

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

Volume 11 No. 11

November 2011

November Varsity Scout Leader Huddle

The November Varsity LeaderHuddle will be held on Thursday, November 18th. Once again we will be having a north Huddle and a south Huddle in order to make it easier for you, the scout leader to attend.

This month we will be talking about Winter Camping. A member of the our Council's High Adventure Team will be at each Huddle to talk about camping and hiking in the snow and in inclement weather.

We don't get a lot of snow in the San Diego area, but there is plenty of it not that far away at Big Bear. A well planned trip will be a great adventure for your warm weather Scouts.

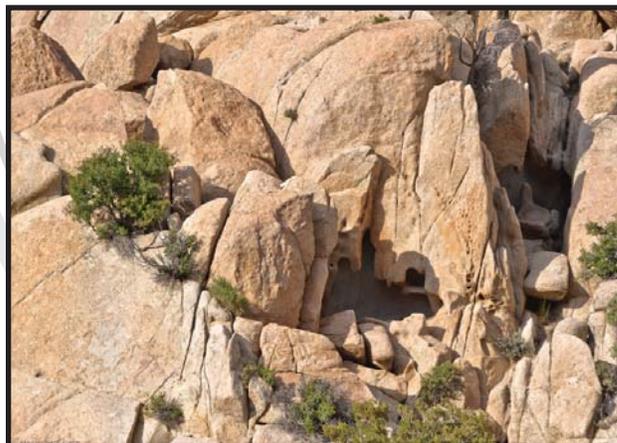
Those who should attend areVarsity Scout Coaches & Assistants, Bishopric Counselors over Varsity Scouts and Teachers Quorum. Stake Leaders are also invited and encouraged to attend.

See page six for a flyer that you can reproduce and make available to those who should attend. For directions to the Huddles go here:

<http://varsity.sdicbsa.org/calender.html>



Jacumba Wilderness



This rugged and picturesque high-desert area, administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management, gets relatively few footprints from recreational hikers and possibly more of them from migrants heading north from Mexico. Due to formidable fencing recently installed along much of the international border, there's not as much immigrant traffic as there used to be. Nevertheless, for safety, it's advisable to travel in groups out there.

To get to the jumping-off point, exit Interstate 8 at Mountain Spring, a few miles east of Jacumba. At a point midway in the "island" between the eastbound and westbound lanes of the freeway, turn east on a rough dirt road. In 0.2 mile this road joins the abandoned concrete ribbon of old U.S. Highway 80. Drive (or walk if the road is too rough) east for an additional 1.3 miles and park near the road's end — just before the brink of a road cut made for the eastbound lanes of I-8.

(Continued on Page 4)

2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

Huddles:

100% Huddle -	January 19th
March Huddle -	March 15th
May Huddle -	May 17th
August Huddle -	August 16th
October Huddle -	October 18th

Huddle Commissioner

- Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Varsity Leader Training

March 9-10th
October 19-20th

Varsity Training Chair

- Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Varisty Triathlon

April 28th

Triathlon Chair

- Andy Schmidt:
andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com

On-Target

July 21st

- Larry Purcell: lpurcell@san.rr.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 14-15th

- Lon Atkinson:
Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Chairman:

- Barry Baker,
iambarrybaker@yahoo.com

Varsity Communications:

- Marty Bramwell,
martybramwell@yahoo.com

The Varsity Letter Newsletter:

- Lon Atkinson
Lon@AtkinsonStudios.co

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Booshway's Barbecued Turkey Recipe:

This needs to be done in a Weber style kettle barbecue. Place a disposable aluminum bread pan on the bottom rack of the barbecue directly under the bird. This will catch all the drippings so as to not put out your briquettes.

Prepare your turkey by cleaning out the cavity. Then rub the inside of the cavity with butter. Mrs. Booshway prefers to stuff her turkey with quarter cut apples and oranges. This makes the bird very moist, with a sweet flavor. Close up the cavity and tie up the legs. Rub the outside with vegetable oil. You will need to rub vegetable oil on the turkey 2 or 3 more times while it is cooking.

Start your briquettes. You will need twice as many briquettes as the poundage of your turkey. So with a 18 lb turkey you will start with 36 briquets. Use a charcoal chimney to start the briquettes. Once they are burning, place half of them on each side of the bird, next to the drip pan. Then you will need to place twelve additional burning briquets (six on each side) into the barbecue each 45 minutes. This is important to make sure the briquettes maintain a consistant temperature at about 140 degrees.

Cook your turkey in the barbecue for exactly 12 minutes per pound. An 18 lb. bird would cook in 3.6 hours, about the same as in a conventional oven. Questions? Write to the Booshway:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Coach's Corner: Hidden Treasure!



The old farmer called his three very lazy sons around his deathbed. "My sons, a great treasure lies hidden on the farm which I am about to leave you." "Where is it hidden the three boys inquired at once." "I am about to tell you, but you will have to dig for it--" But his breath failed before he could impart the weighty secret; and he died. Right away the sons set to work with spades, shovels and hoes on the long forgotten fields, and they turned over every sod and clog upon the farm. They discovered no treasure, but they learned to work; and when the fields were sown, and the harvest came, lo! The yield was great and in consequence of the thorough tillage which the field had undergone. Then it was that they discovered the treasure concealed in the farm, of which their wise old father had advised them!

