

TROOP 726 FLASH

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 10

MAY 2010

Upcoming Events

Casey's Eagle Project, Month of May

Lone Tree Memorial Day , May 28/31

Bicycling Outing, June 5

Lion's Club, July 4

Summer Camp – Camp Makualla, Oregon, July 3 - 11

Mt. St. Helena Hike, TBD



Meeting Dates

Committee Meeting –June 7, 7:00 pm (Faith Lutheran Church)

Board of Review –May 24

ASM Meeting - May 10 and June 14

PLC Meeting –May 27

Court of Honor – June 9

Troop Meetings –Weekly on Wednesdays 7 pm sharp at Masonic Center

(No troop meeting on Wed Jun 23, Sep 22 and Nov 10- Masonic center is not available. Alternative date, time and place will be announced).

Troop 726 Website

Don't forget to check out our Troop's awesome website <http://troop726.scoutlander.com>



Bicycling Outing, June 5

Scout in Charge: Jacob Schultz and Larry Whitmeyer, Adult in Charge: Mr. Fong

The Route: 12 or 22 miles, paved, flat.

We will be on the Alameda Creek Regional Trail starting at the Beard Staging area, end of Beard Road at Alvarado/Fremont Blvd that has ample parking, picnic tables and porta-potty. Then it's about 6 miles west by the bike trail to the west end through Coyote hills park ending at S.F. Bay, or about 12 miles RT for the short ride. Going east it's 4.75 miles to the Niles staging area or about 9-1/2 miles RT add-on for the more advanced riders. Nice thing about this staging area is that if the parents want to drive and pick-up the scouts early, they'll have a place to picnic, rest, and for the scouts it's all flat!

Required Safety Items: Helmet, Gloves, Protective eye wear (sunglasses)

Equipment: Water bottle, Spare Tube and Patch Kit and tire changing tools.

Personal: Troop activity shirt (Class B T-shirt), wind jacket, tennis shoes, cuff guard on right ankle if wearing long pants.

Bicycling Outing, June 5 (The Bicycle and Equipment)

The Bicycle:

This outing requires a bicycle in **good operating condition**, ride it several times before this trip to make sure it and you are in good riding condition. Although the route is flat, a multi-speed bike will make the ride easier for your leg muscles. A mountain bike can be used but they are usually heavier and have more lower gear speeds than required as we will not be riding up or down steep, unpaved hillside trails. Therefore a “hybrid” and/or a lighter weight “road” bike with narrower smooth tires is preferred for long distance touring especially if going up a long hill, and they can be fitted with optional wider, nubby, tires for dirt roads if needed.

If you have outgrown your bicycle, getting another one doesn't have to be expensive if you're resourceful and check-out the second-hand stores i.e. Goodwill or Salvation Army, keeping in mind you may have to replace the tires and tubes (about \$20/ wheel at Walmart), or buy used, borrow, or rent (ask Jacob).

Buying a new bike can be reasonable to expensive depending on what you want--\$99 at Walmart to \$450 at REI in Berkeley. Because young scouts are still growing it's reasonable to buy a relatively inexpensive bike they're under about 5 feet tall and buy another (you can sell the first bike) when they are over 5 feet tall. Going from a 24 inch (wheel diameter) junior mountain bike to a full-sized 26 inch (wheel diameter) mountain bike requires the rider to be over 5 feet tall in order that the rider's crotch clears the top tube by at least one inch. In the case of a younger scout under 5 feet, the prices of 24 inch jr. mountain bikes cost from \$150 for a Schwinn Ranger at Target to over \$450 for a Novaro at REI coop in Berkeley. However, at Walmart I saw a Hyper Velocity 26 inch mountain bike with an unusually low top tube that should fit the younger scout for \$99 and should serve him well now and later as second bike (for jumping off curbs and running errands around town) if he should maintain his interest in cycling and gets a more advanced road bike and takes care of it. I also consider the Schwinn Ranger (Boy's model) at Target to be an excellent value, but the 26 inch Velocity (Boys) ; at Walmart is an outstanding value at a “throw-a-way” price.

I mentioned that Road bikes are preferred for long distance cycling but are relatively expensive and not readily available in smaller sizes for younger scouts. However, there may be some “hybrid” bikes with slanted top tubes that might fit them. At Target I saw an excellent value for an adult or older scout with at least a 30 inch pants inseam that is a light-weight aluminum tubed, Schwinn Tourist (men's) road bike 27 speed with Shimano components for \$250!

