

TROOP 726 FLASH

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 10

MARCH 2009

Upcoming Events

Overnight Patrol Outing	Dates in March
Yosemite Valley	April 3 – 5
Annual Planning Conference	April 25
Earth Day Clean up	April 25



Committee Meeting – March 2

Elections – March 4

ASM Meeting – March 16

Court of Honor – March 18

PLC Meeting – March 23

Committee Meeting – April 6

Board of Review – April 20

Troop Meetings – Weekly on Wednesdays (Masonic Center not available on May 27, and Sept 23, alternative plan will be made for those days)

Yosemite Valley, April 3 – 5

Scout in Charge: Bryant Ling, Adult in Charge: Mr. Andrews

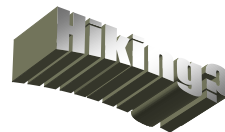
"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity..." --John Muir, 1898

Did you know 95% of Yosemite is designated Wilderness? Wilderness is a special distinction granted by Congress protecting land from further development. The best way to experience the 1,100 square miles of the Yosemite Wilderness is to explore it first hand. Come and experience Yosemite with your fellow Scouts. Look out for the permission slips coming out soon!



Annual Planning Conference, April 25

Would you like to have a say on what outings the Troop should have for the next year? Come to the annual planning meeting and take part in the decision. Time and place of the meeting will be announced soon!



Earth Day Clean up, April 25

Mark your calendar for the annual Earth Day clean up. More details will be coming out.



DO YOUR PART!

Friend of Scouting Campaign

By Randy. Wright (Troop 726 FOS Coordinator)

The FOS campaign began in February with an official kick off at the Red and Green dinner. The FOS program is very important to our council and to our troop. Our troop benefits by reduction of fees for summer camp, Eagle Merit Badge camp and free rank and merit badges for one of our Courts of Honor to name a few. We are 85% of meeting our goal with only 60% of our troop participating. Please consider how you can participate in this yearly fundraising event that helps offset the cost of scouting in our community. If you have not turned in your FOS pledge card, please consider turning it in soon. I will be at the next troop meeting for your convenience. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Randy Wright at 510-885-0527.

By Michael Andrews (Troop 726 Outdoor Program Coordinator)

The families of T726 have a long history of generous donation to the annual "Friends of Scouting" campaign for the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. During most years, T726 has had the reputation of being among the greatest supporters of our SFBA Council and the Tres Ranchos District, in terms of Scout participation in Council & District events, as well as with contributions of adult volunteer time & effort. Even during these difficult economic times, it is important that every family donate to this fundraising campaign whatever amount they can afford, no matter how small.

Your "Friends of Scouting" pledge has several benefits to your Scout and family, other than the tax-deductible status for this important non-profit organization. Unlike your Scout's annual BSA National registration fees, all "Friends of Scouting" donations remain here with the SFBA Council to strengthen the delivery of the Scouting program locally by supporting adult volunteer training and Scout advancement resources, providing a variety of fun Council and District activities, and maintaining and operating the great summer camp facilities enjoyed by all Scouts. In addition, when the T726 families collectively meet our unit fund-raising goal and we attend our local Council's Boy Scout camp, we receive a rebate of 15% of the summer camp costs for each Scout. Last year this amounted to a \$39 refund to each boy's Scout account from Camp Royaneh, and this year's amount could be as high as \$45 per Scout returned from Wente Scout Reservation.

However, we can only obtain those Council rebates when we reach our unit fund-raising goal, so it is important that each family consider their ability to pledge to the "Friends of Scouting" campaign. Every individual contribution counts!!! Remember, your donation represents an investment that will last a lifetime by ensuring that our youth continue to have access to the exceptional character-building experience that is Scouting!



OA Klondike Derby Weekend - March 6-8

By Michael Andrews, Troop 726 Outdoor Program Coordinator

Mark your calendar for the "coolest" camping event attended every year by T726 Scouts!!! Held annually at the Snowflower Preserve and Snow Park off I-80 in the Sierra Mountains, February's winter storms will ensure plenty of snow for some chilly fun: snow-shoeing, sled-racing, competing at Scout skills, and cooking out under the tall pines. **This event is open to all Boy Scouts and adult leaders who have attended the OA Winter Camping Awareness program**, register by the February 18th Troop meeting, and are prepared for the challenges of winter camping conditions. Permission slips with further details will be available soon; or contact Mr. Andrews, Outdoor Program Coordinator (510/728-0774 or sierrascout@sbcglobal.net).



