

NORTH VALLEY FAMILY YMCA AT PORTER RANCH

SMOKE SIGNAL

March 2005

Camp Fox Highlights

Calendar 2005

Vasquez Rocks
April 10

Jethawks Baseball
May 14

Spring Family Campout
June 3 - 5



CHINOOK TRIBE

Greetings Ga-Sioux Nation and Mighty Chinook -

As always, I have some folks to thank... Thank you Blatter, Pasano and Waters families for hosting the January, February and March tribal meetings. Thanks to all the Chinook (and even the Cree) for sponsoring a successful Cosmic Bowling event. On-deck, for the host of the April meeting, we have the Estrada family.

Speaking of "on-deck"... I would like to wish the "Sour Blueberries" of Northridge Girls Fastpitch (softball) the best of luck in their upcoming season. The team is composed of many girls from OLL and the Mighty Chinook Tribe. They are expertly managed by our own Rick Estrada. The Sour Blueberries truly look like the team to beat in "8 and under" Division. Go Sour Blueberries!

With St. Patrick's Day in mind I pass on the following:

*May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

I look forward to meeting again... tomorrow night (3/16), by the light of the Crow Moon, at the Waters' Teepee in Chatsworth.

Friends Always,
Laughing Buck

MOHAVE TRIBE

News from Mohave....

The Mohave tribe was well represented at Camp Fox, with a total of 9 dads and 10 sons, counting those with dual tribe membership. Some of tribe met beforehand for a visit to the Long Beach Aquarium, prior to the relaxing voyage to Catalina.

The weather cooperated, so much so, that Mohave would have gone for the villas were it not for the fact that they had no sides and a modicum of modesty was in order.

This was the first Camp Fox trip for Ben and Justy, although their dads are skilled veterans. It was also the first time around for Bradley and Matthew and their dads Lee and Scott; all four are great additions to the Mohave tribe and have adjusted well to the Mohave traditions. Sadly, however, this was the last Camp Fox outing for Joel and Ryan, as they will be graduating the Y-guide program this June. It would be wrong to leave out the guys in the middle, particularly since your correspondent is father to one, so, here's to the non-new, non-graduating Christopher, Craig, Chase & Ethan. While Craig, Ethan & Chase were exploring the pirate cave; Chris worked on his fishing skills, and as it turned out his swimming skills as well.

The ride back was even smoother than the trip over and all Mohave made it back to shore safe and sound, thus concluding another great Y-guide trip.

See you all at Vasquez Rocks in April!

Save the Date

**Spring Family
Campout
Sycamore Canyon**

June 3 - 5

Family Event

APACHE TRIBE

The Apache tribe braved the beautiful March evening to cross the great waters to Camp Fox. The Boys and Dads had a great time on the island taking full advantage of the activities. The Boys showed amazing courage with the elements and each had their own area of expertise. Swimming Turtle (Harrison) showed his courage at Kayaking, Snow Lizard (DJ) mastered the skill of Fishing, Howling Wolf (Owen) displayed his bravery at Hiking the tallest peaks far beyond Bible Peak, Soaring Eagle (Jordan) demonstrated precision at Archery, and Gliding Hawk (Ryan) proudly led the tribe in the campfire skit. The Dads also in their unique way mastered camp. Howling Wolf demonstrated keen insight to bring enough games, felt, and chips to keep the dads amused, Jumping Mustang exhibited his unique skills at keeping liquids cold and hunting ice. Laughing Crow mastered the art of packing light while being the most comfortable in his lounge chair. Snow Warrior managed to keep his guide and princess busy while not scalping each other, and Hungry Bear showed great courage and skills to hunt and gather the rare card table. This was the best trip to Camp Fox and considered successful with no broken bones or mental scars despite falls from the highest bunk, slides down Bible Peak, and the emotionally challenging nation games.

Special thanks go out to Old Timer for pulling through in times of despair to slice through the lemon. Another thank you to Thirsty Bear & Screaming Bear (Kea & Keanu) for hosting our March tribal gathering and providing the traditional foosball game. Also very special thanks to the Chinook girls for causing the Apache boys to not change their underwear throughout the entire trip.

Chief Snow Warrior



MOHICAN TRIBE

The tribe is growing stronger with each event. This was evident with our great turnout at Camp Fox. Eight dads and nine daughters attended; some veterans and some rookies. It was smooth sailing to and from Camp Fox. Upon arrival the enthusiasm was high and getting the girls to calm down was not easy, but they managed to eventually get a good night sleep. The same could not be said for the fathers. The usual suspects kept the rest awake with their constant snoring. The sun did not show up until the late afternoon, which made the climb up Bible Peak almost seem effortless, except for once again those same usual suspects. The fisherman put on an extraordinary clinic for the girls, and even taught some of the new girls the art of fishing with peas, and sausage. Skits were once again were the highlight of the campfire. The girls did a terrific job and the dads...helped. By the way Terry, it was all meant in fun, :). Once again, these memories will last a lifetime for the girls as well as the dads.

