

TROOP 726 FLASH

MARCH 2013

Upcoming Events

Spring Court of Honor– Mar 13

Training Hikes– Mar 16, and Apr 20

Jacob Schultz' Eagle Project – Mar 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31

Wilderness Survival Outing – Mar 23-24

Iron Horse Training Bike Rides– Mar 30

Model Airplane Contest– April 20

TLT Overnight– Apr 19 - 20

Earth Day at Independent Elementary– Apr 27

Planning Conference– Apr 27

Lake Chabot Training Bike Rides–May 11



Meeting Dates

Board of Review –Mar 18, Apr 15

Committee Meeting –May 6

PLC Meeting –Mar 17, Apr 27

Troop Meetings – Weekly on Wednesdays 7 pm sharp at Masonic Center. Apr 24 swimming meeting

Website

Don't forget to check out our Troop's awesome website <http://troop726.scoutlander.com>

Raymond Akagi is our Troop Website master. Please send photos from recent events to him. Please include dates and locations when you're sending pictures if possible.

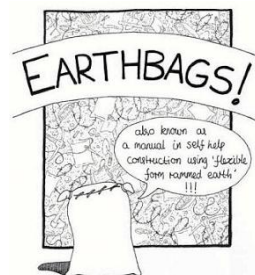
Also please send him any and all permission slips for upcoming events in .doc format so they can be uploaded to the website for all to download.



Jacob Schultz' Eagle Project – Mar 17, 23, 24, 30, 31

Scout in Charge: Jacob Schultz, Adult in Charge: Mr. Guerin

Want to do something new? Jacob will be installing a "Peace Pole" and building an "Earthbag" wall/bench for his Eagle Project. (Look it up on Google, this is a project no one has done before) This will be done at the Lafayette Community Garden. More to come as details are finalized. Tentative dates for Jacob's Eagle Project; **March 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31**. Please save some time to help. Thank you – Jacob



Iron Horse Bike Rides– Mar 30

Scout in Charge: Raymond Akagi and Kyle Avery, Adult in Charge: Mr. Fong

Join the troop for a 25-mile ride on Saturday, March 30, Iron Horse Trail. This the third of the 4 practice rides to get ready for the Lake Chabot Bike Ride on June 2. **Meet at Masonic center for carpool at 8:30 am.** End at Masonic center at 12:30. The event is FREE. Bring snacks (don't need lunch), water bottle, glasses, gloves, helmet, spare tube, safety equipment. Wear Class B, windbreaker or jacket, tennis shoes. Contact Raymond Akagi with any questions. Come join in the fun. See you all out there!!!



Wilderness Survival Outing Los Mochos– Mar 23-24

Scout in Charge: Kenji Pinzon, Adult in Charge: Mr. Andrews and Mr. Werning



This event will be held at **Rancho Mochos in Livermore**. The aim is to earn the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge, culminating in this event. We will build and spend the night in self-made shelters. **We will meet at Masonic Center on March 23 at 10 AM and return to Masonic Center on March 24 at 11 AM.** The cost is \$20. Bring a bag lunch, snacks for the night. Breakfast will be made as a group. Permission slip has been given out. Please read it for more details. Sign up deadline is March 13th. Contact Kenji Pinzon-Shigeta with any questions. Are you up to the challenge?

Earth Day at Independent Elementary– Apr 27

Scout in Charge: Robert Fusinati, Adult in Charge: Mr. Andrews

We will be doing clean-up project at **Independent Elementary** on **April 27th**. We'll need various equipment and tools such as rakes, shovels and gloves. Permission slips and more detail to follow. Please sign up to help!



Model Airplane Contest – April 20

The model airplane contest is **on April 20 at the Oakland Aviation Museum on 8252 Earhart Rd, Oakland**. Model exhibits set up at 10:30 am to 11:45 am. **Judging begins at 12 pm, announcement of winners at 1:30 pm with refreshments following.**

We will be competing against other Troops in the area and possibly other youth groups. The rules are not only to build the model, but also to construct a diorama of a historically accurate battlefield setting and to write up a history of the plane and the event depicted in the diorama. This year the model is a F-4E Phantom II from the Vietnam War era. Come and cheer for our troop!



