It’s a New Day in Scouting

The most enduring visual image of the Boy Scouts will always be one of Norman Rockwell’s prints which portrayed the Scouts at their most idealized – patriotic, pup tents, long sleeve uniforms, garrison caps, and helping the war effort. This was the Boy Scouts in the early 20th Century. It’s still the Boy Scouts, only more so.

Just as Norman Rockwell broadened his later paintings to include minority and international Scouts to reflect an updated reality, the Scouts today continue to respond to the ever-changing needs and circumstances of today’s youth.

Today, we recognize that providing adult mentors is crucial to our members from single parent families. While we continue to provide traditional educational and crafts training, our classes today also include STEM and computer gaming courses. Our merit badges recognize achievement in fields from composite materials to robotics as well as sustainability and programming. And, our Eagle Scout projects include the installation of security cameras and water-wise systems as often as construction of a church library or a military tribute to veterans.

Fall Marks the Return of Two Popular Events

The Big Shot Sporting Clays

Triple B Clays in South El Monte welcomed back the Long Beach Area Council on Saturday, October 10th for the second year of the Big Shot Event, a day of recreational shotgun shooting, good food, and lots of good natured competition.

Four-member teams gathered at 8:00 am on a blue sky, sunny day to kick off the tournament. Competitors received a safety briefing before heading out to take their stations at 9:00. Once the dust settled at 11:30, participants were anxious for a cold brew and lunch. Meanwhile, a silent auction of knives, flashlights, and sunglasses kept people hovering.

At the event’s end, awards were given for top shooters and top team. Dr. Bell’s team including Al Mellow, Joe Petro, and Brian Lineberger took home custom Big Shot embroidered Beretta shooting vests as winners of the 1st Place Overall Team and big shot bragging rights for a second year in a row!

The top female shooter was Venture Crew 550 member Jessie Ridgeway with a score of 45 out of 100. Not surprisingly, the top male shooter went to seasoned veteran Al Mellow with a score of 84 out of 100 clays. The top shooters took home a special trophy.

Long Beach Scout Executive John Fullerton summed up the day by saying, “Today’s event was really good. Everyone involved had a great time. Everyone I talked to said they can’t wait to come back next year with even more teams!”

An Evening with John Cook

Down the road at the historic Virginia Country Club, golf devotees and Scouting supporters gathered on October 28, 2015 for An Evening with John Cook, a professional golfer who won 11 times on the PGA Tour and was a member of the 1993 U.S. Ryder Cup Team. Celebrating with an Oktoberfest theme, the 41st annual event at the Virginia Country Club kicked off in the 95-year clubhouse with a beer tasting, and moved on to dinner and auction. But, the talk was all about golf – of course! John Cook shared stories of his long and highly successful pro career, and was happy to answer “how to” questions and pass along tips to the roomful of amateurs.

The event successfully raised funds for the benefit of more than 4,000 youth in the greater Long Beach Scouting programs. Our sincere thanks to the Virginia Country Club and to John Cook for another successful fundraiser at the club.
Camp Tahquitz Forest to Benefit from Natural Resources Conservation Grant

The dense forest in and around Camp Tahquitz in the San Bernardino Mountains will receive some much-needed TLC, funded by a $430,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Camping Director Glen Goddard, who prepared and submitted the application, said, “We are thrilled we got the grant. This is a huge step for preserving the natural beauty and safety of this one-of-a-kind camp. With grant funding, we will develop a Forest Management Plan that will include the full gamut of conservation practices. In some areas we will improve the forest stands within the camp to remove selected trees and vegetation that are adversely affecting healthy trees.”

“The Plan will also include forest trail and landings improvements, as well as fuel breaks or strips of land where vegetation and debris will be removed to create natural fire breaks on camp property.” Goddard concluded, “These improvements are as much about protecting the safety of today’s Scouts as they are about preserving this incredible resource for future generations.”

Goddard said that a private contractor will be hired to complete the actual work, which will require heavy equipment and power tools, and take three years to complete, beginning in the winter of 2016. Once the work is completed, Scouts visiting or staying at Camp Tahquitz will be involved with various conservation projects in camp, and will be able to visit various parts of the forest as part of the Forestry Merit Badge.

Camping Director Goddard is responsible for Camp Tahquitz Summer Camp, Camp Properties, Day Camps, and various weekend events held at camp and the Long Beach Sea Base.

Congratulations, Director Goddard! This is a big win for nature and for our Scouts!

Capital Campaign Challenge Met! On to Phase II

On September 9th, Scout Executive John Fullerton proudly informed the AS&F Foundation that the Council had met the foundation’s challenge of raising at least $750,000 to qualify for the matching grant of equal amount AS&F had issued in 2013. As of October 15, 2015 the Council has raised $788,422 from a total of 125 donors.

Said Fullerton, “as anyone who reads our newsletters and visits our website knows, this capital challenge has been one of the most critical fundraising endeavors we’ve ever engaged in. Thanks to the enormous commitment from our board and the generosity of Tribe of Tahquitz alumni and several foundations, we made the match. Now we move toward fully funding the project.”

