



# Troop Tidings

September, 2008  
Volume 5, Issue 8

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## September Shooting Outing

*By Neal Matsunaga*

Troop 805 will have a different shooting outing this year. Instead of going somewhere to shoot .22 rifles, we will be going to a range and shooting shotguns. The range we are going to, Bird's Landing Hunting Preserve, has a program called Clays for Kids where they get volunteers to loan their shotguns and provide safety and shotgun use instruction and shooting supervision. Ammunition, clay pigeons and a hot dog lunch are included.

**Date:** Saturday, September 20

**Time:** 7:30 meet; 8:00 departure, and 3:00 return to homes

**Place:** Bird's Landing Hunting Preserve, 2099 Collinsville Road, Birds Landing, CA 94512

**Cost:** \$7 scouts; \$20 adults

**Forms:** Permission slip/liability waiver/shooter profile.

Permission slips are due no later than Tuesday, August 26, as we have been asked to confirm the number of participants by August 30.

## Popcorn Sales Start in September

*By: Eileen Chew*

Troop 805 will again be participating in the Trails-End Popcorn sales. This is a great opportunity for the scouts to earn

## Spelunking Outing September 27 and 28, 2008

*By Alan Carstensen*

The weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, the Panther patrol will be sponsoring a spelunking at California Caverns, located near Angels Camp. At the outing, we will go on an organized tour of the underground caverns and caves located at California Caverns. Depending on the number and age of scouts attending, and adult participation, we will possibly have a choice of two tours. Our primary tour will be the Mammoth Cave expedition. A secondary tour called the Trail of Lights Walk Tour may be offered depending on the number of scouts who express an interest to join us for the outing, but do not wish to go on the longer Mammoth Cave tour.

Note that we will need two additional adults (total of 4 adults) if we choose to offer both tours.

After spending the afternoon at California Cavern, we will camp overnight at nearby Lake Commanche.

Details of each tour, as provided by the California Cavern website, are as follows:

### The Trail of LIGHTS Walk Tour -

This guided tour is suitable for the whole family and is only available during our dry season. The Trail of lights is approximately 60 - 80 minutes long, and meanders over nearly level, well-lighted passages and walkways. Experienced, professional guides lead

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## This Month's Activities Theme: Forestry

### Outings

#### Shooting

**When:** Saturday, September 20  
**Where:** Mt. Diablo  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Matsunaga  
**Patrol in Charge:** Frozen Foxes  
**Permission slip due:** 8/26/08

#### 9/11 Ceremony

**When:** September 11  
**Where:** Oak Hill Park, Danville  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Screechfield

#### Spelunking

**When:** September 27-28  
**Where:** California Caverns  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Carstensen  
**Patrol in Charge:** Panthers  
**Permission slip due:** 9/16/08

### Meetings

#### September 2 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Sycamore School  
**When:** 7:15pm-8:30pm  
**Opening:** Panthers  
**Activity:** Gun safety, round robins, and Personal Fitness

**Patrol Corners:** No

**Closing:** Roadrunners

#### September 9 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Mrs. Wolfe's house  
**When:** 7:30-8:30 – Pool Activity

#### September 16 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Sycamore School  
**When:** 7:15-8:30  
**Opening:** Pine Trees  
**Activities:** Nerf gun shooting contest; Forestry Merit Badge  
**Patrol corners:** Yes  
**Closing:** Eagles

#### September 23 Troop Meeting

**Where:** Sycamore School  
**When:** 7:15-8:30  
**Opening:** Ligers  
**Activities:** Cave safety, game night, quartermaster demo  
**Patrol corners:** Yes  
**Closing:** Panthers

#### September 16 – Parent Mtg.

#### September 18 – Scoutmaster Mtg.

#### September 30 – PLC/Bd of Review

## Next Parent Meeting

*By Sue Oki*

Our next parenting meeting will be Tuesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. Our education portion of the meeting will address “what a boy-led troop means.” The meeting ends prior to the end of the troop meeting.

## Save the Date

### Sea Kayaking is Coming to Troop 805 – Oct. 25/26

*By: Mr. Mahoney*

Plan for sea kayaking right before spooky Halloween. Mark your calendars now.....and look for those eerie details (the permission slip, that is).

## Court of Honor on October 21

Our next Troop Court of Honor will be Tuesday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m. It will be pasta night!! Yum!! Details to be announced, but please mark your calendars.