Planning Conference– Apr 27

Scout in Charge: Raymond Akagi, Adult in Charge: Mr. Avery

Bring your ideas to our planning conference on **Saturday, April 27** (exact time and place TBA). Each patrol has to start working now on at least five good ideas for events for the **calendar year September 2013 - August 2014**. All events should be scouting related and are allowed to be fun. Scouts can think about big events like going to Miramar or White Water Rafting or Santa Cruz along with smaller events such as local campouts. We need to have balance among events that are higher in price and lower in price, balance among events that are best done at different times of the year, and balance among skill levels and interests of all the scouts. Scouts who come prepared with information on costs and details of their events will more likely get their fellow scouts on board. Come and have a say in what activities the Troop will have next year. See you there!



Save the Date!

Eagle Court of Honor for Alan Saylor

Alan Saylor's Eagle Court of Honor will be on June 1! Save the date and join in the celebration.

Friends of Scouting *By Jose Siu*

Each year the council office requests that we present to our troop families the Friends of Scouting Campaign. This year, like in past years, we presented it at our annual Red and Green dinner. Each family was given a pledge card; if you turned yours in last week, THANK YOU, if you haven't please review the information and carefully consider a contribution. This year our adult contact for Friends of Scouting is Mrs. Maloof. She has handouts and materials for you to familiarize yourself with this worthy cause. Please approach her at our Troop meetings.

A comfortable donation is one where you feel good about. The amount is entirely up to you and every donation counts. These donations help our counsel directly and it comes back to us and our boys in many ways.

You can return your pledge card Mrs. Maloof or send your donation directly to the council office. Please mark it with Troop 726 so we get the credit.



Training

By Randy Wright, Tres Ranchos District Boy Scout Training Chair and Troop 726 Training Chair.

The Boy Scouts of America list the following trainings as being offered this year.

Go to <http://www.sfbac.org/training/adult/hat> - click for [online registration](#)

HAT - Basic Backpacking, March 2-3 YLTC; and March 15-17 RLM

HAT - Cycling Awareness, May 4 Livermore Bike Trail

HAT - Wilderness First Aid, June 1-2 YLTC; or June 15-16 RLM

HAT - Canoe Wilderness Tripping, June 22, June 29-30 & July 13-14

HAT stands for High Adventure Training

Other trainings are offered by the Boy Scout of America online at www.sfbac.org. Proceed to the "My Scouting" section on the right side of the page.

Please see www.sfbac.org for more info.

If you take any of these trainings, please inform me of what and when taken. If you have any training questions, please contact me, Randy Wright (510 885 0527, Wright-s@comcast.net)

Advancement News

By Zurvohn Maloof, By Phil Avery, Troop 726 Advancement Chair

Several scouts (7) advanced in rank in February. We expect to have at least five scouts report for a March 18 BOR for the following rank advancements:

Aaron Lee - Tenderfoot;
Patrick Lee - Tenderfoot;
Vincent Ruiz - Tenderfoot;
Sammy Wilson - Star;
Jeffrey Jiang - Second Class

As far as the COH (March 13, 2013): We'll have 13 scouts advance in rank including one Eagle Scout (Jose V) and approximately 35 merit badges to give out.

One scout will be receiving a sash along with his merit badge.



THE CYCLING MERIT BADGE

By Mr. Fong, Merit Badge Counselor

Scouts, did you ever think what it would be like to bicycle on gently rolling hills about 40-miles a day between villages in the country side of Ireland, stopping halfway for a picnic lunch, and exploring interesting sites, church ruins and towns along the way? Or how about something more exciting and physically demanding like charging up and down the bike trails of Lake Chabot? These exciting pleasures are available as you acquire the proper knowledge, skills and abilities of cycling as described and taught in the Cycling Merit Badge Pamphlet.

You will learn about the parts of your bicycle, how to use, maintain and adjust the parts to give you the best fit and performance. You will learn important riding skills—how to safely ride in the traffic, or in a group, and how to crash your bike in case of an impending accident! In addition, to complete the Merit Badge, you must finish at least seven rides, describing each one in a report: two - 10 miles, two - 15 miles, two - 25 miles, and one - 50 mile ride. Please see the pamphlet for full details and available from the troop librarian and the scout shop. And please remember, getting the badge is not as important as having fun along the way as you are working on the badge!