The ultimate light-weight road bike is a pleasure to ride and can be seen as an investment in itself and for one's health but can be very expensive especially if the rider is still growing! If you have any questions, call Mr. Fong at 510- 567 8963.

Baseball Fans, Anyone? *(From Mr. Avery)*

Oakland A's Scout Day is **Sunday, June 27** A's vs. Pirates @ 1:05 p.m. Scouts, leaders and parents: join the A's for our annual Scout Day and participate in our exclusive pregame parade. Discounted group tickets are available for Boy and Girl Scouts, friends and families (Eagle, Cub Scouts and Brownies too!). All uniformed scouts will receive a commemorative A's Scout Day patch. *In addition, 10,000 fans in attendance will receive an Oakland A's Beach Towel.*

Lone Tree Memorial Day , May 28/31

Scout in Charge: TBD, Adult in Charge: Mr. Perrault and Mr. Guerin

On **Friday May 28**, we will be placing flags on ALL Veterans graves at Long Tree Cemetery. This is an incredible project and it really brings everyone together. We will be given maps of marked graves and there are graves that are not on the lists that we will need to seek out. Please arrive at Lone Tree Cemetery by **4:00 pm** at the latest so we can choose our areas and place flags. Class "A" Uniforms are **REQUIRED!!!**

On **Monday May 31**, we are invited to participate in the events of the day including distribution of small flags, pamphlets and assisting where needed. We need to be present at the cemetery by **10:30 a.m.** for this portion of our service. The cemetery chooses a Troop to participate in the presentation of the Colors. All scouts are of course required to wear Class "A" Uniforms for this also. Immediately following the morning events there is a BBQ that we are always invited to participate in.

Monday afternoon around **3:00 pm** if you would like to participate in the removal of the flags your assistance is appreciated.

