

Trailmarker

September, 2008 Edition

Summer camp is a Council tradition

By James R. Martin, Scout Executive

As summer nears its end, we can look back with pride and accomplishment at our Council camps and a successful camping experience for the boys and girls, and men and women who attended, worked and managed Camp Lassen, Camp Winton and Camp Cole. Attendance was up at all the camps. The Council experienced two precautionary evacuations at Camp Lassen because of the raging forest fires and smoke in the region. We turned the camp into an area for housing, feeding and support of the firefighters and their efforts. We celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Camp Winton and re-dedicated the camp. Past camp directors, Council board members and staff participated in the ceremony and shared stories. Kudos to Program Director Ron Foronda for his leadership over camping programs in the Golden Empire Council.



Golden Empire Council is “popping” all over the place



Believe it or not, it is time to start popping again. That's right, it's time to set up and prepare for the Trail's End Popcorn Sale! Don't miss out on this win-win fundraising opportunity. The popcorn sale is a vital source of income to participating units and the Golden Empire Council. At least 30% of your sales stay in your unit's treasury and the commission can be as high as 36%. The monetary benefits to a unit can pay for outdoor activities, special trips, equipment and the general operating dollars to support unit activities. The individual Scouts

who help sell can earn money for High Adventure trips, Summer Camp opportunities and camping equipment. There is also a choice of prizes for your unit. The Trail's End prize program has all kinds of great prizes such as skateboards, electronic games and camping equipment and a special prize of gift cards for sales of \$1,500 dollars or more. A special incentive from the Golden Empire Council is the “Fill it Up Program.” Every Scout who fills up his Take Order Form receives a free Sacramento Kings ticket to Scout Night in February, 2009. Fill up four Take Order Forms and receive four Kings tickets and an invitation to the Arco Arena VIP Lounge. The top three Council salesmen will be hosted by the Sacramento Kings in the Owner's Box or Courtside if available. Each District winner will participate in Opening and Halftime activities. Have your unit fill up a unit commitment card and get it to the Council Office right away. Go to www.gec-bsa.org, select popcorn sales, and then unit commitment card. Don't miss out

on this exciting opportunity. You can also contact David Hagar, Finance Director at 916-929-1417 ext. 127 or dhagar@gecbsa.org



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 www.GEC-BSA.org.

Quality Counts in Large Amounts

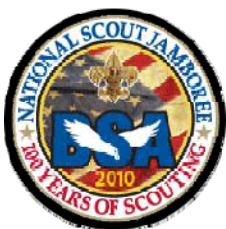


2007 was a banner year for the Golden Empire Council with nine of our 15 districts, and the Golden Empire Council itself, achieving the coveted Centennial Quality Award. This annual award is an extension of the Quality Unit awards we are all familiar with. It is earned by meeting a rigorous set of criteria defined by the national office of BSA and the goal of the award is to improve the quality of every unit in America. The Council and the District are judged in the following categories:

- Centennial Quality Units. At least 60 percent of the traditional units in the Council/district qualified as national Centennial Quality Units this year.
- The number of New Units organized.
- Membership or density growth.
- Youth retention.
- Finance. Including achieving a balanced operating budget at the Council level.
- Unit retention.
- Commissioner service. Add an agreed-upon number of new unit commissioners, increase unit visits per unit by commissioners, and improve the ratio of commissioners-to-units.
- District committee. Recruit an agreed-upon number of new district committee members to increase the average number of members per district over last year.

Additionally, at the Council level, we are judged as to whether we have added youth-serving executives and on the growth of our endowment. It was a fantastic year, and big kudos to our star districts: Amador, El Dorado, Rio Del Oro, Buttes Area, Gold Country, Ranchero West, Soaring Eagle, Trailblazer and Yolo. We are very excited to be named a Centennial Quality Council in the Boy Scouts of America.

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? Attend a National Jamboree Kickoff Rally in your area in the next couple of weeks. Details are at www.gec-bsa.org, then Program, Jamboree. 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. This jamboree can be the highlight of your Scouting experience and something you will remember for the rest of your life. Make it happen!