## Popcorn (cont'd)

money to offset next year's registration and pay for scout outings and even Summer camp. Flyers with order forms and available prizes will be mailed directly to the scouts. Additional forms will be at the September meetings.

The selling period is September 6<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup>. The great part is that there is no cost to the Troop and the popcorn tastes great! There are 11 products, including a new trail mix. Your scout can earn prizes; the first prize level being only \$100.

Questions: contact POPCORN CHAIRS: Latha Ramesh ([Ramesh\\_madras@hotmail.com](mailto:Ramesh_madras@hotmail.com)); Eileen Chew ([Eileen\\_chew@hotmail.com](mailto:Eileen_chew@hotmail.com))

## Spelunking (cont'd from page 1)

groups into the recently discovered "Jungle Room," named for the array of crystalline "vines" covering the ceiling, many of them several feet long. Groups learn about the rich history of the cavern and the surrounding countryside, and cavern formation and geology.

### 2-3 Hour Mammoth Cave Expedition -

Groups explore the historic "Mammoth Cave" area and "Jungle Room," walking, crawling, wiggling, and squirming through natural passages that connect through thirteen chambers. This extended cavern trip is perfect for those who desire something more than a walk, but less stamina is needed compared to the other adventures offered. All tight crawl ways and squeezes are optional. Participants must be at least 8 years old, and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Trip time is about 2-3 hours.

Cost of the outing will be \$95 for all participants on the Mammoth Cave Outing. Cost for the Trail of Lights Tour is \$19 for adults and \$13 for scouts. These costs include overnight camping at Lake Commanche.

Permission slips were emailed out on Sunday August 24 and are also available on the troop website.

General questions? Contact Alan Carstensen at [adcarsten@pacbell.net](mailto:adcarsten@pacbell.net)

## Save the Date – 9/11

9/11 Memorial to be held at Oak Hill Park in Danville. Details to follow.

## 50-Mile Bike Ride-10/18

Look for your October newsletter and the permission slip for details. Save the date of October 18.

## Next Month's Preview Theme: Communications

### Outings

#### 50 mile bike ride

**When:** Saturday, October 18

**What:** 50-mile ride

**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Mahoney

**Patrol:** Eagles

### Sea Kayaking

**When:** Saturday, October 25-Sunday,  
October 26

**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Carstensen

**Patrol:** Pine Trees

### Meetings

October 7 Troop Meeting

October 14 Troop Meeting

October 21 Court of Honor

October 28 PLC/Board of Review

October 16 Scoutmaster Meeting

## 2008-2009 Vision, Mission & Goals

### Vision:

A Troop with a continued dynamic recruitment and retention plan and an outstanding record for participation at all Troop meetings, outings and events for all scouts that actively uses the Patrol Method of operation.

### Mission:

- Continued Webelos recruitment efforts to successfully enlist Webelos scouts into the Troop.
- Increased participation by focusing Troop activities to be sufficiently varied to ensure all levels and ages of scouts are having FUN.
- Focus the Troop to use the Patrol Method to enhanced leadership accountability and improve the operation in general.
- Reestablish Venture Crew 805 or establish a Venture Patrol to keep older scouts participating and involved in Scouting.

### Goals:

- Continue our recruitment plan that includes opportunities for each scout to participate in the efforts and results in the recruitment of between 8-12 Webelos scouts.
  - Bring the recruitment effort to the Packs rather than leaving it solely to them visiting the Troop.
    - Den Chiefs or older scouts with 1st year scouts to go to Pack meetings of Packs 689, 802 and 995 at least once in the fall and announce our Open House and events.
  - Schedule a Troop open house and ensure the maximum participation of the Troop membership fall of 2008. Schedule second open house or possible dinner/other event if first open house turnout is low.
  - Follow up on visits to keep links between Webelos and the Troop active by using emails within two weeks of the open house by thanking them and asking them if they have any questions or concerns.
  - Make multi-media presentations

available to the Webelos after a Troop visit. The SPL and historian will work on this project together.