Troop Model Airplane Contest

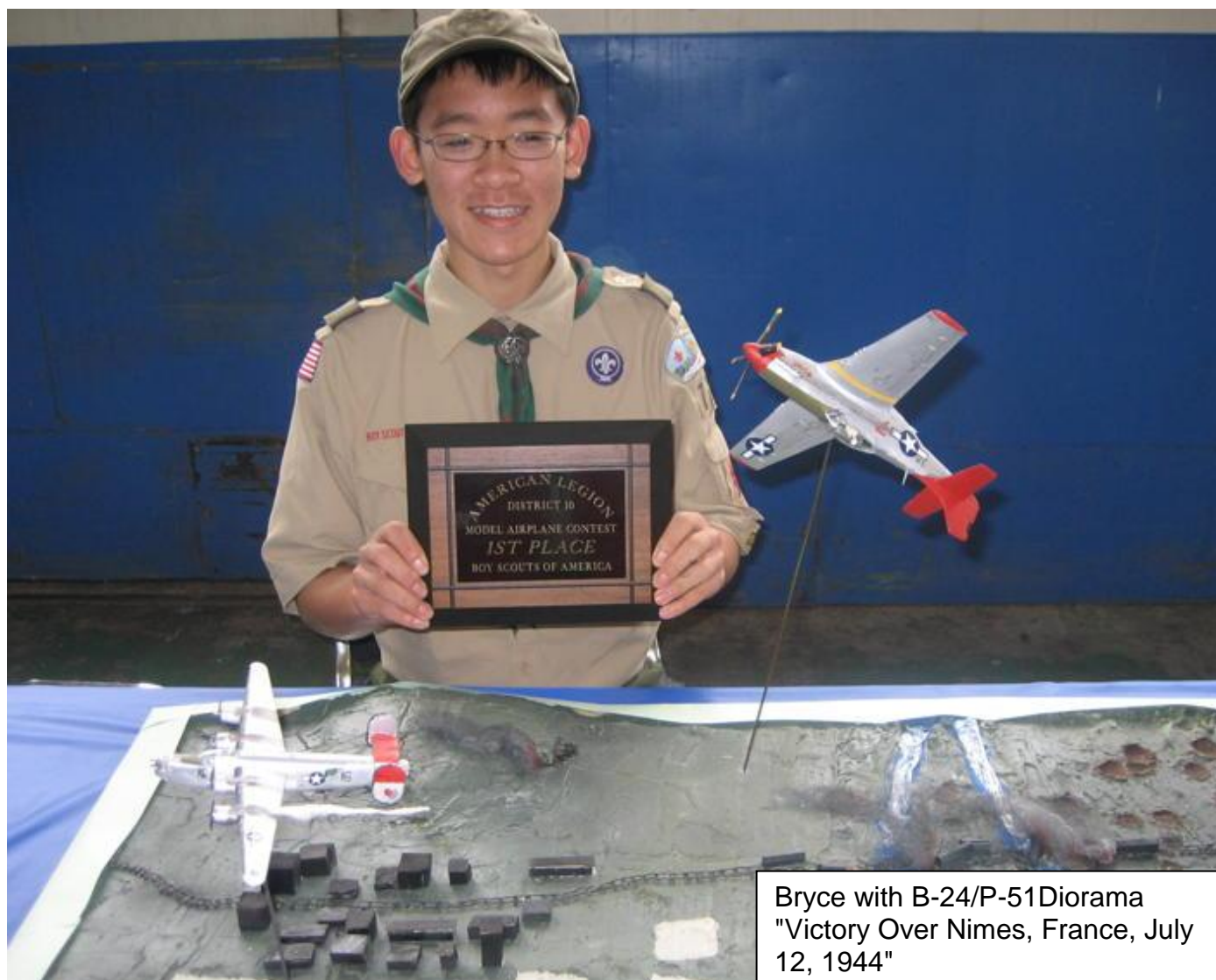
By Scout in Charge: Bryce Fong

On April 10th, Troop 726 took 1st place in the model airplane contest at the Oakland Aviation Museum. The contest was to build a diorama using a B-24 Liberator and P-51 Mustang. The diorama was titled "Victory over Nimes, France."; it is a Tuskegee Airmen Mustang escorting a B-24 that has bombed a railroad yard near Nimes. The P-51 has shot down a FW-190 fighter. The scouts and adults who participated were, Kenji Pinzon, Will Olivera, Jacob Schultz, Ryan Flynn, Seamus Guerin, and Bryce Fong. The adults in charge were Mr. Fong and Mr. Pinzon. We would like to thank our sponsor, the American Legion Post 649 for arranging this event.



Certificate awarded to scouts by Mr. Dennis Matarrese of the 10th District American Legion; Bryce Fong, Ryan Flynn, Seamus Guerin, Will Oliveira, Jacob Schultz

Troop Model Airplane Contest



Bryce with B-24/P-51 Diorama
"Victory Over Nimes, France, July
12, 1944"



First Place Plaque
awarded to Troop 726
Scout master Mr. Neil
Guerin by Mr. Dennis
Matarrese, and Mr.
Edward Castillo,
Commander of the 10th
District, American Legion.

100 Years of Scouting in Northern California

By Austin Le

On April 16-18, Michael Yi, Keane Hubbard, Edgar Woo, our adults, Mr. Fong, Mr. and Mrs. Woo, Mr. Guerin, Mr. Yi, Mr. Wright and me, Austin Le went to attend the 100th Anniversary Jamboree at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. Once we got there, we saw hundreds of cars and countless scouts. Friday night when I laid down my tent to sleep, I thought about the spectacular activities our troop would do tomorrow.

Saturday morning after breakfast, we set up our troop banner and on the top and bottom of it we taped on something extra. In spirit of the event we wrote "100 years of scouting" and "A portal through time". After that, we went straight to the campgrounds and started off with BB guns. Then we observed the trains at the model train exhibit and visited the Indian huts that were so tall. There was the kayaking activity that took place in a big inflatable pool. At the Military/Marines displays we went rock climbing and then hopped up on the huge Marines vehicles and took plenty of pictures. Surprisingly, there was Guitar Hero 5 which I of course played. Throughout the day I saw many kinds of Boy Scout troops, a musical troop, an entirely Vietnamese troop, and a blind autistic troop.

At the end of the day, we went to the arena for the end ceremony, where we listened to lots of music, such as rap, rock, band, and choir. We watched amazing acts performed by acrobats, the Alameda County Police, and the Boys club choir. Though it was more than two hours long, it was very entertaining.



Group photo at campsite "gateway"

More Photos from 100 Years of Scouting in Northern California



Raymond, Ryan, and Bryant



Audrey, Sum with Eagle Scout Edgar enjoying the experience.



Austin enjoying his dinner of barbeque chicken, mashed potatoes, cold slaw, and brownie dessert



View of 726 camp site with surrounding 8,500 campers.