Help Wanted: Varsity Rendezvous

Our great camp cook, Kathy 'Black Kettle' Madsen is hanging up her apron and spoon. This leaves a great opportunity for someone to take over this challenging, yet fun adventure, cooking for the 2012 Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous. If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact the Ol' Booshway:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com



Wood Badge for the 21st Century - "Scouting - A Game with a Purpose"

Many Scouters consider Wood Badge training to be the peak or "mountaintop" experience in their Scouting career. Wood Badge has served as a source of training and inspiration for thousands of scout leaders worldwide. In return Wood Badge participants have had a positive and profound influence on the lives of millions of America's youth by supporting the Mission of Boy Scouts of America to "Prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

During 2012 there will be two Woodbadge Courses offered. The first course will be held on two consecutive weekends: May 18-20 and June 8-10th. Attendance at all three days of both weekends is required.

The second course will be held on September 17-22nd. This will be a week long course that starts on Monday and ends on Saturday.

Registration for the first course has already started. Go to: <http://w6-49-12-1.weebly.com/index.html>

(Jacumba Willderness)

What lies ahead is a four-mile loop hike or a shorter or longer reconnaissance of the area, according to your taste. Knowledgeable hikers will want to have a copy of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute In-Ko-Pah Gorge topographic map with them or perhaps a GPS unit and the knowledge to use one.

From the old road's edge, scramble down the slope about 100 feet to the sandy bed of Myer Creek. Pass under the lanes of I-8 through the large culvert to the west and continue 0.1 mile in the wash until you come to the base of a rocky gully on the left (east). Scramble up the coarse-grained granitic boulders in this gully; after 400 feet of elevation gain you join a sandy wash. Continue east, passing over a saddle and then on down into Myer Valley. The half-square-mile valley, thickly grown with creosote-bush shrubs and ocotillos, sheds water to the north. A maze of long abandoned jeep roads laces the valley.

Upon reaching the edge of the valley, you can turn south and skirt the west edge of the valley, following a minor wash. Pick up traces of an old jeep trail about 0.3 mile southwest of a peak labeled elevation 2033 on the topographic map. Follow this west-southwest to the top of a broad divide and then descend toward a ravine that leads west into a north-flowing tributary of Boulder Creek. After some moderate scrambling, you'll arrive at a beautiful palm oasis, complete with a year-round spring. A dry fall (perhaps streaked with moisture if rains have come) and some Indian grinding holes are nearby.

From the palm oasis, it's an easy 1.2 miles back to the culvert under I-8, via Boulder and

Myer creeks — downhill in wash bottoms all the way.

At 0.3 and 0.4 mile below the palm oasis, two canyons come in on the left, inviting side-trips. The first of these, a rugged tributary to the south, is fascinating, with immense boulders, hidden cottonwoods, and palms. Some difficult scrambling is required to fully explore it. The second of these, upper Boulder Creek canyon to the southwest, is vegetation-choked and unremarkable.

Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills.

Hiking length: 4.0 miles

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

(Reproduced by permission of Jerry Schad)

“Be Prepared... the meaning of the motto is that a scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.”



The Varsity Scout Service Project

Service to others is a fundamental value that leads right to the heart of Scouting; the twin aims of Citizenship and Character. Varsity Scouting specifically mentions service as one of the Areas of Emphasis. The discovery that volunteer service can be rewarding is an important milestone along the road that leads the boy to adulthood.

The ideal service project will meet several criteria:

- The recipient of the service must truly value the effort. If not, the Varsity Scout will soon discover that he is being patronized and will lose interest.
- The Varsity Scout must also see the work as being a valuable contribution in which he can take pride. "Make-work" will not have much value.
- The work should appeal to the Varsity Scout and be something he wants to do. Not that every project needs to be "cool" and sometimes the Varsity Coach needs to be a good salesman.
- The project should stretch the Varsity Scout's abilities but not be so difficult that he will be unable to do the work.
- And of course, the project should be done with no thought of reward.

Waterproofing Your Boots



First, you need to thoroughly clean your boots. Use a specialized cleaning product plus a brush.

Next purchase a waterproofing product that is made for the materials your boots are made off. Nikwax, Grainger's and Teclon can all be purchased at REI.

Most product-makers recommend that boots be damp or wet when water-based waterproofing products are applied. For treating leather boots, the wetter the better. Take a very wet towel, pack it around the boots and let it sit there in the utility sink for a couple of hours. If you just hold a boot under the tap, water will bead up and roll off, even if the boot needs treatment. It's amazing how long it takes to soak water into the leather.

Apply waterproofing product as directed. Allow to dry without adding artificial heat. Try putting your boots in a well-ventilated sunny spot for 10 minutes is a good move. Wipe off any excess.

Some product manufactures suggest you apply a second coat. Unless you are headed to the Klondike, one good coat properly applied should be sufficient.

Varsity Huddle

The Year of Adventure

November 17th - 7:00 PM

**Get Ready for Cold Weather
Camping and Hiking!**

- Snow Camping and Hiking without freezing!
 - Council's High Adventure Training
 - Coach's Roundtable Discussion:
Yearly Planning
-

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>

Who Should Attend?

Varsity Scout Coaches & Assistants
Bishopric Counselors over Varsity Scouts and Teachers
Quorum. Stake Leaders are also invited and
encouraged to attend.

For additional information contact:

South Huddle: Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

North Huddle: Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com