



May/June 2009

Issue 4

www.troop-202.net

The Scoutmaster's Moment

As the Scouting year draws to a close, I am looking back on the balancing act that being an Adult Leader in Troop 202 entails. The Adult Leadership is always trying to juggle ways to give the Scouts their voice and their responsibility for the Troop operations, while we as Adult Leaders are also quite capable of diving in, giving direction to everyone, and taking the lead and responsibility for everything! It is a balancing act, and the fulcrum moves, as the situation demands it. I don't like the idea of anyone being "Set up for Failure" as this is particularly destructive of the budding confidence that we are attempting to instill in our Scouts. It is important that the Adult Leaders are there with the Scouts, ready to help out when asked or needed, to act as a safety net. I also strongly believe in presenting the Scouts with what might be called "opportunities for limited success". This is where not every I is dotted, and some critical details are left undefined. If the Adult Leaders are there at every turn, to anticipate every eventuality, to cover every missing iodine tablet or missed food arrangement, then the boys learn nothing, and we will have failed them as teachers. Important lessons arise out of adversity and challenge, and if we remove all challenges that we stumble across in the Troop's life, then we are denying the Scouts an authentic leadership experience. It's OK to get wet, as some of us did at the Camporee, even with nice dry rain gear safely packed in our backpacks. But hopefully there was a lesson there, and maybe we will be drier the next time because of the lessons learned. And that's really what it's all about. Stephen Will, Scoutmaster

MAY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

Troop Meetings for MAY:
6:30 Basketball, 7pm Meeting

May 12: Backpacking talk.

May 19: Pack review and contest.
 Review of Wente merit badge program. Submit medical forms.

May 26: Drug and alcohol talk.
 Review of merit badge plan.

Troop Meetings for JUNE:
6:30 Basketball, 7pm Meeting

June 2: Advancement

JUNE 10 – WEDNESDAY
-COURT OF HONOR-

- 6:00 Setup
- 6:30 Dinner
- 7:15 Program Begins
- 8:30 Program Ends

Upcoming Events:

- 20 Mile Hike
- Philmont Shake Down
- Wente Summer Camp – June 29 (drop-off) – July 4 (pick-up)

JUNE 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Please note:

Court of Honor
 Rescheduled for
 -Wednesday, June 10-

6:00 Setup
 6:30 Dinner
 7:15 Program Begins
 8:30 Program Ends

Sunol Regional Wilderness (Philmont Crew)

Friday April 17th to Sunday April 19th.



Crew 02 Strikes a Pose!

Photo by J.Brocket



Crew 01 Stops for Lunch.

Photo by J.Brocket

The Philmont crews undertook a strenuous hike that covered a good deal of elevation (approx. 2,700 ft over two days) on Friday (3.5 miles) and Saturday (6.5 miles). Sunday was a 10 mile hike. Hikers packed personal as well as crew gear and their own water.

Attending the hike from Crew 1 was: Stephen F, Jacob BM, David M, Aaron L, Andrew WO, Mr. Barnes, Ms. Hsieh, and Crew Chief for the outing Diego R. Crew 2 members: Jaime M, Baxter S, Mr. Will, Ms. Orrego, Mr. Brocket, Mr. Rocha, and Crew Chief for the outing Spencer W. Both Crew Chiefs worked on their planning, organizational, and communication skills with their crews and adult leaders. Three cheers for the Crew Chiefs!

The weather was great (no rain!) but it was the hottest weekend to date and both crews were able to see from a distance that some hikers were air lifted out of the park but Troop 202 was able to make the trek without incident. The vistas of the SF Bay Area, when we stopped to sneak a peak, were stunning and the wild flowers were in full bloom. The cows were ok also.

The outing was undertaken in preparation for High Adventure, which will take place at Philmont Scout Reservation (www.scouting.org/philmont/) in northern New Mexico this coming July.

Briones Regional Park

Saturday April 18 – Sunday April 19

Tenderfoots Connor, Kyle, William, Cassius and Cheyenne with Adult Leaders Mr. Merritt and Mr. Prime did a short backpack via Briones Crest Trail to Wee'Ta-Chi Group in Briones Park on Saturday April 18th.

All tenderfoots brought personal first aid kits and worked on safe use of knife, saw and ax. The Tenderfoots made a dinner consisting of Trader Joe's marinated chicken, gnocchi and carrots.

After dinner, scouts played king of the hill on a grassy large hill entered by squeezing through a fence. One team would position themselves up on the hill. The advancing team had to get one member to the hill top to win right for their team to be king of the hill. Any advancing scouts tagged returned to bottom of the hill and started advance over. -Rick Prime

(Pre-Philmont Scouts)



Aklan District Camporee: May 2-3

On May 2nd 2009, Troop 202 attended the annual Aklan District Camporee in Bort Meadows. Troop 202 attended as two patrols this year, the Cobras and the Beavers.

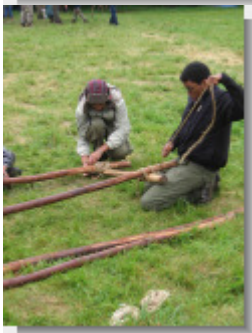
The point of the Camporee is to demonstrate scout skills in a competition against 43 other patrols from all over the Bay Area to see who is most prepared and skilled in scouting to survive in the outdoors because the Boy Scout Motto is "Be Prepared".