Keane, Michael, Mr. Fong, Austin adding 100th Jamboree signage to troop banner.



Michael and Mr. Yi getting ready Sunday morning

Earth Day Clean up

By Scout in Charge: Bobby Paiz

On Saturday, April 24 the Castro Valley Sanitation District had a city wide school clean up day at the different Castro Valley schools. We participated at the clean up that took place at Independent Elementary like we did in previous years. There were many other volunteers from other organizations or people that just wanted to help out. Our job was to work on the hillside facing the bottom parking lot where we have done numerous clean ups and eagle projects. It was a beautiful day to do a beautification project which involved weeding and cleaning up trash in the parking lot. We had a good turnout which made doing this in 3 hours a piece of cake. Thank you all who attended!!!



T726 working on clearing a hillside at Independent Elementary, Castro Valley

Photo from Earth Day Clean up



Before



AFTER!
A Job Well Done!!

Hike-A-Thon

By Scout in Charge: Larry Whitmeyer

On the Hike-A-Thon, Saturday, May 1, there were a lot of people who hiked with us around Lake Chabot. The people who came were Larry, Whitmeyer, Tyler Wang, Michael Yi, Jason Zhao, Ryan Flynn, Kenji Pinzon, Bruce Fong, Kyle Avery, Steven Decker, Ben Eckman, Zachery Eslick, Sam Pica, Sammy Wilson, Daniel Doss, and Bryant Ling. The adult leaders who were there were Byron Fong, Neil Guerin, Phil Avery, Patrick Yi, Mathew Lozano, and Lawrence Ling. We also had parents that went with us. Their names were Shawn Decker, Laura Pica, Jennifer Eslick, and Caven Wilson. We hiked 10 miles around Lake Chabot and many of us had sponsors to raise money to add to our Scout Accounts. Thank you, Mrs. Schultz for organizing the fundraisers. We all had fun at the Hike-A-Thon.



The troop enjoying a relaxing lunch stop at the marina



Zachery, Steven, and Sam at a creek

Skills Weekend

By Scout in Charge: Kenji Pinzon

On Friday, April 30th, the newly formed Ravens patrol along with several older scouts and adults went up to Lake Chabot for a fun-filled Skills Weekend. We got a lot of requirements signed off for the younger scouts and the boys had great bonding time. Also, we all had a marvelous time hiking around the lake. All of us are definitely looking forward to the next Skills Weekend but hope for a possible change in location. Thank you, Mr. Markison, Mr. Avery, and Mr. Yi for accompanying the Scouts on this event.





Skills Weekend, 2010.
Mr. Yi, Ryan, Seamus,
Mr. Avery, Mr. Markison,
Austin, Kenji, Raymond
(clock-wise from top left)

SFBAC TROOP 726 – SUMMER CAMP WEEK 2010

Troop 726 is going out of state for 2010 summer to Camp Makualla located in the state of Oregon, July 3 – 11, 2010!

The cost has been reduced to \$230 for current scouts and \$250 for new scout or incoming Webelos.

Camp Makualla has program opportunities for both younger Scouts and advanced Scouts. 37 merit badges including shooting sports, climbing, fishing, and sailing will be available. For advanced Scouts, the camp has a High Adventure Program which includes caving, whitewater, and climbing that will be done outside of camp. We will also be visiting Crater Lake.

We will be traveling by railroad to camp via Amtrak! **Departing Oakland's Jack London Square at 9:47 pm on Saturday night, July 3, 2010. Returning to Jack London Square at 8:35 am on Sunday morning, July 11, 2010.** Estimated cost for camp is \$230 (this is \$165 less than 2009) and includes; camp spending money, Amtrak rail transportation, troop equipment, leadership fees, and Crater Lake tour. **Does not include Merit Badge or additional High Adventure Program fees.**

The full payment is due and can be made by utilizing Scout account funds, cash, or checks written to TROOP 726. For further registration information, please contact Mr. Patrick Yi 510-388-1829 (cell) and 510-582-1673 (home).

Don't miss out on this great adventure!



Camp Makualla, Here We Come!

Special Merit Badge Opportunity for 2010 Only

Do you know a Boy Scout who would like to do something few other Boy Scout will ever do? Yes, I'm sure you do!