SFBAC Troop Summer Camp 2009 – June 21th to June 27th

By Michael Andrews, Troop 726 Outdoor Program Coordinator

Most of you have already placed your initial deposits and are registered to attend summer camp during the last week of June 2009. The staff at Wente Scout Reservation is looking forward to providing our Scouts with another great outdoor program, and you can visit www.wente.org to see what's going on around camp while getting ready for this summer! There will be souvenir/merchandise available at the camp including T-shirt, polo shirt, fleece jacket, baseball cap, leather belt, and brass buckle. For further details, please contact Mr. Andrews, Outdoor Program Coordinator (510/728-0774 or sierrascout@sbcglobal.net).



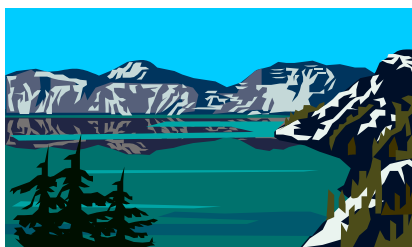
Wente Summer Camp, Here We Come!

Oregon Summer Camp 2009 – July 25th to August 6th

By Scout in Charge: Steve Davidson and Jacob Schultz, Adult in Charge: Mr. Perrault

Scouts will attend one week of camp at Camp Makaula, will visit Crater Lake, Oregon Caves National Monument, Lake Shasta Caverns, and river raft on the Rogue River or Klamath River. The cost is \$650 (\$200 deposit by March 28, second payment of \$200 due by April 22, \$250 balance due by May 27), a very good value for a 13-day trip. Additional cost for camp activities may apply.

The permission slip was passed out at the March 4th Troop meeting. **Please return the completed permission slip by March 18th Troop meeting.**



Training

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

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.
2. Did you complete any training lately? Please let me know. A copy of your training card would be the best. For example, University of Scouting or HAT trainings.
3. Beginning January 2009, leaders will be required to renew Youth Protection every 2 years. This is a new **National Policy** and is required on tour permits.
4. Also, beginning January 2009, you will be required to take a training called "Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather Training." This is only available online.
5. Nothing new about the replacement for New Leader Essentials

If haven't take Youth Protection in the last two years you need to before you can participate in any outing or programs with our youth. You also are required by National to take the Weather Hazards course if you are a tour leader or are signing the tour permit.

Need info about future trainings? Have questions about training? Call Randy Wright at 510-885-0527 or email wright-s@comcast.net. All fliers are on the Tres Ranchos District Web page via www.sfbac.org.

EVERY SCOUT DESERVES A TRAINED LEADER!

Scout Sunday (By Scout In Charge: Larry Whitmeyer)

A Scout is Reverent... This year we observed Scout Sunday on Feb 8 at Faith Lutheran Church on Redwood Road. Thank you to all of the Scouts who participated in the Scout Sunday services at Faith Lutheran on February 8, 2009. This was my first Scout Sunday to be in charge of and I felt it to be a very enlightening experience. Again, thank you to all who participated. God Bless.



Bobby Lee Leading the Flag Ceremony

Snow Camping (By Scout in Charge: Bryce Fong)

On January 30- February 1, 2009, Troop 726 went on a snow camping trip in Meiss meadows. The scouts that attended were Jacob Schultz, Marcos Andrade, Hayden Payne, John Miles, Raymond Akagi, Austin Le, and Bryce Fong. The adults that attended were Mr. Miles and Mr. Guerin. We arrived at the camp site at around 1 am in the morning. We decided to set up camp before we got to our original campsite because it was too dark and the hill was too steep to walk up. The next morning we decided to walk down to the cars and eat breakfast, and then brought up the rest of our gear. After this, we built 2 big sliding areas to slide on a snow disk. We had lots of fun building it and we also threw snow balls at each other while working. Then we ate lunch at the cars again, when we had finished some scouts used the disk at the parking lot and some others went to the campsite to sleep. Raymond Akagi and Austin Le started building an igloo using the troop's igloo maker but it was not finished in time. We had a campfire at night and then we went to sleep. The next morning we packed up our gear and left at 10:30. During the whole trip it never snowed and the sun was out the whole time.

Red and Gold Dinner (By Mrs. Lozano)



Our annual **Red** and **Green** Dinner was once again a success. We had close to 100% participation. We have some wonderful cooks and some funny scouts in our troop. A special thank you to Mrs. Schultz for organizing our food contributions and Mr. Wright for presenting our Friends of Scouting presentation. Casey Perrault did a good job as our announcer and MC. I'd also like to thank everyone for helping with set up, clean up and the great team work.

