



February 2009
Volume 6, Issue 2

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Troop 805
www.troop805.org
Danville, CA 94526 USA

Troop Tidings

Winter Camping

By: Rand Mahoney

Space was limited, and we are now only accepting names for a waiting list. For those who have already been confirmed on the trip via email, the permission slip and \$65 check needs to be returned by Tuesday, February 3. Training and preparation are paramount to ensuring that this will be a fun and safe event for all. A snow camping presentation (from our Dec. 2 troop meeting) is on our website:

http://www.troop805.org/Resources/Snow_Camping_2009-Intro_Talk.ppt; Handout: http://www.troop805.org/Resources/Snow_Camping_2009-Intro_Talk_Handout.pdf. The clothing/ personal gear checklist: http://www.troop805.org/Resources/Snow_Camping_Clothes_and_Gear_Checklist.pdf.

You do not need to bring a tent. The troop will bring a few as back up. For more information, contact Mr. Mahoney at 925.899.3840 or randmaho@pacbell.net

Parent Meeting – February 17 @ 7:15pm

At our next Parent Meeting, the Educational Topic will be “Scout Equipment Essentials”.

We will be inviting the new parents of our incoming new scouts to attend this meeting and thank you to the Valdriz brothers, Will and Thomas (both Eagle scouts) for giving this presentation. We hope this presentation will be informative for both new scout parents, as well as, “seasoned” scout parents.

Is there a Beaver in the House? A Silver Beaver that is!

Congratulations to **our very own Susan Oki** for being awarded the Silver Beaver Award by our Council. Established in 1931, the Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to young people within the BSA to those “Scouters” who have been nominated by their peers. Mrs. Oki will receive her award at the Council Recognition Dinner on Friday, Feb 6. We congratulate Mrs. Oki on this well deserved award.

“Class B” T-shirts

Need a Class B T-shirt for your scout? Our Troop has many in stock in all different sizes. The Cotton/Polyester blend T-shirts with the troop logo is \$15. The other kind is the wicking brand, suitable for high intense activities like hiking, costs \$25. The shirts will be available for purchase at the upcoming troop meetings and parent meetings (Feb. 17 and Mar. 17). Please contact Ms. Latha Ramesh at Ramesh_madras@hotmail.com or (925) 648 – 3189

Mt. Diablo Campout

By Robert Riegel

Ready to go camping? Our next tent camping trip is March 28-29 at Mt. Diablo. It will be the first camping trip with our new scouts, so we will focus on various scout skills, as well as lots of fun hiking and climbing (rock city). Look for a permission slip to be posted in the next few weeks and don't forget to mark your calendars.

This Month's Activities Theme: Winter Camping

Outings:

Winter Camping

When: February 14-16

Where: Sierra Nevada Mountains

Adult in Charge: Mr. Mahoney

Patrol: Ligers

Permission slip due: 2/3/09

WAITING LIST ONLY AVAILABLE

Meetings:

February 3 Troop Meeting, 7:00

Opening: Eagles

Activities: **MANDATORY EQUIPMENT CHECK FOR WINTER CAMPING OUTING IN MUSIC ROOM;** patrol inspection: flag, yell, uniform; dodge ball

Patrol corners: Yes

Closing: Panthers

February 10 Troop Meeting, 7:00

Opening: Roadrunners

Activities: Communications Merit Badge. **"MAKE UP" EQUIPMENT CHECK FOR WINTER CAMPING**

Patrol corners: No

Closing: Dragons

February 17 Troop Meeting, 7:00

PARENT MEETING 7:15

2nd Summer Camp Payment Due

Opening: Ligers

Activities: New Scouts; round robins: first aid, knots, and lashings

Patrol corners: Yes

Closing: Pine Trees

February 24 - PLC/Board of Review

February 17 - Parent Meeting

February 19 - ASM Meeting – Mr. Martin's House

* 2200 Holbrook Drive, Danville, CA 94506

Cooking Hike

By Alan Carstensen

On Saturday March 14th, the Roadrunners are sponsoring a Cooking Hike at Las Trampas Regional Park in San Ramon. The hike portion of the outing will be a 2 to 2.5 mile hike in the Las Trampas Wilderness. The specific trail we hike will be of moderate difficulty, but appropriate for the many new first year scouts that we expect to participate.

In addition to being a fantastic hike, the outing will provide an opportunity to learn about cooking on the trail. We will be learning about different ways to cook, and foods to carry while hiking and backpacking. Our trek will conclude at the picnic area of Las Trampas Park with each patrol preparing their own lunch using lightweight backpacking stoves and cooking utensils along with the food that they have "packed" on the trail.

