



# Troop Tidings

February, 2016  
Volume 13, Issue 2

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**Troop 805**  
**Danville, CA**

## Intermediate Backpacking Trip February 27-28



Reminder: the deadline (February 9) is fast approaching if you'd like to join us on an adventurous overnight backpack trip through three local regional parks. We'll cover over 2000 vertical feet, climbing through some fantastic country.

Saturday: five mile hike into Round Valley Regional Preserve, and camping overnight at Round Valley Group Campground.

Sunday: eight mile hike through the Los Vaqueros Watershed and into Morgan Territory Regional Preserve.

If you wish to use this outing for Cooking or Camping Merit Badge requirements, you must let us know *immediately!*

More [information](#) and [permission slip](#) are online. Contact Mr. Gary with any questions.



## Kiwanis Service Project

By Mr. Matsunaga

Our troop sponsor, the Kiwanis Club, is again working with the annual middle school Youth 2 Youth Conference. As in years past, they will be providing a breakfast for the conference counselors. All second year and older scouts are invited and encouraged to attend this outing and support our sponsors and in the process earn some service hours.

- Event: Kiwanis Breakfast for Youth 2 Youth Conference
- Date: Saturday, March 6
- Time: 6:30-8:30/9:00
- Place: Dougherty Valley High School
- Activity: Help prepare and serve breakfast for conference counselors and whatever else is needed
- Restrictions: Second year and above scouts

Even more details [here](#).

Mark your calendars and join us in having some fun while doing service and supporting our sponsors.

[Permission slips](#) due no later than the troop meeting on Tuesday, March 1.



**This Month's Theme:****Winter Activities****Outings****Snow Fun****When:** Feb 13-15**Where:** Donner Summit Sno Park**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Huen**Intermediate Backpacking****When:** February 27-28**Where:** Round Valley Regional Preserve**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Gary**Permission Slip Due:** February 9, 2016**Meetings**

February 2 – Troop Meeting

February 9 – Troop Meeting

February 16 – Troop Meeting

February 23 – PLC / BOR

February 25 – Roundtable

February 11 – ASM Meeting

**Shooting Sports Day**

Sharpen your Marksmanship Skills! BSA Rangemasters will open the Rifle, Shotgun and Archery Ranges for Scouts to practice their marksmanship skills.



The day will begin with check in at 8:30am. Stations will begin at 9:00am and run until 4:00pm, with a one hour lunch break from 12-1pm food will not be provided bring your own lunch.

**When:**

Saturday, Mar 5, 2016

**Where:**

Ranchos Los Mochos, 18450 Mines Rd Livermore. ([Map](#))

**Who's Eligible:**

Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers

**Cost:**

\$30 program fee per Boy Scout  
\$10 per person late fee after 2/27/15

**Registration:**

Get more [details](#) and [register](#).

Also, Shooting Sports [Permission Slip](#) is required upon check in.

SFBAC [Refund Policy](#) applies

Make sure you have Parts A & B BSA medical [forms](#).

After registering and paying, please email [Mr. Huen](#) and let him know.

**Have you heard?**

The Mount St. Helena overnighter has been rescheduled to March 12-13, 2016.

A hike to Mount St. Helena and an overnighter at Bothe-Napa Valley state park. We will also tour a Petrified Forest! This is an 11-mile round trip hike, with an elevation gain of 1,384 feet. At 4,343 feet, Mt. St. Helena is the highest peak in the East Bay. Completing the hike earns you the Mt. St. Helena leg of the Rim of the Bay hike series.

**Meet:** Saturday, March 12th  
7:30AM at Sycamore Park & Ride

**Pickup:** Sunday, March 13th  
3:30PM at Sycamore Park & Ride

**Cost:** \$110, with optional [Rim of the Bay patch](#) (\$5.50) and Mt Saint Helena rocker (\$1.50)

**Attire:**

- Class B uniform is to be worn traveling to and during the hike.
- Class A is to be worn during the Petrified Forest tour and the return trip home.

**Required:** [Permission slip](#) due 03/01/2016 at Troop Meeting.

Contact [Mr. Chan](#) with questions.

