



NORTH VALLEY FAMILY YMCA AT PORTER RANCH

SMOKE SIGNAL

December 2004

Greetings from the Chief

Calendar 2004 - 2005

Camp Whittle
January 7 - 9

Cosmic Bowling
February 5

Camp Fox
March 11 - 13

Vasquez Rocks
April

Jethawks Baseball
May

Spring Family Campout
June 3 - 5

Hello Dads, Guides & Princesses:

It is truly amazing how quickly this year has been rolling by. Here we are, in the midst of the holiday season with Christmas and New Year's right around the corner. The college bowl season is ready to swing into high gear, the malls are jam packed and all of the decorations are in place and well lit.

The Granada Hills Holiday Parade was an event not to be missed. Josie informs me that we had 150 Dads and kids marching in the parade. Although, we experienced light rain throughout the entire route, it never rained hard. Additionally, there were spectators along the entire parade route, so we were never lacking for an audience. I have NEVER seen so much silly string in my entire life. It was flowing from the moment we turned onto Chatsworth St. until well after we turned onto Zelzah. We even had our very own Santa interviewing several of the Guides and Princesses upon our floats. Hopefully, we will find out why Santa was so interested in our group. There were so many contributions worthy of special recognition, I hope I am able to remember even half of the con-

tributors. First, and foremost, the Comanche and Apache are the perennial sponsors of this event and they did EVERYTHING from providing the floats, painting the floats, providing the trucks, driving the trucks, cleaning up afterward. A special thanks goes to Greg Hamlin and George Nolan of the Comanche tribe for making everything happen.

Once again, due to the tremendous efforts of everyone involved, we were able to garner another first-place trophy (several years running, now) in the parade. Congratulations to everyone! And, if you're in want of the trophy to borrow for your tribal meeting, please arrange that with Josie, I'm sure she'll be happy to accommodate you. I'll never forget two of the dads coming up to me and inquiring if I was in charge and asking what I was going to do about the rain. I simply reminded them that rain down here usually translates to snow up at Camp Whittle and that seemed to appease them.

And speaking of Whittle... That's our next event. We'll all be meeting there in the new year on January 7. Be sure to register early (and register often?). Forecasting models

A word from the Chief (continued)

Cosmic Bowling

Matador Bowl

February 5

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

show that we can expect 6-18" of snow to be on the ground and the long-term forecast even shows that snow showers are possible on Saturday afternoon of our weekend. Last month's Smoke Signals had plenty of suggestions of what to bring and excellent directions, so if there are any questions, don't forget to take a look at last month's issue.

As many of you know, the 'Y' will be kicking off their annual Support Campaign, which will be officially taking place in February. The campaign is to raise money for many of the different programs, including Guides and Princesses. Your chief should be talking to each of you about what types of contributions you can make. Please try to help in any way you can.



The YMCA threw their annual volunteer appreciation dinner in early December, and I'm proud to report that the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year for the Parent/Child division was our very own Brian Williams, who was last year's nation chief for the Guides and Princesses. Additionally, the Volunteer of the Year for the entire North Valley YMCA (all programs) was a member of the Apache tribe as

well: Cherif Nassour. Way to go guys! We're all very proud of you and happy to be associated with you. Lastly, I'd like to note the Volunteer of the Year for the Healthy Lifestyles division was the wife of one of my tribal members (and a wonderful friend), Kim Shaffer. It really was quite an evening.

Chief Shooting Bull

CHINOOK TRIBE

Greetings Ga-Sioux Nation and Mighty Chinook

We all had a great time at the Christmas parade, and are most definitely looking forward to Camp Whittle! Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! *The word is* that the dads and daughters of the Chinook Tribe will be in full force! *Better watch out as the Chinook girls are ready to be filled with confection, and too wired to sleep! The dads are all ready to gravitate towards the campfire!* In other words, we are ready for a great time!

As always, thanks to the Ambrose, Simons, and Fedoroff families for hosting the past three meetings!

Friends Always,

Laughing Buck

THE MIGHTIEST FERNANDENO TRIBE

Congratulations to Greying Wolf and Bright Eagle on braving the elements to represent The Mightiest Fernandeno at the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Chief Big Bucks missed the rain while he and his daughter Running Pony were down in Mexico City. Running Pony has made it back to Northridge while Big Bucks is still in Mexico but hopes to return in time for the next tribe meeting on December 20 at the teepee of Greying Wolf. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. We will be discussing transportation and clothing for Camp Whittle along with materials for the secret project.....