Dodge Ridge Snow Boarding and Skiing (by Scout in Charge: Mathew Lozano)

On February 22, a group of scouts went to Dodge Ridge for a fun packed day of snow boarding and skiing. Unfortunately, it snowed and rained. However, I am sure that every scout enjoyed themselves. I myself can now say that I have boarded in the rain. The scouts who went are Raymond, Will, Larry, Aaron, Anthony, Jeremy, Tyler, Jacob, Bryant, Mathew, and Austin.



Guess Who They are?

Troop News

Troop T-shirt (from Mrs. Schultz)



Please pay and pick up your sweat shirt order from Mrs. Schultz as soon as possible. You can purchase additional T-shirt (\$10) from her as well. Email: pschultz@mail.com. Phone: (925) 283-1973



Marcos with New Troop 726 T-shirt

Troop 726 Website (from Mr. Woo)



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

Thank you, Mr. Woo and Mrs. Huie, for setting up and maintaining this great website for our Troop!



Presidio Hike (Dec 13-14, 2008) From left to right, Mr. Guerin, Austin, Allen, Jacob, Raymond, Bryce, Andrew, Aaron, and Mr. Perrault

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.

Cobras



At our last patrol meeting at Austin's house we talked about going to a shooting day at Los Mochos Camp. Mr. Avery said he would make the permission slip so when he gives it to me I will give it to you. We are pretty much set for the camp.

Tyler, Austin, and Raymond went to the snowboarding trip to Dodge Ridge. It was snowing and raining when we got there. It was the first time for us and a lot of fun.

By Raymond Akagi

Scorpions



No submittal

Dragons



We went to Anthony's house for our last Patrol meeting.

By Ryan Flynn

Owls



The owl patrol has planned a patrol outing to go to the Coyote Hills for a 15-mile bike ride on March 21, 2009. We hope it will be a fun trip. Bryce has advanced to Life Rank. OWLS RULE, that is all."

By Bryce Fong

Rocks



At the March 4th meeting, the Rock's Eric Nikssarian passed his board of review to be our troop's newest life scout. Now all five of the rocks are life rank, so be ready to start volunteering at our eagle projects. In outing news, the Rocks will be volunteering at the food bank.

By Ben Eversole

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

Just a friendly reminder, Mr. Randy Wright is our Friends of Scouting Coordinator and he is hard at work trying to collect our pledge cards. Our troop goal is to have 100% participation. No one knows your finances except you, so even if it means only donating \$1.00, please help Troop 726 meet its goal.

In February at our Red and Green, I provided our parents and scouts with a State of the Troop. For those that missed it, please find it attached to this newsletter. Our Troop Committee, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters had a busy year. All of these activities and accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our adults.

In April, our scouts will be having the annual planning conference, if you have any ideas for fundraising, events or outings, please let either Mr. Guerin or me know.

Scout Advancements

By Lisa Richeaux, Troop 726 Advancement Coordinator

Aaron Vejmolá, Raymond Akagi and Mitch Avery all earned their Tenderfoot rank. Bryce Fong and Eric Nikssarian earned their Life rank. Jacob Schultz earned his Star rank. The date for all ranks is March 3rd.

Well Done, Scouts! Congratulations!

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 very expensive!

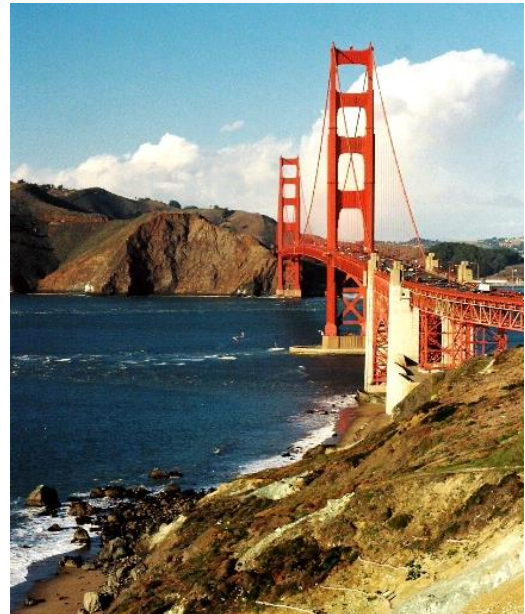
Troop Items for Sale

The following items can be purchased from Mrs. Lozano.