## Next Month's Theme: Shooting Sports

### Outings

#### Kiwanis Service Project

**When:** March 5  
**Where:** Dougherty Valley High School  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Matsunaga

#### Shooting Sports Day

**When:** March 5  
**Where:** Ranchos Los Mochos  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Huen

#### Mt. Saint Helena

**When:** March 12-13  
**Where:** Mt Saint Helena  
**Adult in Charge:** Mr. Chan

### Meetings

March 1 – Troop Meeting/New Family Orientation

March 8 – Troop Meeting/Parent Meeting

March 15 – Troop Meeting

March 22 – Troop Meeting

March 29 – PLC / BOR

March 31 – Roundtable

March 10 – ASM Meeting

## Reminder: New Boy Scout Requirements in 2016



Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, there are [new requirements](#) for Boy Scouts – Scout to First Class. Troop 805 will be implementing the new requirements for all incoming new scouts. For existing scouts, the transition plan is as follows:

- Boys registered in a troop on or before Dec. 31, 2015, who are **working on Tenderfoot through First Class ranks**, may continue to use the old requirements through 2016, but they must convert to the new requirements upon attaining the First Class rank.
- Boys registered in a troop, team, crew or ship on or before Dec. 31, 2015, who have **completed the First Class rank** may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then must convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks. (For example, a First Class Scout working on Star can finish Star with the old requirements but must use the new ones for Life.)
- Any boy registering in a troop for the first time **on or after Jan. 1, 2016**, must use the new requirements.

The [new scout handbooks](#) are available now. New [pages](#) to insert into older books are also available.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chan.



## Two March Parent Meetings

*By Dr. Laubach*

We will have TWO parent meetings in March!

Tuesday March 1st, we'll have a New Family Orientation geared toward the incoming T805 families that are bridging over from Webelos, but all are welcome to attend.

On Tuesday March 8th, we'll have our regular T805 Parent meeting. Both meetings will be right after flags in the library. All parents are encouraged to attend!



## Coming in April...

- Scout Skills
- Sunol Backpacking
- Del Valle Backpacking
- ...and more!

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**New T805 Parent Support Group...your helping hand is appreciated!**

*By Dr. Laubach*



We are creating a support group to help the parents of the new scouts transitioning into T805. We need current T805 parent volunteers to assist with this initiative. Please email me at [cc@Troop805.org](mailto:cc@Troop805.org) if you can lend a helping hand.

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**How to Sleep With the Fishes  
...and Live to Talk About it**



*By Mr. Jasty*

Hello Troop! We have an exciting sleepover, one like no other, coming up on Friday, May 27th. You will get to sleepover in the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Friday night and explore more on Saturday. There will be activities for you both Friday evening and Saturday morning. This is extremely popular and space is limited.



If you are interested please email Mr. Jasty at

[cjasty@gmail.com](mailto:cjasty@gmail.com)

or Mrs. Wong at

[harperiwong@gmail.com](mailto:harperiwong@gmail.com)

as soon as possible. We need a firm headcount by March 20th. This is Memorial Day weekend (no school Monday) so let's make it memorable! Cost is \$85 and includes a late night snack and breakfast the next morning, and aquarium admission on Saturday.

## Educational Series: Winter Activities...February 2016 Theme

By Dr. Laubach, Adapted from *Boy's Life*

### Fun Games to Play in the Snow

Winter camping is serious business. You know the routine: Dress properly, build the right kind of shelter (or buy the right kind of tent), eat the right kind of food and drink plenty of water.

Dress in layers, watch your buddies for frostbite, don't leave your water bottle in the snow overnight, and, whatever you do, do NOT allow yourself to get wet. If you do, change into dry clothes immediately!

Yes, there are a lot of rules, but that doesn't mean you can't have some serious fun, too. Snow camping provides a good opportunity for activities unique to this time of the year.

Here are a few activities we came up with. Can you think of more?



#### TUG OF WAR

Try a tug of war with a twist — the losing team crashes through a wall of snow.

It's easy enough to execute. Build a wall of snow at least chest high, split into two teams with hands on opposite ends of a rope and start pulling.

Overachievers will build a taller wall, get it nice and compact, then carve out a hold through which the rope can run.

#### SNOW BASEBALL

Set up a baseball diamond with a mound of snow representing home plate and first, second and third bases. Place an empty water bottle on the top of each mound.

The "pitcher" stands in the middle of the diamond and hurls snowballs first a home plate, then around the bases. Whoever knocks down the bottles with the fewest pitches wins.



#### RACING

It's one of the oldest sports of all time, but snow adds a whole new element. In the snow, you don't race on your feet.

Instead, try scooting on cross-country skis, sleds, skates and, if you're really cool, your belly.