The Leepers held a great meeting earlier this month with great snacks, crafts and hospitality. During the meeting, the talking stick portion was a highlight for the dads. We were definitely proud of the girls for their great achievements in soccer and spelling. It is nice to see that the girls are really feeling more comfortable talking in front of the group and spending time with each other. The growth between the girls and their dads and the bonds of friendship that have been formed within the group has been an added bonus.

Finally, we had the second annual Mohican Wine Tasting evening for moms and dads of the tribe. It was hard to top last years event, but we managed to do it again. Not only have the girls and dads been able to form strong friendships, but we have been able to include the moms as well. We can easily say now that the Mohicans are one BIG happy family. Also, add added bonus for this event, was the amount of money we were able to raise from the tribe for the YMCA annual campaign. I would personally like to thank the tribe for their generous donations to the campaign.

The tribe is looking forward to seeing the other tribes at the next nation event at Vasquez Rock.

Chief Thundering Cloud
Brian Friedman



SHAWNEE TRIBE

This month started off with a tribal meeting at the Brackens house. Thanks to Carly, Hallie for another fun meeting! We welcomed back Dave and Elizabeth Holland and added further more to our tribe with new members Dennis and Sallie DeYoung. The mighty Shawnee made their yearly climb to the top of Bible Peak. Stephanie, Danielle, Lacey and even our Mohave brother Christopher braved the beautiful sunshine and 70 degree temperature to get that prized Bible Peak patch. The fishing was great! Lots of hook-ups on sausage and bread and even a surprise water entry from the fishing platform performed by Ed's son Christopher. (Way to go big fella,)

The Shawnee hosted the scavenger hunt again this year, and we even pulled off another great skit for camp fire...great job Rick! We made the crossing to Catalina in record time and through calm seas, the weather gods carved two beautiful days out for our nautical journey. We missed those of you who could not attend this year, but thought of you often during the weekend. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next event, the good ole nation picnic where if you sha-nizzle with the fizzle drizzle don't go ska'daddle-daddle on yo'slappy-dappy dizzle!!...



Sitting Bull/with help from brother Claw.

HIGHLAND MIWOK TRIBE

Greetings to All!

The Highland Miwok have been very busy this month.

Dakota and Takota, Mad Bear and Thunder Hawk, as well as Little Sequoia and Mountain Song went camping on the other side of the Pacific Ocean at Sycamore Canyon in Point Mugu State Park.

They saw rabbits and wild parrots, heard a coyote and woodpeckers, and sighted a whale and sea lion. There was even a whale watching festival where the boys made crafts, listened to music and learned about whales.

We also had a terrific tribal council where nearly all of the Highland Miwok were in attendance. After dues, aims, a couple of great games and arrow making, we gathered around the fire and heard the Miwok legend about The Two Bears and Little Measuring Worm, a most unlikely hero.

We can't wait to we meet again.

CREE TRIBE

The Cree tribe was not able to attend Camp Fox so we huddled together and after lengthy discussions, came up with a few audibles. We narrowed our options down to making our own two trips.

Our tribe will be taking an Amtrak train from Chatsworth to Santa Barbara and back to Chatsworth on March 19th. We will leave at 8:16 AM and return at 8:47 PM. The train is located close to a mile away from the Santa Barbara Zoo. The thing about the Cree is we make lemonade out of lemons. I'm sure this will be a great one day excursion.

We have also scheduled a long family weekend in Mammoth from April 14th to 17th. Gregg "the connection" Ledergerber has coordinated the itinerary and our tribe is looking forward to hanging out with each other for 4 days straight. Kind of like Camp Whittle, but planned. To pass the time we'll make up songs about the Chinook.

It's hard to believe that we are coming down the stretch on the 2004-2005 Indian Princess Year. Besides our next two trips the YMCA has family trips planned to Vasquez Rocks, the Lancaster Jethawk game and Spring Family Camp Out. Most of our tribe has been together for four years. Some of us are considering a fifth year on top participating in Trail Blazers.

We have some great additions this year with Dana & Alyssa Brenner, Joern & Mimi Fuchs and Gerard & Gabriella Quarry. Last year we were very fortunate to add Sebastian & Gabriella Barbarino and Rob, Brook & Peyton Shaffer. I'm sure I'll have numerous candidates applying for our coveted position of Cree Tribal Chief ... Please.



Cree Cree Cree
Gummy Bear

RISING STARS TRIBE

Another 26 miles across the sea....

Camp Fox was the best trip yet. Thanks to the Weatherman for finally smiling upon a Y event.!

Things we liked: Going to the Aquarium and the Ferris wheel in Long Beach before the boat. Being the only one's on the boat. Getting cabins upwind from the bathrooms. Sharing one of our cabins with the Shawnee (y'all were great!). Finding lady bugs. Prime rib for dinner. The Sugar Shack. The row boats and kayaks. The skits (even the one's about Terry). No floods.

