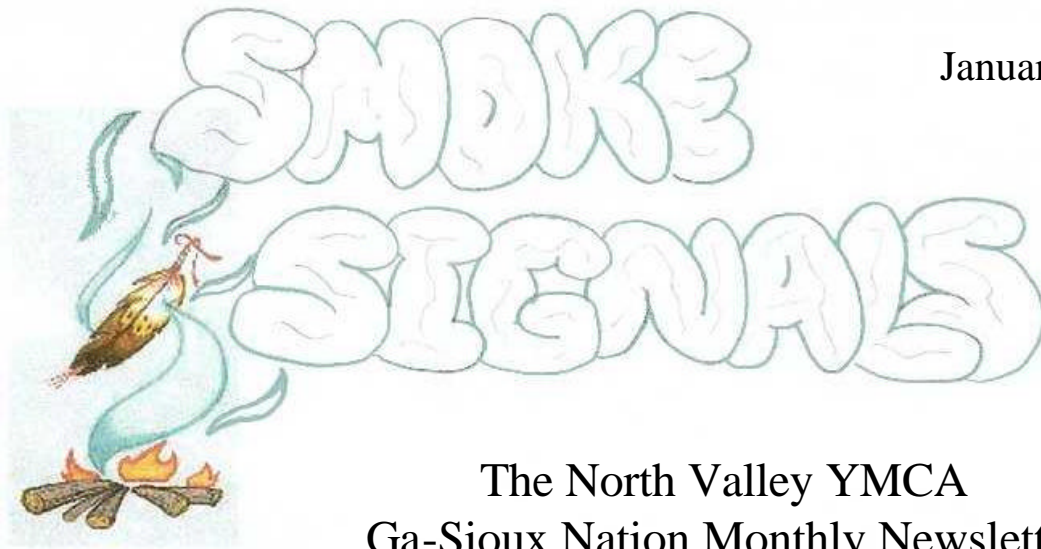


January 2003



The North Valley YMCA Ga-Sioux Nation Monthly Newsletter

Dear Guides, Princesses and Dads,

Wow! 240 people at Camp Whittle – another attendance record broken for a Nation event! It was great to see so many people up there this year. This was also the best snow year in at least 4-5 years. A number of tribes engaged in the Nation Winter Extreme games complete with extreme sledding courses, which included jumps and immovable objects at the bottom – definitely not “Mom approved.” Several Dads (obviously new to the program) were actually recording the event on film, a violation of the prime directive, “Have a good time and don’t tell your mom.” I just hope that they didn’t actually make the kids change underwear during the weekend. However, to the best of my knowledge, there were no broken bones or permanent cognitive impairment suffered by any of the participants. I did see several dads who were either brave or foolish enough to ride down the runs with the kids and received free chiropractic adjustments on their backs.

This was our first year in the new dining hall and it was a major improvement over the old system. I expected a long line at the buffet but with two tables set up so that there were four lines the meals went smoothly. I was also happy to see all the tribe members pitching in to clean the room and tables after each meal.

Campfire was excellent. I think every tribe put on a skit. That was the largest number of skits I have ever seen! Josie kept things moving along and we finished in a reasonable period of time. As always, the scavenger hunt was fun and inventive. For those of you who have never observed the tribes turning in their results, that is the best part of the whole event! You have never seen such creativity, tall tales, and lobbying as when the tribal representatives are trying to explain to the judges why the tribe should get credit. Some of the imaginative approaches included real wheat glued to a penny, a rock that was in the shape of an anatomical heart rather than a valentine (complete with medical certification), a flashlight as a “glowstick,” and a number of interesting “boomerangs,” none of which would return to the thrower.

Although I am admittedly biased, the Apaches showed why they are a tribe to be reckoned with, lead by Brian F. and Scott E. (aka MacGyver). Not only did they win the scavenger hunt but their “campfire” was the envy of any tribe that saw the set-up next to one of the cabins compete with steel fire pit, two space heaters, wind screens and two six foot tables filled with snacks and supplies. It truly was “roughing it.” Rumor has it that next year there will be a satellite dish, surround sound and a plasma screen.

The next Nation event is Cosmic Bowling so break out those Earl Anthony autograph model wrist braces and the Sans-a-Belt slacks and watch "Kingpin" to get warmed up. See the Smoke Signal for details. It is very important for this event to pre-register as we make lane assignments based upon the pre-registration, not attendance at the door. Please let your tribal chiefs know.