RISING STARS TRIBE

The Rising Stars are enjoying the holiday season. We are all finding time to share moments with the family and friends, together and apart. Otherwise, we are all waiting impatiently for winter break, New Year's and Camp Whittle (not necessarily in that order). On behalf of our tribe to yours, we wish everybody a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. May you get most of what you want.

The Raven Chief



Save the Date

Camp Fox

March 11 - 13

CREE TRIBE

The Cree had some soggy participants in the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Special thanks to the Brenner's, Shulkapper's, Ledergerber's, Quary's, and Taylor's for taking on the elements. I debated about participating in such yucky weather with Samantha too.

We all met at the Ledergerber's Tee Pee prior to the parade. Gregg & Cara provided lots of tasty things to snack on. Dan & Samantha Adams brought holiday headpieces for the girls to wear.



The tribe assembled signs for the girls to carry wishing holiday greetings in several languages. We found Tagalog & French for Samantha Adams, Swiss German for Cara Ledergerber and Italian for Gabriella Barbarino. Remembering the theme of "Holidays around the World" we also found wishes for Hanukkah, Kwanza and of course Happy New Years.

Here a stock tip courtesy of the Cree Tribe ... invest in Silly String Futures before next years parade. Kali Shulkapper had collected enough spent silly string to make a huge ball. I wonder if she has it displayed in a propionate location for all to see at her house. I thought I was at a Grateful Dead concert with all the pretty colors. Any way keep on truckin.

Cree Cree Cree

APACHE TRIBE

The Apache gathered at the Teepee of Wild Boar & Howling Wolf for our tribal meeting this month. The boys put their heart into crafting the official Apache banner, but really preferred the x-box challenge instead. Meanwhile the dads were sampling the eggnog recipes. Many thanks go out to Wild Boar and Laughing Crow for their adventures at Joann's fabric shop. I've heard that all the restraining orders will soon be dropped. Its strange how seamstresses don't have the same sense of humor as Indian Guides when it comes to fabric jokes.

From the result of the Granada Hills Holiday Parade I see that all the tribes have perfected their rain dance. The few apaches that ventured out in the weather had a wet and wild time. I think most of the dads lost a few pounds trying to keep up with the pace of the floats. The Apache banner was unveiled for the parade and was a shining beacon guiding the silly string covered dads. The boys had a blast riding the floats and shooting Santa with the silly string.

Thanks to the Comanche for a great job on the parade floats. All the kids were riding in style this year. The apaches are looking forward to playing in the snow at camp whittle in a couple weeks. Happy Holidays!

Chief Snow Warrior





MOHAVE TRIBE

News from Mohave...

The Gluck Family: Smiley Buffalo – Justy, Sneaky Buffalo - Ryan and Silent Buffalo - Scott, hosted the Mohave's November meeting at their home on the range. Turn out was strong; in addition to the herd of Buffalo, were Matthew M., Ethan, Matthew L., Bradley, Benjamin, Chase, Craig, and Joel.

Starting at this meeting and continuing on until springtime, the tribe members will be building kites from scratch, which will proudly fly at the spring campout. Getting underway involved measuring sticks and cutting them to size; surprisingly none of the dads cut themselves. We'll continue to keep you posted on our progress.

A few days after the meeting, was the ever-popular Nation's Feast. Many Mohave turned out for the event. Unfortunately, we can't say the same thing for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. While a few brave members of Mohave turned out, the majority played it safe and stayed out of the rain – hey, we could have caught colds.

Mohave would like to wish all members of the nation and their families Happy Holidays.

See you all at camp Whittle.

SHAWNEE TRIBE

Rain, rain, go away, come back some other day! If you don't, we won't care, we'll just have lots of silly string, wet in our hair. The Christmas parade this year was a wet one that's for sure. None the less times like these give you memories for years to come and our tribettes and dads had a blast just the same.(Hey Rick any silly string left for next year?...LOL).

Thanks to the Comanche tribe for the once again stellar floats, and for letting the Shawnee banner ride high and mighty on the second float. This months meeting was hosted by Gabriella, Chritsina and their dad Running Buffalo. With plenty of yummy pizza, this meeting might have established the craft of the year award with the good ole shrinky dink. As we move into 2005, I would like all of you to take some time out and count your blessings. (and really count them, then smile :) To whenever chance presents itself hold out a helping hand. And last but not least, to say, what a blessing in my life the Y Guides/Princess/ Trailblazers programs are along with the people like Josie and Terry and the many others who participate and give so much to make it all happen....Thanx Guys!!! Have I left anything out?.. Oh yeah!.. Happy New Year! and we will see you at Camp Whittle were it's fun to shadazzle snazzle while you ride fiz-zle snowdizzle on the hillzzle fur shizzle.....let it snow!