You can also try sliding down a slight incline on garbage-can lids, inner tubes, plastic flying disks or heavy cardboard.



## SNOW GOLF

Take some time to smooth out a “fairway” and a “green.” Take an open can and plant it in the snow—this is the hole.

For golf balls, use hockey pucks. For clubs, use hockey sticks or real golf clubs.

## ALASKA SERUM RACE

The doctor needs this serum in order to save the patient, and time is running out.

Split into patrols of two or more Scouts. Each patrol gets a sled with a rope tied to the front.

All patrols must transport the “serum” to the doctor by crossing four stations (landmarks spread across the campsite). Each patrol starts with one Scout pulling the rest on the sled. At each station, the Scouts rotate so a different one is doing the pulling.

First patrol to reach the doctor wins.

For an added twist, compete as individuals, and make the serum a cup of water filled to the brim that sits on the sled. If the serum spills, you’re done.



## SNOW CARVING

The snowmen you built as kids aren’t good enough anymore. We demand a masterpiece.

Split into patrols and compete in a snow-carving competition. Out of a mound of snow, create a work of art. (Hint: It doesn’t have to be a sculpture of a person.)

The patrol with the most creative snow sculpture (as judged by the unbiased adult leaders) wins the competition.

## Educational Series: Winter Activities...February 2016 Theme

By Dr. Laubach, Adapted from *Boy's Life*

### 3 Fun Wintertime Projects to do When it's Cold Outside

**SAFETY FIRST:** Ask an adult to help with tools you haven't used before.

When Old Man Winter bares his cold, sharp icicle fangs, don't turn into an indoor flake. Bite back!

Here are three cold-weather projects to sink your teeth into during winter and walk away with a few cool souvenirs.

#### MAKE A SNOWFLAKE FOSSIL



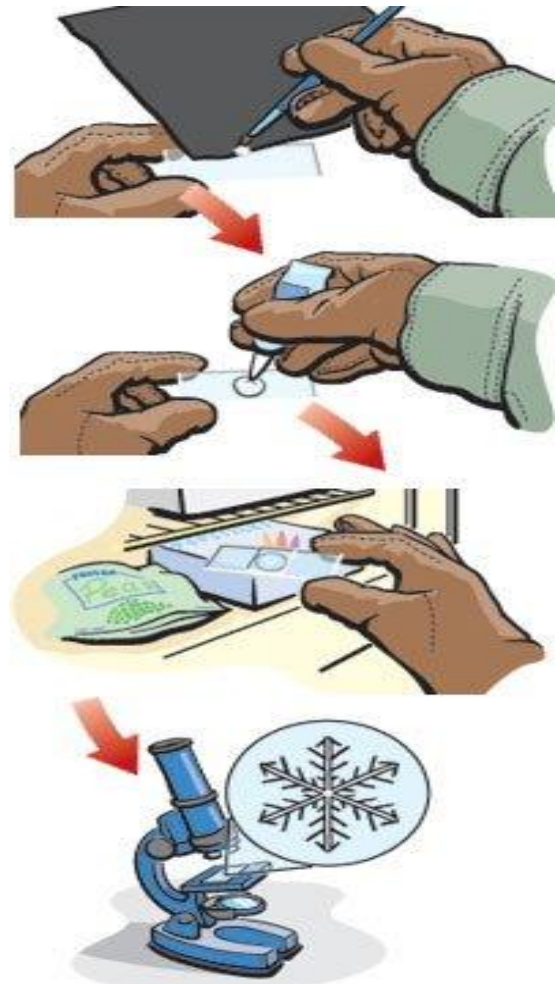
A tiny, one-of-a-kind snowflake lands on your coat sleeve. You look; you breathe; it's gone. How can you make a flake stick around longer?

Try superglue. It can seep into small spaces, and trace amounts of water cause it to harden. Put these properties to work and make a lasting snow crystal "fossil."

On a snowy day, pre-chill a tube of superglue (not the gel kind) and some glass slides and cover slips outside. Be sure to read the safety precautions on the glue's label before you start. Catch some snow on a dark surface. Find a crystal you like and move it to the middle of a glass slide. "Use a small paintbrush or a toothpick," says snowflake expert Dr. Kenneth Libbrecht. "The crystals are delicate, and metal tweezers can conduct heat from your fingers."