February is also the month for the annual support campaign at the YMCA. For those of you who don't know, every year the Y runs a fund raising program during the month of February to raise money for programs such as child care, summer camp, guides, and other programs. Did you know that the our Y run the largest child care program in the San Fernando Valley and that most of the families participating involve single parents. Many scholarships are given to mothers who can't afford the tuition. Included in the budget is overhead allocated to our program – Guides and Princesses. Although we usually break even for the facilities we rent, that does not include overhead items such as staff salaries, insurance etc. For example, all of you know how much time Josie spends on our program and that she is the one constant in the program. The rest of us, chiefs included, come and go.

As in years past, the Guides and Princesses are in our own Division, Division One. Division One is charged with trying to raise \$10,000.00 as part of the \$250,000 total goal. However, the allocated overhead for the Guides and Princess program is \$15,000 and therefore that is our "private" goal – we want to at least cover our allocated overhead. Traditionally you have been some of the best supporters of the Y. Past Nation Chief Joe Orr is heading up the entire campaign and Mike Jordan, a past Guide and current Trailblazer is also heavily involved.

This year we are going to try something slightly different. At the Longhouse meetings your tribal chiefs agreed to talk to each of you about a contribution and each tribe is going to do their best. We have about 19 tribes. If each tribe could just raise \$800 we could meet the \$15,000 goal. I know of two tribes who have already indicated that they can far exceed that level. I saw what everyone

did at the food drive at the Pilgrim Feast and hope that each of you will again be generous when your tribal chiefs talk to you in February. I think that most of you will agree that overall we are a fortunate group and we have a chance to really make a difference within our immediate community.

TRIBAL NEWS

CHUMASH TRIBE

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. That is what it did before we all got to Camp Whittle. The Chumash Tribe could not ask for anymore snow than there was. We spend our free time sledding down the various runs. We thank everyone who pitched in, designing and building the sled runs. Thank you Steve T. and all the energy he put into making sure the runs were the best shape possible.

A great time was had at Camp Whittle by the Chumash Princesses. They were able to bond with their fellow tribe members, other tribe members, and of course having a super time with their dads. Hooray for being able to use the new complete dining hall!

See everyone next time,
Just-the-Chief
Ronald K.

CREE TRIBE

The Cree Tribe was well represented up at Camp Whittle. We were sad that Sun Flower (Samantha) was not well enough to attend, however everyone else showed up. All of the girls enjoyed each event. Floating Feather (Elizabeth), Pocahontas (Cara) and Little Eagle Feather (Christina) all took to the snow like ducks to water. Song Bird (Tayla) and Swimming Dolphin (Jamie) befriended quite a few of the horses down in the stable.

We're now preparing for the annual Cosmic Bowling which we will be co-hosting along with the Chinook tribe. We hope to have a great turnout there.

Chief Shooting Bull

SIOUX NORTH TRIBE

Greetings From Sioux North

We trust that you all had a wonderful holiday season. 2003 started with a bang as we had great attendance at Camp Whittle. The Alpine Slides were a hit on Friday and the girls learned an important lesson in gravity when Tiny Cloud, the immovable object, stopped a speeding sled dead in its tracks. Meanwhile Big Buck and Little Deer set course records for the luge run as well as scattering those too slow to get out of their way. After Ohio State proved the Broken Wing was the king of college football prognosticators, everyone was treated to the symphonic duet of Grey Wolf's tossing and Tiny Cloud's snoring.

After some serious scavenger hunting, we went out on the hike under the driving command of Josie. Ron is still taking oxygen, but it made for good exercise and practice with defibrulators. Flying Elbow turned 39 (for the third time) and was serenaded by the nation. The ringing in my ears still hasn't gone away. We pitched in and got him some earplugs for the Saturday night sleeping ordeal. He said it was the best gift he ever received.