- Utilize both adults and scouts in the recruitment effort. The adults will focus on discussing our program with the parents and the scouts will focus on the scouts by having fun and talking about outings during the open house.
- Increase Patrol participation to 80% at Troop meetings and outings by adding more variety to the sessions and making them more enjoyable to all participants.
  - Ensure ALL Patrols have a role in the production of the meetings.
  - Incorporate advancement opportunities such as merit badges and scout skill requirements in to the monthly program. Have older scouts designate a merit badge of choice once a quarter that can be included in the program.
  - Include Patrol Corners at least once a month or when needed at Patrol meetings. Patrol Leaders to follow up with their Patrols at least monthly during the Patrol Corners to evaluate the meetings and causes of non-attendance. They will report on their findings at the PLC.
  - Use the "Patrol Sponsorship of Outings" handout to help plan permission slips/ deadlines/activities with adult ASM to help encourage participation.
- Educate the Troop on the Patrol Method and encourage its use and leadership accountability for putting it into practice.
  - Require the Troop leadership team to attend Troop Leadership Training (TLT) to educate them on Patrol Method.
    - Establish goals for all leadership positions that emphasize Patrol Method usage.
    - Establish ways to "hand off" previous Troop goals to new leaders
  - Improve Patrol effectiveness within the Patrol by holding the leadership accountable for following the Patrol Method (Have Patrol reports at PLCs generated at Patrol Corners).

*Cont'd on page 5*

# Parent Meeting Notes of August 20, 2008

*By Jennette Cabot, Secretary*

Committee Chairman Sue Oki called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Agenda.** Popcorn sales was added to the Agenda.

**Minutes** of the last meeting, as published in the newsletter, were approved.

September/October calendar distributed. Correction: shooting is 9/20, not 9/13.

**Permission slips:** Always turn them in as early as possible. Makes it easier for planning, supervision organization, and driving.

**Treasurer's report:** Financial report was not presented this month as we are waiting for the final year end receipt submissions by the uniformed leaders.

**Scoutmaster's report:**

**Advancements:** Contact Lori Wolfe for questions/information.  
[loriwolfe@aol.com](mailto:loriwolfe@aol.com)

**Merit Badges:** Boys see the scoutmaster to sign up for a merit badge counselor. Best done with a buddy. Patrols can do a merit badge together.

**Events:**

**Spelunking 9/27-28.** Permission slip to be on website; due 9/16. Two tour options depending on mix of scouts. Need other adults to participate if 2 different tours in order to meet adult minimum quota. Always one of year's best outings.

**Shooting 9/20.** One-on-one, great well-run program.

**Hike or Bike.** October 11

**Sea Kayaking.** October 25/26.

**Popcorn Sales:** Eileen Chew and

Latha Ramesh will chair. Sales 9/6 through 10/5. Forms will be mailed to the scouts. It's lucrative for the scout's personal money account

With the troop. 1/3 of the money goes to the Council. Much of the money goes into each Scout's account and they decide what to use it for (fees, 09 summer camp, etc.). The troop gets none of the money.

**Budget 2008-09:** Alan Carstensen presented the new program year budget and it was ratified.

Given the Troop's cash balance, fees will be reduced from \$150 to \$125 per scout. New scouts will be \$100 as part of their Cub Scout registration carries through).

Budget expenditures are broken down by Chairperson.

Finance Chair: does recharter/registration with the District.

Advancement Chair: patches, computer upgrades, hospitality

Activities Chair: adult leader fees (1 for each outing); first aid; 2 leaders for summer camp

Equipment Chair: storage facility (our largest single expense). We had a dad volunteer to look into getting something for us at a very low cost and will report back). Currently \$162 a month and rise to \$185 in '09. Camping equipment.

Training Chair: adult and youth training; merit badge books

Administration: neckerchiefs, loops, books, website, misc expenses.

Motion by Linda Green to accept the 2008-09 budget; seconded and passed.

**Scoutmaster Report:**

APM meeting of boy leadership held 8/17. Reviewed goals and made new

goals. Developed themes and outings.

Troop meeting attendance is good with older and younger boys.

New Scout, Chase Nicolson, joined June '08.

Summer camp location to be determined at the PLC. It's between Wentle or Kern. Deposit needed from troop by end of August.

**Friends of Scouting:** 60% participating so far; Ira Hillyer, Chairman, had hoped for closer to 100%. He has extra pledge cards. Any amount is great. Mail a check payable to FOS to Ira (3107 Sweetvilet Dr., San Ramon 94582) or give to him in September (or Kent). Friends of Scouting helps all scouting boys by keeping Boys Scouts of America programs affordable. It also helps boys who cannot afford scouting. Please help.

**Website:** read for great information and resources.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

**Parent education:**

See Chart at last page of this newsletter.