This year and this year ONLY...four historic Merit Badges are being offered to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the B.S.A. They MUST be done, finished and completed in 2010 and will never be offered again! The four are Carpentry, Path Finding, Signaling, and Tracking. The actual merit badge itself appears to have gold around the edge too! Find more about it at the National website!

Scout Advancements

By Phil Avery, Troop 726 Advancement Coordinator

Nest Board of Review date is May 24. Court of Honor is Wed. June 9. Austin Le made Second Class on 4-26-10 and Ryan Flynn and Larry Whit meyer both made Star also on 4-26. The following boys made Scout - Ben Eckman 4-3, Zachary Eslick 5-1, Sam Pica 5-1, Sammy Wilson 4-21. Kyle and Mitch finished Stamp Collecting MB on 4-27, Zachary Eslick and Sammy Wilson finished Fingerprinting MB on 4-17. Seamus finished Citizenship in the Community MB on 4-5 and finished Personal Management on 4-5. Casey Perrault finished Family Life MB on 4-21. Bryce Fong completed Personal Management on 4-5. Ben Eckman finished Stamp Collecting on 5-5. Congratulations!

Casey's Eagle Project

Casey Perrault is currently a life scout with Troop 726 and is working towards his Eagle Rank. His Eagle Project is to restore a 35 foot historical totem pole located in Weeks Park in Hayward. Casey is in need of help from his fellow scouts and scout families. He will be working on the pole the weekend of May 8-9 and on May 15. If you are available for one hour or the whole time please call him at 810-881-7774 or 510-209-0604 or email him at noidea02@hotmail.com. He will be scheduling scouts and parents in shifts since only a few can work on the pole at any one time.

Parents, the totem pole is 35" tall and for safety reasons, our scouts are not allowed to use or ride in the lift; we need adults to help with the top of the pole. Thank you!

Training

By Randy Wright, Tres Ranchos District Boy Scout Training Chair and Troop 726 Training Chair.

Online Training from your computer is available for many trainings. Please check out all the online trainings. These are all free. Please go to www.SFBAC.org, and then go to training or My Scouting and then select online training for the above. You will need to register.

EVERY SCOUT DESERVES A TRAINED LEADER!

The following trainings will be held:

1. Roundtable every month. Meet people and have fun learning more about scouting. Second Thursday evening of each month at the Boy Scout Center in San Leandro. **Up coming sessions are May 13 – Special cooking and June 10 – Backpacking.**
2. Did you complete any training lately? Please send me a copy of your training card for our records..
3. Please remember you will be required to renew Youth Protection, Safety Afloat and Safe Swim every 2 years and training called “Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather Training” (this is only available online).” These are required on tour permits.
4. “This is Scouting” is now on line. If you haven't taken NLE please take this course at www.sfbac.org under adult training. I do have a video for this that I can loan to you.
5. If your HAT training is about to expire, please register for the upcoming HAT refresher course. Your training must be renewed every 5 years.
6. New on-line trainings appear all the time. Check in occasionally and see what's new!

Need info about future trainings? Have questions about training? Call Randy Wright at 510-885-0527 or email wright-s@comcast

Check Out These “Admission Fee Free” Dates at National Parks (From Mr. Avery)

June 5-6, 2010
August 14-15, 2010
September 25, 2010 (Public Lands Day)
November 11, 2010 (Veterans Day)

For more information, please go to <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>

Only the admission fees are waived at the National Parks - not the camping fees or the ferry fees to Alcatraz. FYI, Alcatraz is always free to attend but you must use the contracted ferry service to get to the island and no private boats are allowed.

Troop News

Updated Annual Health and Medical Record

If you haven't turned in your form yet, please give the completed forms to Mrs. McGrue (Larry Whitmyer's mom) as soon as possible.

See's Candy Fund Raiser Please bring in the money for the chocolates that you sold to Mrs. Schultz as soon as possible.

Summer Camp Merit Badge class descriptions, pre-requisites, and cost that information can be found on our Troop website at <http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom.aspx?UID=1531&CUSTOMID=4426>

Photo from "Hobby Night" Troop Meeting

"Hobby Night" showcased our Scouts diverse interests and many talents. See the photos below for some of the things they brought!



Mitch's Gazella Figurine Collection



Allen's Mighty-Muggs

Patrol News



Patrol leaders please submit your article to Ms. Chang by the Last Friday of the month by phone 317-9179 or email SandiaChang@comcast.net, or if you prefer, put the article in her mail slot by the Wednesday before the end of the month.

