I take pride every day in our Scouting youth, and the outstanding commitment of our volunteer leaders. I also take pride when our cumulative efforts result in our joint recognition. Just a few months ago, in June 2017, the Long Beach Area Council was named to Charity Navigator’s list of Top 10 Charities Worth Watching, with a 99.67 rating out of 100. Introducing the top ten, Charity Navigator said “… a number of lesser known charities are truly exceptional.” Although the Boy Scout brand is recognized nationally, it is truly something special to have Long Beach ranked #1 of all 270 councils nationwide.

Charity Navigator is the nation’s top charity rating agency that rates charities on financial health, accountability and transparency. Its ratings show donors how efficiently they believe a charity will use donor support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time, and its level of commitment to being accountable and transparent.

To put this rating into perspective, there are over 1.5 million non-profits in the United States. While many of them are not registered with Charity Navigator, the vast bulk of them are. The Long Beach Area Council’s Top 10 rating puts us at the tiny pinnacle of an enormous stack – and the only local Council in the country to achieve this honor.

Summer Camp: It Never Gets Old

On Thursday, July 20, five Council board members and several community partners were treated to a special tour of Camp Tahquitz. Each leg of the tour, which took about five hours total, was led by a camp staff member who described how each area worked and passed along notes of interest concerning their activities.

As the group talked among themselves on the way home, a couple themes emerged, starting with the Camp’s “timeless” nature. With the woodcarving and knot tying, the wall climbing and the horses, the kids could have been their parents or grandparents. The woods, the meadow, the lake and the trails felt like they’d been there for eons.

But the second theme was a recognition of the Camp’s ongoing efforts to adapt those iconic features to the realities of a 21st century environment. True, scouts still take backcountry trail hikes, but they do so today incorporating the principles of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. The lake is undergoing “rehabilitation” to correct the serious damage caused by the 7-year drought. And, the infamous climbing wall has been updated to accommodate today’s Scouts with physical or mental disabilities. In fact, according to the activity counselors, the C.O.P.E. course has been used to teach conflict resolution between competing street gangs – another distinctly modern adaptation.

In the end, what everyone agreed was that Camp Tahquitz is simply an extraordinarily beautiful place where kids, under the careful eye of seasoned adult and Scout counselors, can learn to ride a horse, shoot a rifle, weave a basket and most of all, stretch all of their muscles – both physical and emotional. It’s a place of challenge, tremendous impact, and youthful camaraderie.

Like Brigadoon, it emerges from the mountainside, and once inside, it just keeps on going. But, unlike Brigadoon, it’s not frozen in time. Just like its Scouts keep changing with the world around them, so does Camp Tahquitz. And that’s what will keep it fresh and an annual source of wonder and lifelong memories for Scouts for generations to come.

Continued on back page
Capital Campaign Update

The Council is proud to announce that its $2.5 million capital campaign is down to its last $300,000 gap. Launched in 2014 with a $750,000 matching grant from AS&F Foundation, the campaign is to fund the construction of a new Dining Hall at Camp Tahquitz. The dining hall will double as a training center during non-meal hours. The Council met the match challenge in August 2015.

The next milestone was to have 80% of the budget in hand in order to start construction, a requirement the Council met in the spring of this year with an additional, one-time grant from AS&F Foundation. With that funding in hand, permits were pulled, final drawings have been submitted and road-widening is underway.

Several capital requests are pending with potential grantors to provide the last piece of funding, and the new Dining Hall is anticipated to be open and operational in time for the 2018 summer camping season. Anyone interested in being a part of this key addition to the enduring legacy of Camp Tahquitz with a donation, please contact Marc Bonner, Development Director, at (562) 427-0911. You can also make a one-time or recurring gift online at www.longbeachbsa.org/hall.

Maui Diamond Adds Glamour to the Council’s Fleet

On August 1, the Long Beach Sea Scout Ship 550 added to its fleet the incomparable Maui Diamond, donated by the Satariano and Miller families. Owner-built, and reminiscent of 1930’s elegance with its teak accents, for years the Maui Diamond occupied the “prestige slip” at the Yacht Club. Although it was treasured by three generations, the Miller’s and Satariano’s decided it was time for the yacht to sail under different owners.

Appearance notwithstanding, the Maui Diamond is a serious, ocean-ready vessel, which is what makes it so valuable to the Sea Base sailing program. By taking ownership on August 1, Ship 550 became responsible for its upkeep and manning the boat on all future travels. The Maui Diamond will represent to its Scout crews a giant leap forward in on-the-job training in navigation and seamanship.

Said Chris Macy, Director of Sea Base, “Maui Diamond was built and lived solely in Alamitos Bay and there is no better next chapter than being a fantastic training platform for youth seamanship and boatworks. She is a gorgeous addition to the Long Beach Squadron and coupled with the newly refurbished SSS Conquest 49’ powerboat and beautifully maintained ketch SSS Calypso, the Squadron has some serious curb appeal.”

The donation of the Maui Diamond provided an added advantage to the Council, who had never before accepted so large an item. Many legal and logistical questions needed to be worked out to make the transfer a reality. In figuring out the logistics of the Maui Diamond donation, the Council became able to receive other large donations, which according to Chris Macy, is already beginning to open doors for future donations of this magnitude.

