

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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The 13th Annual Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous



September 20-21, 2013

The 13th annual Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous is less than two months away. Now is the time to start getting your team ready. Registration this year will be done on line. For more info on the rendezvous go to:

<http://www.varsityrendezvous.com/>

To register:

<http://varsityrendezvous.com/registration/index.html>

On Page six of this newsletter are some photos from last years rendezvous. If you have any questions, please contact the Ol' Booshway, Lon Atkinson at:

booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com



Ticks!



Ticks are nasty little arachnid bugs that can make you sick. While not all tick bites transmit Lyme disease or tick fever, it pays to be aware of these threats. Check with rangers about potential danger before you explore an area unfamiliar to you.

Prevention: Avoid areas where ticks are prevalent such as vegetated areas (woods and grasslands) where small mammals live. Tuck in your clothing—shirts into pants, pants into socks. Do twice-daily checks of your skin and hair for ticks. DEET-based insect repellents on your skin and permethrin-based insect repellents applied to clothing can repel or kill some ticks.

Remedy: If a tick is discovered, try to remove it as soon as possible. Using tweezers, gently grasp the tick by the head and lift it straight up and out. Wash the bite site thoroughly with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or iodine. Avoid Vaseline smothering, gasoline dousing, matchhead burning and other discredited folk remedies.

Note: Ticks can only pass on their diseases if they are burrowed in your skin. Touching a tick or having one merely crawl on your skin is not dangerous.

Better Ideas For Better Eagle Scout Projects Videos



Brother David L. Beck, General Young Men's President discusses the importance of the Eagle Scout Project and what it should mean to the Scout.

Click on the following link to hear his interview:
www.lds.org/callings/aaronic-priesthood/video-gallery?lang=eng#ideas-for-better-eagle-scout-projects-brother-david-l-beck



James Aldredge: Eagle Scout

The story of a young man who not only took the lead on his Eagle Scout project, but did it at a time when everybody thought he should be focused on himself.

Click on the following link to hear his story:
www.lds.org/callings/aaronic-priesthood/video-gallery?lang=eng#ideas-for-better-eagle-scout-projects-james-allredge

Varsity Scout Leader Huddle Penisquitos Stake Center Thursday, Aug. 15th, 7:00 PM And You Don't Have to Come!

IF you have the following happening in your Varsity Scout Team, then you probably don't need to come to the August Huddle.

Do you have:

- An annual planning retreat
- An annual plan with specific 3 month calendar
- A Team Coach - trained
- An Assistant Team Coach - trained
- Team Captain & Manager - trained
- A regular weekly team meeting
- A Boy lead program
- You know what the 5 Field of Emphasis are
- Regular use of 5 field of Emphasis
- A monthly overnight outing
- An annual Scout planned High Adventure trip
- Advancements toward Eagle Scout
- Regular Scheduled Courts of Honors
- Regular Parents Meetings

If you can answer yes, to all of these requirements of a well run Varsity Team, then maybe you don't have to attend the Huddle. But if you are there you can help teach others on how you reached this level of success.

If you answered NO, then you can find the help you need at the Huddle. It's leaders sharing with and training other leaders.

We look forward to hearing of your success or hearing how we can help you.

Pensasquitos Stake Center
12835 Black Mountain Road,
San Diego
See you there.

Mountain Biking the Big Laguna Trail (9.1 Miles)



The Big Laguna trails are a network of singletrack trails accessed from the Sunrise Highway. The trails make a great extension to Noble Canyon or can be ridden on their own.

One great link up of BLT trails starts from Red Tail Roost (Laguna Mountain Volunteer Center). From here, ride Red Tail Roost to the left when you exit the parking area. Pedal up an easy climb before a big downhill stretch. The initial part of the descent is open with big swooping turns before dropping into the pines. If you like technical challenges, there are a few sections of log features to test your skills.