Big Buck is still recovering from an errant snowball that caught him just below the midsection when he was making a sled run. Sorry guy, luckily you already have three children. White Cloud dazzled the group by snowboarding down the hill like she was ready for the Olympics. Sledding was cut short when a snowball fight left Bright Star unconscious and Beauty Pony with a damaged shoulder. Leah was a trooper. She handled the hike and was ready for sledding and anything else we could send her way. Little Bunny led us through the caverns during the hike and she earned the record for longest sled run of the day. No more spaghetti for tribal dad's. Saturday evening was like a recreation of the campfire scene from Blazing Saddles (with electronic enhancements from Tiny Cloud).

Thanks to Big Buck for staging the skit. The girls were marvelous and McKenna has a future as an actress. The Chumash tribe is a lot of fun to hang out with, but they take the skit seriously. They must have been up practicing Friday night until

early Saturday morning. I can't get the "Chumash Boogie" song out of my head. Running Rabbit lead the tribe in setting up the dining hall for the campfire. Between cleanup, tear down, and set up, the gang did a good job of pitching in and getting the hall ready. Kudos to all of the hosting tribes. The nation games were a lot of fun, the scavenger hunt was fixed, I mean challenging, and the campfire story was entertaining.

Next up is our tribal meeting on 1/24/03 at Running Rabbit's and then Cosmic Bowling. We look forward to making 2003 the best year ever for the nation.

Chief Broken Wing

ARAPAHO TRIBE

Camp Whittle was a huge success. The Kids had a great time playing in the snow. Another great turn out for the Arapaho tribe included: Jayson, Josh A., Adam, Noah, Spencer, Jason, Josh S and Connor. The Nation Games snowman contest will long be remembered by all. It goes to show you that even boys and girls from The San Fernando Valley know how to build a snowman.

The January meeting was hosted by Jason and Art and held at Joann's Crafts in The Porter Ranch Center. In attendance were Elliot, Adam, Noah, Jason K., Spencer, Jason R., Josh S., and Connor. The craft project was a gel candle for Mom and the boys did a wonderful job of listening and learning the process. Thanks to our craft instructor Kathleen for showing the tribe how to create a beautiful present for Mom.

We are all looking forward to Cosmic bowling on February 1st. ---Chief Art

SEMINOLE TRIBE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Well, January always means Camp Whittle in the Y-Guides and the spirited Seminoles showed their presence in a big way with 8 dads and 10 children participating. The mighty tribe members included Snow Wolf (Bobby), Little Bear with Lion Voice (Cole), Swimming Wolf (Andreas), Jumping Wolf (Stefan), Soaring Arrow (Josh), Little Thunderbolt (Tommy), Bright Sun (Tyler), Hissing Cat (Jason) and Teddy and RJ (do you boys have Indian names yet?). The Seminoles won Third Place in the Snowman Contest although ours was not a big and decorative as the others, but had a character all its own. Our Campfire Skit was very original, and the dads even got to participate as we walked on at the end playing Gameboys.

On Sunday leaving Camp Whittle, the Seminoles visited the usual "inner-tube" sledding location in Big Bear City and had a great time. The weather was wonderful and the dads watched the kids slip and slide down the hill over and over and over again.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Cosmic Bowling! The tribe has spoken!

Screaming Wolf (Gene G.)
Chief, Seminoles 2002-2003

FLOWER WOLVES TRIBE

Now that CBS cast their next episode of the Survivor series "Survivor, Amazon", they can work on their show for next year, "Survivor, Camp Whittle". The basic story line is this. Have five inept fathers with nine girls, ages 4-8, spend a weekend in a small cabin on a snow-covered mountaintop. The cabin will have a broken window that is boarded up, two doors (but only one works), and a heater that warms the upper half of the cabin. The space above 4 feet is heated to about 90 degrees but the bottom 4 feet of cabin is kept at about 40 degrees. On the way up the mountain the girl sitting next to Cuddlefish gets carsick (Yuck). Then on the first night the tribe has