Editor’s Note: Since the Maui Diamond transfer, previous owner and boat builder John Miller passed away. We are saddened by the news and are so grateful to Mr. Miller and his family for their vision. We intend to honor his legacy to the best of our ability.
In The Spotlight: Dave Alexander

Like the Prodigal Son, Dave Alexander, Founder of Caljet and Long Beach native son, has come home to Scouting after an absence of several decades. And, while he admits to missing Scouting every now and then, he couldn’t be happier now.

Dave’s connection to Scouting began with his dad, who joined the Long Beach Scouts in 1914, five years before Scouts in Long Beach were officially formed under the Council in 1919. “He never talked about it,” Dave says of his dad, “but he lived it. He lived the Scout law. He was trustworthy, loyal to his family, a hard worker. And, he looked so normal doing it.”

Dave joined when he was eight, sailing through Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts to become an Eagle Scout at age 13. He credits his success to two men – his Troop 113 Scoutmaster Orin Dyer (“He was an amazing man. He earned your respect because he could do anything, and he never raised his voice.”), and the man who would go on to become his best friend, Jim DeLong, Chief of the Tribe of Tahquitz (’62-’63). Although Dave wanted to become a Scout Executive, the demands of his growing career as a magician kept him from getting a college degree, a requirement at the time.

The next several decades were consumed with Dave building his own company that became Caljet. **Today, it’s the largest independent petroleum facility of its kind in the Southwest.** In the process, he moved to Arizona, where he and his family still live. During this time, he also developed expertise and lots of experience participating in and organizing triathlons, a sport he still engages in at age 72.

Recently, Dave was honored by the National council of the Boy Scouts of America. Three venues at The Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia were named in his honor, which was commemorated at the 2017 National Jamboree in July. Poignantly, the entire Jamboree Troop from Long Beach was there to join in the ceremony. The Troop’s Senior Patrol Leader presented Mr. Alexander with a beautifully framed patch set on behalf of the Long Beach Jamboree contingent.

Dave credits the Scouts for honing his leadership skills, and the ability to communicate with people of all different types, which contributed mightily to his success in business. Dave already has plans to return to Long Beach for the 100th Anniversary celebrations “to talk to the Scouts of today.” What will he tell them? “Be passionate in everything you do and always do the best you can.” Welcome home, Dave.

Putting Enthusiasm to Work

Do you find yourself bending your neighbor’s ear about your son’s prowess with the bow and arrow? Or, explaining to your co-worker about the intricacies of tying a knot? Or maybe reminiscing quietly in your head about your dad’s Scouting experience. Or even your own days in Scouting as a youngster. The Council suggests you put your enthusiasm in motion by hosting a Cultivation Event for your own network of friends, coworkers, or neighbors.

The purpose of a Cultivation Event is to introduce your guests to the Long Beach Area Council and the benefits of Scouting. These events are not fundraisers, although we wouldn’t object if you took up a collection. It’s not about making money – it’s about making friends. It’s also about telling as many people as we can about the Council’s upcoming 100th Anniversary.

Pick your own theme, pick your own number of guests and menu. Have a backyard barbecue or a more formal affair around your dining room table. And, get the conversation started about the value of Scouting to our young men and boys; how it builds character, leadership and self-confidence. How it introduces Scouts to kids their own age from different cultures and different backgrounds. How Adult Leaders provide valuable mentorship to young people who crave it.

The Long Beach Area Council has been around for 98 years. In that time, it has served hundreds of thousands of local youth, many of whom continue to provide service to the community and the organization even today. Be that leader and help us get the word out to your own friends and neighbors about the value of Scouting.

If you’d like to host a Cultivation Event, please contact **Marc Bonner, Development Director,** at (562) 427-0911.
Scout Reunion Honors the Past and Looks to the Future

Council Scout reunions are always memorable, and the most recent reunion, held on August 12th and hosted by Rich Dempsey at the Petroleum Club, was no exception. Not content with just trading youthful camping stories, this reunion focused on the upcoming Council Centennial in 2019.

Scout Executive John Fullerton kicked-off the program by giving a preview of Centennial plans that are already underway. He announced that the theme of the celebration is *A Century of Scouting….the Adventure Continues.* Within that theme, the Committee will be focusing on three C’s: Celebrate, Connect, and Engage the Community. Each of the various activities will align with one of those headings.

Sandy Mayuga, past Council President and member of the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee, continued by explaining that the purpose of the centennial was to honor the boys and men who had made the Council’s last 100 years so memorable, and to form the foundation for the next 100 years.

Both speakers added that the purpose of this reunion was to recruit members for the Centennial Planning Committee and to solicit financial support to fund the celebration. Out of the 65 attendees, including 78-year old John Watts, a former Tribe staffer from the 1940’s, 26 people signed up to join the Celebration Committee in various ways.

From the Desk of John Fullerton

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This accomplishment is truly shared by everyone who contributes to the ongoing success of the Council and its work. It’s shared by our Board who has always demanded the highest standards of financial soundness and transparency. It’s shared by our volunteer leaders whose countless hours of service have allowed us to stretch donor dollars far beyond the laws of physics. And, it’s shared by our parents, grantors and friends who continue to honor us with their support that allows our programs to continue. Thank you all, and I hope that you feel as gratified as I do over this national recognition.

Ranked #8 on “Top 10 Charities Worth Watching” in the United States
June 2017

CONGRATULATIONS:
LONG BEACH AREA COUNCIL

*The highest rated council out of 270 councils across the country*