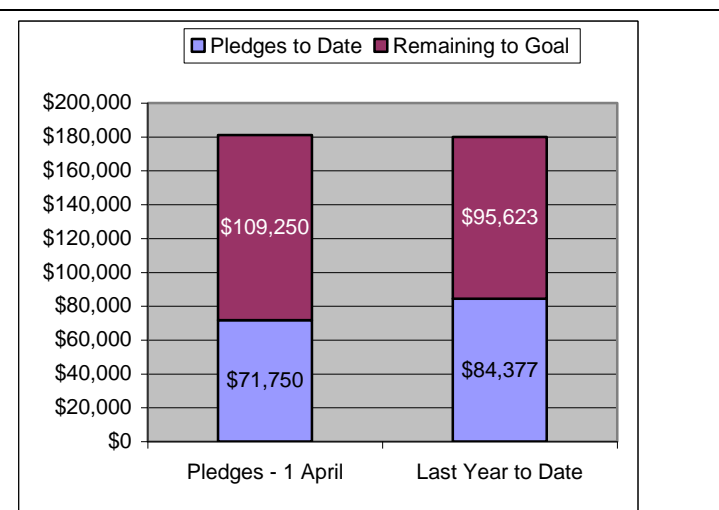




Welcome to the Polaris Star, the monthly Roundtable minutes and Polaris newsletter. You will be able to find out what the Polaris district committee is doing as well as upcoming events in your area!

Friends of Scouting

Our 2009 Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is already off to a good start. But, progress is starting to slow. As shown, this year's pledges of \$71,750 to date are behind where we were at this time last year. Time remains to catch up. However, catching up is going to require a concerted effort by all of our units. Let's all pull together to make this year's campaign a success. Congrats to our units at goal so far: Packs 408, 436, 453, 480, 499, and Troop 408!



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 18	Cub Scout Water Rocket Derby
April 18-19	Polaris District Camporee
May 8	OA Lodge Dinner
May 9	Scout-O-Rama
May 29-31	OA Spring Ordeal

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 now closed. Regular registration is still available at a higher fee.

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

Thoughts from the District Committee Chair

It seems like 2009 has just started. But, it is already April and we are headed toward the summer with a vengeance. This means that 2010 is right around the corner. As you all know, 2010 is the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in the United States. The Santa Clara County Council's 100th Anniversary Celebration plan includes nearby councils, the Santa Clara County Council's districts, and all of our units. The aim is to work together to create a memorable Scouting year. Our council plans five celebration activities and projects. I hope that every Scout, Scouter, and unit participates, to some degree, in all five activities. Please join in and volunteer to help out with the events, spread the information about what is going on, and make sure everyone has an opportunity to be part of the celebration!

Our council's events are:

1. **Our Good Turn for the Silicon Valley** – September 2009 to August 2010. Legend has it that Scouting in America was founded because an unknown Scout helped William D. Boyce find his way through the London fog to his destination. To continue that tradition, there will be service projects in our city, county, state, and federal parks. Governmental agencies are providing a list of projects to be shared with our Scout leaders. The projects vary in size. So, some may be completed by a den or patrol while others may require a couple of packs or troops to come together and complete the project. Every pack, troop, and crew can participate in "Doing a Good Turn".
2. **Eagle Scout Reunion and Hall of Leadership** – May 2009 – May 2010. A recent Eagle Scout search found that there are over 7,000 Eagle Scouts residing in Santa Clara County Council. A reunion is occurring during our Scout-O-Rama in 2009. Another gathering of the Eagles is planned in 2010. A subcommittee from this group is nominating individuals for consideration for the 100th Anniversary National Hall of Leadership.
3. **Northern California Jamboree** – April 15-18, 2010. Mark your calendars! Councils from throughout Northern California are meeting at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for what is expected to be the largest gathering of Scouts in America, second only to the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. This event replaces our district camporee for 2010. The Northern California Jamboree offers opportunities for our Cub Scouts, Webelos, Boy Scouts, Venturers, alumni, and the general public to join the fun.

4. **Living and Giving** – January 2009 to December 2010. Scouting's original founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, lived by an interesting motto: "*We only have a short time to live, so we must do things that are worthwhile, and do them now.*" To ensure that the values of Scouting endure and our program is well-funded, we are growing our endowment during the 100th Anniversary celebration with a unique recognition program for those that donate to our trust fund.
5. **History of Scouting in the Santa Clara County Council** - A publication is being produced that documents the history of Scouting in the Silicon Valley since the first Scout troop was formed in the 1910s. A committee has been formed for each decade. Larry Grace is on the committee. So, if you have information on your unit's history, please get it to Larry for inclusion in the publication as soon as possible.

I am excited about the planned activities. I hope that you join in the fun to make this a memorable year for everyone in Scouting.

Spring Recruiting

Whether you are with the Cub Scouts or the Boy Scouts, someone was once kind enough to introduce your son and family to the wonderful world of Scouting. Now, we are asking each Polaris unit to "pay it forward" by planning their Spring Recruitment efforts and conveying their plans to the Polaris Membership Committee.

Spring is the perfect time for Cub Scout Packs to recruit graduating Kindergarteners and others. This allows new Cubs to participate fully in the summer fun. The same possibilities hold true for Troops throughout the District. Now is the time to transition Webelos into your Troop. But, this is also the time to recruit boys from local middle schools, churches, and community groups. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for every youth to become a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Spring Recruitment Training is being held at the Council Service Center on Thursday, 16 April, at 7:00pm.

