

Troop 849 Newsletter



September 2008

www.troop849.org

CURRENT CALENDAR

- Sept. 2-* Troop Meetings Resume
- Sept. 4-* Neighbor to Neighbor-
Church of the Brethren
- Sept. 9-* Hike Prep. -Attendees Only
- Sept. 13-14-* Surf Hike
- Sept. 13-14-* John Gunderman Eagle Project-
hilao Campground
- Sept. 16-* New Parent Feedback Session
- Sept. 16-* Troop Meeting
- Sept. 20-* Troop Leadership Training-Scouthouse
- Sept. 23-* Court of Honor- O'Donnell Hall
- Sept. 30-* Greenbar Meeting
- Sept. 30-* Troop Meeting
- Oct. 4-5-* Hometown Fair Hamburger Booth
- Oct. 11-12-* Ryan Hadley Eagle Project

SPL CORNER

Hello all. **Ryland** here. Well, this year's hiking season is wrapping up now, with the last of the three long-terms having returned on Aug. 21st. We had a great turn out for all the hikes, and scouts on this year's long-terms experienced things from peak climbs and thunderstorms to burgers and ice cream. I encourage everyone to look into next year's hikes, and I hope to see as many people attend our long-terms next year. Now on to business: As we're entering fall, we'll be focusing to the normal meeting plans for now, with Greenbar meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. Also, the Leadership will have time to get some projects done. The foremost of these is reorganizing the patrols. The patrols now are disorderly and inefficient. So, we will come up with new patrols, and hopefully from there we will move into more patrol-based meetings than we have now. See you all on Tuesday. Hope you enjoyed summer!

COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

Troop 849 has a long tradition of outstanding Eagle projects. As a Troop we insist that our Eagle candidates spend the appropriate amount of time planning the entire project, developing a comprehensive project proposal, and implementing the plan as the true project leader on the days of the project. The Troop's point person and unsung hero for this process is **Assistant Scoutmaster Richard Hoesly**. He works many hours with each Eagle candidate to guide him through the rigorous process to its successful conclusion.

Mr. Hoesly also serves as the Troop's coordinator with the U.S. Forest Service and their representatives (i.e. Mr. John Horton, etc.), an important role since over half of our Eagle projects involve USFS projects. Mr. Hoesly spends hundreds of hours each year fulfilling this duty successfully and effectively. Please take a moment to thank Mr. Hoesly for his work with our Eagle candidates and for all the other great things he does for Troop 849. [And you can see an Eagle project firsthand if you volunteer to work on **John Gunderman's** project the weekend of Sept. 13!]

--Don McLellan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veterans Day Ceremony Speech: Once again Troop 849 will be participating the Manhattan Beach Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11th. The City has asked us to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and have a scout deliver a short speech about the meaning of Veterans Day. If you are interested in this public speaking opportunity, please contact **Mrs. Sally Bickel**.

Coffee Urn Donation: Please thank the **Andreas Family** for their recent donation of a 60 cup coffee urn to the troop. This is a great help when serving refreshments at the various Courts of Honor.

Rose Parade Float: The BSA is planning to enter a float in the Rose Parade in 2010. This is a first for the BSA and will require much planning, volunteer effort, and support from scouts and scouters in Southern California. If you have expertise in this area or want to know how you can help, please contact **Asst. Scoutmaster Michael Tauber**.

SURF HIKE

We will meet at the Scouthouse on Saturday, Sept. 13 and will drive down to the **San Mateo Campground**, which is part of the San Onofre State Park. From there, we will set up camp and drive to "Old Mans" beach where everyone has the opportunity to surf, swim etc. This trip is for all levels. We will have people helping out people of different levels to catch some waves. This will be for about four to five hours.