Cover the flake with a drop of superglue. Touching only its sides, gently place a cover slip over the glue. It can take as long as a week for the glue to completely set. Until then, protect the snow crystal by storing your slide in the freezer.

Later, view your snowflake "fossil" with or without a magnifying lens or microscope.

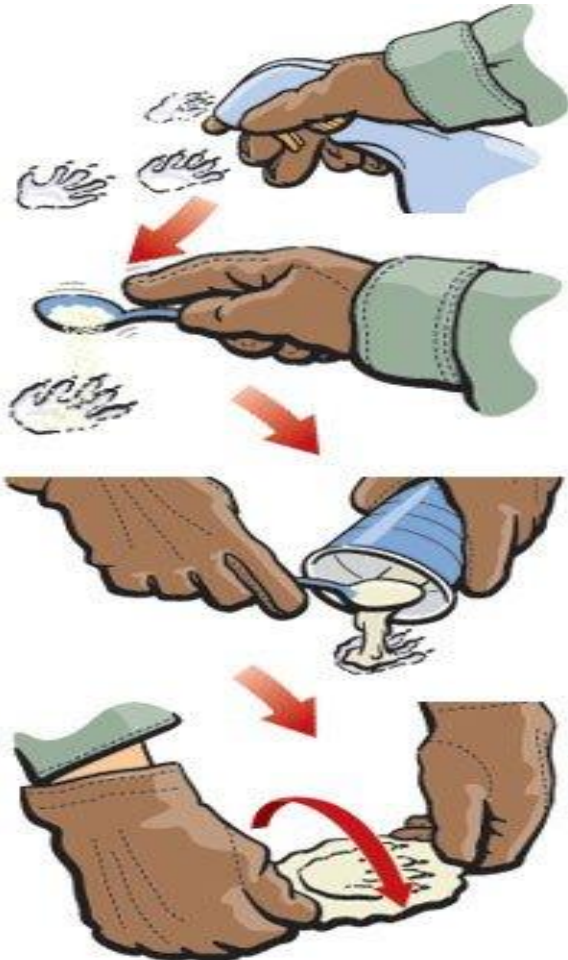


## MAKE A PLASTER CAST OF ANIMAL TRACKS



A blanket of snow covers the ground: It's prime time for animal tracking. So why does your cast of that picture-perfect raccoon print look like it came from an eight-toed alien?

Don't give up just yet. Making plaster casts of tracks in snow is tricky but not impossible.



Before you cast, reinforce the track so it can stand up to the weight of the plaster. If the snow is wet, dust it with some powdered plaster and let it set. If the snow is dry and powdery, spray a mist of water over the track and wait for it to freeze. You can also try using Snow Print Wax — crime-scene investigators use it to collect evidence.

Plaster gives off heat as it hardens. When casting in snow, mix the plaster to the thickness of half-melted ice cream, adding some snow to cool it down. Pour from a short distance to minimize damage to the track.

If the plaster freezes before it sets, turn the cast track-side up and bring it inside to thaw and finish setting.

New to tracking or just want to brush up? Check out these books:

- “Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks” by Olaus J. Murie and Mark Elbroch (Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95 softcover)
- “Tom Brown’s Field Guide: Nature Observation and Tracking” by Tom Brown Jr. (Berkley Trade, \$14 softcover)
- “Field Guide to Tracking Animals in Snow” by Louise R. Forrest (Stackpole Books, \$16.95 softcover)

For younger readers:

- “Nature Detectives” by K.C. Kelley (A Boys’ Life DK Reader, DK Publishing, \$3.99 softcover)



## MAKE A HOARFROST SCULPTURE



Feeling artistic? Team up with the cold and make some hoarfrost. These large, fragile ice crystals might look complex, but they are easy to grow.

When temperatures are below freezing, set out an open pot of water. Put it somewhere that's wind-free, such as in an unheated shed or barn. Keep the water warm with a hotplate or other heat source. Position a tree branch or other object for the hoarfrost crystals to grow on a few feet above the water. Now wait patiently for at least a day.

The air temperature and amount of water vapor coming from your pot will affect how the hoarfrost crystals grow. You might end up with crystals that look scaly, feathery or needle-like.



Want to hold on to your natural masterpiece in warmer weather? Take a picture!

