

The Trailblazer

February 2005

Mission Trails Hike



On Sunday, January 23, three scouts and three adults hiked a 10-mile loop trail through Mission Trails Regional Park. Because the San Diego River was running at a very high stage, we were unable to cross at a normal trail junction. Instead we had to retrace a segment back over "Heart Attack Hill."

Although the temperature was only in the high 60s, we came across a three-foot-long rattlesnake. Normally, snakes are still in hibernation at this time of year.

The view from the top of Fortuna Mountain in the park is spectacular. On clear days you can see past Point Loma out to sea.

Scouts hiking the 10 miles were Bryan Hatton, Joe Gafford and Shane Adams. Adults on this outing were Al Bispo, Dave Hatton and Eric Gershon. (by Al Bispo)



On the weekend of February 5-6, the troop took an excursion up to Big Bear to take on the slopes of Snow Summit. For several of the scouts (Dylon Morales, Brian Hatton, Joe Gallery and Andy Nelson), this was their first time snowboarding, and they spent the morning learning how to snowboard, how to get onto the ski lifts, and the proper basics of falling. By the afternoon, most had joined the other scouts (Anthony Visin and Kyle Goossens) at the top of the mountain trying out the intermediate runs and the various jumps at the terrain park.

On the weekend of February 5-6, the troop took an excursion up to Big Bear to take on the slopes of Snow Summit. For several of the scouts (Dylon Morales, Brian Hatton, Joe Gallery and Andy Nelson), this was their first time snowboarding, and they spent the morning learning how to snowboard, how to get onto the ski lifts, and the proper basics of falling. By the afternoon, most had joined the other scouts (Anthony Visin and Kyle Goossens) at the top of the mountain trying out the intermediate runs and the various jumps at the terrain park.

We stayed at the condo of scout Anthony V's family, where we were able to go in the hot tub, swimming pool, and recreation hall to relax after a full day on the slopes. Thanks to the Visin family for the use of their wonderful accommodations. We finished Saturday night with a rousing scout wrestling match to thoroughly exhaust everyone for a good night's sleep.

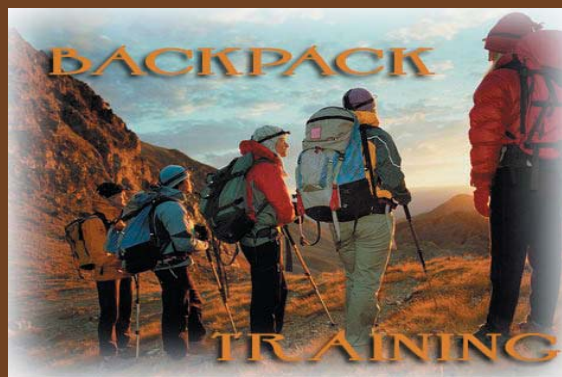
Everyone returned the next day with all arms and legs in one piece and ready to make this an annual trip. Needless to say, none of the scouts needed to practice their first aid skills that they have learned. (by Fred Goossens)



Bridging of Scouts



On February 10, Scouts from the troop attended Pack 224's Blue and Gold celebration where three Webelos Scouts joined the troop. At the Blue and Gold, Kyle Goossens, Nick LaPointe, and Thomas Belger, accompanied by Nick Maglio, went to Horizon Christian Fellowship and welcome the new Scouts. The night included skits, songs and an ice cream social. The highlight of the evening was the bridging from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. Welcome Jaime Robertson, Andrew Walter and Kealoha Nakamura (and their parents) to Troop 260! In addition, we also welcome Shane Adams, Patrick Reynolds, Joe Gafford and Andrew Nelson, who recently joined the troop (by Kyle Goossens)



Five scouts completed the backpack training session held at Mataguay Scout Reservation on Saturday, February 12.

Under rainy conditions the Scouts and adult leaders hiked about three miles from the high adventure barn down to the A-frame building.

Stopping along the way several times, the volunteer instructors of the Desert Pacific Council covered topics ranging from footwear, sun protection, rain insurance and backpacking equipment.

At the A-frame, instruction continued on the topics of hypothermia and "critters" of nature.

After a good supper meal of chicken noodle soup with brownies for dessert, it was "back to school" for one final session on the outdoor "leave no trace" etiquette.

Passing the test were Scouts Kyle Goossens, Bryan Hatton, Dylan Morales, Joe Gafford and Patrick Reynolds. Adults at this training were Fred Goossens, Dave Hatton, Mike Reynolds and Al Bispo. (by Al Bispo)



Scout Fair Ticket Sales

In advance of the Scout Fair in April, there always is the fund raiser of ticket sales to this event. If a Scout wishes to participate, he will be selling tickets that allow a family of four to go to the fair for only \$5.00. The Scout will earn two dollars for every ticket. sold.

In 1996, Troop 260 had the TOP salesman in the whole Desert Pacific Council. Not only did Turner Miller earn over \$900 (903 tickets sold), he also received top sales prizes of a bicycle and a tent. Now it takes a lot of work, not to mention a lot of parental "pushing" to reach that goal.

The Desert Pacific Council would be happy if every Scout sold at least ten tickets – that would surpass any year's total sales. Good Luck Selling!

CALENDAR

Date(s)	Event	Location	Contact
Mar 5-6	Desert Hike - Jasper Trail	Anza Borrego Desert	Al Bispo
Mar 6	Eagle Court of Honor	U.S. Church of Christ	Nick LaPointe
Mar 12	Ski Trip	Big Bear Mountain	Fred Goossens
Apr 2	Pacific Crest Trail Hike	Warner Springs, CA	Al Bispo
Apr 23	Scout Fair	Qualcomm Stadium	Nick Maglio
May 20-22	International Camporee	Tecate, Mexico	Andrew Warner
Jul 24-30	Sierra Trek	Emmigrant Wilderness	Al Bispo
Aug 21-26	Summer Camp	Emerald Bay, Catalina	Dan Kittredge

Mar thru Aug