Sitting Bull

NORTH VALLEY FAMILY YMCA

GUIDES & PRINCESSES

CAMP WHITTLE

JANUARY 7-9

COST: \$85 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.48



INCLUDES: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast on Sunday.

DEADLINE: Money due at the YMCA by Friday, December 31.

Bring your cold weather gear and snow toys, games and snacks (optional).

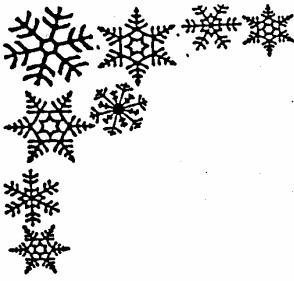
Note: If you have children in different tribes, please let us know so that we may make the most convenient cabin assignments possible.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available for those arriving on Friday night in the dining hall.

For road information, call 909-866-ROAD.

Remember to bring warm clothes, car chains are advisable.

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



WINTER CAMP

WHAT TO BRING.....

Gather up your snow boots and parkas and get ready for the snow (or at least a lot of cold). Camp Whittle is coming up soon. The time is now to get packed and ready for some fun. The weekend begins as early as noon Friday, the first meal served is breakfast on Saturday.

There is a map attached which shows the route to the camp through the High Desert which is faster when there is heavy traffic, such as Friday evening.

Cabin assignments will be posted in the dining hall for Indian Guides/Princesses and in Wagner Lodge for the Trailblazers. The schedule of events will also be available.

Some of the suggested items to bring are:

Warm Clothes

boots

warm socks (extra)

gloves

hat or cap

long johns

jacket

Pillow

Sleeping bag

Towels (wash clothes and soap)

Flashlight-per person

Books

Snack (fruits, cookies, drinks, etc.)

Tire chains (if you drive)

Skits for the campfire

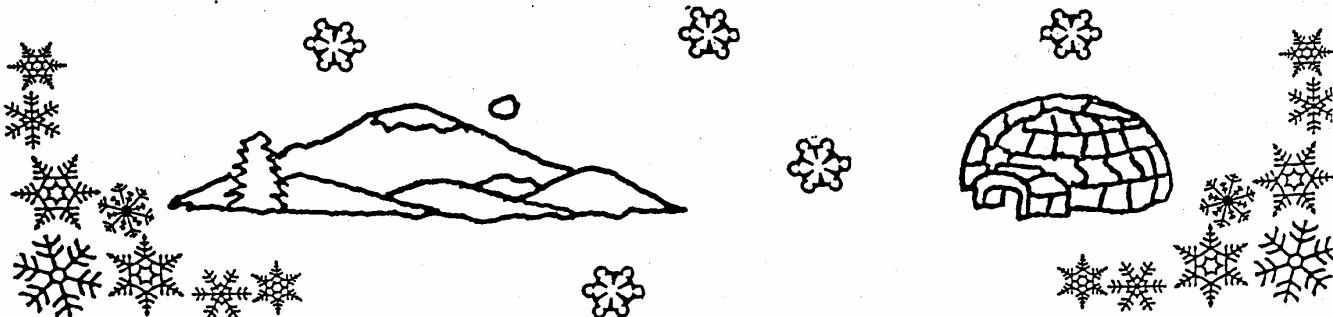
Indian vests and headbands(YIP/YIG only)

Snow toys (inner tubes, sleds, discs)

Indoor games

Security blanket, stuffed animals, scotch guard, etc.

Everyone is asked to carpool as much as possible due to lack of parking space in the camp, especially if there is a lot of snow. Driving up together can make the drive much more of an event for the children.



Directions to YMCA Camp Whittle

Take Interstate 10 to the city of Redlands, and then head north on Highway 30. Soon you'll see Highway 330 and signs that say "Mountain Resorts/Ski Areas". Take the 330 into the mountains, and follow this through Running Springs. After Running Springs, the official name of the road will change to Highway 18. Follow this until you reach the dam at the west side of Big Bear Lake. Go straight here (do not go over the dam), towards FawnSkin, and the name of the road will again change, this time to Highway 38. After about 2.5 miles of driving next to the lake, you will reach FawnSkin. Total distance from Redlands to FawnSkin is about 25 miles.