Encampment hosts Elder L. Tom Perry and 4,000 LDS Boy Scouts

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined more than 4,000 LDS Boy Scouts and hundreds of Scout and priesthood leaders at Van Vleck Ranch outside of Sacramento for one of the largest gatherings of young men in Northern California history. The occasion was the third Sons of Liberty High Adventure Encampment held August 7-9. Boys from 25 stakes (13 Council districts) attended the conference that featured dozens of high adventure activities from Indian lore and buckskin games to aquatic skills and rappelling. With more than 75 activities, games, demonstrations, and competitions, and morning and evening devotionals, everyone was kept busy from dawn until well into the evening. In his address to the Scouts, Elder Perry said, "As I gaze out at the thousands of bright faces, I am touched by the great priesthood power I see before me. This is truly an awesome sight." Brian Treadway, 13, a Sacramento California North Stake deacon, said, "Everything we did there was a challenge, from the huge water slide to the rock climbing. But I think the talks at night were best in

challenging us to resist temptation and to make right choices. I am on a real spiritual high that I think is going to last a long time." The camp's programs included inspirational and motivational talks by former Major League Baseball outfielder McKay Christensen, popular author and speaker John Bytheway, pro golfer Andy Miller and motivational speaker and student Hank Smith. Their remarks, both humorous and inspiring, all directed the young men to challenge themselves by overcoming temptation and setting goals that will carry them into adulthood.

To see photos from the Encampment, and Lassen, Winton and Cole Summer Camps click here: [Trailmarker Photo Album](#)

Exciting summer at Council camps: Lassen, Winton and Cole



The camping season for the Golden Empire Council was very successful and we had strong attendance at each of the camps. It also proved to be a challenge as Camp Lassen experienced two evacuations during the fires that swept through the area. The evacuation was precautionary only and the camps suffered no damage. Because of the proximity to the fire line, Camp Lassen served as a support location, providing housing and food to firefighters. Despite these challenges, Camp Lassen was able to host one week of Boy Scout programs and five sessions of Cub Scout programs. Investments in camps provided for more canoes, kayaks, transportation trailers for equipment, waterfront docks, climbing towers, and mountain bikes for this year's programs. Food has been great at camp. Additions to salad bars, drink dispensers, and self serving stations help the flow of hungry campers, and provided variety in meal planning. Winton had a great summer and was sold out every week. The Council celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 26th with many staff members past, present and future on hand. Past camp director of Camp Winton, Duff Holt (1989-1995), was in attendance with children and grandchildren. Duff was in conversation with some staff members and introducing his grandson as a "future staff member" of Winton! Camp Cole was in operation for two weeks offering a Super Merit Badge week this year. Rifle, shotgun, canoeing, climbing, treks, and mountain biking were offered during the Super Merit Badge week. As Camp Director Bob Moneymaker explains, "Imagine a week of summer camp, and you get to do all the merit badges that every kid wants to do, like rifles!" At a traditional week of summer camp, Rifle MB is reserved for first class and above only. At camp Cole everyone can do the MB. Camp Cole also offered a Venturing week (for Venture Scouts), a NYLT week, and a Trek into the backcountry. Day Camps were highly successful this year. We camped over 3,200 Cub Scouts during the months of June, July and August. Day Camps boasted a steady increase each and every year for the past three years.

Council Scouts in the news!

GALT- Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, in partnership with the Cosumnes CSD Fire Department and Maita Chevrolet, hosted the first Automotive Safety Patch Program for Cub Scout troops from Galt on Saturday, May 10. "This event fits in with our program," says **Steve Olson**, district executive for the 49er District. "We teach about vehicle safety because they (the Cub Scouts and their leaders) are more likely to be injured in the car than on a camping trip." Galt Herald May-28-2008

REDDING- There's a new north state group that wants to introduce young men and women ages 14-20 to shotgun sports called the Shasta Sharpshooters; it's a Boy Scouts of America Venturing Crew that's looking for a few converts. "I just like shooting moving targets," said 15 year-old **Josh Fletcher**, who has been a Shasta Sharpshooter member since 2006. "It's really fun to shoot shotguns, and every time I come out here, I meet somebody new." "The nice thing about Venturing is that it's co-ed, so the girls can join too," said **Lowell Fletcher**, the north state's Venture Scouting coordinator. "And we get kids who want to do what they want to do. With Boy Scouts, you get to do a little bit of everything; with Venturing, you do one thing." Redding Record-Searchlight Jun-1-2008