All activities began at noon to five o'clock. There were a total of 13 events and one of the most memorable was the wall. The Cobra patrol completed the wall in 3 minutes and 27 seconds, which was the third fastest time in the entire Camporee. The wall is a 12 ft. wall, where the scouts in a patrol have to help each other make it over this 12 ft. wall in a time limit of 8 min. Both Zane and Spencer, the experienced members of the Camporee for our troop were the big contributors in helping the Cobras complete the wall in this astounding time of 3:27. They were the two muscle men at the

top of the wall pulling each one of their members up with all their strength and this was what caused the excitement; how fast they had accomplished it.

This year both patrols included first time Camporee participants who are new to the troop and a couple of them include Ben C. and Kyle M. These rookies impressed everyone at how skilled they were in scouting and how eager they were to compete in the events.

This year overall both patrols did a lot better than they did last year, with the leadership of Derrick B. who prepared us for the events in the Camporee. Both patrols last year finished in the bottom rankings, but this year the Cobra patrol finished with a red ribbon and the Beaver patrol with a yellow ribbon. Both patrols did better this year and with the experience from this year, Troop 202 will be one of the stronger troops attending the Aklan District Camporee next year. Aaron L.



Photos by TJ Merritt

Wente Scout Reservation – Summer Camp

June 28 to July 4

Please read Rick Prime's email and attachments of May 7th, which will help to ensure that your scout gets the most out of his experience at Wente.



Wente Photo

➤ **Wente scout class schedule due May 19th. We will make a proposal for your scout before then however:**

1. Young scouts focus on rank advancement and 1 or 2 achievable merit badges.
2. Older scouts focus more on merit badges.

➤ **Medical forms submitted to Rick Prime by June 2nd:**

- ✓ If your scout attended Wente last year, complete parts A and C only (Mr. Prime has part B).
- ✓ If this is your scout's first Wente, complete parts A, B & C. Part B is completed by your doctor, so if you haven't already made an appointment, do it now.
- ✓ If your scout is going to Philmont, no action necessary. Mr. Prime will use the Philmont form for Wente.

➤ **New Scouts to Troop 202, payment of \$315 payable to Troop 202 due June 2.** (\$30 additional late fee after this).

This will be fantastic! We have outstanding scout and adult volunteer participation!

Rick Prime
Troop 202 Wente Coordinator

The camp is described at www.wente.org

Merit Badge Counselors

The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications)—as a merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

If you are not yet a merit badge counselor, it is easy to become a volunteer. You will need to register with the Boy Scouts of America, through your BSA local council. This entails contacting the local council, then obtaining, completing, and turning in the "Adult Application." The council will then process the application. (Every applicant is screened.) (Continued on page 5)



Merit Badge Counselors (cont.)

Upon approval to serve as a volunteer, individuals are expected to complete BSA Youth Protection training within 90 days of assuming a leadership position. **This training can be done through the BSA's Online Learning Center** at olc.scouting.org. The Boy Scouts of America seeks to create a safe environment for young people and adult leaders to enjoy the program and related activities. BSA Youth Protection training helps preserve that environment. For more information go to <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/trainingmodules/merit%20badge%20counselor%20instructors%20guide.aspx> (Source: www.scouting.org)

If you are interested in becoming a merit badge counselor, please see

Paul Bennett or *John McBeth*.

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must:

- ✓ Be at least 18 years old.
- ✓ Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation, avocation, or special training.
- ✓ Be able to work with Scout-age boys.
- ✓ Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America.

Merit Badge List

Camping	Aviation	Golf	Reading
Citizenship in the Community	Backpacking	Graphic Arts	Reptile and Amphibian Study
Citizenship in the Nation	Basketry	Home Repairs	Rifle Shooting
Citizenship in the World	Bird Study	Horsemanship	Rowing
Communications	Bugling	Indian Lore	Safety
Cycling	Canoeing	Insect Study	Salesmanship
Emergency	Chemistry	Journalism	Scholarship
Preparedness	Cinematography	Landscape Architecture	Sculpture
Environmental Science	Climbing	Law	Shotgun Shooting
Family Life	Coin Collecting	Leatherwork	Skating
First Aid	Collections	Mammal Study	Small-Boat Sailing
Hiking	Computers	Medicine	Snow Sports
Livesaving	Cooking	Metalwork	Soil and Water Conservation
Personal Fitness	Crime Prevention	Model Design and Building	Space Exploration
Personal Management	Dentistry	Motorboating	Sports
Swimming	Disability Awareness	Music	Stamp Collecting
American Business	Doge Care	Nature	Surveying
American Cultures	Drafting	Oceanography	Textile
American Heritage	Electricity	Orienteering	Theater
American Labor	Electronics	Painting	Traffic Safety
Animal Science	Energy	Pets	Truck Transportation
Archaeology	Engineering	Photography	Veterinary Medicine
Archery	Entrepreneurship	Pioneering	Waterskiing
Architecture	Farm Mechanics	Plant Science	Weather
Art	Fingerprinting	Plumbing	Whitewater
Astronomy	Fire Safety	Pottery	Wilderness Survival
Athletics	Fish and Wildlife Management	Public Health	Wood Carving
Atomic Energy	Fishing	Public Speaking	Woodwork
Auto Mechanics	Forestry	Pulp and Paper	Merit badges required for Eagle are in boldface.
	Gardening	Radio	
	Genealogy	Railroading	
	Geology		