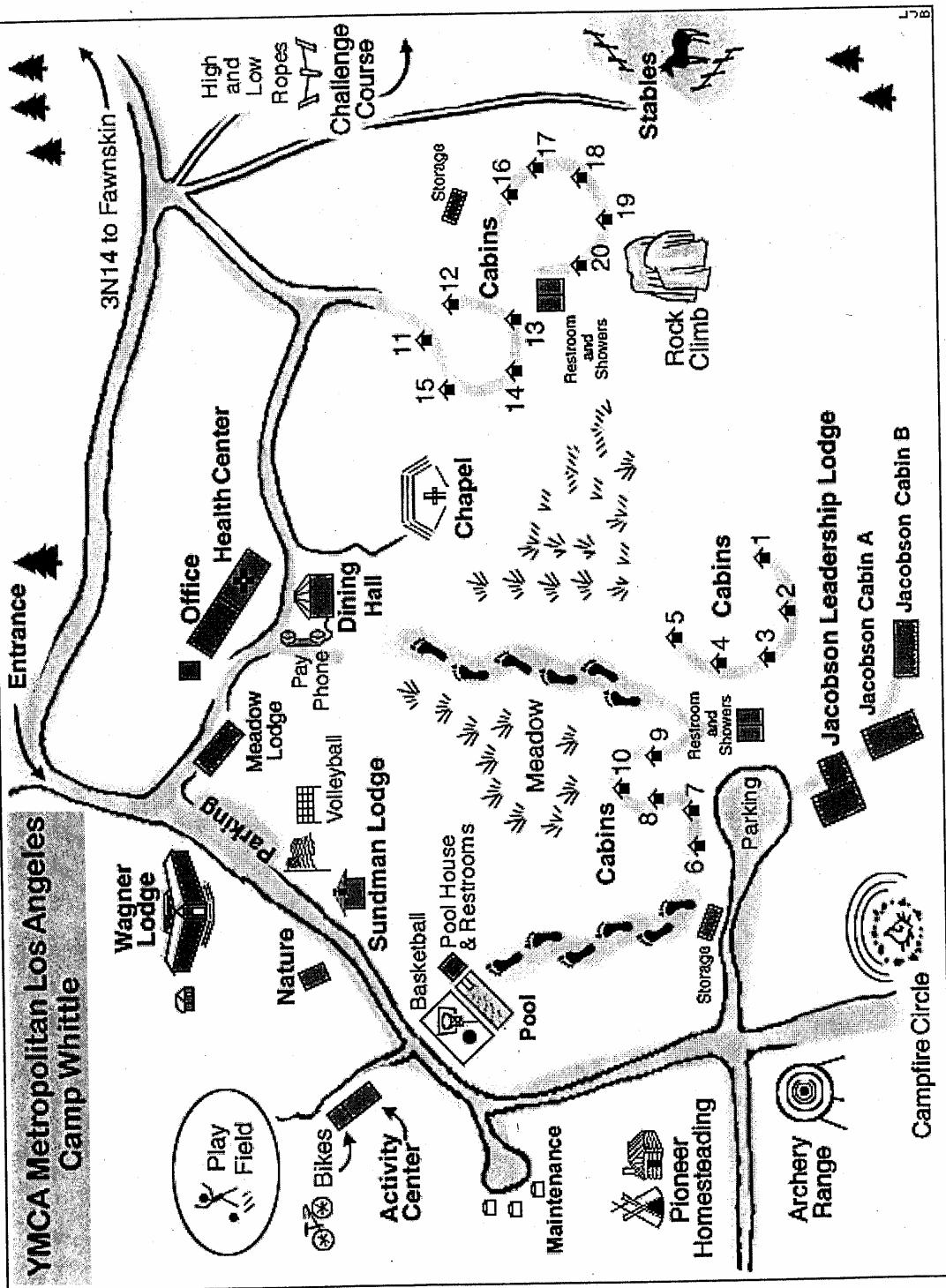


Once you are in the small town of FawnSkin, make a left on Rim of the World Drive (right next to a large paved lot and the Fire Station) and follow this road and the signs two miles up into the hills. The road will be paved for a short while, then turns to a well graded dirt road. YMCA Camp Whittle is on the left hand side, with big signs marking your arrival.



The physical address is 31701 Rim of the World Drive, FawnSkin, CA 92333. Mailing Address is P.O. Box 70, FawnSkin, CA 92333-0070. Camp office phone: 909-866-3000.

YMCA Metropolitan Los Angeles Camp Whittle



YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
Camping Services



WHEN TRAVELING IN THE MOUNTAINS DURING WINTER.....

