

Mesa Varsity Huddle Holler

The 2009 Mogollon Rendezvous is upon us!

By John Buck aka "Buckshot"



Waah Pilgrims! It is time for the RENDEZVOUS!!!!

I hope your teams are ready and have all your capotes and knives and medicine bags and leather pants and and and... I know sometimes it can seem overwhelming to prepare for a big event like the Rendezvous but remember this is meant to be FUN! Encourage your young men to prepare and make it the best they can.

This is only my fourth Rendezvous and I am extremely excited. But, I have seen boys who do not have the vision and are extremely negative about the preparation and effort being put into this activity. I can say this. EVERY time I have seen this attitude from a young man, I have watched it dissolve at the Rendezvous. This activity has the ability to change young men, to get them enthused and bring a team together as a team. I have seen it, and so will you. Have the boys stop by the Dutch Oven Outpost...ask for Buckshot and I am sure to have something for them to eat!

Also, coaches **PLAN YOUR SATURDAY AT THE RENDEZVOUS!!!!** It is not just a day to pack up and leave. There is the Colter Run on Saturday Morning and more importantly the Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 12:00pm. (After the Colter Run.) This is the time that the outposts and staff get to recognize teams and hand out prizes. You have to be there to win. There were a lot of prizes that didn't get handed out last Rendezvous because the teams had packed up and left before the ceremony. I'm not talking about candy bars either. I know for a fact that there were GPS units and dutch ovens (among other great prizes) that went unclaimed.

Do you want to miss the opportunity to have your team recognized and deprive your boys from some hard earned prizes? Of course you don't. So I plan on seeing you all at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday @ 12:00pm.

On a separate note there are Scouter specific firearms trainings coming up.

NRA Shotgun and Range Safety Officer Classes

NRA shotgun Instructor Class - Saturday March 7 from 8-6 at Rio Salado Range (\$125)

NRA RSO class - Thur/Fri March 12-13 from 5-8 each night at Rio Salado Range. (\$100)

You will need a check or credit card for NRA application fees. Contact Jim Neff at 480-794-0424 or www.generationsfirearms.com

This month's huddle:

- Climbing/Rappelling
- Cycling
- Fire Starting
- Silver Axe
- Safe Swim

Varsity Pledge

As a Varsity Scout, I will:

Live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan;

Honor the dignity and worth of all persons;

Promote the cause of freedom.



Useful Links for more info

WWW.MESA VARSITY.ORG

RENDEZVOUS.MESA VARSITY.ORG

WWW.GRANDCANYONBSA.ORG

Coming Attractions:

- 3/19-3/21 RENDEZVOUS!!
- 4/2 Varsity Huddle
- 4/10-4/11 Eastern AZ Varsity/Venture Triathlon
- 4/23-4/25 Climb on Safely Course—contact Craig Anderson for more info—cdanderson@lopezappraisal.com—480-821-5949

The Development of Varsity Scouting—Part 2

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Program Development

Dr. Mortensen formed a Task Force in 1975. He asked at least five other men to assist him in his effort, namely: Alva D. Greene, Ross J. Taylor, Boyd R. Ivie, Burton F. Brasher and Verl L. Stark.

Alva D. Greene had retired as an executive with the J.C. Penney Company and recently moved back to Utah to pursue new business interests. Alva served for a time as the Great Salt Lake Council's President. Alva was later asked to serve as the first Area President of what was then Area 2 in the BSA's Western Region. Dr. Mortensen asked him to help with creating Varsity Scouting while he was serving in that position.

Ross J. Taylor was a Professional Scouter who had been the Scout Executive for the Great Salt Lake Council. Following a position working for the National Council, Ross accepted a position as Area Director of Area 2. Ross had enjoyed a distinguished career with the Boy Scouts of America and was a primary contributor to the development of Varsity Scouting.

Boyd R. Ivie, also a Professional Scouter, was then the Scout Executive for the Great Salt Lake Council. He later followed Ross Taylor as Area Director in Area 2 in the Western Region. Boyd and the others would work on creating different parts of the new program at home on their own, this after a full day's work.

Burton F. Brasher, like Dr. Mortensen a member of the Young Men General Board and a surgeon, was President of Area 2 following Alva Greene and had been instrumental in developing an earlier solution to the 3 Quorum/2 Program "problem". Burton made use of some Scouts Canada program literature developed for their Venture program to design the two-part Exploring program that preceded Varsity Scouting. Under that program, the Teachers were referred to as "Venture Explorers", and the Priests as "Ensign Explorers". Based on his knowledge and experience with that effort, JD tapped Burton to help with the development of the new Varsity Scouting program.

