

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

Volume 12 No. 4

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April 2012

26th Annual Varsity Scout Triathlon



The 25th Annual Varsity Scout Triathlon will be held on April 28th at the Youth Aquatic Center on Fiesta Island. (The very first Triathlon ever held was held on Fiesta Island by the San Diego Track Club in 1974!)

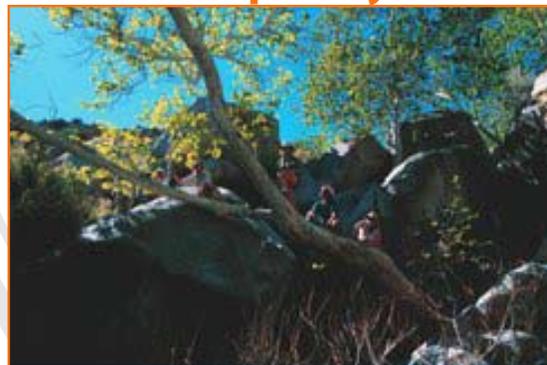
This event features a 200-yard Swim, 8.5-mile bike ride and 2 mile run. The participants race within brackets by age and gender. The minimum age is 12. All participants will receive a 26th annual t-shirt.

The best way to get the most out of the Triathlon is to camp Friday night at the Aquatics Center. We have reserved the entire campsite this year. Cost is \$2.00 per person with a limit of 240 campers. Race starts at 7:00 am, entrance to island closes at 6:30 am.

For the leaders and youth who would rather not participate in the Triathlon, there is plenty of opportunities to provide service helping to run the Triathlon.

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Sheep Canyon



Remote Sheep Canyon, secreted in the middle reaches of Coyote Canyon in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, features some of the most rugged yet beautiful terrain in San Diego County. The canyon has two main forks (labeled Sheep Canyon and South Fork Sheep Canyon on maps), both containing trickling streams, full-skirted California fan palms, large sycamores, willowy cottonwoods, grottos with waterfalls, and boulder-sized rocks by the millions.

The starting point for hikes into either fork of Sheep Canyon — Sheep Canyon Primitive Camp — is accessible these days only by the toughest kind of four-wheel-drive vehicle. Without that (and that means just about everyone) you face about three miles of final approach by horse, foot, or mountain bike. Overnight backpacking does the trick for many.

To get to Coyote Canyon and Sheep Canyon, drive north (hopefully not in a low-slung conventional automobile, but rather in a high-clearance, preferably four-wheel-drive truck or SUV) from the north end of the paved DiGiorgio Road in Borrego Springs onto the unpaved, sometimes rough road up along the east side of Coyote Canyon.

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Your Varsity Team should be part of this years Varsity Scout Triathlon! The official registration form is found on the last page of this month's newsletter.

For further information contact Tom Naylor:
tnaylor@finsvcs.com

To reserve a campsite contact Andy Schmidt:
andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com

We are aware that this date is also the date for the annual Mormon's Helping Hands service project. To facilitate those who wish to provide service after the race, we will have available the opportunity to do so around the Youth Aquatic Facilities. Please bring work gloves if you'd like to participate.

MORMON HELPING HANDS



2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

Huddles:

May Huddle - May 17th
August Huddle - August 16th
October Huddle - October 18th

Huddle Commissioner:

Andy Schmidt: andy@schmidtboardhouse.com

Varsity Leader Training

Woodbadge Spring Course

May 18-20, June 8-10

<http://w6-49-12-1.weebly.com/>

Fall Course: September 17-22

<http://w6-49-12-2.sdicsa.org/index.html>

Varsity 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:

(Mailing List)

• Marty Bramwell: martybramwell@yahoo.com

The Varsity Letter Newsletter:

• Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

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After 5.6 miles on dirt and after three wet crossings of Coyote Creek, you reach a point below Lower Willows where the road turns sharply left (west) and later climbs a narrow, steep ravine. Parking space is fairly abundant for vehicles that have managed to get that far. The bypass road ahead, which swings left and climbs steeply, is sometimes referred to as "Boulder Alley." It's all but impassable now.

So, presumably on foot, you make your way up the steep, rocky road ahead to a summit, where the road levels and smooths out. The going is easy all the way to the Sheep Canyon campground. Once you get there, you can pitch a tent and explore either fork of Sheep Canyon at your leisure.

Although parts of the main Sheep Canyon are rugged and overgrown with lush vegetation, foot traffic in the lower end has hewn out a traceable, if primitive, footpath. From the campground it is only two miles — and an elevation gain of 900 feet — to a point where you enter a broad, bowl-shaped valley. This is a good place to enjoy the view of rugged peaks in every direction before turning around. Around the margins of the bowl, seasonal springs can be found in several of the small tributaries.

South Fork Sheep Canyon is, mile for mile, perhaps the most difficult canyon to explore in the whole of San Diego County. The rewards for exploring it in depth are a close-up view of an idyllic 30-foot waterfall, glimpses of a half-dozen more cascades, and the pleasure of exploring a hidden, upper valley seldom visited by humans.

Very ambitious hikers have forged connecting routes in between the upper reaches of Sheep Canyon and the South Fork. That kind of activity involves plenty of rock scrambling and bush-whacking through scratchy chaparral vegetation.

Sheep Canyon

Anza-Borrego's Sheep Canyon — hard-to-reach, but oh so beautiful.

Hiking length: Up to several, hard-fought miles

Difficulty: Strenuous to very strenuous

Reproduced by permission of Jerry Schad



The Values of Varsity Scouting

Varsity Scouting is a values-based organization. Its ideals, found in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan, are the same as those every Boy Scout troop observes. With prior experience as Boy Scouts, most young men becoming Varsity Scouts already firmly understand and believe in these ideals. Along with youth who are new to the BSA, they will find that the values of Varsity Scouting serve as valuable guidelines for their Varsity Scout team, and for life.

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The Coach's Corner:

The Coach's Corner takes place at the end of your Varsity Team Meeting. It is a chance for you or your assistant Coach to take a few minutes and teach an important life principle to your scouts. Here is a good example of a story that teaches a life lesson.

Varsity Leader Training:



Top L to R: Ron Naves, Mike Marshall, Dave Alspach, Blake Torgerson, Bishop Dave Hurdsman, Mark Morris, Micah Mathis, Ryan Grow.

We had great weather for training in Escondido, learned a lot about the Varsity Program and each other. Both Blake and Mark came to Huddle and shared how they put training to use and have organized their teams and done brainstorming. Bishop Hurdsman is the first active Bishop to be VALT trained, and he had great things to share with everyone. Andy Schmidt kept everyone on time, and we enjoyed lots of great trail food and new ideas. We are always interested in recruiting new staff members for VALT to share experiences and a new voice. If you are interested, contact Ed Jones:

edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Woodbadge: 21st Century

**Spring Weekend Course:
May 18-20, June 8-10, 2012
Fall Week Long Course:
Sept. 17-22, 2012**

Many Scouters consider Wood Badge training to be the peak or "mountaintop" experience in their Scouting career.

The primary purpose of Wood Badge Training is to strengthen Scouting in local units, districts and the council. The Wood Badge course welcomes leaders from all areas of Scouting: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturing, District and Council volunteers to work together to identify individual goals that will guide and enhance their service to children and youth. These goals are known as the Wood Badge ticket. By completing the ticket, participants learn how they can strengthen the Scouting program wherever they serve and beyond.

The course consists of two parts, the Practical Phase and the Application Phase. The Spring practical phase will be conducted over two three-day weekends at Mataguay Scout Ranch. Attendance at both weekends is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

The Fall Practical Phase will be held from Monday through Saturday at Mataguay Scout Ranch.

For additional information or to register for the Spring Course go to:
<http://w6-49-12-1.weebly.com/index.html>

For Additional information or to register for the Fall Course go to:
<http://w6-49-12-2.sdicsa.org/index.html>

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

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 taken 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, which will be held in October.

26th Annual Varsity Scout Triathlon

April 27 - 28, 2012

Camp (Boy Scouts Only)
Friday Night
\$2.00 per person

Open to all Scouts,
Ventures, and Females
12-18 years old

Located at the San Diego Youth
Aquatic Center,
Fiesta Island - Mission Bay

Before April 11, 2012: \$20 per person 12-18, \$30 per person 19+,
Relay Teams \$45

After April 12: \$25 per person 12-18, \$40 - 19+, Relay Teams \$60
Send Application to: BSA Varsity Triathlon, 1207 Upas Street, San Diego, CA 92103

Course: 180 yard swim, 8 mile bike, 2 mile run

Registration and number assignment: Friday Night 4:00 -10:00pm, Saturday 5:45 - 6:45am

Race Time: Promptly at 7:00 am, rain or shine

Awards: Award For first 3 in each catagory

Catagories: Men 12-14: 15-16: 17-18: 19+: 40+ Women 12-18: 19+: Relay

Refunds: No refunds or credits: We will try to accomidate race number transfers within reason

Registration: Fill out attached Registration Form

Questions: Andy Schmidt; andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com: Tom Naylor; tnaylor@finsvcs.com



