



March 20, 2009
Issue 2

www.troop-202.net

The Scoutmaster's Moment

It's definitely Spring. The hills are green, and the Troop's hiking program is in full swing. After a great 10 miler at Pinnacles a couple of weeks ago, we are now moving into high gear for our Philmont preparation with another ten miler in Redwood Park, and many more to come in the next months.

Pinnacles is famous for its California Condors, and Troop 202 is rightfully famous for its Eagles, and we are working through a clutch of them this year. It was back to back Eagle project weekends for a while, with both Stephen and Derrick completing their projects. They both turned out really well, with excellent participation by all the members of the Troop, as befits a couple of great Scouts who have served the Troop and the community with distinction over their long Scouting careers. I wish them both the best of luck, as they go to their Boards of Review and the next stages of their young lives.

I cannot help but feel a tinge of sadness, as these Scouts move through the Troop. There is definitely a feeling of a generational shift as Mark, Stephen, Derrick and Jake move through the Eagle Rank advancement and beyond. This is normal in the life of any Boy Scout Troop and all other organizations dedicated to training youth. They do the thing we all hope them to do; to grow, to mature, to lead, and then they leave. Hopefully, they will return to their nest, bringing back tales of their new adventures and showing the path ahead to those who follow.

And there will be followers, if we have done our jobs right. The next generation of Scout leaders is in the wings, waiting nervously for their chance to take on the responsibilities of leading the other boys. And so the cycle continues.

The generational change is not just for the boys. Our Adult Leaders are changing too. As families move through the Troop, new parents step up; take on the responsibilities of those who have gone before, maintaining the fabric of the Troop, keeping with its traditions and methods while bringing their own experiences and their own personalities to the Troop. I welcome these changes, because this is the way it has always been. I want to recognize Mr. Rocha for taking on the responsibility of putting together this Newsletter, and by showing that the Troop has a strong future thanks to its committed Adult Leaders.

Stephen Will
Scoutmaster

MARCH 2009

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Upcoming Events - March 2009

Troop Outing: Pinnacles Nat'l Monument, March 6-9. Car camping.

Saturday, March 21:
10 mile hike, Redwood Park.

Sunday, March 22:
Philmont Crew, 1pm meeting at Mr. Kelley's home.

Troop Meetings:

March 10: Fitness Merit Badge (MB) at 6:30 on back field of school. Pinnacles debrief, spring hike planning, Cooking MB, and gear cleanup.

March 17:
6:30 Basketball
7:30 Meeting
Hiking MB discussed. Camporee training.

March 24, 31:
Camporee training, more tbd.

Upcoming Events - April 2009

Troop Outing:
Saturday, April 18-19, Briones Regional Park.

Philmont Crew:
Friday, April 17-19, Suncol Regional Wilderness.

April 2009

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Hiking Merit Badge

The tentative dates for 10-mile hikes for the troop are as follows:

- Sat, March 7 (Pinnacles);
- Sat, March 21 (Redwood Regional Park); Canyon Meadows Staging Area
- Sat, April 4th (Location TBD);
- Sat, April 25th (Location TBD);
- Sat, May 16th (Location TBD).
- The tentative date for the 20-mile hike will be June 6th and this hike will either be a troop hike, or we will participate in the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council 20-mile hike in Wildcat Canyon/Tilden Park.
- We will also do more 10-mile hikes on other than Saturday's whenever possible.

Pinnacles 2008

Redwood Park – 10 Mile Hike

Saturday March 21:

Troop 202 will be hiking our second 10 + miles of the spring season. We will meet at the Canyon Meadow Staging Area Redwood Park at 8am and plan on leaving shortly thereafter.

Please make sure you pack the following items:

2 1-Liter water bottles (filled)
A hearty Lunch
Hat and Sunscreen
Rain Gear

You should arrive wearing your hiking boots and dressed in layers.

We hope to finish the hike by 1pm latest. Please make sure you have your return trip home organized beforehand.

Thanks

Janice Orrego
Troop 202 Outing Coordinator

To Reach Redwood Regional Park

The main entrance, Redwood Gate, is on Redwood Road in Oakland about two miles east of Skyline Blvd. Enter at Redwood Gate to reach Canyon Meadow Staging Area.

In Oakland on Highway 13, take the Redwood Road exit and go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and pass the Skyline Ranch Equestrian Center on the right.

Farther along you will pass Piedmont Stables on the left. Big Bear Staging Area will be on the right about one and one-half miles from Skyline Boulevard, followed by MacDonald Staging Area on the right and **Redwood Gate on the left** (seasonal parking fee).

To learn more about Redwood Regional Park, go to:
www.ebparcs.org/parks/redwood

For a map go to:
www.ebparcs.org/parks/maps

Camp Wente: June 28 – July 4

Rick Prime

Please read Rick Prime's email of 3/10/09 for the required medical form.

It looks like we have a fantastic turn-out with the majority of the Troop going to Wente this year! I wanted to give you an update on some upcoming critical dates for Wente.

Tuesday March 17th Final Payment of \$165 due for Wente. Please bring a check payable to Troop 202 for \$165. After this date the early discount expires and Wente will cost \$30 more.

Tuesday April 24th 7 PM at Montera. We will hold a mandatory meeting for parents of NEW scouts going to Wente. This is to explain what your scout needs to do to be prepared and how parents can assist. We will also answer any questions parents may have.

Tuesday June 2. All Medical forms are due. No scout may enter the camp without a complete medical form which requires a doctor appointment. You need to start scheduling these now.

1. If your child is going to Philmont, we will use your Philmont form. No action is required for Wente.
2. If your child went to Wente last year, we just need you to complete parts A and C and provide a copy of your insurance card. No doctor's appointment required.
3. If this is your child's first Wente experience (and they are not going to Philmont), call the doctor now to schedule an annual physical! We will need parts A, B and C of the medical form completed. Doctor to complete part B.

The camp is described at www.wente.org

I can't wait for Wente! The boys will have a blast! Rick

Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Personal Fitness MB. We will start the Personal Fitness MB next Tuesday night (3/10) at 6:30 pm in the area adjacent to the basketball courts. All scouts who will be doing this MB need to be present to do their initial aerobic fitness, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition tests. These tests will begin their 12-week personal fitness programs that are required for the merit badge. Rick Prime, TJ Merritt and Paul Bennett will be running this program, but we can use some help from other adults who are interested in helping out. The 12-week program will end on Tuesday, June 2nd, the week before the spring COH on June 9th.



Scouting For Food and Rancho Los Mochos Recap

Saturday, November 8 – 9th, 2008.

By Baxter S.
(Troop 202 Historian)

Some key information is missing on account of the fact that I, the Historian, was not present.

Troop 202 assembled at the Montclair Teacher's Parking Lot at 8am Saturday, the 8th of November, 2008. The first task for the day was the Scouting for Food drop off. The witnesses to this event did not recall how many drivers there were, or who drove.

By noon the troop arrived at Los Mochos camp site, which is near Livermore. They had lunch.

After lunch they set up sleeping quarters which was in a cabin with several bunk beds. The troop did orienteering and compass work, which was called "Jake's Big Challenge."

Later the cooks were dismissed to the mess hall to prepare dinner which was stir fried chicken. After dinner several boys played Mao (an in troop card game with

classified rules) in the mess hall late into the evening.

It rained most of the night at Los Mochos. It finally stopped raining in the morning.

For breakfast the troop had muffins. Some of the boys went off to do archery at the range which was fairly close to the camp.

At 11am, the troop departed for home.