Verl L. Stark, a veteran Scouter, developed a passion for Scouting through his experience with Wood Badge. Verl served on several Wood Badge staffs and eventually became responsible for all of the Wood Badge courses in Area 2. Based on his excellent experience, he was asked to help with the development of Varsity Scouting and was a fine addition to the Task Force.

The Task Force labored to identify a program theme that would appeal to the young men in the targeted age group. They wanted a program that would encourage the young man to continue along the trail to Eagle, but one that would also encourage "bigger" and more challenging activities. They wanted it to be Scouting, but a version that would be viewed to be different than traditional Scouting. They wanted it to be more advanced, one that would hold the interest of a young man entering High School, a more "Senior" version of Scouting.

While driving together on their way to a Scouting function in Pocatello, Idaho, Dr. Mortensen proposed they call their program "Varsity Scouting". The name fit. Everyone in the car knew that it satisfied their requirements perfectly and the name was adopted on the spot. The unit would be called a "Team", the adult leader a "Coach", and the principal youth leader a "Captain". An award, the Varsity Scout Letter, was designated as the top award for Varsity Scouts.

Don't forget that back issues of the "Huddle Holler" are available at www.mesavarsity.org!

Lots of great information and resources are yours for the downloading.



The Task Force selected the colors [orange and brown], designed the uniforms [a tan polo shirt with a brown collar], and began the work of developing literature. No financial support was available from the National Council. None was offered from the Church. Dr. Mortensen paid the bulk of the costs that were required to get the program off of the ground. The total sum he paid is unknown, but it is generally accepted to have been tens of thousands of dollars.

Under the original program, Varsity Scouts were not allowed to wear the field uniform of tradition Boy Scouting. Lynn Larsen, wife of Professional Scouter Doug Larsen, and June Weise sewed the first Varsity Scout uniforms.

Despite the name, Varsity Scouting was never intended to be a strictly sports oriented program. The organizers wanted to include athletics as a part of the program, but they also wanted to include outdoor high-adventure and ample opportunities for service. As they pursued their vision of a well-rounded program, three important areas of responsibility for Team management began to emerge. Program Managers were defined to administer Advancement, High Adventure, and Service.

The Program Manager position was created to provide leadership opportunities to the young men and to allow a means of providing administrative oversight to the three critical areas that had been identified. Serving at the pleasure of the Team Captain, each Program Manager is made responsible for one of the three areas of concern.

The Team Committee structure was designed to parallel that of the Team itself. An adult serving on the Team Committee is expected to serve alongside each of the individual Program Managers in a

supporting role. Realizing the need to involve a greater number of adults, two more Program Manager positions were created, driving a requirement for at least five adults on the Team Committee.

This action spawned the focus on the five field of emphasis Varsity Scouting enjoys today. Although different from the original program design, the five fields are one of the most distinctive features of Varsity Scouting. They are:

1. Advancement
2. High Adventure
3. Service
4. Personal Development
5. Special Programs and Events

The Task Force divided responsibility for developing various sections of the program among themselves. Over the course of about a month, each section was completed and brought back to the group for review. Comments were made and a common vision emerged. Once the initial program design was finished, they began putting a plan together for moving forward.

In the spring of 1973, the Great Salt Lake Council held an Expo at the University of Utah. Glen Oliver, a Commissioner, had the idea to send a Boy Scout Troop to the top of nearby Mount Olympus with a signaling mirror. At a pre-determined time, the Scouts would signal the Expo as a demonstration to go along with the Signaling Merit Badge being offered. Doug Brewer was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 502, the unit that conducted this first On Target activity. Later, Doug Brewer and the activities surrounding Operation On Target both became synonymous with Varsity Scouting. Doug was the first Commissioner in the Great Salt Lake Council with responsibilities for Varsity Scouting. Operation On Target activities are held annually to this day.

To be continued next issue...

Booshway's Palaver

By Wayne Spencer



FROM THE LODGE OF THE BOOSHWAY

RIP SNORTIN

"Got Sand?"

This will be my final time to give you a message as the Booshway. The first Rendezvous was help back in 1819. It was put on by a large fur company wanting to bring the mountain men together to trade their pelts, show off their wares and demonstrate their skills. I'm sure it was common to hear statements like "he has hair of the bear" or "he has sand in his craw" given to those men who excelled above the rest. It is now my turn to make the call for the gathering of the Rendezvous. I look forward to spending these three days up on God's mountain with your young men. It has been fantastic serving as the Booshway for the 2009 Rendezvous. We as staff appreciate all of your efforts.