to look for their own food and every place they go to will state that they have at least a two hour wait. They end up at a Sizzler and by the time they order their food all the dads qualify for the senior discount. Upon returning to the cabin and getting ready for bed (if you call mats on a wooden bunk bed or floor a bed), the girls must take turns throughout the night awakening and telling their dads that they have to go to the bathroom. Loud noises disturb their sleep (snoring). When the first morning finally arrives, the person assigned to be the leader of the tribe develops high altitude sickness (Chief Whitefish). The tribe is then assigned to find various items on a scavenger hunt list, and actually ties for third place. The tribes compete in various snow-related "nation games". With Little Heart winning person hit by the most snowballs in the face (two). The tribe's snowman wins honorable mention thanks to Big Eagle creating the first snowman used as a business advertisement. The tribe also has to create and perform an original skit (to be directed by Big Heart) in front of the other tribes (Angelfish gets confused and forgets her lines). At every meal the girls compete in who will sit next to Princess Blue Eyes. The second night is much easier, although Pounds on Nails uses an interesting aromatherapy technique to try to be the sole survivor in the cabin. I guess he should not have eaten the garlic bread. Floating Dove must find a new use for fresh blueberries (makes lipstick out of them). On the final day the survivors must use any device they can find to slide down a snow covered hill. Purple Planet tears a tendon in his arm saving Purple Rose from sliding into a rock thus winning a Purple Heart (and a successful operation). They compete with the squirrels for a giant bag of popcorn. The squirrels win! The best news of all is that the show has been picked up for next season.

Chief Whitefish

SHAWNEE TRIBE

Greetings to the mighty Shawnee and other tribes of the Ga-Sioux Nation.

Camp Whittle is always an adventure and this year's trip was no exception. In past years, it was hoped there would be snow. While none fell we had fun throwing it, sliding on and playing in it, lessons learned by many were (a) snowfall followed by warm weather makes for mud, (b) warm days followed by cold nights makes for ice, (c) snow is for cold and (d) snow is wet (with proof abundant in the form of wet shoes and even more wet socks). Special thanks to all the Shawnee (who were, as always, many in number) who made this event so memorable, to the Chippewa with whom we shared lodging and pizza, to the Mohave for the well done nation games, to the Sioux North for the well done patch, to the tribes (who participated) for their effort and creativity with the scavenger hunt (anyone got a wheat penny?), to all the tribes for the skits, to the Cree for the yearbooks and to Josie for all she does.

Next up and eagerly awaited are January's tribal meeting at Little Wolf's and Gray Wolf's teepee and Cosmic bowling.

Wishing a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all,

Chief Falling Rock



CHINOOK TRIBE

I would like to begin by apologizing to the Chinook tribe for neglecting to provide a write-up for the last Smoke Signal. No excuses. I just procrastinated until it was too late. I promise to do better in the future.

Well, it has been a great year so far. We had a terrific time at Camp Whittle and had an impressive showing. Having fun in the snow were Melanie, Kaitie, Reanna, Emily, Anna, Elizabeth, Stephanie, Gracie, and Delaney. Next year we hope to have Molly, Rebecca and Megan join us in the winter wonderland.

I took a poll of the girls to see what their favorite part of the weekend was. Unanimously, the girls said the best part was playing in the snow. This was my fifth year at Camp Whittle and this was by far the best year for snow. Hopefully, this was the first year of many snowy years to come.

Despite some minor injuries, the girls had a great time sledding down the mountains, taking walks in the snow and engaging in some mostly harmless snowball fights. The Nation Games were a lot of fun and many thanks to Two Bucks (Joe) for helping the girls to build arguably the best snowman.

The best snow year also brought out the best skit performance for the Chinook. The girls had the dining hall rocking to the Penguin Polka. Great job

girls! We will need to start working on how to top this performance for Camp Fox.

The Chinook will be co-hosting Cosmic Bowling with the Cree tribe so we hope to have a record attendance and see you all there.

Until next time...



MOHAVE TRIBE

The Mohave Tribe turned out in great numbers at Camp Whittle, where we took full advantage of the abundant snow by sledding, and sliding on a variety of other "vehicles," a lot. Crafts were made, arrows were shot (all in the general direction of the targets), and much fun was had.

We meet again this Wednesday to continue work on our balsa planes, and to plan for Camp Fox!

CAMP FOX

March 14 - 16, 2003

More details will be in the
February newsletter

NATION CALENDAR

Cosmic Bowling	Sat., Feb. 1
Camp Fox	March 14 - 16
Fundraiser at Chuy's Restaurant	April 8
Jethawks Baseball Game	May 10
Spring Family Campout	June 6 - 8



Cosmic Bowling

February 1, 2003

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Matador Bowl

Register by Jan. 27th

Fee: \$15 per bowler

(Includes a patch)

PCS: 806-11

Patch only (non-bowlers) \$5

PCS: 806-12