

# Troop 849 Newsletter



November 2007

[www.troop849.org](http://www.troop849.org)

## CURRENT CALENDAR

- Nov 1 - Neighbor to Neighbor
- Nov 3-4 - **Mountain Biking**
- Nov 6- Troop Meeting
- Nov 10-11-**Advanced Rock Climb**
- Nov 10-11-Eagle Project-Vandenberg
- Nov 11- **Veterans Day Ceremony**
- Nov 13- Troop Meeting
- Nov 20- No meeting - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov 27- Greenbar Meeting
- Nov 27- Troop Meeting
- Nov 29- Troop Committee Meeting  
(Final 2008 calendar)
- Dec 4- Hike Preparation (Night Hike Attendees)
- Dec 6- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Dec 7-9- **Night Hike**
- Dec 11- Troop Meeting
- Dec 16- Eagle Court of Honor –  
McLellan/Andreas
- Dec 18- Troop Meeting
- Dec 20- Troop Committee Meeting
- Dec 25- No meeting - Happy Holidays!

Once again Troop 849 will be filling Holiday Gift Bags to be distributed at the December 6<sup>th</sup> Neighbor to Neighbor program. It is expected that the troop will complete this task at either the Nov 13<sup>th</sup> or Nov 27<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. Contact **Mr. Tauber** for details.



## COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

It's time to re-register Scouts and adult leaders for 2008. Please make it easy for all those involved by taking care of this quickly. The Troop's treasurer, Mr. Ketterer, will be collecting checks over the next few weeks; information regarding re-registration will be mailed to your homes. We hope all active Scouts will re-register for the upcoming year, and not-so-active Scouts will use this opportunity to rededicate themselves to the Scouting program and become much more involved. Thank you all in advance for promptly re-registering.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Bernard for heading up our burger booth at the Hometown Fair, and all the other volunteers who put the time in to make it a success. The profit from this endeavor is a major source of funds for our Troop's operation and allows us to avoid other, more time consuming fundraising options. Great job Mr. Bernard and everyone else!

--Don McLellan



## SPL CORNER

Hello everyone, this is your SPL, John Gunderman. Today I would like to talk a bit about Patrols. To do this, I would like to use the allegory of drafting. When I speak of drafting, I don't refer to a military draft. Instead, I refer to the idea of closely following behind another in order to be more efficient. Many types of vehicles use this to save energy. The reason this works is because the person in front is splitting the air, so there is less resistance for those that follow. However, this means that the person in the lead is doing more work, because they aren't following anyone. The same goes for patrols. A patrol leader is in the front and the rest of the patrol is 'drafting' behind them. They have to trust that the patrol leader is leading them in the right direction, but at the same time they have to recognize when he is getting tired and needs someone else to take the lead. This is why we elect new patrol leaders every six months. Remember, a patrol leader has a lot of responsibilities, but so does their patrol. I think we often forget this.

## ADVANCED ROCK CLIMBING

The rock climbing trip on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> is for scouts and adults that have prior experience climbing with our troop. It is recommended that the scout have their own gear and the Climbing Merit Badge; if you don't contact Mr. Slocum in advance. We will be climbing and rappelling routes in the 5.6 to 5.9 range. You'll need to have skills in knots and belaying. On Saturday we will leave the Scout House at 6:30AM and drive to Roubidoux in Riverside. We'll be back in Manhattan Beach in time for dinner. On Sunday we'll leave the Scout House at 6:30AM and drive to Stoney Point in the Valley. We'll again be back in Manhattan Beach in time for dinner. Both locations are famous climbing places and have a long history and many famous climbers who have learned there. Bring a sack lunch, drinks, and your gear. Expect to climb all day. Cost is \$5 each day.

Contact **Greg Schnuckel** or **Mr. Slocum** for more details.

## BIKE HIKE

The Troop 849 annual Bike Hike is currently planned for Nov 3 - 4 (Sat - Sun). Many of the details are still being planned, but I'd like to get responses from all of those Scouts interested in going so we can adjust the plans accordingly. Our likely destination is Big Sycamore Canyon, located in Point Mugu State Park. The entrance to the Canyon is on Pacific Coast Highway, 32 miles west of Santa Monica. There are a number of ride options here, the longest being a 15 mile loop with ~1500 feet of climbing so we will probably break into two or more groups based on interest and ability. The trails are dirt double- and single-track, with some paved sections. You must have (or rent) a mountain bike to participate in this event. That is, the bike must have wide, knobby tires and enough gears to allow you to climb steep hills. BMX-type bikes are not acceptable. There will be a bike inspection on Saturday Oct 27 (stay tuned for more details), where we will ensure that all bikes are appropriate and in good operating condition. We can make minor adjustments, but I encourage you to please clean, lube and adjust your bikes before then. We may not be able to get a campground reservation for Saturday night, so it's possible that this will be a one-day event, driving up Saturday morning and returning that evening. I'll send another update email when the plans become more firm, but if you (or your parent) are interested in participating in this event, please send an email to me at [keith131@gmail.com](mailto:keith131@gmail.com).

Here's a link to information and maps for Big Sycamore Canyon:  
[http://gorp.away.com/gorp/publishers/menasha/bik\\_scal.htm](http://gorp.away.com/gorp/publishers/menasha/bik_scal.htm)

Keith Williamson  
[keith131@gmail.com](mailto:keith131@gmail.com)  
(310) 251-1547



## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Once again Troop 849 will participate in the **Manhattan Beach Veterans Day Ceremony** held in the Veterans Parkway on the corner of 15th and Valley, right across from the Scout House. This is a wonderful way to show your respect and support for all the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Services. Scouts should sign up at a troop meeting or contact **Mrs. Bickel**. The event takes place at **11:00 AM on Sunday, November 11th**. We will meet at the Scout House at 10:30AM to prepare. Scouts must come in full class A uniform.

## 100th Anniversary Logo Contest

Attention Troop 849!! Here is your chance to be part of history. In 2010, the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating 100 years of proud service. This is a very important point in Boy Scouting history, and the BSA needs your creative ideas. The BSA has launched a national contest to inspire the very best logo for its national celebration. Every registered Boy Scout can participate. The logo that best captures the spirit of Scouting will win. Entries are due by November 30, 2007. Go to <http://www.scouting.org/100years/> for more information.

## NIGHT HIKE

Coming up in early December is Troop 849's annual night hike. This year the hike is currently planned for the weekend of December 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally, the troop leaves from the Scout House at about 8:00PM on Friday, drives up to the trailhead and then hikes up to camp by the light of the stars and moon. Past destinations have been Henninger Flats and Valley Forge. Saturday is a day of patrol competitions and games. The weekend ends with hiking out on Sunday morning. Look for information at upcoming troop meetings.