1. Fill your radiator with anti-freeze, check your tires, hoses, belts, exhaust system and brakes before leaving home.
2. Carry a windshield ice-scaper, first aid kit, functional jack, tools, extra water, shovel, flashlight and blankets.
3. Be sure to have properly sized tire chains and know how to use them.
Try them on before you leave.
4. Bring a tarp, piece of carpet, blanket or something similar to lie on when you need to install your tire chains on the snow.
5. Install your tire chains at a safe location, wear bright colors. Never drive over 25 mph with chains on a vehicle.
6. Reduce your speed at the first sign of moisture, watch for ice that may appear only as a damp place in the road.
7. Other useful items: jumper cables, starting fluid, safety reflectors, fire extinguisher, flashlight, rope, extra clothing, knife, extra rubber chain adjusters, blankets, gloves, socks, wool hat. A small bag of kitty litter is useful for gaining traction on the ice when spread in front of the tires.

Enjoy your winter outing to the mountains, but remember the conditions can change without warning. Anticipate what lies ahead, proceed safely, be highly visible and always leave word with friends or family regarding your itinerary.

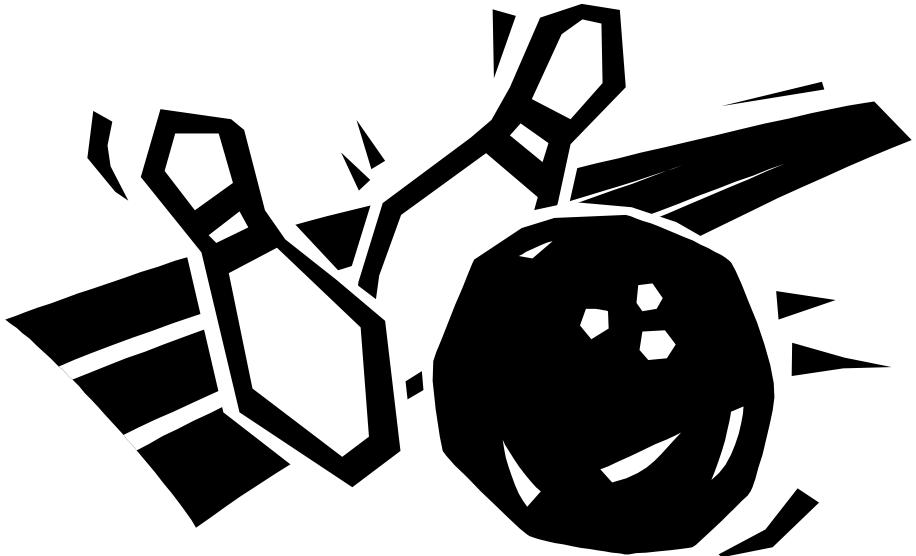
Call ahead to inquire about highway or weather conditions. For the Big Bear Lake area, San Bernardino Mountains call 909-866-SNOW.

Guides & Princesses

Cosmic Bowling

Saturday, Feb. 5

**North Valley Family
YMCA at Porter Ranch**



Saturday, February 7

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



Location:

**Matador Bowl
9118 Balboa Blvd, Northridge**

Cost:

\$15 per child - Source Code: 550.FL.0806.49

\$5.00 per non-bowler - Source Code: 550.FL.0806.50

Space is limited. Children's fee includes bowling and a patch.

Non-bowlers fee is patch only.

This is a father/child event only.

Everyone must pre-register by Feb. 2

**North Valley Family YMCA at
Porter Ranch**

11336 Corbin Ave.

Northridge, CA 91326

818-368-3231

North Valley Family YMCA Indian Guides & Princesses

Camp Fox March 11 - 13

Hosted by the Shawnee & Seminole Tribes

Cost:

\$117 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.51

Full payment is due by Friday, March 4th

Fee includes boat ride, meals, patches and activities at camp.

Space is limited, sign up soon.

Please fill out the attached registration form and mail it to the YMCA.

This is a father/child event only.

More information regarding the depart time and what to bring will be mailed to all who have registered.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Hiking up Bible Peak, fishing, exploring, boating, campfire, nature hunt, games and much more. We welcome any suggestions for more activities.



**North Valley Family YMCA
CAMP FOX
Catalina Island
Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 13**

Registration Form

Father: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.51 Number of people _____ X \$117.00 = _____

Accommodations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Those who register after the cabins are filled will be placed in the Villas.

If Dad is in two tribes, he will be sleeping with the _____ tribe.

Please send your registration form to Josie at the YMCA. Registration deadline is Friday, March 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Josie at the YMCA at 818-368-3231 ext. 2305.

North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch, 11336 Corbin Ave., Northridge 91326

Fax 818-368-5437

Make checks payable to North Valley Family YMCA

or

Credit card payments: Visa MasterCard Other _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____

-----Office Use Only-----

Amount Paid \$ _____ Receipt # _____

Staff Name _____