

# Trailmarker

June, 2008 Edition



## New Council newsletter makes its debut

*By James Martin, Scout Executive*

I'd like to introduce our new and improved Council newsletter, **Trailmarker**. It will be published four to six times a year and provide volunteer leaders, parents, Scouts, donors and community leaders with updates and achievements from the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It's an exciting time with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting in America just a couple years away. 2010 marks an important anniversary, but more importantly, an opportunity to showcase the achievements and values of Scouting to our youth. We all know it's challenging to grow up in America today. There are so many aspects of today's society that can have a less than positive influence. Scouting has proven itself to build strong character, highlight personal goals and achievements, promote a healthy lifestyle and offer a program rich with fun, adventure and skill development. To better

understand scouting's benefit, all you have to do is look and think about the Scout Law. These are the words that we live by. These are words we teach and their meaning are an integral part of boys, girls, parents and families that participate in the program. A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courtesy, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent. Please pass it along to other Scouters, community and business leaders you know. It's time to promote the scouting program as positive part of the community and our society.

## Council's University of Scouting a big success

Over 660 Scout leaders and parents attended the Golden Empire Council's University of Scouting at Pioneer High School in Woodland. This year's theme was "Building Leaders for Tomorrow" and offered 86 classes for all levels of Scouting including Tigers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing. Besides the basics such as crafts and knots, there were classes provided for creative ideas for meetings, different types of fun and informative outings, and training in the various areas of Scouting. The classes are open to anyone assisting in the scouting program. Den Chief training for Boy Scouts wanting to mentor Cub Scouts was also offered, as was information and feedback sessions on how the Council could better serve youth. The Midway featured over 20 booths and displays, a Scout shop and entertainment by the Order of the Arrow dancers was provided during the lunch hour. This year's University of Scouting was one of the most successful in the Western Region, and is an annual event. Congratulations to Diane Weiss, Chairperson, and her staff. To see photos from the University of Scouting, click here: [University of Scouting Photo Album](#)

### What is the Golden Empire Council?

**The Golden Empire Council represents approximately 20,000 youth and has more than 10,000 adult leaders encompassing 16 Northern California counties. The Golden Empire Council, one of 303 Councils in the United States, was started in 1920. The Council provides District Executives to work with District volunteers supporting units, helping with recruitment, starting new units and doing fundraising programs. The Council also manages Council camps, advancement, chartering and other support. For more information, visit GEC-BSA.org.**

## Golden Empire Council Honors 2007 Top Volunteers

At the annual Recognition Dinner in February, the Golden Empire Council said thank you in a special way by bestowing its top volunteers for 2007 with the coveted Silver Beaver Award. The Silver Beaver Award recognizes scouts who have rendered outstanding service to youth in their communities over a long period of years. Those receiving this year's award were: Alice Aldous, Charles Aldous, Gregory Brewer, John Glabas, Jerry Henry, Michael Howell, Melville (Duke) Hughes, Captain Donald Jackson, USN, Gerald Madsen, Wallace Payne, Kimberly Phillips, Bryan Pratt, Nolan Randall, Luciano (Don) Rojo, Coreena Ross, Diane Weiss, Paul Willadsen, Allan Yamashiro, and Travis Zubiata. The theme for the dinner was "2007 – Our Golden Year" and celebrated the outstanding successes the council achieved in 2007. All attendees were congratulated on their contributions to the council and its recent recognition as a 2007 Centennial Quality Council, a national award which recognizes those councils in the U.S. who provide a quality program to their Scouts. In addition, the council had nine districts who achieved Quality District: Amador, Buttes Area, El Dorado, Gold Country, Ranchero West, Rio Del Oro, Soaring Eagle, Trailblazer, and Yolo. The Council also celebrated the huge success of the Scout Expo held at Beale Air Force Base in September, a University of Scouting event which was the most attended in Northern California, continued membership growth, and a strong year financially. To see photos from the recognition dinner, click here: [Recognition Dinner Photo Album](#)

