

TROOP 206 NEWS

February 2005

"There is geometry in the humming of the strings. There is music in the spacing of the spheres." -Pythagoras

Troop 206 Website: www.troop206.net



DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| Feb. 3 | Scout Meeting at JMCC |
| Feb. 5 | Com. Service at Food Bank |
| Feb. 10 | Scout & Parent Mtg at JMCC |
| Feb. 11 – 13 | Bear Valley Ski Trip |
| Feb. 17 | Advancement Meeting |
| Feb. 18 | Wente sign-ups for free T-shirt |
| Feb. 22 | Greenbar Meeting |
| Feb. 24 | Outing: Put-Put Golf |

FEBRUARY THEME: Fine Arts

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

I've spent the last two weekends camping in the snow. The first was with the troop on our annual snowshoe backpack. We had perfect weather, great snow (two new scouts, Trevor & Pete, built a snow cave and slept in it), good boarding & sledding, and a fun campfire (yes, you can build a fire in the snow). The second, a week later, was with my brother, on an 11-mile cross-country ski into Ostrander Ski Hut in Yosemite.

Ostrander is one of those magical places where you find out that what you've learned about the outdoors brings you unexpected dividends. You meet the most amazing people, and get to spend time in places like Yosemite when no one else is around. This time we had 2nd-generation hippies from the Independent Republic of Berkeley (ask me to show you their snow dragon), a group of friends originally from LA who are now scattered all over CA and NV, a group of engineers from UCSB, and a group of nurses from UCSF, all with wonderful stories they were eager to share around the dinner table.

I don't know why, but I find that the people who put the hard work and attention into learning the ins and outs of backcountry travel, especially those who learn to do it as a group, are always all right. They've learned to respect each other's strengths and weaknesses, and to plan their trip accordingly.

Some are cooks, some repair broken gear, but everyone pitches in. It's the spirit of adventure that motivates them to find places like this, and the spirit of cooperation that enables them to do it. The result is several evenings of warmth, friendship, good food and storytelling around the fire. I hope to see some of you there someday.

-Tim Bever, Scoutmaster

PARENT MEETING: February 10th

Our monthly Parent Meeting will start at 7:45pm at the JMCC during the regular scout meeting. All parents are welcome, and it is the best way to get more information about upcoming events. Hope to see you there!

-Bert Carelli, Troop Committee Chair

BEAR VALLEY SKI TRIP: Feb. 11th – 13th

The ski trip this year is turning out to be a great success, with all 38 spots taken. To accommodate everyone, we have to split the group up into three cabins. Maps and instructions to the Goldenberg cabin will be handed out at this month's meetings, where the plan is to arrive anytime after 6pm on Friday. Cabin and sleeping arrangements will be either assigned or figured out there.

Dinner will be provided Saturday, along with breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday. A deposit of \$10 to \$15 per person will be required for the food, and an additional \$5 per person (after the \$25 deposit) is also due to cover the renting of the cabins. Please give your checks to either Joe or Mark Marrama before February 10th.

Lift tickets at Bear Valley are another expense. An All-Day Adult lift ticket is \$45, a Student lift ticket (13 to 19 years old) is \$38, and an Under Twelve lift ticket is \$16. This will buy you one full day of skiing, from 9 to 4. Or, if you prefer X/C or snowshoeing, the trail fee is \$22 per adult.

It should be a great trip. See you up there!

-Joe Marrama, Ski Trip Coordinator

SERVICE PROJECT at the FOOD BANK

Saturday, February 5th

This month our Troop's Community Service will be at the Alameda County Food Bank in Oakland, from **9am – Noon** on Saturday. This is a very popular and fulfilling service that the Troop tries to do a few times every year. We are hoping, and expecting, as close to full participation as possible.

There will be sign-up sheets at this Thursday's meeting, along with driving instructions. So, come, help out your community and give a little of your time to those in need.

-Roberta Cunningham, Service Project Coordinator

FEBRUARY SHOWCASES THE ARTS

February's theme is Fine Arts, so we will use the first two meetings of the month to explore the *art of 3D modeling*, and the *art of music*. First, on February 3rd, after some direction from Mrs. Spickard, we will devote the meeting to having the scouts do individual clay modeling and end it with a few patrol competitions to see which patrol can create the most lifelike, creative, and/or super rad sculptures.

On February 10th, we ask that every scout bring in tapes, CDs, or iPods with their favorite music on them. Be ready to play a favorite tune and talk about what makes it special to you. We will then, under the tutelage of Mr. Carelli, also showcase live music featuring some of the Troop's musically inclined and *not* so inclined. So, remember to bring an instrument, or just sit back and enjoy.

-Chris Denn, Monthly Theme Leader

PUT-PUT GOLF OUTING: February 24th

On Thursday, February 24th, our outing will be to Put-Put Golf in Castro Valley, where we will spend an hour or so challenging each other and perfecting our skills in miniature golf.

The group rate is only \$4.50 per person if you bring your money and sign-up ahead of time at one of the meetings this month. Otherwise, you can still participate by bringing \$7.50 with you on the night of the 24th.