The Red Tail Roost section dumps out onto a dirt road. Turn left here and bear left again going up Agua Dulce Creek. The road will climb gradually and eventually funnel into a singletrack. Keep climbing a bit more before a short descent to cross Agua Dulce Creek before pedaling uphill to a intersection.

Continue on the singletrack ahead to access the Gatos section of the BLT, a trail that's been recently rerouted and improved.

It's a fun section that climbs and contours through the pines. Stay right at one intersection along the way.

Gatos spills out onto the edge of Big Laguna Meadow. From here stay left and skirt the outer edge to the west. Stay right at the next intersection to continue through the meadow. At the following intersection go left through the gate. This is the Water of the Woods section and a little extra credit singletrack as you work your way around to Big Laguna Lake. There is a short climb followed by a quick descent before circumnavigating a small lake. From here, the trail continues through an open area with a few clusters of big boulders strewn throughout. The trail then bends around to the left towards the south end of the Big Laguna Lake.

Crossing the dam of the lake is a bit lumpy and bumpy but provides a great view of this beautiful alpine setting. Keep your eyes to the right side of the lake and the lower hillside on the north side of the valley ahead - that's where you are going.

Turn left to access the singletrack that skirts the meadow and pines along the east side of Big Laguna Lake. You'll be pedaling uphill to the north towards Noble Canyon trail.

At the top of the meadow you'll come to an intersection. Left will take you directly to Noble Canyon, right is a connector to the Penny Pines trailhead. From there you can also access Noble Canyon in its entirety.



2013 Varsity Scout Cabinet Contact Information

Varsity Chairman:

- Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@gmail.com

Huddle Commissioners:

- Stephen Baker: ircommando@gmail.com
- James LaLanne: ijamesl@yahoo.com

Training Chairman:

- Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Triathlon Chair:

- Tom Naylor: tnaylor@finsvcs.com

Newsletter Editor:

- Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Mailing List:

- Marty Bramwell: martybramwell@yahoo.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous Chair:

- Lon Atkinson: Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

The Rendezvous Needs Help!

Please contact the Booshway, Lon 'Weasel Breath' Atkinson if you can help with any of the following:

- 6x12' enclosed trailer to get all the stuff up to Mataguay. We will need it from 9/13-9/28.
- One or two photographers to shoot the goings on at rendezvous. Friday night and Saturday.

Email: Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Call: 619-818-5903

Items to Put on Your 2013 Varsity Scout Calendar

Varsity Scout Leader Huddles Penasquitos Stake Center

August 15th

October 17th

- Stephen Baker: ircommando@gmail.com
- James LaLanne: ijamesl@yahoo.com

Scouts with the Padres

Saturday, August 24th.

Logan Washburn at 619.795.5137 or
lwashburn@padres.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 20-21st

Lon Atkinson - Booshway
Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com
www.VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Scout Leader Training

Ed Jones - Training Chairman
edjonesheating@hotmail.com
October 18-19th

Triathlon

Tom Naylor - Triathlon Chairman
tnaylor@finsvcs.com

On-Target

David Jenkins: david.w.jenkins@navy.mil

The Mountain Men & The Mormons

In the 1820's the mountain men, in search of rich beaver streams, made their way over the difficult mountains to thoroughly explore the region known as the Great Basin. The discovery of the Great Salt Lake, is generally credited to the famous mountain man Jim Bridger; but Etienne Provot, Jedediah Smith and John Colter also visited the valley in the early 1800's

Years later, as the Mormons made their way west, they met several seasoned mountain men on the trail. Black Harris, Peg Leg Smith and Miles Goodyear all gave Brigham Young conflicting reports on the Salt Lake Valley. Jim Bridger, scoffing at the idea of growing crops in the Great Basin, is said to have offered Brigham Young a thousand dollars for the first bushel of corn they could grow in the Valley.



The trails the Mormon Pioneers followed to find their way to the Great Salt Lake Valley were discovered and used by the mountain men for over twenty years.

Several cities and counties in Utah are named after these enterprising mountain men, such as Provo, Ogden, Bonneville, and Weber.



2012 Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous