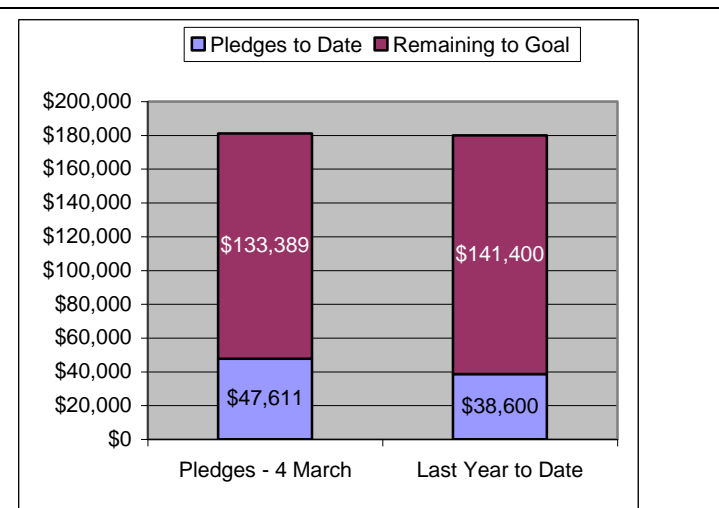




Welcome to the Polaris Star, the monthly Roundtable minutes and Polaris newsletter. You will be able to find out what the Polaris district committee is doing as well as upcoming events in your area!

Friends of Scouting

Our 2009 Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is already off to a great start. Pledges are ahead of this time last year with a total of \$47,611. But, we still have a long way to go to meet our goal. Congrats to P436, P499, and T463 for making goal! We're looking forward to seeing many more units meet that threshold in the next few months. Success in the FOS campaign is a key source of funding to the council's programs.



Polaris District Friends of Scouting campaign progress

If you need to schedule an FOS presentation for your unit, please contact the Polaris District Finance Chair, Debbie Jancis. Debbie can be reached by her email <debbie.jancis@sbcglobal.net> or by phone 408-245-4745.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars with these district and council events:

Date	Event
April 4-5	CASA Camporee
April 18	Cub Scout Water Rocket Derby
April 18-19	Polaris District Camporee
May 8	OA Lodge Dinner
May 9	Scout-O-Rama

Polaris District Camporee

Every year, Scouts from throughout Polaris District gather at Camporee to meet other Scouts, compete, and, most importantly, show their Scout Spirit. This year's Polaris District Camporee is the weekend of 18-19 April. The remote desert island of Chesebrough (Camp Chesebrough) has been chosen for Scouts to gather and show their skills. This year's theme is "Survival". Some patrols will show that they are capable of surviving in the toughest of conditions. Some will not. Bring your chosen circle of friends and prove that you can best Mother Nature.

Pre-registration is open until 15 March. Don't forget to pre-register! Benefits of pre-registering your troop or crew include:

- pay lower fees,
- guaranteed this year's patches, and
- receive bonus points at camporee.

Be aware that, once again, vehicle access to the camp is going to be very limited due to the lack of parking. Like last year, Scouts are expected to hike down to the camp from the drop-off point.

The campfire will be performed mostly by the Troops with staff supervision. Auditions will be held during the competition. A limited number of skits or songs will be selected for the campfire, so bring your best! Skits or songs involving audience participation are encouraged. At the end of the campfire, candidates elected by their Troops for the Order of the Arrow are recognized in a tap-out ceremony.

A camporee information packet is available on-line at <http://www.scccbsa.org/files/POCamporeePacket2009v11.pdf>. For additional information, please contact the Order of the Arrow Chapter Advisor, John Lucas, at 408-446-3396 or jlucas@stanfordmed.org

2008 Quality District Award

Thanks to all who contributed to Polaris District earning the 2008 Centennial Quality District award. This reflects your commitment to serving the youth in our communities.

"Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader."

New Leader Essentials

New Leaders Essentials is in the process of being replaced by a new course called "What is Scouting". Please watch the Polaris Star for further details in future issues.

Cub Position Specific Training

14 March – Cambrian Park United Methodist Church

2 May – Council Service Center

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) Training

21 March – Los Gatos Scout Hut

Outdoor Webelos Leader Training

24-25 April – Camp Chesebrough

Boy Scout SM/ASM Leader Specific Training

16 May – Key Point Credit Union, Santa Clara

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

5-7 June – Camp Chesebrough

Troop Committee Challenge

The Troop Committee Challenge is now available online @ <http://olc.scouting.org> (Please have your scout registration ID to log in. When completed, please notify Jerry McMillan so that he can verify your registration.)

Venturing Leader Specific

(To Be Announced)

High Adventure

(To Be Announced)

Den Chief Training

(To Be Announced)

Woodbadge

Spring 2009:

Orientation: March 21

Weekend One: April 16-18

Weekend Two: May 14-16

For additional information or to verify your "Trained" status, please contact Jerry McMillan.

Scout-o-Rama

It's that time of year again. Time for the biggest Scouting event of the year, the 2009 Scout-O-Rama. This is your opportunity to show off what your unit does best. Maybe your pack does a killer bike safety race, or your troop makes the best peach cobbler in the world, or your crew know the best hiking trails in the bay area. We are again selling coupon books to raise money for our units and to put on this great Scouting festival. This is your chance to shine and to see what the rest of the Scouting community is up to.

Some of the benefits of participating in Scout-O-Rama include:

- Fun for all boys – see what your brother Scouts are doing
- Leadership and team development opportunity for the boys in the troops
- Chance for fellowship with Scouts and Scouters
- Tickets sales – opportunity to practice salesmanship, talk with adults and strangers
- Tickets sales benefits – to boys, to troop and pack, to council and to scouting
- Booth hosting – allows the boys to show off and gives a sense of accomplishment

So far, we have many great units signed up to host a booth and to sell tickets. Now, it's time for you to get signed up.

Contact Peter Wong, the Polaris District Scout-O-Rama chair, at peter.wong@lmco.com for information regarding selling coupon books and reserving booth space at the Scout-O-Rama.

2009 Cub Scout Summer Camp

Join us for one or more Cub Scout Summer Camp sessions, "**How the west was FUN!**" Sign up as a pack, den, or an individual Cub. All camps require a parent/guardian volunteer for each Cub.

Day camps are open to all Wolves, Bears and Webelos.

Twilight camps are open to Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos.

Cub Adventure resident camps are open only to Webelos and Bears. Webelos Adventure resident camps are open only to Webelos

Click [here](#) for a list of camps including when and where they are held.

More information is coming soon. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Phu Tran, the staff adviser, at phu@sccbsa.org.

March Boy Scout Roundtable

Scouting "Administrivia"

Has your Troop become confused about the new administrative initiatives introduced by the National Council, BSA? Maybe you haven't even heard of them! BSA has introduced a new "Annual Health and Medical Form" and "On-line Tour Permit Procedures" to:

- simplify and streamline authorization procedures
- help increase safety for our Scouts and, at the same time
- comply with newly introduced State and National laws.

In order to clear up confusions/concerns about these initiatives, we are taking them on at this month's Boy Scout Roundtable.

Annual Health and Medical Form. Mr. Charlie Schenck, Santa Clara County Council VP/Administration, is presenting information about the new BSA Annual Health and Medical Form and will answer questions you may have about the form's use.

On-line Tour Permit Procedures. Mr. Bob Wedig, Polaris District Commissioner, is outlining the new procedures for submitting tour permits via the Internet, including a demonstration of this procedure. And, I'm sure there will be questions to be answered!

So don't be challenged when it comes to these new forms and techniques. They are intended to make our jobs with the Scouts easier. They also make our Scouting activities safer. The experts in our Council will resolve any doubts and issues you may have so that the procedures become easy, and maybe even second-nature, for you and your Troop.

March Cub Scout Roundtable

Now is the time for packs to be working on transitioning in new leaders. So, if you are moving up to Boy Scouts soon, please bring your replacement to Roundtable. This helps them make connections with our District's best resources – the leaders of neighboring Packs.

March RT Agenda: April's Theme: Jurassic Pack!

Explore the land before time! Imagine living in a time when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. What have paleontologists learned about the great beasts that roamed the Earth millions of years ago? Did any dinosaurs live where you do now? Find out what they ate, where they lived, and how they moved. What could we learn of these creatures that lived so long ago? Make a model of a dinosaur or visit a museum where dinosaur fossils can be seen. Come to Polaris Roundtable and see how to actually make these huge beasts to decorate your Pack Meeting! Make your own "dinosaur footprints" or "fossils" in plaster. Take a dinosaur scavenger hike by going on a hike and looking for things that might have been

found during the Jurassic era. This would be a great time to work on the Geology belt loop and pin.

March Roundtable Activities:

Pre-Opening Make Your Jurassic Park Costume

Opening "Flintstone's Fashion Parade"

Knot of the Month Two Half Hitches

Song Meet the Flintstones

Game Dino Pics Puzzle (Steve)

Game Tracking Dino Relay (Brian)

New Feature - Mythbusters! Day Camp Sign-Ups Myth

Pack Leader Breakouts

Cubmaster Breakout - Props (Steve)

Dino 3-D Pack Puzzle

Amber Neckerchief Slide

Flintstone Bones

Flintstone Costume

Tiger-Bear Den Leaders Breakout (Brian & Hank)

Mud Balls - food project

Coffee Dough

Fossil Print

Turkey neckbone "Dino Slide"

Roaring T-Rex

Dragon Fly memo holder

Committee Long Range Planning Running the Planning Meeting - Part 2 of 3 part series

Special note - there will be a bounty offered to units who bring a committee chair for the first time. Don't be left out!

Unit Ideas/Sharing Time What Ideas/Plans are your unit's program highlights?

Please check your "Program Helps", Pow-Wow book and "Cub Scout How To" book for additional theme ideas. Roundtable would love to hear about theme related activities that our units are planning and would like to share!

April RT Agenda: May's Theme: Leave Nothing But Footprints

Warm weather is a perfect time for outdoor adventure including den hikes in the neighborhood, in a park, or on local trails. As we enjoy our outdoor world, we should strive to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints. Learn about Leave No Trace "front country" guidelines and ways we can minimize our impact on the environment. Take a backyard hike and practice the Leave No Trace front country guidelines. Have a contest to see who can take the best wildlife photograph. Earn the Cub Scout Leave No Trace Awareness Award. Do your Good Turn and leave these areas cleaner than you found them. Remember to record your service with Good Turn for America. The end of the month has all dens moving up the Cub Scout trail. Consider working on the Wildlife Conservation belt loop and pin this month.

Venturing Roundtable Information

There is a separate **Venturing-specific roundtable** held each month. This Roundtable, focused on the needs of Venturing Crews, is a Council-wide event. The Venturing Roundtable is the first Tuesday of every month at the Council Service Center from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Polaris District Committee

Position	Name
District Chairman	Kathi Lucas
District Executive	Dylan Hendrickson
District Commissioner	Bob Wedig
Membership Chair	Steve Nguyen
Finance Chair	Debbie Jancis
Program Chair	Jonathan Leder
Activities Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Advancement Chair	Wendy Glasser
Camping Chair	Pauli Hsueh
Training Chair	Jerry McMillan
Cub Scout Training Chair	Steve Walters
Boy Scout Training Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Venturing Training Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Public Relations Chair	Mark Ellson
OA Chapter Advisor	John Lucas
Boy Scout RT Commissioner	Larry Grace
Cub Scout RT Commissioner	Tad Davis
Venturing RT Commissioner	Ken Bower
Pinewood Derby Chair	Roger Burney
Scout-O-Rama Chair	Peter Wong
Scouting-for-Food Chair	Chia-Chih Ho
MB Counselor Training Chair	David Ashby
District Dinner Chair	Debbie Ward

All e-mail addresses can be found through the Council by contacting Dylan Hendrickson at 408-280-5088 ext 41.

Note from the Editor

Thank you for reading this issue of the Polaris Star. We hope that you have found it helpful and interesting. Please send items for inclusion in future issues of the Polaris Star to Mark Ellson at mfellson@comcast.net. The deadline for submissions for the April issue is 10 April. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

February Roundtable Recap

To be successful, Roundtable needs the participation of each of our units. We are asking that Cub leaders who are moving up to Boy Scouts please bring their pack's incoming leaders to the next Roundtable on 10 March.

Thanks again to all our participants! Thanks to your commitment to Scouting, we had yet another record breaking Roundtable month. To be successful, Roundtable needs the participation of each of our units. We would like to thank the following units for their attendance at the January Roundtable:

UnitType [Participants]

Packs 411 [2], 415 [2], 433, 444, 450, 457 [4], 462, 476, 480 [2], 505, 508 [3], 581, 606, ??? [2]

23 leaders from 14 of 30 packs for 47% of our packs represented

Troops 400, 407 [2], 408, 452 [4], 453 [8], 454 [2], 457, 463, 466, 468 [2], 476, 479, 485 [3], 494, 495 [2], 498, 508 [2], 535, 566, 581, 606 [4]

41 leaders from 21 of 24 troops for 88% of our troops represented

Please join us in celebrating the following First-Timers and Roundtable Anniversaries:

Name	Position	Unit
First Timers		
Aglaia Kong		T485
Marian Chou	Committee Chairman	T453
Maggie Wang		T453
Fran Yetso	Committee Chairman	T463
Paul McNulty	Assistant Cubmaster	P433
Mihir Mohanty	Parent	P508
Wendy Glassar		T508
Mila Heilbron		
Wayne Lin	Scoutmaster	T454
50th RT Attended		
Dave Low	Scoutmaster	T476
Tad Davis	Assistant Cubmaster	P457

Thank you to all of our FOS contributors for helping to make Roundtable possible! A small part of each FOS contribution is used to fund the crafts and activities presented at Roundtable such as the New Year's dragon kits that were made and given out at January's meeting.

Trail's End Scholarship Promotion

Trail's End is running a special promotion. You may be aware that Trail's End offers scholarships based on the amount of popcorn that a Scout sells over \$2500. During this promotion, the sales threshold has been lowered to \$500 for online sales.

Encouraging online sales is a great way to earn extra money for your unit and allow Scouts to sell to relatives or friends that are not local to this area (continental USA only).

To participate, contact Debbie Jancis at <debbie.jancis@sbcglobal.net> or by phone at 408-245-4745. She can set up your account in the Trail's End system if you do not already have one. You can create "Scout" accounts with a specific key for each scout so that their sales can be tracked independently.

Polaris Email Group

The Polaris District Email group is used to send this monthly Roundtable Reminder, our monthly newsletter "The Polaris Star" and between 3 and 7 special announcements a month. You can join the group if you would like to stay in the loop on all that is happening in the Polaris District. If you know a fellow Polaris Scouter who is not a member of the list, please invite them to join.

If you are not currently on the Polaris Yahoo Group mailing list and would like to receive the Star each month, please subscribe to our list by sending an email to the following address:

SCCC-Polaris-RD-subscribe@yahogroups.com
