

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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March 2011

25th Varsity Scout Triathlon



April 23, 2011 marks the 25th Annual Varsity Scout Triathlon to be held on Fiesta Island at Mission Bay, the Birthplace of the Triathlon in 1987. The race starts and finishes at the Youth Aquatic Center.

This annual event features a 200-yard Swim, 8.5-mile bike ride and 2 mile run. Last year we had over 250 scouts, leaders and girls competing in multiple age brackets and divisions, including relays. We provide a well-marked closed course, outstanding transition area and tremendous fan support.

Here is a comment from last year's event:
"This is the first time that I or any members of our troop/team had attended. I was overwhelmed. Our boys had a great time. They are already talking about doing it again next year with the entire troop (together with the leaders). Outstanding job by Andy and Tom and the many others that made it successful. Thanks to you and to all that had a hand in putting on a First-Class event!" Phil Wing
(continued on page 2)

The First Dual Varsity Huddle

For the first time in many years there will be two Varsity Scout Leader's Huddles to choose from on March 17th. They will both be presenting materials based on the same subject matter. The big difference is that you will be able to choose by location, which huddle is easiest for you to attend.

The North Huddle will be held at the Escondido South Stake Center. 1-15 & Felicita Road.

The South Huddle will be held at the San Diego East Stake Center. Better known as the Zion building. 6767 51st Street San Diego.

See the flyer on Page 6 of this month's Varsity Newsletter.

VALT:

Varsity Adult Leader Training

March 11-12, 2011

Escondido South Stake Center
15 Freeway and Felicita Road

If you, or any leader in your Varsity Scout program has not been trained, then this is where you need to be the second weekend of March.

Those in your unit who should be trained are: Varsity Coach, Assistant Coach, Committee Members, Bishop Counselor over Young Men and Stake Young Men Presidents and Stake Counselors over Varsity Scouting.

For questions or to register please email Ed Jones: edjonesheating@Hotmail.com

(Triathlon: Continued from page 1)



For this year's event, we have lowered the minimum age to 12 for participants. We will also have a finisher's medals for all youth and a sweet limited edition 25th Anniversary T-shirt.

We need your support to spread the word on this event and to pre-register as early as possible to order the correct number of shirts and medals.

This will also be our second year to offer camping on Fiesta Island the night before the race at only \$2 per person (240 campers). This allows for early check-in and bike set-up on Friday. We have the entire campsite reserved at the Youth Aquatic Center. We expect this to fill-up, so please register early. Race starts at 7:00 am, entrance to island closes at 6:30 am.

If you have any questions contact:
Tom Naylor tnaylor@finsvcs.com or Andy Schmidt andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com

To reserve a campsite contact Andy Schmidt

New Tour Permit Starts on March 1st!

The tour permit forms that have existed for many years will no longer be accepted for activities that end on or after March 1st 2011. The forms are being replaced with the Tour Planning Worksheet, which you should begin using right away. You can obtain them by going to:

<http://www.sdicbsa.org/>

Varsity Team 387 Backpacking Garlic Bread

Ingredients to make one serving:

- 1 slice of Pita Bread
- 1 tsp of Garlic Salt
- 1 tbs of Grated Parmesan Cheese
- Olive Oil

In advance mix the Garlic Salt and Parmesan Cheese and seal up in a Zip Loc bag.

Dribble the olive oil on both sides of the bread and spread evenly. Place the pita bread in a skillet on medium to high heat for 30 to 60 seconds. Press down with a spatula to heat evenly. Flip the bread over and sprinkle with the Garlic Salt/cheese mix. Continue to heat until bread is crispy.

This bread goes great with a plate of Mountain House Lasagna or Spaghetti.

Thanks to Mark Howe and Barry Zauss of Team 387, Lakeside Ward, Santee Stake. They claim this tastes best at 10,000' elevation sitting by Blue Lake in the Eastern Sierra!

Bobs Favorite Hike: Three Sisters Falls



From the excellent book by Jerry Schad,
[A Foot and A Field in San Diego County.](#)

The triple set of waterfalls dubbed the “Three Sisters” is an amazing San Diego County feature not many have seen.

Although the round-trip hike measures only four miles from the nearest road, visiting the falls is a task for expert hikers, not beginners. Take along drinking water, and be prepared for some strenuous climbing, both up and down, on marginal pathways and on no trail at all near the falls themselves.

To get to the trailhead from San Diego, exit Interstate 8 at Highway 79 (Descanso exit) and drive north. After 1.3 miles turn left on Riverside Drive. Continue 0.6 mile to the main crossroads (post office, etc.) of the hamlet of Descanso. From there take Oak Grove Drive 1.6 miles to the intersection of Boulder Creek Road on the right. Follow Boulder Creek Road north for 13.0 miles (first half paved, then dirt) to a hairpin turn where unpaved Cedar Creek Road joins from the west. Park there, taking care not to block traffic, and post a National Forest Adventure Pass on your car (the parking area and falls lie in Cleveland National Forest territory).

(continue on page 5)

Philmont Scout Ranch

Philmont Scout Ranch & Training Center located in NW New Mexico invites Varsity Scout leaders to attend this excellent training conference: “Strictly for Varsity Coaches & Committee Members”, June 19-25, 2011.