As a Team Coach please consider these last minute reminders:

1. Your Team Captain must have the following three items in his possession when he steps up to the registration table. TOUR PERMIT, PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS and CLASS 3 PHYSICALS for each young man participating. You can not participate without them PERIOD.
2. Your Team Captain should also know the number of their Team unit. Knowing this number will make your registration go faster.
3. Water bottle for each young man and adult. We will have water at the stations but no cups.
4. Registration starts at 8:00 am for Gold Card Teams and 9:00 am for all others.
5. Each person participating will need to fill out a FILM RELEASE FORM.
6. Each Team should have their own small first aid kit with head ache, upset stomach, band aids, sun screen, etc.
7. Parking for the Rendezvous is not in R-C it is at the Spring Creek Quarry. Look for signs showing where to go.
8. Remember your young men will be hiking into R-C from the parking lot, not riding.
9. Upon camp take down, make sure all sites are clean and all fires are dead out.
10. Absolutely no ashes in the dumpster. Please haul out all ashes.
11. Part of the Rendezvous experience is to participate in the Colter Run. All Teams are required to do so. Prove that you have "Hair of the Bear"
12. As a Team Coach it is your responsibility to stay with your Team through the closing program. Please support us by remaining with your Teams to the end.

Thanks for all you have done,

Rip Snortin'



Grand Canyon Council
 2969 N. Greenfield Rd.
 Phoenix, AZ 85016
 (602)955-7747

Mike Heaton
 Varsity Commissioner
 Phone: 480-969-5318
 Email: mikeheaton@cox.net

Laurie Anderton
 Varsity Training Chairperson
 Phone: 480-890-7282
 Email: laurie.anderton@vensureinc.com

Wayne Lines
 Varsity Huddle Commissioner
 Phone: 480-962-1385 WK: 480-833-4154
 Email: wamalines@hotmail.com

John Buck
 Varsity Scribe
 Phone: 480-545-4856 WK: 480-980-6481
 Email: jbuck.az@gmail.com

Articles Needed for Holler

Are your teams doing something exciting?

Have you some piece of information or advice that would be helpful to your fellow coaches?

Find something interesting online?

SHARE it with others! Write it up and send it to the District Varsity Scribe to be included in future issues of the 'Holler'.

Email it to jbuck.az@gmail.com

“A Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens.” - Baden Powell

Varsity Squad (Stake) Assistant District Commissioners

<u>Stake—Room Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Alta Mesa—15	Richard Latimer	480-985-2682		Richard_TL@msn.com
Central—11	Greg Morris	480-733-5203		greg@envirosapedesigns.com
Chandler Alma—13	Craig Anderson	480-831-5949	(w)480-838-7332	cdanderson@lopezappraisal.com
Citrus Heights—South Foyer	Keith Griffen	602-430-5092		kgriffin117@cox.net
Hermosa Vista—Nursery	Leonard Jones	480-649-8499	(c)480-707-8547	L1packaging@yahoo.com
Kimball—17	Trent Montague	480-649-4328	480-250-6679	trentmontague@cox.net
Kimball East—18	Dave Belnap	602-615-2335		ebelnap@juno.com
Lehi—4	Mike Zaccardi	480-827-1008	(w)602-803-1862	mike_zaccardi@msn.com
Maricopa—12	Val Whipple	480-833-8986		val.whipple@bocedwards.com
Maricopa North—5	Tom Cowley	480-659-9143	(w)602-770-9692	eldercowley@hotmail.com
Mesa—10	Mark Moffit	480-946-0652		moff328@aol.com
Mesa East—North Foyer	Kenneth Johnson	480-844-0303	(c)602-315-3219	kennethjohnson3@cox.net
Mesa North—8	Wayne Lines	480-962-1385	(w)480-833-4154	wamalines@hotmail.com
Mesa South—Overflow	Bob Backus	480-835-7135		bbackus@cox.net
Mesa West—Primary East	Craig Cuillard	480-491-1154		booda88@cox.net
Mountain View—9	Gail Goodman	480-830-6619		ggjbull@cox.net
Pueblo—6	Rohn Robinson	480-892-2080		rohn.robinson@roofusa.com
Salt River—Primary West	Brett McAvoy	480-236-4628		mcavoy@cox.net