## 2010 National Jamboree plans underway

Be a part of the celebration of 100 Years of Scouting at the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. The jamboree will be held July 26 to August 4, 2010 and is expected to be the best jamboree ever with over 35,000 Scouts from all over the world. There is so much offered at the jamboree with many activity areas, displays and special events. Not sure what it's all about? Watch the video at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) (click on 2010 Jamboree countdown) and get a glimpse of all the fun! The trip to the jamboree will also include an educational and fun filled tour. In the past this has included Washington D.C., Williamsburg, Jamestown, and more. If you'd like to participate in the jamboree, you need to register with the Council and place a \$200 deposit. You must be at least 12 years of age by July 1, 2010 and have not reached your 18th birthday by August 4, 2010. We are limited to 288 Scouts and it is filling fast, so don't miss out! Applications are available at [www.gec-bsa.org](http://www.gec-bsa.org). This jamboree can be the highlight of your Scouting experience and something you will remember for the rest of your life. Make it happen!



### Have you made your Friends of Scouting donation?

Friends of Scouting provides funds that enable the Golden Empire Council to deliver the "promise of scouting" to the 20,000 cub scouts, boy scouts and ventures each year. A gift to scouting will help the council expand programs, add new members and ensure the success of Scouting principles; Character, Citizenship, and Personal fitness. The Scouts of today are tomorrow's leaders. You can shape America's future by investing in Scouting today. A gift to Scouting helps to maintain Council Camps and Service Centers and ensures that professional staff can provide customer service and support district programs. There are few opportunities in life to make a difference, but one is the shaping the character of a boy. Your gift to scouting helps guarantee that development as they prepare for making ethical life choices. Make a gift today at [www.gec-bsa.org/giving](http://www.gec-bsa.org/giving). Click Donate Now.

## Reserve your space for Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure 2009

The Golden Empire Council has started accepting reservations for the 2009 Philmont Scout Ranch Expedition. Expedition dates begin June 24, 2009 through July 6, 2009. Philmont is 137,493 acres of challenging Scout adventure set in among the mountains and mesas of northeastern New Mexico. The 12-day backpacking expedition. Experience the thrill of climbing mountains over two miles high! Learn technical rock climbing, archaeological excavation technique, and blacksmithing. Relive the by-gone days of the Old West as you ride a western saddle horse, learn the way of the mountain man, pack burros and pan for gold in a



clear mountain stream. Discover the wonder of Scouting's paradise as over 840,000 Scouts have since 1939. Save your space now by making your \$200 deposit online at [www.gec-bsa.org](http://www.gec-bsa.org). Go to the Events tab and select Philmont Contingent 2009. The total cost is estimated at \$1,000.00. More details to follow. For more information call Ron Foronda at 916 929 1417 ext 123.

## SPORTING CLAYS SPRING SHOOT OUT A SUCCESS

The Golden Empire Council hosted the First Annual Metro Sporting Clays Event on April 12th at the Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve in Lone. The event raised over \$21,000 for Scouting programs. Forty Five shooters competed for donated prizes in traditional clay sports and shooting skills. Boy Scout Troops from Sacramento and Lone served as scorers and event hosts. Jim Carlsen and Jeff Setzer served as co-chairman of the event. Due to the success of the first shoot out, the Shooting Clays Committee announced that the Golden Empire Council will hold its 2009 Sporting Clays event in April of 2009 at the Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve. "We were very excited about the results," said Setzer. "You never know how a first-year event will turnout but I can tell you this was an amazing success. Not only did we have a good turnout and raised money for Scouts, but we also brought in some new business and community leaders that hadn't been involved in Scout before. We are pleased and we've started planning next year's event." To see photos from the Shoot Out, click here: [Sporting Clays Photo Album](#)

## Council Scouts in the news!

JONES VALLEY – Busy with activity, a Jones Valley hillside was covered with more than 400 volunteer tree planters, replacing trees that the Bear Fire had ravaged in 2004. The volunteers included Boy Scouts, their families and troop leaders. Cub Scout Leader **John Colosio** joked, "The whole troop will be out for the next meeting with poison oak." Redding Record Searchlight March 2, 2008

RED BLUFF – About 18 volunteers gathered to help install chain link fencing around the Tim Mercer Memorial Basketball Court. The fence is necessary to prevent kids from chasing basketballs in the street and getting hit by cars. **Eric Espinosa**, 13, from Boy Scout Troop 19 took on the task to complete his Eagle Scout project. Espinosa said it took months to get the project approved and now the fence is ready to be put up thanks to community donations of time and materials. Red Bluff News February 21, 2008