For more information on recruitment training and resources, please contact the Polaris Membership Chair, Steve Nguyen (steveldn@yahoo.com). Or, you can contact the Polaris District Executive, Dylan Hendrickson, at Dylan@SCCCBSA.org or 408-280-4088 ext. 41.

"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

2 May – Council Service Center

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) Training

16 May – 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

25 April – Pacific Skyline Council

High Adventure

(To Be Announced)

Den Chief Training

(To Be Announced)

Woodbadge

Spring 2009:

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@scccbsa.org.

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.

April Boy Scout Roundtable

If you missed last month's presentations on the new "Annual Health and Medical Form" and "On-line Tour Permit Procedures", or ended up with more questions than answers, the April Boy Scout Roundtable is the place for you!

Our Polaris District Commissioner, Bob Wedig, presents a follow-up session on these two new administrative initiatives and clarifies open issues relating to them. Summer camp is coming along with other spring-time activities. Both of these procedures are key to your Troop's participation in these outings.

Every Scout deserves "trained" leaders. Can you say that your Troop's adult leaders have the training that helps them serve your Scouts in the best possible way? Do you know about "This is Scouting", "New Leader Essentials", "Scoutmaster Ass't. Scoutmaster Skills", "Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills", "The Troop Committee Challenge"? Do you know that many of the Boy Scout training courses are available on-line and can be completed in the comfort of your own home?

Our Polaris District Training Chairman, Jerry McMillan, is providing a current inventory of the training status (according to BSA's national database) for all of the registered Boy Scout adult leaders in our district. He is also discussing the various on-line courses and future "live" courses. This permits you and your Troop leaders to take advantage of the training made available by both the Santa Clara County Council and the National Council.

Let's get our adult leadership fully trained and ready to continue their good works with their Scouts.

April 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.

April RT Agenda: May's Theme: Leave Nothing but Footprints!

Warm weather is a perfect time for outdoor adventure complete with den hikes in the neighborhood, in a park, or on local trails. As we enjoy our outdoor world, we strive to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints. Learn about "Leave No Trace" frontcountry guidelines and ways to minimize our impact on the environment. Take a backyard hike and practice the "Leave No Trace" frontcountry 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.

April Roundtable Activities:

Opening No Footprints Flag Ceremony

Song Hey There Cub Scout

Games

Eco System Game

Through the Forest

Footprint ID

Mythbusters Scout Training is a Hassle

Pack Leader Breakouts

Cubmaster Breakout - Pre-Openings

Tiger-Bear Den Leaders Breakout

Service Projects

Footprint Casting

Footprint Match-Up

Webelos Den Leaders Breakout

Outdoorsman

Giant Knots

Knots of the Month

Artist

Committee Long Range Planning Executing the Plan - Part 3 of 3 part series

Special note - a bounty is being offered to units bringing 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!

May RT Agenda: June's Theme: A-Camping We Will Go

This month, Cub Scouts go camping! Have a backyard campout with your family. Pitch a tent or sleep out under the stars. Conduct a pack camp-out at a nearby Scout camp, state park, or even the local museum. An outdoor pack meeting might include a nature observation hunt followed by an evening around the campfire. Attend your council's Cub Scout or Webelos resident camp as a den or pack. Or, participate in the council's family camp with your whole family. Camping doesn't always mean overnight. Day camp is always lots of fun. Get those boys outdoors and let them discover the fun of camping while working on their Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award. Whatever you do, do it outside and find out what the outing in Scouting is all about. While out on the trail, you can work on the Map and Compass belt loop and pin or the Astronomy belt loop and pin.

March 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 14 April.

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 406, 408 [2], 415 [3], 419 [2], 433, 436 [2], 450, 457 [4], 462 [2], 480 [2], 505, 508, 581, 606

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

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

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

Please join us in celebrating the following First-Timers:

Name	Position	Unit
First Timers		
Robin Melnick	Assistant Cubmaster	P415
Qingfeng Shu		T453
Amy Yao		T453
Min Heh		T452
Jolene Soares	Committee Chairman	P419
Benson Chan	Assistant Den Leader	P433

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.

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 May issue is 8 May. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

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.

Telescope Kits for Ordering

To promote the International Year of Astronomy 2009, three non-profit organizations (the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the American Astronomical Society, and the International Astronomical Union) have collaborated to design and produce an inexpensive, good-quality, educational telescope.

The "Galileoscope" is an improved version of Galileo's original refractor telescope. The telescope kit sells for the remarkable price of \$15 and it begins shipping in April.

For more information, visit the Galileoscope project website at: <https://www.galileoscope.org/gs/>

2008 Quality Units

Congratulations to all of the units that satisfied their commitments to earn either the 2008 Centennial Quality Unit Award or the 2008 Centennial Plus Quality Unit Award. It's through your efforts that we are able to offer the youth of our community the program that they deserve. We look forward to honoring even more units next year.

Packs: 127, 406, 408, 415, 419, 426, 433, 443, 444, 452, 453, 454, 457, 462, 468, 476, 480, 492, 504, 505, 522, 549, 566, 581

Troops: 127, 400, 407, 408, 443, 452, 453, 454, 457, 463, 466, 468, 476, 479, 485, 494, 495, 498, 508, 535, 566, 581

Crews: 443, 479, 494

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@yahoogroups.com
