



THE AKELA



March Pack Event: Conservation Project

2nd or 4th weekend in March - Time & Place TBD



The details for our annual pack conservation/clean-up project is still up in the air at print time. This year, there was no project at CP for our pack to undertake, so we have been looking into other local opportunities and are still waiting for responses. If you know of a suitable project, please contact Amy Kikugawa (lawyermom@gmail.com).

Note: If we cannot organize a project this month, we will go to Plan B: bowling at Monument Bowl on Sunday, March 25 @ 3:00 pm. So hold that date & time open on your calendar. We will announce our decision no later than March 15.

March Pack Meeting

Tues., Mar. 20, 7:00 pm @ Camino Pablo MUR

With January's Pinewood Derby and February's Blue & Gold, it seems like forever since we've had a traditional pack meeting! Well, we get back to our normal format this month and we have all sorts of awards just waiting to be handed out. We'll also see our Tiger den perform a skit, and maybe some surprise "entertainment" as well. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date: April Trail Trekker Hike

Sun., Apr. 22, 1-4 pm @ Sunol Regional Wilderness

April's pack outing will be our second Trail Trekker hike of the year in the serene hills of the Sunol Regional Wilderness. There will be two hike options - the "Little Yosemite" trail along the Alameda Creek, and the more challenging ascent up Flag Hill. The entire family is welcome.

Save the Bottle

This May we will be trying out an entirely new event for the pack. To make it work, though, we need your help! We need each family to save at least one 1 to 1.5 liter plastic soda bottle (not a water bottle). It's that simple! More details to come. . .



CUBMASTER'S MINUTE

You may have been wondering why there are often young Boy Scouts hanging about during our pack meetings or at your son's den meetings. These Boy Scouts are called "Den Chiefs."

Den Chiefs are scouts who have been selected by their troop's Scoutmaster and approved by our pack leaders to assist at den and pack meetings. They help us with room set up, activities, games and crafts, and generally serve as a role model for the Cub Scouts.

The den chief role is also a plus for the Boy Scout. He receives training for his position, then learns through experience how to lead, teach and be responsible and reliable. The den chief position also gives the scout an opportunity to serve in a leadership position - one of their rank requirements.

It's not always easy for the scout to be a den chief. They are still young and often unsure about themselves or their abilities. But they are all trying hard and learning valuable life lessons. So be sure to thank one of these Boy Scouts the next time you cross paths.

PACK 54 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 12	7:00 pm	Pack Committee Meeting	Pennini's Restaurant
March 20	7:00 pm	Pack Meeting JDI: Socks	Camino Pablo MUR
March 25	3:00 pm	Bowling*	Monument Bowl
April 9	7:00 pm	Pack Campout Planning Meeting	Pennini's Restaurant
April 17	7:00 pm	Pack Meeting JDI: Canned food	Camino Pablo MUR
April 22	1:00-4:00 pm	Trail Trekker Hike	Sunol Regional Wilderness

* Tentative

April is Advancement Month

At our pack meeting on April 17, we will be holding our annual rank advancement ceremony. This is when we recognize those scouts who have earned the rank badge that they have been working on all year.

Please begin looking over your son's advancement status on ScoutTrack to see whether he has any remaining rank requirements to finish before then, or talk to your den leader.

Our goal is to have all scouts advance on the current rank before the school year is over. So don't worry if your son won't be ready by April; just keep working with him to guide him along the last steps. We will presenting awards at the May pack meeting and campout as well.

Please contact your den leader with any questions.



Blue & Gold Thank You

Thank you to all who attended our Blue & Gold celebration last month. We had excellent food and a fabulous send-off for our 5th grade Webelos. Thank you to those who made it happen: Eric Nielsen, Fanny & Erek Wilson, Claudia Miyar, Robert Holloway, and all of you who pitched in to help with set up and clean up.