Things we didn't like: It was too short!

May the bathrooms be fixed for next year so that we all can enjoy camp (dibs on a cabin).

The Raven Chief

FERNANDENO TRIBE

Hail the mightiest girls of the Fernandeno who once again proved their respect and skills with Mother Earth. Squaw Gabriella (Running Pony) was the mightiest fisherperson as she out fished everyone at Camp Fox catching no less that 10 fish just on Sunday and provided a delicious dinner for the tribal nation. Not to be outdone, Squaw Leah caught the mightiest fish and largest fish of the weekend, a beautiful Sheepshead that fried up something special. Squaw Maddie, (Starlight) once again provided the mightiest entertainment with her stories of bravery and courage. Squaw Emily (Little Ladybug) showed her mightiest archery skills as her arrow never failed to hit where she was aiming at the archery range...truly a remarkable feat. Squaw Lisa (Rainbow) was the mightiest friend to all as she shared her fun with all the boys and girls she played with.

We look forward to the next tribe meeting on Monday the 21st at 6 p.m., at the home of Squaw Heather (Sleeping Beauty) who will also be known as the Assistant Chief.

Warmest regards
Sidney Blum



CHUMASH TRIBE

The Chumash had a Mighty good time on our trip to Camp Fox in Catalina this past weekend! The "slow-boat" seems to get us to land much faster than the coveted "fast-boat", and with our own luggage too!

Our Veteran girls Marissa, Courtney, Ariella, Elisa and Rebecca practically ran up Bible Peak to get their extra patch, leaving their Dads huffing and puffing behind. The new Chumash Troopers, Cassandra, Mariah and Alexa had a blast playing "Lost Treasure" in the Pirates Cove right behind our spacious, ocean-view Cabin.

We played games on the See-Saw platform, tried our luck at Archery, Kayaked, hiked, and generally had a blast enjoying the warm weather. Other outdoor activities included a very impressive 100-yard dash by Anthony who will likely be pleased when the restrooms are finally fixed. Cassandra set a new camp record being the first Kindergartner to jump off the pier. She was joined by our bravest girls; Courtney, and Marissa who smiled while taking the deep, icy plunge. All had fun until one of our Dads, Marty had to be rescued via CPR from the camp Lifeguard. What some men will do to try to steel a kiss!



The stories that were told over "hot-chocolate" can't all be repeated in such a short venue, but several about Savannah and the size of the fish that got away were quite memorable. Speaking of fish, special thanks to Mohave's Scott Gluck for providing fishing lessons and hooks to those of us less prepared campers.

Our only disappointment being our sad performance in the Treasure Hunt contest. Apparently, "Dangling Spider" was unable to pull himself loose of the tightly strung web he lives within. Oh well, there's always Family Camp!

Respectfully submitted;
Scott Cohen "Dances with Flowers"

North Valley Family YMCA

Guides & Princesses

Vasquez Rocks



Join the Y-Guides and Princesses at Vasquez Rocks on Sunday, April 10 starting at 1:00 p.m. This is a family event! Activities will include hiking by tribes and Nation Games hosted by the Cree tribe.

We will be meeting at the Pepper Tree located in the park, just drive in and you will find a large parking area, the Pepper Tree will be located behind the rails of the parking lot.

Be sure to bring plenty of water, water is not available at the park. Barbeques are also not available at the park and they are not allowed, so be sure to bring a picnic lunch for your family.

Parent, please be aware of your children at all times while at the park. There are lots of rocks to climb on, children need to be supervised at all times.

The cost for this event is \$5 per family which includes your patches. Pay at the event. (Source Code: 550.FL.0806.52).

Vasquez Rocks
10700 W. Escondido Canyon Rd.
Agua Dulce, 91390

Directions: Take the 14 north, exit at Agua Dulce, make a left. Continue on Agua Dulce Rd., it will turn to the right, continue straight onto Escondido Cyn. Rd.
The park entrance will be on your right side.

For more information, contact your tribal chief or Josie at the YMCA at 818-368-3231 or by e-mail at JosieRea@ymcala.org

North Valley Family YMCA

Y-Guides & Princesses



Lancaster Jethawks Baseball

Saturday, May 14, 2005

Game Time: 5:00 p.m.

Join the YMCA Guides and Princesses at the Jethawks baseball game on Saturday, May 14. The game begins at 5:00 p.m. and everyone who purchases a ticket for this event will receive a ticket for a game on Sunday, Aug. 21. The tickets for the Aug. 21st game will be mailed to you at the beginning of August.

Directions: From the 14 fwy, exit at Avenue I in Lancaster and go west to Valley Central Way. At Valley Central Way turn left.

This is a family event. A limited number of tickets are available, so sign up early.

Tickets: \$6.00

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.53

Patches: \$3.00

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.54