Troop Mug	\$5.00
Duffle Bag	\$20.00

Photo by Mr. Andrews

(SF Presidio, Dec 2008)



Uniform Bank

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

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.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 726
State of the Troop - February 2009

The beginning of 2008 brought about the realization that we needed to find a new place for our weekly meeting. With a lot of hard work and some networking, we were able to secure this location at the Masonic Center. It seems to fit our needs very well.

As I reviewed the BSA's ***Aims of Scouting*** and the methods we used to measure and obtain them to earn our quality unit ranking with the SF Bay Area Council, I realized more today than ever that our Troop 726 is doing a good job in all areas.

Let's start with the adult leaders. We have 26 registered adults, most of them fully trained. We had 3 new leaders join us last year: Phil Avery, Bill Hubbard, and John Miles. Each has begun the training process and are excited to help our youth along the trail to Eagle and the adventures that last a lifetime. Last year we were sad to see our newsletter editor and treasurer move on to other activities, but were glad when Sandia Chang stepped forward to take on the monthly newsletter and Lawrence Ling the treasurer position.

As for Scout membership, in March/April 2008 we had 10 new Scouts join us, and then again in Oct/Nov we had an additional 3, giving us 13 new boys last year. We now have 31 registered Scouts, having currently achieved the following ranks:

- 9 Scouts
- 4 Tenderfoot Scouts
- 7 First Class Scouts
- 4 Star Scouts
- 7 Life Scouts

In addition, this year we saw two of our Scouts complete the highest honor a youth can obtain in Boy Scouting: Eagle rank. It is said that Scouting is a journey and not a place. Branden Meadows and Adam Nikssarian can both tell you it is a journey well worth taking. Both boys entered Troop 726, started at Scout rank and made the journey all the way to Eagle. Many adults, Scouts and mentors have helped them along the trail to Eagle and it was my privilege to see them through the last phase. Eagle Scouts Adam, Branden and Edgar Woo (who each turned 18 in December) are now junior adult leaders with the troop.

Last year was another busy year of activities for our Troop: we started the year with several nights of snow camping (remember the 18 inches of overnight snowfall and the 8 hour drive home?). The annual Klondike Derby provided calmer weather, but just as much fun. In the spring we joined in community service with the Castro Valley Sanitary District, and another opportunity to partner with them for a summer e-waste event. Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron New Mexico was the June highlight for 7 Scouts and 2 adults as they backpacked over 72 miles in 10 days, eating trail rations and experiencing an unforgettable high adventure trek. In the summer, 35 scouts attended Scout camp at Camp Royaneh, many enjoyed river rafting on the Stanislaus, and others finished the season at the Travis Air Force Base Air show. In the Fall we began meeting here in our new home, family camp at Coyote Hills gave us time to get to know one another, we helped those in need with our Scouting for Food program, and celebrated the holiday season with food and song.

Last year, Troop 726:

- earned 102 merit badges,
- went on over 50 outings
- spent over 340 nights camping,
- hiked over 451 miles, and
- spent countless hours doing service projects.

Community service events included working with the Castro Valley Sanitary District, Earth Day cleanup and landscaping at Independent School, Flag Day at Lone Tree Cemetery, and the Lion's Club Carnival on July 4th. We had several fundraisers this past year: our hike-a-thon brought in a range of funds from \$20.00 to

over \$400.00 for a single Scout. All our fundraising efforts allowed the boys to pay for many of their Scouting activities throughout the year.

This next year promises to be just as busy, just as fun, and just as challenging. Scouting is an adventure, and you get out of it what you put into it. To make the most of your experience, you need to attend the meetings, go on the outings, participate in the community service events and live the Scout life. You can't have fun or learn a new skill if you miss these adventures. Lord Baden-Powell called Scouting a game with a purpose. If we play Baden-Powell's game, and don't pick out bits and pieces or invent our own rules, then tomorrow will be populated with boys of solid character, who are good citizens, and are both physically and mentally fit. Play hard. Play to win. Play the whole game. Have fun and remember to do all this in the spirit of the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

And as we look beyond this year, we anticipate 2010, which is the 100th anniversary of the founding of Boys Scouts of America. Already many scouts are making plans to attend the National Jamboree; a once-in-a-life time adventure at Fort AP Hill in Virginia.

Scouting promises new adventure, learning, challenges, responsibility, growth, fun, and so much more. I challenge each scout, Scouter and family to come play with us and make next year even better.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Lozano

Troop 726 Committee Chair