Now for the specifics! We will meet at Sycamore Park and Ride at 9:30 am and plan on leaving no later than 10 am. We will be on the trail by approximately 10:30 am and expect the hike to take approximately two hours. Patrols will then prepare their "trail" lunch and we should be headed back home approximately 2 o'clock. We will return scouts home sometime between 2 and 3 pm Saturday afternoon.

Permission slips will be available in early February on the Troop 805 website. Please return completed permission slips to patrol leaders no later than Tuesday March 3rd.

Hope everyone has a chance to join us for some hiking and cooking in an

often overlooked area of our own Diablo Valley!

Order of the Arrow Elections

By: Rand Mahoney

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Founded in 1915, it uses American Indian traditions and ceremonies to bestow recognition on Scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives.

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

- To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives
- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit
- To promote Scout camping
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

To be eligible for election the scout must have achieved the First Class rank and must have complete 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The camping must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of 6 consecutive days and 5 nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

(cont'd on page 3)

Next Month's Preview Theme: First Aid

Outings:

Cooking Hike

March 14

Patrol in Charge: Roadrunners

Adult in Charge: Mr.
Carstensen

Mt. Diablo Camping

March 28-29

Patrol in Charge:: Pine Trees

Adult in Charge: Mr. Riegel

Meetings:

March 3 – Troop Meeting

March 10 – Troop Meeting

March 17 – Troop Meeting

March 24 – Troop Meeting

March 31 - PLC/Board of
Review

March 19 – ASM Meeting

Cont'd from Page 2)

Each candidate must also have the approval of the scoutmaster and be elected by the majority of their troop scouts as meeting the ideals of the OA – having the Scouting Spirit (including brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service), living the Scout Oath and Law, and actively participating in troop activities. The OA election date has not been finalized but will be at a troop meeting in late January or February. It will be conducted by a visiting election team from our local OA Apanuc.

2009 Summer Camp

By: Kent Screechfield

Troop 805's 2009 Summer Camp is scheduled to take place the week of **July 26th through August 1st** and the **second payment of \$100 is due at the February 17th parent meeting. For the new scouts, only a \$200 deposit is required at this time.**

This year's camp will be held at Wenté Scout Reservation operated by the San Francisco Bay Area Council. Wenté offers tall Douglas Fir trees and golden meadows. The 80-acre lake offers a natural setting for swimming, sailing, boating, and canoeing. It is considered one of the warmest lakes in the state. Wenté offers a chance to backpack, sail, mountain bike, fish, ride horses, and go rock climbing all in one week. Scouts may try their hand at black powder musket firing, kayaking and rappelling. Wenté is rich in wildlife and allows for the study of conservation, re-forestation, wildlife management, woodcraft and nature study. Rifle, shotgun, and archery shooting are also popular activities. The campsites have tents on platforms. There are showers and meals are served in a dining hall.

Check out the Weinte web site:

<http://www.wentescoutreservation.org/index.html>

Scout Equipment Essentials

*By Neal Matsunaga (updated
February 2009)*

What type of equipment does your scout really need to participate on all those upcoming Scout outings? Here are some tips and resources to help you and your scout decide what type of equipment he needs – whether a new Boy Scout experiencing camping on his own for the first time or a seasoned scout that is in his latest growth spurt. Sources for information:

1. A good start is to look at pages 224 & 225 in the Boy Scout Handbook. These two pages list the personal overnight camping gear that each scout should have.
2. Other equipment that may be needed is described on pages 226 & 227 of the Handbook. This is equipment that each patrol, not necessarily each scout, will need to have for an outing. Out of this list the troop provides tents, camping/backpacking stoves, cooking kits of pots and pans (aka "red kits" because of the red nylon bags they are stored in) and cooking utensil kits (aka "green kits" because of the green nylon cases the utensils are stored in). Patrols are able to check these out for outings.
3. Pages 228-231, of the Handbook, talk a little bit about criteria for picking a pack, packing it and a simple idea for a pack cover.
4. Additional information, for

making purchase decisions, can be found at website www.50miler.com, developed by the Meridian district camping chairman. Our troop website at www.troop805.org also has information on items #1 and 2 above as well as a list of clothing that would be appropriate for warm and cold weather camping.

