

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

Volume 11 No. 10

October 2011

2011 Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous



The great gathering of the Mountain Men took place on September 17-18th. This was the eleventh annual Varsity Scout Mountain Man Rendezvous and by all appearances, it may have been the best yet.

The weather was beautiful and the 300 plus attendees from over 40 Varsity Teams and Scout Troops enjoyed all the many activities in warm comfort.

Individual competition, which included, black powder shooting, tomahawk throwing, knife throwing, caber toss, cannonball toss and other events took place on Saturday morning. Adult leaders competed against each other as did all the scouts. In the afternoon the infamous Colter Run took place. This team event pitched close to 50 four to six man scout teams in many of the activities that the Mountain Men did during the rendezvous of the early 1800's. They had to pack mules, run from the Indians, start fires with flint and steel, shoot black powder guns and more.

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Mason Valley Truck Trail



Two hundred thirty-eight years ago, a small party led by the Spanish Colonel Pedro Fages chased after army deserters from the Presidio of San Diego, trekking through a narrow declivity known as Oriflamme Canyon on their way east from the Cuyamaca Mountains.

Today, Fages and his men would find the trek down Oriflamme Canyon somewhat easier. No pavement has ever been laid down here, but a graded dirt road, open only in part to motorized vehicles, makes walking or mountain-biking easy — especially when done in the downhill direction as described here. The entire trip measures 8.5 miles, with a descent in elevation of more than 2000 feet. Since this a one-way trip, you'll have to arrange for a pick-up at the end of your walk or ride. There are 28 miles of two-lane highways to drive between the start and end points. Perhaps your volunteer shuttle driver can while away three or more hours in Julian during the time you're hiking (or spend less than an hour there if you're biking).

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Merit Badges can be mobile with Apps for smart phones.



Keeping track of Merit Badges and the many requirements they have accomplished always has been a problem for Scouts. Now there are some new tools available that can help Scouts keep track of this important information: Smart Phone Merit Badge Apps!

Modern Boy Scouts are much better at modern technology than they are at keeping paper work straight and organized. So these apps can be a great way for them to keep track of merit badge requirements. They also track what requirements the Scout has already completed.

There are apps for Android based phones and also I-Phones.

There are also apps that include the entire Boy Scout Handbook. These times are a changing!!!

Google Boy Scout Merit Badge Apps or go to Apple's I-Tunes Store.

Jerry Schad dies at 61; author of 'Afoot and Afield' hiking guides.

His "Afoot and Afield in San Diego County," first published in 1986, is regarded as the pre-eminent guide to the region's trails.

Jerry Schad had a simple explanation for his ability to quickly experience every mile he wrote about in his guidebooks, which helped expand hiking opportunities in Southern California: "I run through the boring parts and walk through the interesting ones."

Schad, who also was a professor of physical science and astronomy at San Diego Mesa College, died of kidney cancer Thursday at his home in San Diego, said his wife, Peg Reiter. He was 61.

Up-Coming Events:

October:

21-22nd Varsity Leader Training

This is the basic training program for new Varsity Leaders. It will be held at the Santee Stake Center. The flyer for this training event can be found on Page 6. For additional information contact Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

November:

17th Varsity Huddle

For further information contact: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

For additional calendar items you can go to the Council Website:

<http://www.sdicbsa.org/Calendar/default.asp>

2011 Varsity Scout Dates And Contact Info:

Varsity Scout Leader's Huddle:

November 17th - Thursday, 7:00 pm

North Huddle:

Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com

South Huddle:

Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Varsity Leader Training:

October 21-22nd. Santee Stake Center

Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Varsity On-Target:

Larry Purcell: lpurcell@san.rr.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous:

Lon Atkinson:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Mailing List:

Marty Bramwell: MartyBramwell@yahoo.com

Varsity Newsletter:

Lon Atkinson:

Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Help Wanted: Varsity Rendezvous

Our great camp cook, Kathy 'Black Kettle' Madson 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



Backpacking/Camping Tip No. 32:

Conserving fuel is always a concern while backpacking, especially in the higher altitudes. The higher you go, the longer it takes to cook your food or boil water.

A very simple way to get that pot hot faster and staying hot longer is to coat your aluminum or titanium pot with black paint. The black finish absorbs the heat faster than a bright finish and holds the heat in better also.

Not just any paint will work. Most household spray paints will not hold up to the condensed heat of your backpacking stove. You need to use 1200 degree engine paint which can be easily purchased at most any auto parts store. I prefer the DupliColor High heat paint.

(Rendezvous, Continued from Page 1)

After the Colter Run, root beer floats were served in Blackfoot Fort, followed by the award ceremony..

The big winner's this year were Team 642 from Penasquitos First Ward who placed first in the Colter Run. Team 642 also took the coveted Jim Bridger Top Unit Award. Team 370 From the La Mesa 2nd Ward took home the Boosway's Award. All in all over 70 awards were given out to the scouts, adults and teams.

This great event is made possible by the efforts of a dedicated staff of 25 Mountain Men Re-enactors and Scouters. We also have another ten or so who come up to the rendezvous just to help make it happen. Many of our adults who attend the rendezvous do so looking forward to helping run the many events that take place. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

More photos can be found on Page 5.

For more information about the Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous you can visit the official rendezvous website at: www.VarsityRendezvous.com



(Mason Valley Truck Trail from Page 1)

Don't wait until summer to take this trip; by late May the lower part will get uncomfortably warm. Also, don't forget to pack along plenty of water.

Start at the Pedro Fages historical monument along Sunrise Highway, 1.7 miles east of Highway 79. Find and follow the California Riding and Hiking Trail, which strikes northward through a broad meadow. Pass through a cattle gate and turn right at the next road. Now choose between two alternate routes. The left branch, traveling into upper Chariot Canyon, is rougher and harder. The right branch, Mason Valley Truck Trail, offers a more gradual descent.

On ahead, the truck trail cuts more sharply down the precipitous north wall of Oriflamme Canyon, losing about 1000 feet of elevation in a mile and a half. From far above the canyon bottom, you'll probably hear the sound of rushing water, at least before summer's heat silences it.

After a junction with Rodriguez Canyon's four-wheel-drive trail on the left, Mason Valley Truck Trail skirts the base of massive Granite Mountain. Cholla cacti glisten on its slopes. Then the road eventually curves right, away from the mountain, but a remnant of the California Riding and Hiking Trail continues east along the mountain's base and strikes Highway S-2 at mile 26.5 — a good place for you to be picked up. This point on the highway can be found 0.8 mile west of Anza-Borrego's Box Canyon Historic Site.

(Reproduced by permission of Jerry Schad)

2011 Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous





V A R S I T Y T R A I N I N G

For Varsity Coaches, Asst. Coaches, Committee members,
Bishopric Counselor and YM Counselor over Varsity

October 21 and 22, 2011
Santee LDS Church
10052 Magnolia Avenue North, Santee

Fri. October 21 - **OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TRAINING**
Varsity Specific & Outdoor Leader Skills
Registration: 6:00 – 7:00 Class: 7 – 8:30 pm & continuing at the campfire
Campfire snacks provided.

Sat. October 22 - Varsity Specific & Outdoor Leader Skills: 6 am – 4 pm
Breakfast and Lunch provided

What to bring: Personal camp gear: bag, tent, pad, chair, personal items.
Wear Your Uniform & Bring your Boy Scout Hand Book (& Varsity Leader Guidebook -if you have it.)

Cost – \$25.00

**Pre-Registration is required-
Must have your reservation by 10/17/2011**

For reservations or questions, contact:
Ed Jones at 619-561-3828
e-mail EdJonesHeating@hotmail.com