PARADISE- Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and their families unfurl a flag that flew over Ed Wittmeier Ford Lincoln-Mercury Chico. The 40-foot flag was a donation to the Scouts through the Chico Veterans of Foreign Wars and was displayed in honor of current servicemen and veterans. The annual flag disposal ceremony followed the unfurling in an advance tribute of Memorial Day by members of Cub Scout Pack 73 of Magalia and Boy Scout Troop 316 of Paradise. Cub Master Lisa Ritter and Assistant Cub Master Patrick Rosamond, a retired U.S. Air Force master

sergeant, led the ceremony. Ritter said the ceremony helps teach Scouts respect and flag etiquette. Paradise Post-May-27-2008

MOUNT SHASTA - **Scott Fischer**, a Boy Scout in Troop 97 and a senior at Mt. Shasta High School received the Eagle Award on May 18th for his community project. Scott built four sturdy wooden benches which he, along with the help of fellow Scouts, had installed along the boardwalks in Sisson Meadow in Mt. Shasta after observing that there was no place for people to sit along the boardwalk. Instead of purchasing benches Scott decided to build them himself, calling on local business owners to help with the cause. "It was especially rewarding while we were installing the final bench to see people already sitting on the first benches we had installed," said Scott. Mount Shasta Herald-May-21-2008

DAVIS- Local military families, Cub Scouts, Webelos, and UC Davis ROTC members boxed up care packages to send to local troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and all over the world in honor of Armed Forces Day. The boxes were packed and mailed on May 3rd and include nuts, candy, jerky, magazines, socks, eye drops and so much more. "We also included a card designed by Ginger Welch with a special message inside from our support group including a picture of us," **Susan Smith** said. Davis Enterprise May-16-2008

MARYSVILLE- **Wesley Hulett**, a member of Troop 513 of Plumas Lake, installed 130 war veteran markers at Sierra View Memorial Park in Olivehurst and has 600 left to go. Hulett was hoping to be finished before Memorial Day however his project has been stalled for over a year. Hulett also enlisted the help of members from Troop 389 in Yuba City. Hulett says that they will continue the project in June. **John Hampton**, an 18-year old scout and senior at Yuba City High School said the willingness of Scouts from another troop to help the Huletts is a sign that "Scouting is still alive and well." Marysville Appeal-Democrat May-25-2008

LOOMIS- Boy Scout **Michael Verdooner**, and his fellow Scouts from Troop 12, built a new Frisbee golf course at H. Clarke Powers School. The nine-hole course was built with funds and contributions from local businesses and efforts of 25 volunteers who contributed over 161 hours to Verdooner's Eagle Scout project. "Michael attended H. Clarke Powers and I was delighted when he came to me offering to develop his Eagle Scout project for our school," said a representative from the school. "I would have liked to have had something like this when I was going there," said Verdooner. Loomis News May-22-2008

GALT- Cub Scout Pack 84 held their Cub Scout graduation at McFarland Living History Ranch, having a family campout complete with old-fashioned fun such as working on leather crafts, learning knife safety, sack races, volleyball and a camp dessert cook -off and a ceremony to honor the boys' progression on the Cub Scout trail. **Mikey Winslow** and **Zachary Newman** were recognized for their courage and quick thinking and were awarded the Hero Award after helping family members avoid tragedy. **Zachary Newman**, **Teddy Woldstad**, and **Mark Wickland** earned the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award a Cub Scout can earn. The three boys graciously accepted the awards and gave credit to their dedicated Cub Scout leader, **Diane Weiss**. "She's done everything for us," said Wickland. "I could never name all of the things she has done for us." "We wouldn't have any other leader," said Woldstad. Galt Herald Jun-18-2008

JACKSON- **Austin Cramer** is fast approaching the highest Scouting achievement possible at a very young age. At 14 years old, Cramer knew when planning his Eagle Scout project that there would be some challenges, however he didn't realize that he would come to appreciate keeping the memory of lost residents alive. Cramer was rebuilding the bleacher area, replacing the borrowed flagpoles, its rotting signs and crumbling brick wall behind the bleachers. While working on the project, Cramer discovered that the area he was rebuilding was dedicated to a couple of local residents that had passed away. This prompted him to dedicate himself to the project even more; in the end he created a new memorial. Amador Ledger-Dispatch May-13-2008