THE IRON HORSE TRAIL!



OWLS COMING IN TO ROOST AFTER 50-MILES ON THE IRON HORSE TRAIL

On August 5, 2012, Owl patrol mates Seamus Guerin and Bryce Fong completed a 50-mile bike ride on the Iron Horse Trail in 5 hours including rest stops. These two athletic scouts, Seamus in Swimming, Bryce in Cross-Country/ Track, finished in good form with energy to spare, and in a relatively short time as 8 hours is allowed by the Merit Badge requirement. Will YOU be the next scout to do the 50-miler?

Join the troop for a 25-mile ride on Saturday March 30.

Troop News

Get Ready for bike ride around Lake Chabot

Troop plans to have a bike ride on June 2nd!!!! It is a challenging 14 mile ride with elevation changes. If you don't have a bike, it's time to get one. Get your safety gear as well (gloves, helmet, spare inner tube, safety glasses). Don't forget a water bottle and snacks. Because this is a 14 mile bike ride with elevation gain we plan to have multiple training bike rides to be fully prepared. The dates for the training rides are **February 23rd (Alameda Creek Trail, 10 or 15 miles), and March 30th (Iron Horse Trail, 20 or 25 miles), and May 11th (practice at Lake Chabot, 3 miles).** We will meet at **Masonic Center about 8:30 am and return at 12:30 pm on these training rides.** For the June 2 Lake Chabot 14 mile ride, we will leave at 8:30 am and return at 3 pm. Contact Raymond Akagi with any questions. Come join in the fun. See you all out there!!!



Trip to Summit Mt. Whitney

We are currently planning a trip to summit Mt. Whitney, the tallest in California. In order to climb it, we need to get several permits.

If you are interested in climbing Mt. Whitney, please tell me at this week's troop meeting so we can get the right amount of permits. You should have had some previous hiking experience for this.

If you are interested, note that you will have to attend ALL these training hikes:

- 2/16 12 miles
- 3/16 14-15 miles
- 4/20 12 miles
- 5/18 Mt. Wittenburg 10 miles
- 5/4 hike-a-thon 10 miles
- 7/27-7/28 Pinnacles



Some of these hikes will require at least 20 pound packed backpacks. If you are interested, e-mail me, tell me soon or follow me on twitter @averythemitch

Scout Master Minute

By Phil Avery, Troop 726 Scout Master

Troop 726 - In Scouting I can be heard to say about the boys phrases like, "Remember, it is their time to learn," or, "Remember, it is their time to lead." As a Troop we also need to remember that it is the boys' time to have fun.

The annual planning conference is coming up on April 27. Why am I writing about this now, far outside of the attention span of most scouts instead of making an announcement the Wednesday before the planning conference? Because now is the time for boys to start looking into ideas and events and outings that they would like to participate in.

Successful outings take planning. Scouting allows boys to plan adventures that they might not normally participate in with their families and it also allows the boys to lead those events. If the boys start now, then they can research times of year to attend events, costs, special requirements, lead times for reservations, any regulations that must be followed, etc. Scouts should show up to the planning conference with answers, not more questions. A scout who introduces a crabbing event should not shout out in the middle of the discussion, "when is crabbing season anyway?" A prepared scout will have the information on the crabbing season, what the limits are, and how much permits cost.

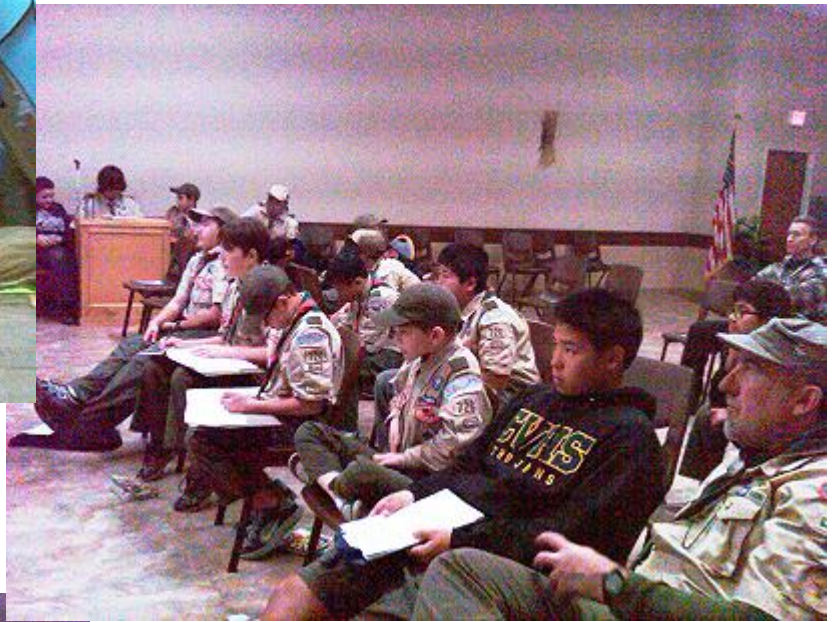
The bigger the event the more planning is required. For the Big Adventure 2014, there should be several ideas, not just one or none. Again, idly shouting out "Catalina!" during a discussion at the end of the planning conference almost does more harm than good. If you really want to go to Catalina, then imagine how much more impressive you will be coming to the planning conference with options of dates, an estimation of costs including transportation, a list of adults who would be willing to support your event with transportation and their vacation time, and having had discussions with at least your patrol to show that the group would be interested in such. We can go to Yellowstone or Olympic National Park if the right plan is put together. Read the articles in Boys Life how Troops from Indiana go on big adventures in our backyard of Yosemite. It can be done. Even the North Pole is within reach with the proper planning.

We have had a great variety of outings these past few years – horseback riding, shooting, snow camping, crabbing, rock climbing, bike riding, skiing, white water rafting, hiking, Miramar, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Half Dome, and soon wilderness survival and kayaking. We can do many more such outings including these and caving, zip lining, water skiing, deep sea fishing, Boreal scout ski weekends, exotic merit badges, and tour historic sites, etc. What do you want to do?

Scouting is a safe haven. All outing ideas will be welcome. The only ideas that will be discarded out of hand will be those that violate BSA's guidelines such as paintball or pistol shooting or hunting. Speaking of hunting, happy hunting for great outings.

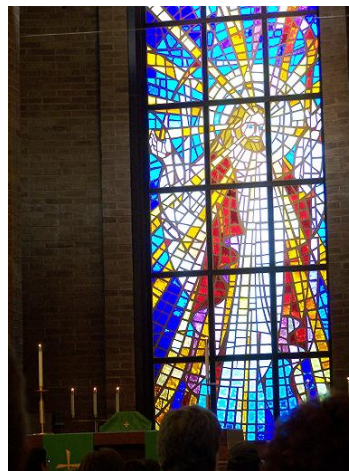
What do you want to do?

Winter Awareness – Feb 2 at Masonic Center



Scout Sunday

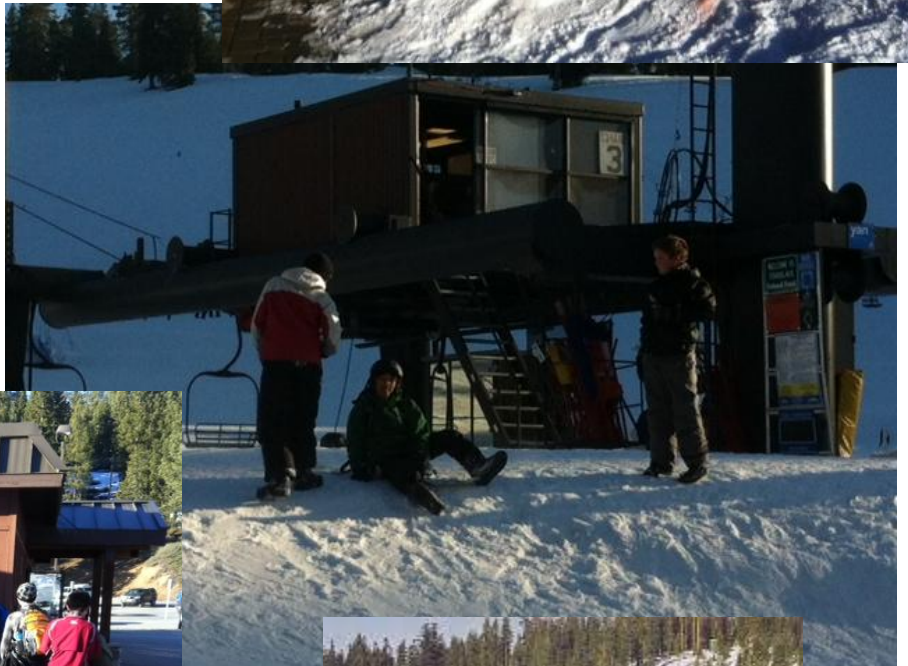
For Scout Sunday, we gathered together to celebrate that a Scout is Reverent. Scout Sunday was on **February 3, 2013**, at Faith Lutheran Church in Castro Valley. Boys and girls from all over Castro Valley and Hayward attended this event. Thank you all who attended this event and helped Troop 726 give back to the Faith Lutheran Church for all they do for us during the year.



Dodge Ridge Skiing

Photo by Mrs. Werning

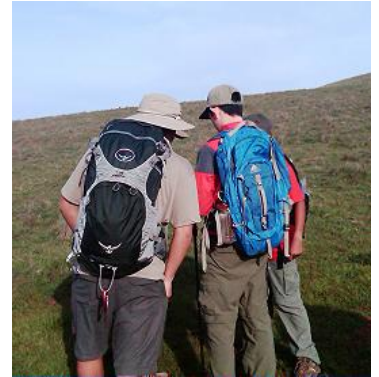
11 Scouts, along with Mr. Raynor and Mrs. Werning, went to Dodge Ridge for a day of fun in the snow on Feb 10. We had a great time skiing or snow boarding. The scout who went are: Kyle Avery, Raymond Akagi, Jeffrey Jiang, Austin Le, Ben Echman, Anthony Sulayao, Kiyoshi Ito, Matthew Kuan, Justin Raynor, Samuel Kim, and Curtis Werning. Special thanks to the adults who drove us and spent the day with us.



Garin Park Training Hikes

By Scout in Charge: Mitch Avery, Photo by Mrs. Werning

On February 16th, 4 boys including Zurvohn, Raymond, Kyle, and Mitch all participated in an 11 mile training hike for the Mt. Whitney big adventure trip. The hike was in Garin Regional Park and was a loop around the park. The adults who attended were Mr. Maloof, Mr. Avery, Mrs. Werning, and Mrs. Chang. Anyone who is interested in going in August should go on the hike on March 16th.



Red and Green Dinner

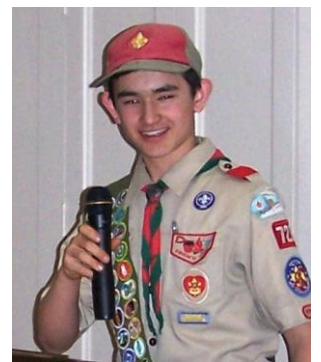
Troop 726 celebrated the birthday of Scouting at their Annual Red and Green Dinner on Feb 13 by having a good old fashion pot luck style dinner. Thank you to all the family for the wonderful food, and to the Scouts for the great entertainment!



Red and Green Dinner – Great Food and Great Time



Red and Green Dinner- Entertainment



Alameda Creek Bike Ride– Feb 23

By Scout in Charge: Raymond Akagi, Photo by Mr. Fong

The Alameda Creek trail ride was a great 15 mile ride. Mr. Raynor, Mr. Fong, Jeffery, Luke, and I attended the event on Feb 23. The day was gorgeous. There was a bit of a head wind which was a pain going against but when we turned back I didn't have to pedal at all! Remember to join us on the next ride, March 30, Iron Horse Trail.



Jeffrey, Raymond and Luke at Alameda Creek Bike Trail, 15 mile ride.