We will meet at the JMCC lot at 7pm and leave by 7:15 for Castro Valley. The park is open until 10pm, but we will probably just play for an hour and then drive back and drop everyone off at their homes sometime between 9 and 10pm.

-Kyle Ross, Monthly Outing Leader

FIRST WENTE PAYMENTS DUE

Despite the recent rains, summer camp is right around the corner! If you are planning to go to Wente, now is the time to start planning. This year our scheduled camping time at our beloved Wishbone Campsite is from Sunday, July 3rd through Saturday, July 9th.

The deadline to sign-up and receive a *free* camp T-shirt is **February 18th**. The first payment of \$135 is due now, and preferably by the meeting on the 10th. If you are planning to go to summer camp, or if you have any questions, please email Irving Willis at: irvwill@pacbell.net, or contact him at the Troop meetings.

Summer camp is the best time to get lots of merit badges completed with your friends, while also enjoying Wente's warm lake waters, and it's amazing diversity of wildlife. The 4th of July week has proven to have the best access to all the programs and facilities. So, mark your calendars and sign up now so we don't risk losing our Troop's traditional Wishbone campsite!

-Irving Willis, Wente Camp Coordinator

SCOUT SPOTLIGHT: Kyle Stuart-Willis... Goes to Washington

Kyle, with two other members of his team from Edna Brewer Middle School, is going to Washington, DC in February to compete in the National Engineers Week's Future City Competition. Edna Brewer's team beat 38 other teams from all over Northern California and won the Northern California Regional Competition on February 22nd at Fort Mason in San Francisco. They are the first team from Oakland to win the Northern California regionals and move to the nationals to compete against 39 teams from around the nation. This is the engineering equivalent to going to the National Spelling Bee. For further information, go to futurecity.org.

Congratulations, Kyle! Lots of luck!

CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY

Since our Troop has *no* scout birthdays to honor this month, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a...Happy Chinese New Year, Happy Groundhog Day, Happy "President's" Day, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy Black History Month!

-Your "Happy" Editor

SNOW CAMPING IS COOL!

I'd like to thank everyone who went on the snow camping trip to the Hells Kitchen Overlook on Hwy 4 this year. It was a blast! No, it was a BLAST! (Although not as cool as the full moon trip 2 years ago). Blue skies and gnarly snow made this hike intense. Trying to keep warm is hard to do at midnight when you're sledding under a bright starlit sky.

I believe this trip is a learning experience for all of the younger scouts (two slept in a snow cave this year) to expand their snow camping skills. Those who went will enjoy the trip even more next year.

The scouts who did attend were Pete Stathakos, Trevor Lucas, Austin Blessing, Andrew Nelson, Baird Britton, Brandon Tarpey, Alex and Chris Miller, Evan Bowman, Joe Marrama, and Jordan Carelli. Accompanied by these adults who braved the cold: Rich Lucas, Bill Blessing, Eric Miller, Chris Campbell, Mark Marrama, Greg Bowman, Bert Carelli, and, of course, Tim Bever.

Snow camping has become a tradition for Troop 206, and if you didn't go on this trip you should really try to make it next year. You won't believe how warm you are and how much fun we have. And, *next* year we need to look at the calendar to pick the full moon weekend.

-Baird Britton, January Hike Leader

BOMB SQUAD VISIT IS NO DUD

On Thursday, January 27th, 19 Scouts and several adults had a blast visiting with the Alameda County Sheriff's Bomb Squad. Even though their robot was in the shop being repaired, and they couldn't blow up as much stuff as they wanted to for us, we had a great time! Sgt. Dudeck and his partner Deputy Kelly spent a lot of time telling us about their jobs. They *were* able to blow up a coconut for us, and Sgt. Dudeck wants us to come back another time so we see more of the explosive stuff.

Thanks to all of the adults who volunteered to drive, we couldn't have done it without you.

Scouts attending were Chris Denn, Brendan Tarpey, Evan Roberts, Jordan Carelli, Baird Britton, Erik Spickard, Joe Marrama, Chris Miller, Josh Stein, Evan Bowman, Kyle Stuart-Willis, John Tounger, Austin Blessing, David Johnson, Trevor Lucas, Andrew Nelson, Sam Lubin, Sam Yeider, and Pete Stathakos.

And a special thanks to the adults who drove: Walter Denn, Tim Bever, Steve Spickard, John Tounger, Jeanne Stathakos, and Irving Willis.

Look for announcements for a return visit in April!
-Evan Roberts, January Outing Leader

NEXT MONTH'S THEME: Cooking

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH'S HIKE:

Big Basin's "Skyline to the Sea"

On March 19th and 20th, we will be heading to Big Basin State Park for our *new* Skyline-to-the-Sea trip. The Venture and willing older Scouts will take on the 10-mile day hike, starting near the top of the ridge and winding their way down to the sea, where they will pick up their packs waiting for them there. The rest of the Troop will enjoy a short hike to a walk-in campsite, and then can take a day hike up the trail to meet up with the older Scouts for lunch. Sunday will probably have some time for exploring and enjoying the beach before heading for home.

Sign-ups will be at the meetings. For additional info call Señor Chris Denn at 531-5686.

-March Hike Leader

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