When we return to camp, we will hike for about two miles to Trestles, a World Class surf spot and watch the Surfing World Tour. If we're lucky, we may see surfers like Kelly Slater. For dinner, back at camp, everyone will get the chance to cook hot dogs over an open fire with sides like salad, chips, and cookies. The next morning, the group will hike down San Onofre trails #3 where everyone can surf for about two hours. From there, everyone will head back to camp to pack up and leave. Please make sure to sign up for this fun, annual event. Beginners can learn to surf more, and more experienced can practice to get better. In the past, everyone has always enjoyed himself. If you have questions, see **Mr. Slocum**.

HOMETOWN FAIR

Our Troop's annual fundraising event, which generates most of the monies that support our activities and purchase our supplies throughout the year –our Hamburger Booth at the 2008 Old Hometown Fair –, is nearly upon us. This year the Fair will be on Saturday and Sunday, **October 4th and 5th**.

We need volunteers – Scouts and adults – to help with the Booth: cooking and selling the burgers, and keeping our Booth clean, both days from the morning into the early evening. We will also need volunteers to help with the Booth's assembly on late Friday afternoon, October 3rd and its disassembly on the evening of the 5th.

All Scouts are expected to volunteer for a shift – you will earn service hours. And adults, we need your support with the cooking and supervision as well. We will be seeking some supplies for the Hamburger Booth from your homes as well.

There will be sign-up sheets and announcements made at each of our Troop meetings in September. Please contact **Burgermeister Bret Bernard** if you have any questions. And, please sign-up at the earliest opportunity – the best time periods go quickly so don't tarry; and, **please help the Troop** and yourselves with the best gift of all – your own time and efforts!

TROOP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Troop Leadership Training is scheduled to take place at the Scout House starting at 9:00AM on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Training is available to Scouts who are First Class and above or who hold a current leadership position within the Troop. Scouts who are in leadership positions, such as Patrol Leader, are expected to attend the monthly Greenbar meetings and assist in planning troop activities. Please contact **Mr. Reeley** for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RYAN HADLEY EAGLE PROJECT:

Ryan's project is scheduled for the weekend of **October 11-12**. Please mark your calendars and come out to help a fellow scout on his journey to Eagle!

DESERT HIKE:

This annual hike is quickly becoming a troop favorite. Taking place in Joshua Tree National Park it is in stark contrast to the usual mountain hiking that the troop does. Make time the weekend of **October 25-27**.

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

If you love to ride and have a mountain bike, this is the trip for you. The date is set for **November 8-9** but this year's location is not yet determined. A popular past destination has been the Chilao Recreation Area in the Angeles National Forest.

NIGHT HIKE:

An experience like no other. Hike in to camp under the light of the moon and stars. Enjoy a fun filled day of troop activities and competitions. Learn about wilderness survival and orienteering. Mark your calendars for the weekend of **December 5-7**.

COURT OF HONOR

Just a reminder that the fall Court of Honor is coming up. It will be held at 7:30PM on September 23rd in O'Donnell Hall at American Martyrs Church. Family and friends are encouraged to attend to honor the achievements of the scouts in Troop 849 over the past 6 months. Scouts must be in full class A uniform. This replaces the regularly scheduled troop meeting. Contact **David Copeland** with any questions.



Troop 849 currently has over 70 scouts registered with the Los Angeles Area Council, most of who participate actively with the troop. Remarkably, 43 of these scouts attended Camp Chawanakee, 8 scouts did the Agnew Meadow Long-term, 6 scouts participated in the McGee Creek Long-term, and 8 scouts hiked the Mt. Whitney Loop Long-term. One scout, our SPL Ryland Miller, went on all three long-terms and attended Chawanakee!! Other summer activities included various weekend hikes, outdoor cooking at El Nido Park, N.Y.L.T. Camp up at Lake Arrowhead, and Chris Bickel's Eagle Project. Troop 849 is fortunate to be able to offer a program that generates such enthusiasm and participation among its scouts. This program would be impossible without the dedication of our Scoutmaster, Mr. Rolandelli, and the many Assistant Scoutmasters and members of the Troop Committee, many of who no longer have scouts of their own in the troop. Included below are brief summaries of summer camp and the 3 long-term hikes. If you were one of the few scouts (or adults) who did not participate this summer, hopefully it will inspire you for next year!!

~Chawanakee 2008~

Chawanakee 2008 was just the same as any other summer camp trip: Younger scouts not wanting to take showers; arguing over which lunchbox had chocolate chip cookies; and Troop 525 giving us wake-up calls. Carrying along 43 scouts and 8 adults, we had a pretty full crew. Throughout the entire week, we participated in several activities, including a service project for Mr. Rolandelli's Sachem project. This involved clearing brush and branches in a remote area near the C.O.P.E. course. 8 of our attendees achieved the "Trails of Chawanakee" award, which requires the participant to hike on the Cat Eye Trail, Nature Trail, Warrior Trail, and Adventure Trail along with swimming the Mile Swim as well as running the Chieftain Run. We had great results at Chawanadayze this year. We also won the Thumbstick 3 days in a row. We improved it by converting it into a wooden backpack. Overall, the trip was extremely successful. I hope to see you all there next year!

--Sean Harger

~Mt. Whitney Loop 2008~

We hiked from Horseshoe Meadows over Cottonwood Pass to Mt. Whitney and back over 7 days. The first day was to Chicken Springs Lake where we swam.

The next day Tanner felt sick and Mr. Slocum and Tom Rose (Dr. Rose's son) hiked with Tanner back to the cars and drove him to meet his dad. The group hiked to Rock Creek Lake, which also has a very pretty meadow.

Tom and Mr. Slocum arrived back at camp after 11pm. The next night we camped on a nice overlook at Crabtree Meadow. We woke at 5am and hiked up Mt. Whitney.

It was a great view with lots of people. There is a stone hut there. On the way back we climbed Crooks Needle, which has a scary view from the top. We hiked back to the cars on the same route, climbing Mt. Gyout and Cirque Peak on the way, for a total of 3 "D" peaks.

--Mr. Slocum

~McGee Creek to Mono Pass~

The first day of hiking we got up at our usual of 5:30AM and trugged along to Big McGee Lake. On the way Kyle was stung in his ear by a bumblebee and later that night, both Kyle and Ryland came down an illness they picked up at Chawanakee. The next day we climbed Red Slate (an E peak) and got down to Tully Lake. After that, we made our way to Silver Pass Lake, one of our most striking locations, where we discovered an interesting maggoty fish next to our drinking water. The next morning we got up to 3rd Recess and burned all of our trash. Finally, we made our way into Pioneer Basin, which required cross-country travel to get there. Once we set up camp we climbed Hopkins, another E peak. On the way down from the peak we enjoyed a long run through scree fields. Late that night Mr. Miller showed up with Klondikes and ice cream! The following day a group left to climb our 3rd E peak as Ryland left with his father to join his 3rd long-term. The next morning we broke camp and the group split with one half going to climb Stanford (also an E) and the other half went to reserve a spot at Trail Lakes. The last day we left Trail Lakes for Mono Pass to Mosquito Flats. We showered at the first opportunity and made our way home after a feast at Sizzler.

--Chris Bickel

~Agnew Meadow to Happy Isles 2008~

Eight scouts and five adults participated in the Agnew Meadow to Happy Isles long term, which included the northernmost 50 miles of the JMT. For four scouts and two adults, this was their first long term hike.

The group covered 57 plus miles, including the hike and climb to the top of Half Dome, in the six days and five nights on the trail. The elevations encountered ranged from 11,000 feet to 4,000 feet. Everyone did very well especially considering that to do this hike in six days, the days on the trail were quite long. For remembrance, a copious number of photos were taken for the group to share.

We heard from many of the other hikers that had experienced bears or had spoken to people that had. In spite of apparent abundant bear activity, there was only one single bear sighting by the group and no indication that we were visited at night. This reinforces that the Troop procedures of bear canning food and smellables, and repeatedly checking for things left in the packs does work.

In all a great long-term hike with a great group. A big thanks to everyone who helped support the hike through providing transportation and a hamburger picnic in Yosemite when we finished.

--Mr. Noda