Cub Scout Summer Day Camp



This summer's Aklan District Cub Scout Day Camp will be held from **August 6-10 at St. Mary's College**. It is a week where boys can be boys, learning scout skills and having fun with games, crafts, BB gun shooting, archery, water play and more! Cost is expected to be \$250, but there will be discounts for early registration and parent volunteers. Can't make that week? Here are some alternative dates/locations:

June 25-29, Little Hills, San Ramon
 July 9-13, Camp Herms, El Cerrito
 July 9-13, Pleasant Oaks Park, Pleasant Hill
 July 16-20, Old Marsh Creek Springs, Clayton

More info to come!

Volunteer Leader Profile: Robert Holloway



This month we talk to **Robert Holloway**, our Pack Committee Chair.

When did you first volunteer as a pack leader?

I became Committee Chair in the summer of 2008. The prior Committee Chair had left the Pack and the position was open. I had been involved in Pack 54 for three years with my son Andrew and my younger son, Michael was starting as a Tiger that fall. Since I anticipated we would be involved for another 5 years, I thought it made sense to take a leadership role and we were fortunate to have enough parents serving as Den leaders already.

What was your biggest fear about becoming a leader?

I worried that being a Pack leader would be too time consuming and that not enough other parents would help. I was also a little worried about why no one else was volunteering for the position - what was I missing?

What were your hopes or goals when you volunteered?

Mainly, I wanted to help the Pack and Cubmaster continue to provide a great program like I had experienced up to that point. Volunteer organizations struggle when there is a lot of turnover. I was pretty sure that I would be involved in Cub Scouts for a while and could help provide continuity to help make things run smoother.

Has being a Cub Scout leader been as hard as you thought it would be?

No, not at all. Otherwise, I would not have continued in my role so long! It has been great to see so many families pitch in and help whenever needed. We are very fortunate to have a committed and capable group of adult leaders, who are great role models for Scouting values and genuinely want to help everyone succeed. These things make the "work" of being a Pack leader very enjoyable.

What has been the gratifying thing about being a Cub Scout leader?

As a leader, it is very satisfying to spend time planning an event, then to attend it and see how much everyone enjoys it. My favorite events are the Pack overnights. Those have given me, Andrew and Michael the chance to do some unique things that I'm sure we will all remember for a long time.

FOS Campaign: Let's Wrap It Up

If you didn't get your pledge card at the Blue & Gold dinner, or haven't yet turned it in, please do so as soon as possible so that our FOS coordinators, Liz & Bill Faoro, can wrap this up. You can send completed pledge cards to the Faoros at 304 Tharp Drive.



- All pledges are confidential.
- No amount is expected, but any amount is welcomed.
- Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Blackhawk 500 Pinewood Derby Championship

Apr. 21, 9 am @ Blackhawk Auto Museum

Get ready for Mt. Diablo Silverado Council's Pinewood Derby race. **All scouts** are eligible to enter. Like our pack's Derby, there's both a speed and design contest. For info and photos of last year's race, go to www.blackhawk500.org.

Wanted: Pack Newsletter Editor

As part of our efforts to begin transitioning pack leadership, we are looking for a pack parent who would be willing to serve as the pack newsletter editor. This does not take any extraordinary expertise, just an interest and an ability to use Word, Publisher or some other word processing software. Articles, clipart and photos would be supplied by pack and den leaders. The format is flexible – it can be changed as desired. The newsletter has traditionally been published monthly through the school year, but it could easily be published bi-monthly if needed. Training is available.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mark Fenske (mdfenske@gmail.com).

Passing the Baton: Succession Planning Update

We made some good progress last month at our meeting to start planning our leadership transition over the next couple of years. We were able to fill in some key positions for next year, but we still have a ways to go before we have a full transition plan in place.

Cub Scouts is 100% reliant on volunteers. It does not happen without them – without YOU. Whether you are a mother, father or even a grandparent, please consider taking on a leadership role. It's fun and rewarding. Contact Robert Holloway to find out how you can help make Pack 54 a continuing success.