Committee Chair's Corner

By Jose Siu, Troop 726 Committee Chair

A Scout is **Friendly**.

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts.

During the month of March we will be welcoming new scouts to our troop. Some of these new scouts will be crossing over from a Cub Scout Pack and some may be new to scouting. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new scouts and get to know both the scout and his family. In the April Newsletter, we will introduce them officially, but until then when you see someone new at our meetings, please welcome them with an open scouting spirit.

New members -- welcome to Boy Scouts and your new Troop. We're excited to have you join and foremost thank you for selecting Troop 726 as your Troop home. The adventures, leadership values, merit badges, and skills learned and practiced through our program have a positive lifelong impact on our Scouts. There are many items to cover but don't worry, we'll take it one step at a time. Please contact me or our scoutmaster anytime. We are here to help you and your son achieve success in scouting.

Friendly

Troop 726 - At the Red and Green dinner our District Executive Mr. Ngyuen was in attendance and shared some district numbers with me. For reference, Tres Ranchos District serves Troops in San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, and Hayward. I in turn wanted to share with you some of those numbers with you.

In 2012 Tres Ranchos District produced 24 Eagle Scouts - 3 were from Troop 726 - Bobby Paiz, Ben Andrews, and Allen Saylor.

In 2012 Tres Ranchos District produced 27 Life Scouts - 7 were from Troop 726 - Anthony Sulayao, Kiyoshi Ito, Bryant Ling, Marcos Andrade, Austin Le, Keane Hubbard, and Kyle Avery.

In 2012 Tres Ranchos District awarded 1,019 Merit Badges - 246 were earned by Troop 726 - a record for our Troop.

Troop 726 is not the biggest Troop in the district, nor is it the smallest. However, we seem to do a good job by the numbers as our Scouts grow within the structure created and maintained by both the youth and adult leadership. This is also recognized by our 100% Boys Life Gold Journey to Excellence achievement.

Scouting of course is much more than an accumulation of numbers. Scout spirit, leadership development, organizational skills, communication improvement, self esteem, love of the outdoors, and fellowship are all essential qualities that cannot be measured and are just as important to the program as the number of nights of camping, miles of hiking, hours of service, and merit badges earned.

Thank you all for making Troop 726 such a great success and a model Troop.

-Mr. Avery

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 726

2730 Jennifer Drive

Castro Valley, ca 94546

Scoutmaster: Phil Avery

Email: pack705@earthlink.net

Website: <http://troop726.scoutlander.com>

Charter Organization: American Legion

#649

BE PREPARED



Our newsletter goal is to provide information to scouts and parents at the 1st meeting of the month. Dates and information for this newsletter are due by the last Friday of each month.

Patrol News



Patrol leaders please submit your article to Ms. Chang by the Last Friday of the month by phone 317-9179 or email SandiaChang@comcast.net, or if you prefer, put the article in her mail slot by the Wednesday before the end of the month.

Fox



No Submittal

Bats



On January 26, Sam Pica, Mac Strand and Matthew Kuan went to University of Scouting to help set up. They arrived at 6:00 in the early morning in very chilly weather. They posted signs around the campus and directed traffic. Many people showed up for the event. It was great to see so many adults and youth that are dedicated to scouting.

By Matthew Kuan

Ravens



No Submittal

Cobras



No submittal

Scorpions/ Dragons



No submittal

Troop Items for Sale

The following items can be purchased from Mrs. Lozano . Email: Phyllis@gantel.com .

Troop Mug = \$5.00

Troop T-shirts = \$10.00

Duffle Bag = \$26.00

Uniform Bank

All items in the uniform bank are first come first serve. Please call Mr. Pica to check for availability. Also, if you think you can donate any items, please bring them to the meeting. Thank you!

Lost Equipment

Please check your garage for Troop equipment. Look for any tents and pans, stoves, etc, that you may have taken home to clean but forgot to bring back. Equipment is very expensive!

Attention All

Is your Scout due current? **Scout due is \$5.00 per month**, payable by the first meeting of the month. You need to keep your due current in order to participate in outings!

Also, **please check your garage for Troop equipment, clean and return them promptly.**