Scout advancement – younger boys seek older scouts to refine or learn skills (such as knot tying). Older boys are star rank and up. They sign off in the handbooks. Boys can work on anything they want, but rank advancement is still done in order (for example, can do 1<sup>st</sup> class items while a Tenderfoot, but must be a Tenderfoot before being 1<sup>st</sup> Class). After requirements signed off by an older boy, scout arranges for a Scoutmaster Conference (arrange a week or more in advance). The boys are actually tested on items at the Conference. Must be in full "field" (Class A) uniform. Bring any equipment that is needed (such as

*Cont'd on page 5*

*Parent Meeting, cont'd*

rope for knot tying). Bring Handbook. Boys may not always pass or may have to practice certain items and return. The adult must also sign off in the Handbook. Then the boy has a Board of Review (must be arranged in advance). Contact Lori Wolfe via email and make sure she responds that she has received the request. All ranks, except the initial "Scout" rank have Boards of Review. Boys are not tested on their skills at Boards of Review. Those are more to see how the boy is doing. Dates are reviewed in the computer. Suggest making copy of Scout handbook pages on achievements and dates accomplished in case the Handbook is lost.

\*\*\*\*\*

*A lot of basic troop/scouting information for parents/boys can be found on the troop's website under "Resources."*

## Be a Friend of Scouting

*By Ira Hillyer*

60% of families in our troop participating so far; Ira Hillyer, Chairman, had hoped for closer to 100%. He has extra pledge cards. Any amount is great.

Mail a check payable to FOS to Ira (3107 Sweetviolet Dr., San Ramon 94582) or give it to him or Kent in September.

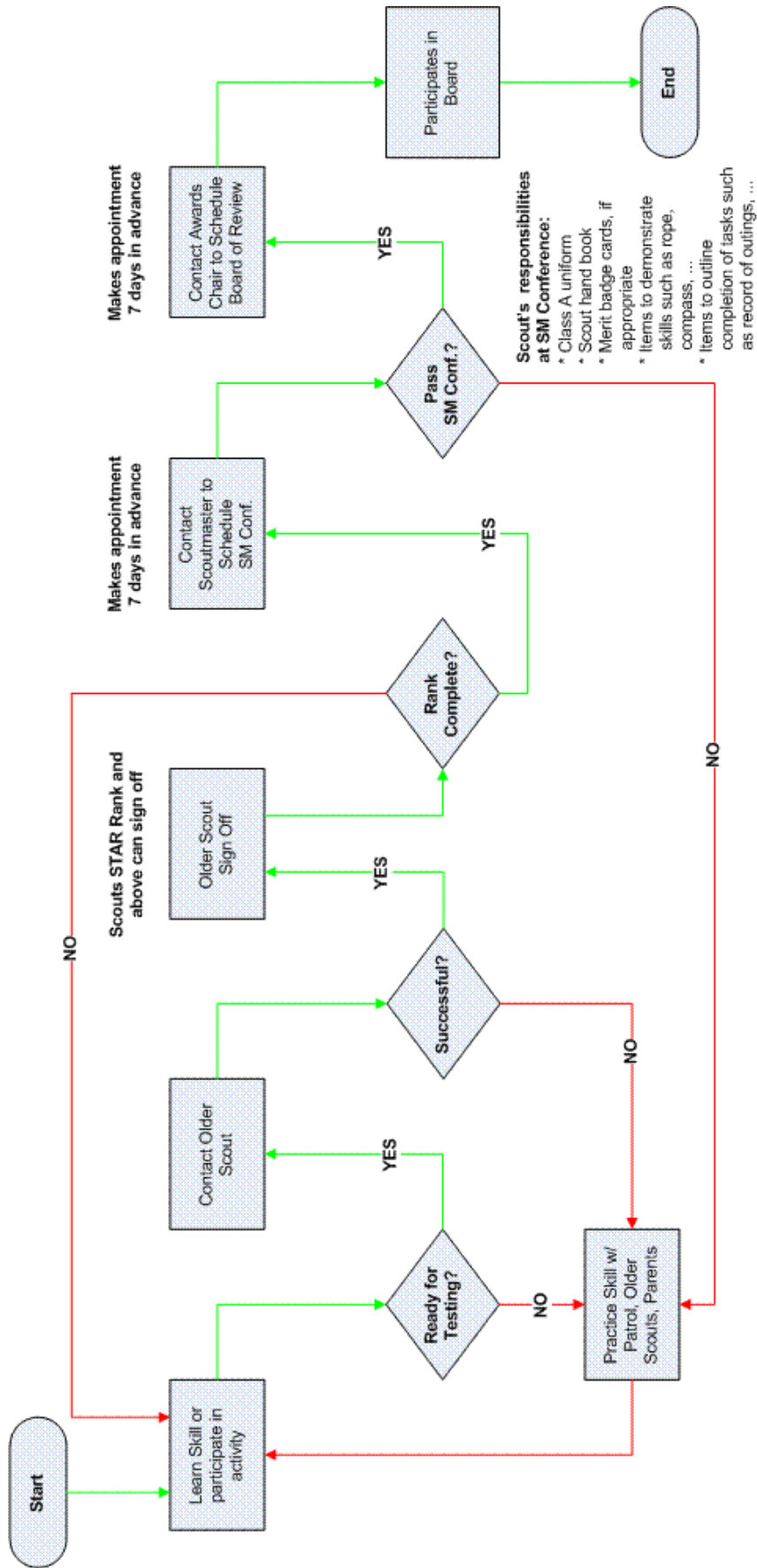
Friends of Scouting helps all scouting boys by keeping Boys Scouts of America programs affordable. It also helps boys who cannot afford scouting.