5. Any of the adult leaders of the troop.

Additional hints and suggestions:

a) Your scout will grow and so some equipment will need to be purchased for his size now (e.g. clothing, sleeping bag) while others could be sized to allow for his growth (e.g. sleeping pad). Some items, like backpacks, are difficult to size for a 10 year old and a 15-16 year old at the same time. It is important to get a backpack that fits your scout so he can comfortably carry it. If you get one that is adjustable it may work for him as he grows, otherwise you may be looking at buying a pack now and another in a couple of years as your scout grows.

b) Remember that scouts are expected to pack and carry all their own equipment, so the weight and size of what you purchase is an important consideration.

c) Sleeping bags take a lot of abuse early on, especially during extended outings like summer camp. A recommendation is to purchase a relatively inexpensive bag, sized for your scout now, with the thought that as he grows, needs better equipment (e.g. able to handle temperatures 0degree temperatures) and has worn out his first bag you will get another one. Sleeping bags should be good to 20-30° F temperatures and sized appropriately for your scout. Too big a bag means more space for him to heat up to get comfortable, as well as a more bulky bag to carry. Make sure the bag comes with a stuff sack and if

not get one that the bag will fit into.

d) Scouts must wear their full uniform for most outings, changing into a class B (troop t-shirt and pants) when at the campsite. Class B t-shirts can be purchased from troop parent Latha Ramesh.

e) When you have 40 plus boys camping, it is not unusual to have equipment get mixed up. It is important to mark all equipment so your son can identify his.

f) Scouts may pack but are not allowed to use pocket knives or axes until they have completed the requirements for Totin' Chip (page 85 of the Boy Scout Handbook). These requirements cover the safe use and handling of these tools. There is a plan to work on these requirements at the Scout Skills outings in March/April.

g) With regards to personal eating utensils, stay away from the official Boy Scout metal eating utensils and personal cook kit. They are more than your scout will need and are heavy. It would be better to get a lexan bowl (can be used as a plate or bowl), fork and spoon (can also get a fork/spoon combination utensil) and cup; knives are not needed since scouts carry pocketknives. Your scout should be able to use them for a long time, including when he goes on backpacking trips in the Sierras.

h) If at all possible try to get synthetic or blended t-shirts and clothes. They wick moisture away from the body better and dry more quickly after getting wet. Camouflage clothing is discouraged.

i) Your scout should carry all his items in one single unit, i.e., his sleeping bag and pad is attached to his backpack with straps – but in the case that he has wet clothing or items that need to be placed in a separate bag, we recommend large clear plastic bags and NOT garbage bags so we can see what is in the bag. It could be mistaken for garbage!

Places to shop

- Costco (sleeping bags)
- Target (sleeping bags and some equipment)
- Sporting goods stores (e.g. Any Mountain, Big 5, REI, Sunrise Mountain Sports)
- Online (e.g. Campmor at www.campmor.com)
- Council stores (e.g. Mt. Diablo Council store in Pleasant Hill)

If you think you would like help/information while making your purchases, stores such as REI are good at providing help. However, they are usually the most expensive source.

FYI, Campmor usually has sales on backpacks and information can be found at http://www.campmor.com/outdoor/gear/Product_60307

I hope this information has been helpful. If you need any additional information or have more questions, please feel free to ask any of our uniformed leaders. Here's to a great camping experience for your scout.

2009 Outings

Please also see the
Calendar on
www.troop805.org for
event details.

February

- Snow Camping (2/14 - Sat:
2/16 Mon)

March

- Cooking Hike (3/14 - Sat)
- Mt. Diablo Camp (3/28 -
Sat: 3/29 - Sun)

April

- Kiwanis Big K(4/4 – Sat)
– Changed date
- School Service Project
(4/18 - Sat)
- Pre-Camporee (4/24 - Fri:
4/26 Sun)

May

- Yosemite Bike/Camp
(5/16 - Sat: 5/18 - Mon)
- Camporee (5/29 - Fri: 5/31
-Sun)

June

- Boating/Fishing (6/6 - Sat)
- White Water Rafting (6/20
- Sat: 6/21 - Sun)

July

- 4th of July Parade (7/4 -
Sat)
- Shooting Outing (7/18 -
Sat)
- Summer Camp (7/26 -
Sun: 8/1 - Sat)

August

- Beach Campout (8/15 -
Sat: 8/16 - Sun)

September

- 15 Mile Bike Hike (9/12 -
Sat)
- Urban Backpacking (9/26 -
Sat: 9/27 - Sun)

October

- Hike (10/10 - Sat)
- Rock Climbing (10/24 -
Sat: 10/25 Sun)

November

- 15 Mile Bike Ride (11/14:
Sat)
- Scouting For Food (11/21 -
Sat)

December

- Bowling (12/6 - Sun)
- Webelos Outing TBD
(12/12 - Sat)

