by the San Gabriel Valley Council. Cherry Valley is an all-year camp located on the beach at Cherry Cove near Twin Harbors on Santa Catalina Island and is reached by boat.

The terrain is steep, grass-covered hillsides next to a warm-water cove ringed by sea cliffs. Facilities include snorkeling, boating and swimming in Cherry and Pirates Coves, as well as rifle and archery ranges. The campsites have tents on platforms with cots. There are showers and meals are served in a dining hall.

Check out the Cherry Valley web site to learn more about the camp, and camp programs:  
[http://www.sgvcbsa.org/camping\\_ccv.php](http://www.sgvcbsa.org/camping_ccv.php)

## February Parent Meeting Notes

*By Jennette Cabot, Secretary*

The February 19 meeting called to order by Scoutmaster Kent Screech-

field in the absence of Committee Chairman Sue Oki, who is on vacation.

Kevin Rolens gave out new scout packets to the new families joining the troop. Families need to purchase Class B Troop 805 t-shirts for events where Class A formal uniforms are not used.

Lori Wolfe was introduced as Advancements Chairman ([awards@troop805.org](mailto:awards@troop805.org)). A Court of Honor will be held on 4/15/08.

Allen introduced himself as treasurer.

New families will find event information and permission slips on our website: [www.troop805.org](http://www.troop805.org).

Additional merit badge counselors are needed for the Troop.

The meeting focused on the 2008 Summer Camp (7/27-8/2). Don Martin led the discussion. Some points on Summer Camp at Cherry Valley:

- Kent and 5 leaders will accompany the Scouts.
- Don Martin distributed a handout on transportation options. After discussion, the option of a bus directly to the Long Beach boat dock was chosen. Cost is approximately \$120 for the transportation. Leave approximately 5:00 a.m. Driving by the leaders was discouraged due to the exhaustion of the leaders after a week at camp. The fewer the transfers, the better. Don will secure the bus.
- Suggest bringing one duffel bag, not backpacks. Use yellow/green tape on bags to distinguish from other troops.
- More information will be contained in a flyer Kent will distribute later.
- Final payment due 4/1/08.
- Medical forms signed by a physician will be needed scouts.
- \$100 Bus deposit due 5/20.

The next parent meeting is March 11.

## 2008 Family and Friends of Scouting

*By Ira Hillyer, FOS Chairman*

Troop 805 families will soon receive 2008 pledge cards for the Mt Diablo Silverado Council Family/Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign.

We are hoping for 100% participation from our troop for this effort to raise funds to offset the cost of providing Scouting to scouts within the Mt Diablo Silverado Council. The true cost of Scouting is much greater than our T805 dues, and FOS support ensures that quality Scouting can continue for our scouts.

The true cost of additional support the Council provides for each scout is \$175 annually. Some may wish to give more, some less, but participation by every family, at any level, is our goal. Contributions are tax-deductible, confidential, and can be paid in installments, by pledge, or on your Visa or MasterCard.

Indeed, we thank you for your consideration.

## New Scouts!

Please welcome our newest scouts (and their parents):

- **From Pack 689**
  - Matthew B.
  - Stephen H.
  - Joseph J.
  - Sumner K.
  - Donny L.
  - Jason R.
  - Garrett W.
  - Garrison W.
  - Jake Y.
  - Robert Z.
- **From Pack 995**
  - Darren C.
  - Justin L.
- **New Scouts**
  - Chase N.
  - Spencer T.

# Scout Advancement Cycle

*By Susan Oki*

Scout advancement is geared to be age appropriate and gets more involved as the scout moves up the ranks.



**The lower ranks: *Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class.***

The scout works with his peers and the older scouts in the Troop to learn skills. When the scout feels ready to be “signed off” on a skill or task he contacts a scout of STAR Rank and above and is tested. On successfully completing of a rank the scout schedules a Scoutmaster Conference appointment; 7-days advance notice is requested by the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster or a designated Assistant Scoutmaster will test the scout’s skills as defined for the rank. Ultimately following the successful completion of a Scoutmaster Conference the scout is

ready to schedule a Board of Review. Again a 7-day advance notice is desired. The Board of Review is where the parent committee representatives have an opportunity to chat with the scouts to see how he feels things are going in the Troop – no further skills assessment is made at the Board.

Some skills require multiple attempts to complete. It will sometime take a scout MORE THAN ONE attempts to pass the review by an older scout and/or the Scoutmaster conference.

**The upper ranks: *Star, Life and Eagle.***

The scout now focuses on merit badges, service projects and leadership with the high the rank the more effort is required.

Through the completion of merit badges he is exposed to different people in the community by working to complete merit badges with adults both inside and outside of the Troop. To initiate work on a merit badge the scout contacts the Scoutmaster to discuss a merit badge he’d like to work on and seek the Scoutmaster approval. If the

Scoutmaster believes the scout can handle the work involved he provides the scout with a signed “Blue Card” and a list of the Merit Badge Councilors for the badge in questions. A buddy or a parent must accompany the scout at each session with the Merit Badge Councilor – many times a Patrol will work on a badge together.

A scout shows leadership by nominating himself for a leadership position at the Troops twice-yearly elections. By fulfilling the duties of his positions he is signed off by the SPL and Scoutmaster.

The final aspect of the upper ranks is service to others. The scout notifies the Scoutmaster of a service project he’d like to participate in to ensure it is acceptable as a BSA service item; BSA guidelines for a project need to be met to have the service work included for the rank advancement. The scout tracks his hours in his handbook and should consider getting a short letter of participation when it’s not a Troop activity.