**Please help!**

## Vision (cont'd)

- Increase communication on outings and Troop meetings by ensuring the Patrol Leaders have sufficient information the week prior.
  - Outing sponsors will provide details at meetings and the PLC on plans. Outing leaders to attend PLCs for planning and communications purposes.
- Attendance and uniform reviews will be taken by the Patrol Leaders at the start of meetings. The Scribe will talley this information and report out at the PLC.
- Try to reestablish the Venture Crew or establish Venture outings.
  - Meet with older scouts to determine what outings they want to do.
  - Discuss with the adult leadership the benefits/disadvantages of bring back the Crew.
  - Determine if reestablishing the Venture Crew or Venture Patrol with Venture outings works best by the end of 2008.

# Scout Advancement Cycle



# January - December, 2008

## Troop 805 - Yearly Planner

Jan 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### January

- 12 15-Mile Bike Hike
- 26 Skiing - Bear Valley
- 27 Skiing - Bear Valley
- 28 Skiing - Bear Valley

### February

- 9 Day Hike

Feb 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

- 16 Winter Campout
- 17 Winter Campout
- 18 Winter Campout

### March

- 1 10-Mile Bike Hike
- 15 Rockclimbing
- 16 Rockclimbing
- 29 Sycamore Service Prj.

### April

- 4 Scout Skills - Sugarloaf
- 5 Scout Skills - Sugarloaf
- 6 Scout Skills - Sugarloaf
- 25 Camporee
- 26 Camporee
- 27 Camporee

### May

- 3 15-Mile Bike Hike
- Kiwanis Big-K (TBD)
- 4 Kiwanis Big-K (TBD)
- 16 Yosemite w/Pack 802
- 17 Urban Backpacking
- Yosemite w/Pack 802

Mar 2008						
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Apr 2008						
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May 2008						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### June

- 7 Troop NYLT
- 14 Day Hike
- 27 Canoeing
- River Rafting
- 28 Canoeing
- River Rafting
- 29 Canoeing
- River Rafting

Jun 2008						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### July

- 4 4th July Parade
- 12 25-Mile Bike Hike
- 13 25-Mile Bike Hike
- 27 CherryValley - Summer Camp
- 28 CherryValley - Summer Camp
- 29 CherryValley - Summer Camp
- 30 CherryValley - Summer Camp
- 31 CherryValley - Summer Camp

### August

- 1 CherryValley - Summer Camp
- 9 Annual Planning Mtg.
- 10 Day Hike
- 16 Beach Campout
- 17 Beach Campout

### September

- 13 Rifle Shooting
- 27 Spelunking
- 28 Spelunking

### October

- 11 Day Hike
- 25 Sea Kayaking
- 26 Sea Kayaking

### November

- 8 Sunol Backpacking
- 9 Sunol Backpacking
- 15 Scouting for Food

### December

- 6 Troop NYLT
- 7 Bowling
- 13 15-Mile Bike Hike

Jul 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Aug 2008						
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Sep 2008						
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Oct 2008						
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Nov 2008						
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30						

Dec 2008						
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29	30	31				