Ravens

On Fri/Sat/Sun Apr 30 – May 2, we all went camping on Skills Weekend. We also went on the hike around Lake Chabot.

By Kyle Avery

Cobras

There are 28 days of school left as of today, May 5th.

Austin has finished his Second Class requirements and is looking forward to the next Court of Honor. Everyone in the Cobras Patrol went to the Skills Weekend except for Keane.

By Austin Le

Scorpions/ Dragons

The Scorpions went to the Hike-A-Thon and we hiked 10 miles. We also went to the Troop meeting when we were doing the Sporting Merit Badge. Many of us went to the Jamboree and the Pleasanton Fair Ground and did the Earth Day cleanup project. It was a busy month.

By Larry Whitmeyer

Owls/ Rocks

Calories used by your brain accounts for 1/3 of the total calories used by your entire body.

By Allen Saylor

More Photos from "Hobby Night" Troop Meeting



Ben's money collection



Bryce's model battleship



Kenji showing dirt bike helmet and shoes



Austin and Guitar Hero



Ravens staring down Mighty Muggs

More Photos from "Hobby Night" Troop Meeting



Jason likes to dunk and hit 3-pointers



Michael's coin collection



Zachery's brown belt and nun-chuck.

A Call to Action

{Reprint from Scout Parent Handbook}

Picture a piece of string that's 18 feet long. It's far too long to stretch out, so imagine sliding it through your hands. Feel it on your palms as it moves along, sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly, until you finally let it go.

Those 18 feet of string represent the years when you have the power to mold your child's future, to help him become the person you've always dreamed he would be. At one end of the string is that wonderful day when you brought your son home from the hospital. At the other is that frightful day when he'll head off to college or a job or the military.

How many feet of string have already slid through your hands? How many years have already passed you by? However many years are left, you can make the most of them through Scouting.

For a hundred years, Scouting has been instilling values in young people and reinforcing those values in adults. For a hundred years, Scouting has been teaching leadership and life skills to both kids and their parents. For a hundred years, Scouting has been strengthening families and communities alike. For a hundred years, Scouting has been opening its doors to parents who only want the best for their children.

And now the door is open to you... Will you become involved yourself?
All you have to say is yes. Scout's honor!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 726

18507 Center Street

Castro Valley, CA 94546

Scoutmaster: Neil Guerin

Email: 70torino@comcast.net

Website: <http://troop726.scoutlander.com>

Charter Organization: American Legion
#649

BE PREPARED



Our newsletter goal is to provide information to scouts and parents at the 1st meeting of the month. Dates and information for this newsletter are due by the last Friday of each month.

Committee Chair's Corner

By Phyllis Lozano, Troop 726 Committee Chair

At the scouts planning conference in April, our scouts put together a very comprehensive calendar for 2010-2011. The scouts covered all the values of scouting such as outdoor fun, community service and skills, then the committee members added some fundraising activities to make it complete. Thanks to the scouts and adults for working hard and providing us with a road map for the next year.

As our previous Committee Chair would often say, 'Scouting has many tasks, some tasks are once a year, some are once a month and some are once a week.' When the calendar is distributed next month please add the events to your family calendar, but more important call Mr. Guerin or me and say YES, I'd like to help. We'll find the right task for you --- Scout's Honor.



Klondike 2010, photo by Mr. Andrews

Lost Equipment

Please check your garage for Troop equipment. Look for any tents and pans, stoves, etc, that you may have taken home to clean but forgot to bring back. Equipment is

Troop Items for Sale

The following items can be purchased from Mrs. Lozano. Troop Mug = \$5.00, Duffle Bag = \$20.00

You can purchase additional T-shirt (\$10) from Mrs. Schultz. Email: pschultz@mail.com. Phone: (925) 283-1973

Uniform Bank

All items in the uniform bank are first come first serve. Please call Mr. Woo or Mrs. Woo to check for availability. Also, **if you think you can donate any items**, please bring them to the meeting. Thank you!

Attention All Scouts!

Is your Scout due current? Scout due is \$5.00 per month, payable by the first meeting of the month. You need to keep your due current in order to participate in outings!

Thank You!

If a picture is worth a thousand words then we owe thousands of thanks to Mr. Markison, Mr. Fong, and Mr. Andrews for the fabulous pictures in this issue of Troop Flash.

Brave

A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him