## TROOP 805 2015/2016 Outings Activities Calendar - Version 7

**November (Team Building/Radioactive Gummy Bears)**

- Webelos Open House (Tue:11/03)  
Scout: **TBD** - Adult: **J. Marshall**
- Indoor Rock Climbing (Sat:11/7- Sun: 11/8)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **TBD**
- Scouting for Food (Sat: 11/14 – Distribute Flyers – Sat 11/21 – Food Pickup) – OA Adult: **S. Yu, E. Laubach**
- Mini Golf (Sun: 11/15)  
Scout: **Brian L.** - Adult: **J. Garrahan**

**December (Science and Academics/Mutant Narwhals)**

- Exploratorium (Sat:12/12)  
Scout: **Sam M.** – Adult: **B. Miyao, H. Wong**

**January (Business/Yellow Jackets)**

- Mt. Saint Helena Camping/Hike (RESCHEDULED)  
Scout: **TBD** - Adult: **R. Chan**
- San Francisco Federal Reserve Tour (RESCHEDULED)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **S. Evans, S. Yu**

**February (Winter Activities/Flaming Arrows)**

- Snow Fun – Snow Shoe (Sat: 02/13 – Sun: 02/15)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **T. Huen**
- Intermediate Backpacking Training Hike/Camp Out (Sat 02/27 – Sun 02/28)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **T. Gary**

**March (Shooting Sports/Yellow Jackets)**

- Kiwanis Service – (Sat: 03/05– OA )  
Adult: **N. Matsunaga**
- Shooting Sports Day (Sat: 03/05)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **M. Hudson**
- Mt. Saint Helena Camping/Hike (Sat: 03/12 – Sun: 03/13)  
Scout: **TBD** - Adult: **R. Chan**

**April (Backpacking/Goodmen)**

- Scout Skills (Fri: 04/01 – Sun: 04/03)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **R. Chan, D. Benveniste**
- School Service Project (Tue 04/05) – OA – Adult **J. Ghatta**
- Sunol Beginner Backpacking (Sat: 04/16 – Sun: 04/17)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **S. Kim, D. Benveniste**
- Intermediate Sunol to Del Valle Backpacking (Sat: 04/16 - Sun: 04/17)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **T. Gary**
- Meridian Camporee (Fri: 04/29 – Sun: 05/01)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **R. Chan**

**May (Animal Science/Cobras)**

- Fages II Training Hike (Sat: 05/07)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **K. Chan**
- Yosemite – (RESCHEDULED)  
Scout: **Jimmy B.** – Adult: **S. Evans, J. Garrahan**
- Monterey Bay Aquarium (Fri: 05/27- Sat: 05/28)  
Scout: **Jacob L.** – Adult: **C. Jasty, H. Wong**
- Art & Wind Festival – Flag Ceremony (Mon 05/30) – OA  
Adult: **E. Laubach, Y. Yamada**
- Relay for Life (Sat 05/20 – Sun: 05/22) – OA Adult: **B, Miyao, A. Mo**

**June (Climbing and Exploration/Dragons)**

- Fages II (Sat 06/04) – OA – Adult: **K. Chan**
- Spelunking/Campout (Sat: 06/11 – Sun: 06/12)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **T. Huen**
- **Camp Wente Summer Camp (Sun 06/26 – Sat 07/02) (R. Chan)**

**July (Aquatics/Huskies)**

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade (Mon 07/04) – OA - Adult: **P. Alexander**
- Sea Kayaking (Fri 07/08 – Sun 07/10)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **TBD**
- **Northern Tier (Sat: 07/23 – Tue: 08/2)**  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **T. Gary, S. Evans**
- Donner Fishing (Fri: 07/22 – Sun: 07/24)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **D. Benveniste, H. Wong, Y. Yamada**

**August (Cardiovascular Fitness/Goodmen)**

- Troop Olympics (Tue 08/02)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **R. Chan**
- Pt. Reyes (Fri: 8/12 – Sun 8/14)  
Scout: **Nolan Y.** – Adult: **P. Alexander**

**September (Citizenship/Wolverines)**

- 9/11 Memorial Service (09/11) – OA – Adult: **E. Laubach**
- Fall Camp Out (Fri 09/16 – Sat: 09/17)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **A. Mo**
- Advance Camp – (Sat 09/24) – Adult: **E. Laubach**

**October (Navigation/Wolverines)**

- Camping and Orienteering “Scouting O” (Fri 10/14 – Sun 10/16)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **S. Kim**
- San Jose Tech Museum (Sat: 10/22)  
Scout: **TBD** – Adult: **C. Jasty, Y. Yamada**

Rev. 1/22/16