ELK GROVE – **Brendon Hutchings**, a 17-year-old high school senior, is member of Boy Scout Troop 294. He collected 145 boxes of 9002 individual diapers to donate to the food bank as a part of his Eagle Scout Project to do 80 hours of community service benefiting a non-profit organization. "Not many people get the Eagle Scout Award," said Hutchings, who has been a scout since he was 8. "A select few get it. It's very prestigious. It's even required for astronauts to have Eagle Scout awards so it kind of shows how important it is." Elk Grove Citizen January 11, 2008

WOODLAND – **Billy Mitchell**, an active Boy Scout since first grade, earned his Eagle Scout award in November 2007 at 14. Mitchell decided to build six picnic tables for the Yolo County Animal Shelter for his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project which he completed last September. He obtained approvals, funding and materials for the project, fabricated and installed the tables and a sanitation system. Mitchell plans on staying active in scouting and become a veterinarian. Woodland Daily Democrat March 1, 2008

LINCOLN – Cub Scout pack 160 travels to Lake Tahoe every year to help rebuild some of the trails that surround the lake. They also participate in charities, like the Scouting for Food can drive, and perform service work for badges and advancements, including the highest attainable rank of Eagle Scout. Scout **Evan Peterson**, 10, says "Scouts teaches you to think about other people, not about yourself". Lincoln News-Messenger January 24, 2008

SISKIYOU – Scout **Sam Raine** decided to lead his fellow Mount Shasta Troop 97 members in designing and constructing shelters for altered feral cats, for his Eagle Scout badge. A scout since 1996, Sam spent 20 to 30 hours on the project, including coordinating his fellow troops who did the actual construction. "I'm glad I did it," said Sam, who has three dogs and a cat in his family. "It's going for a good cause, they look really nice, and I hope they are helpful." Siskiyou News January 2, 2008

SACRAMENTO – **David Ishikawa**, 54, a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America, will take a group of boys to explore the wilderness of Minnesota and canoe the rivers of Canada. In his 25 years as a Scoutmaster, Ishikawa has taken members of Troop 380 -ages 11 to 17- on exploits in the wilderness, teaching survival methods, personal responsibility and duty along the way. "Scoutmasters are outdoorsmen and have a passion for teaching kids. It was always a natural role for me," said Ishikawa. The Sacramento Bee March 6, 2008

PARADISE – Nine year old Paradise Cub Scout, **Daniel Rickards**, swam laps for two hours at Fit One Athletic Club in an effort to save polar bears from extinction. He raised \$887 for the World Wildlife Fund. Daniel swam 189 laps using all four strokes: the butterfly, the breast stroke, backstroke and freestyle. He wanted to do a world conservation project for a Bear Scout Badge and after having a dream that he was racing a polar bear in the water, he decided to help them using one of his many talents – swimming. Paradise Post February 16, 2008

PLACERVILLE – **Nicko Hawkins**, 17, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Hawkins joined Cub Scouts when he was 7 years old. He is currently active with Venture Crew 1065 which trains in search and rescue and works with the El Dorado County Search and Rescue. Venture Crew is a post-Eagle branch of Scouting. He did his Eagle Scout Project at Golden Trail School. "It was covered in weeds and overgrown with ivy. A tree was getting run out by the ivy. It was an eyesore right in front of the school where people come in," said Hawkins. Now the site is attractive with plants and thick with topsoil, bark and mulch. He is also doubly certified as a life guard -- through Boy Scouts and the Red Cross and has worked as one at Cameron Park Lake and at a summer camp for Boy Scouts. The Mountain Democrat February 29, 2008

FOLSOM – Eight year old **Tanner Reed** suggested that he and his brothers shave their heads to support their buddy Chase. Eight year old **Chase Starr**, Tanner's former classmate and fellow Cub Scout was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and had lost his hair due to his treatment. Some of the coaches in town were shaving their heads to raise money for cancer research through the Saint Baldrick's Day Foundation. The three boys, Kyle, Tanner, and Holden were nervous to get their heads shaved but knew what good would come from it. In two week they had raised \$1,700 for cancer research. The Sacramento Bee March 17, 2008