Families are invited to come along and share in the adventure and fun. VS leaders attend conference Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Wednesday is open for family exploration of the ranch and NE New Mexico. Permanent family tents with floors, beds and electricity + 3 meals per day are provided. Children have fun at day camps, 14 yr olds & up do 5 days of Mountain Trek and spouses have daily outings. For questions, contact Barry Baker:

iambarrybaker@yahoo.com

Or visit the Philmont website:

<http://philmontscouranch.org/PTC.aspx>

Leader On-Line Training

You will need to set up an on-line account at: <http://olc.scouting.org/> Some of the training programs that can be done on line are:

Boy Scout Leader Fast Start

This is Scouting

Trek Safety

Climb on Safely

Youth Protection Training

Safety Afloat

Safe Swim Defense

and others. These on-line training programs do not replace your need to complete the VALT training.

Funding for Varsity Teams

Funding for Varsity Team activities, awards and Super Activities has been and always will be a major concern for the Varsity Team leaders. The following information has been taken from the New "Handbook 2, Administering the Church".

First and foremost, all scout activities should be funding through the Ward Budget.

Funding for an Annual Camp or Similar Activity

If the ward budget does not have sufficient funds to pay for an annual extended Scout camp or similar activity for young men, leaders may ask participants to pay for part or all of it. If funds from participants are not sufficient, the bishop may authorize one group fund-raising activity annually that complies with the guidelines in 13.6.8."

From this paragraph we learn that funds for super activities come first from the Ward Budget, second from the family of the Scout and thirdly from a single fund raising activity. Or a combination of all three.

Requirements for fund-raising are also found in the handbook. The activity must be authorized by the Bishop. The funds raised can only be used to help pay for the one annual Super Activity and to help purchase needed equipment for this activity.

It is important that the fund raising activity provides a manful value or service. It should be a good experience for those participating in it.

A few other do's and don'ts of fund raising include the following:

- Contribution are voluntary. You need to insure that members do not feel that they have to contribute.

- The fund raiser should not be advertised to those outside the units boundaries.

Not approved activities would include:

- Projects that would be taxable.

- Fund raising that competes with paid labor.

- You cannot provide entertainment in which a performer is paid for their service and admission is charged.

- The sale of commercial products including those for food storage.

- Games of chance.

- Anything that might appear that the funds are for Friends of Scouting.

Fund raising: What Has Worked for Your Unit?

There has been many successful fund raising activities by Varsity Teams. It is time now to share with everyone what has worked for your unit. Please send information about your fund raising activity that we can share with the other unit leaders.

Popcorn sales through the BSA Popcorn program is an approved activity. But there must be other things that have worked.

Please send your success stories to Lon Atkinson at:

Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

(Three Sisters Falls: Continued from page 2)

On foot now, follow the remains of an old ranch road (not Cedar Creek Road) due west for 0.7 mile to a saddle, where an old mining road on the left slants southeast and descends into Sheep Camp Creek. You can both see and hear the falls from this saddle.

Descend southwest on the mining road for 0.4 mile, cross Sheep Camp Creek, and switch back onto a narrow path cut into the south slope. After about 0.3 mile, the trail veers sharply left and passes over a saddle in the divide between Sheep Camp Creek and Boulder Creek.

Next, you negotiate an abrupt drop of 500 vertical feet through chaparral on a primitive and in places excessively steep and slippery trail cut by hikers' footsteps. At the bottom you can either forge a route through the brush and angular rocks along the left side of the creek or (if the water level is not too high) rock hop and wade toward the falls. Great masses of poison oak, intermixed with wild grape vines, lie along the banks. Be very cautious of slippery rocks.

When you reach the base of the waterfalls, all the previous thrashing about will have been worth it. The "middle sister" is impressive, with water sliding 50 feet down a smooth channel worn in the bedrock into a kidney shaped pool about 80 feet long and at least 10 feet deep. Watch your footing — it's deceptively easy to slip on the smooth rock and perhaps be seriously injured. It's difficult and dangerous to climb up to the uppermost waterfall, though some agile climbers have done it.

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2011 Varsity Scout Dates And Contact Info:

Varsity Scout Leader's Huddle:

March 17th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
May 19th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
July 21st - Thursday, 7:00 pm
September 8th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
November 17th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
North Huddle:

Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com

South Huddle:

Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Varsity Leader Training:

March 11, 12th: Escondido So. Stake Center,
October 21-22nd: Santee Stake Center
Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Varsity Triathlon:

April 22nd - Camping
April 23rd - Triathlon
Tom Naylor: tnaylor@finsvcs.com
Andy Schmidt: andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com

Varsity On-Target:

July 16th
Larry Purcell: lpurcell@san.rr.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous:

September 16-17th
Lon Atkinson:
Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Mailing List:

Marty Bramwell: MartyBramwell@yahoo.com

Varsity Newsletter:

Lon Atkinson:
Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Varsity Huddle

The Year of Adventure

March 17th - 7:00 PM
Two Locations to Choose From

North Huddle: Escondido South Stake Center
Felicitto & 15 Frwy

South Huddle: San Diego East Stake Center
The Zion Building

Driving Directions: <http://varsity.sdicsa.org/calender.html>

- “Implementing Your High Adventure/Super Acitivity” Coaches Roundtable.
 - Varsity Triathlon: Is Your Team Ready?
 - The New Tour Permit and Other Forms.
 - Ideas for Planning Your Team Meeting
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Who Should Attend?

Varsity Scout Coaches & Assistants
Bishopric Counselors over Varsity Scouts and
the Teachers Quorum

For additional information contact:

South Huddle: Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

North Huddle: Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com