The funding is to support the construction of a dining hall at Camp Tahquitz – work that is necessary to bring the camp into code compliance and increase the usability of the camp year-round. The project, estimated to cost $2.4 million, was kick-started with the challenge grant from AS&F which obligated the Council to raise at least that much before August 31st this year or lose the grant. With that challenge met, the next phase of the fundraising campaign will focus on raising $500,000 in order to break ground – another requirement of the challenge grant.

“We anticipate that we will be going in for permitting late this fall, and, weather permitting, hope to break ground in late spring, 2016. Our timeline is to have the new dining hall open by summer 2017,” explained Fullerton.

The board, staff, volunteers and Scouts want to thank each of the 125 donors who got the project this far. As space precludes us from listing everyone, the list below is donors $1,000 and up. For a complete list, please visit the dining hall webpage at www.longbeachbsa.org/dininghall

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS

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Scouts! This is a big win for Director Goddard! Congratulations, Tahquitz Summer Camp, Camp Properties, Day Camps, of the forest as part of the Forestry Merit Badge. Once the work is completed, Scouts visiting or staying at Camp complete, beginning in the winter of 2016. Once the equipment and power tools, and take three years to improvements, as well as fuel breaks or strips of vegetation and debris will be removed to create natural fire breaks on camp property.” Goddard land where vegetation and debris will be removed to protecting the safety of today’s Scouts as they are about preserving this incredible resource for future generations.”

Through the years, Randy has had an opportunity to watch the Area Council evolve and grow. “I think the Long Beach Area Council has a great future and I give big kudos to John Fullerton for that. When he came in, he and the board had to make some tough decisions, which turned out to be the right ones. “After all,” he continued, “making hard decisions is something you want your Scouts to learn. Life’s not always easy. Sometimes you have to make a tough call.”

As the current owner of Harbor Chevrolet, Randy says Chevrolet and Scouting are part of his DNA. “Harbor Chevrolet has been a family-owned business since 1956, when my grandfather bought out his partner who had founded it in 1923. When the Council approached me to host this year’s Pinewood Derby for the Cubs, I said ‘of course.’ That’s what we do. Chevrolet’s all about cars – including race cars like the Corvette. And, even though we’re a 7-day-a-week business, the staff was all over it.”

From all accounts, the April 18, 2015 Pinewood Derby, won by Owen D. of Pack 206, was a huge success. Over 200 Cub Scouts, family members and friends packed into Harbor Chevrolet for a full day of competition and festivities. “At times, “Randy said,” you couldn’t even get close to the track, it was so jammed.”

Randy, who still lives in Long Beach with his wife of 36 years, thinks he’ll be involved with Long Beach Scouting as long as he has the opportunity. “I like what Scouting teaches young men,” he explained. “It teaches them values, to work hard, how to work, a code of ethics. And, while many organizations, including church, teach values and ethics, Scouting gives young men the opportunities to put those values into action through leadership, setting and achieving goals, and accountability.”

Corporate Sponsor Spotlight:

Harbor Chevrolet

Randy Johnson grew up surrounded by three things – Long Beach, Chevrolets and Scouting, and he’s never left any of them. “I’ve been with the Council in one way or another for 49 years,” Randy said. “I joined the Scouts in 1966 at the age of 12. Scouting has always been a part of our family. My dad achieved Eagle in 1938. I became an Eagle in 1968, and my youngest son advanced to Eagle Scout in 1998.”

 foundations.

We thank all of these institutions, old and new, for their support of the Council, and particularly the young men it serves.
Press-Telegram Readers Send Scouts to Camp

Many of the Scouts who attended Camp Tahquitz this summer were able to do so thanks to the generosity of 400 Press-Telegram readers who donated to the newspaper’s Send-A-Kid-to-Camp program. In partnership with the Long Beach Community Foundation, the Press-Telegram raised over $70,000 on behalf of five youth organizations: Boy Scouts, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Camp Fire, and the Girl Scouts.

Marc Bonner, the Council’s development director, acknowledged how important donors are to Scouts going to camp. “The kids who go to attend camp, “he said, “see the sun rise over a mountain, set up a tent, cook outdoors and form meaningful relationships with adults and peers often for the first time in their lives.”

Each week, Camp Tahquitz was filled with tough mental and physical challenges in a wide range of outdoor activities, including horseback riding, archery, canoeing, rifle shooting, rowing, hiking, and climbing a 45-foot wooden tower if the Scout had the nerve.

This summer, a total of 923 Boy Scouts attended week-long resident camp at Camp Tahquitz in the San Bernardino Mountains between July and August. Another 645 Scouts learned hands-on skills in more than 40 topics including kayaking, small boat sailing, moviemaking, personal management, citizenship in the community, and environmental science at the Aquatics Day Camp held at the Long Beach Sea Base. And, not be outdone, Cub Day Camp drew 142 Cub Scouts who created model airplanes, shot paint filled balloons with arrows, played quidditch on custom brooms, and enjoyed a huge inflatable water slide.

Camping Director Glen Goddard summed up the importance of camping to the Scouts and Cubs by saying, “These camp experiences and challenges shape a boy into a young man of skill and leadership abilities.”

All Scouts who attended one of the three camps would enthusiastically agree that it was an experience that will stay with them their whole lives. Our thanks to everyone who made this experience possible.