



# The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

March 2004

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## Biathlon results posted

Results of the annual second mountain man biathlon organized by the Great Salt Lake Council have been posted on the council web site. The event took place February 28, at historic Fort Buenaventura park in Ogden.

The biathlon attracted 75 registered participants representing 15 Varsity teams and Venture crews, nearly double the figures of last year. Competition took place in a steady storm on a challenging course covered by several inches of snow. Everyone who registered received a participation patch. Three teams spent the night at the fort.

Prizes will be presented to first, second, and third-place individuals and one for the best team score at the council roundtable on March 17.

Rather than utilizing the Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis of the modern-day biathlon, the Varsity Scout rendezvous theme was invoked at this unique event as participants traversed a marked trail on snowshoes and utilized primitive muzzle loading black powder rifles. The biathlon is a timed event with two stops on the course to shoot at targets from a standing position.

Attendees also engaged in tomahawk and knife throwing. Team building activities, tug of war, a winterized soccer match, and snowshoe racing were also offered by organizers.

Participation in the biathlon satisfies the Varsity Letter award requirement to participate in a high adventure/sports activity (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/Advancement/index.htm>, see requirement 2). Varsity Scout program areas such as Cross Country Skiing, Shooting Sports, and Snow Camping are all compatible with the biathlon.

## SOR ticket sales kick off

The kickoff for Scout-O-Rama ticket sales is set for Saturday, March 13.

Registered Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers may attend the kickoff at their district kickoff center at 8:30 a.m. During the half-hour gathering, boys can preview prizes they can earn, get tips on selling, and have fun. Every boy will receive a prize for coming to the kickoff center. Kickoff centers will remain open throughout the day if additional tickets are needed. Kickoff prizes must be picked up before 7:00 p.m.

Ticket sign-up forms will be available at district roundtables in March. Encourage your unit to complete the form on or before kickoff day on March 13 so that tickets and other supplies will be waiting for you at the kickoff center. Scout-O-Rama is scheduled Saturday, May 1, at the Utah State Fairpark. Tickets admit one family and sell for only \$5.00.

Scout-O-Rama is an approved fund raiser for the unit sponsoring organizations of the Great Salt Lake Council. Every ticket sold receives a 15 percent commission. Units with a SOR booth receive a 30 percent commission. The money may be used for awards, equipment, supplies, camp fees, or whatever the unit needs. Commissions will be paid by check after all money and unsold tickets are turned in at the Scout Service Center or at Scout-O-Rama.

## Annual food drive planned

Scouts throughout the Beehive State will once again team up to conduct the 18th annual Utah Scouting for Food Drive on Saturday, March 27. Three Utah Scout councils, Great Salt Lake, Utah National Parks, and Trapper Trails, again will team up for the 2004 food drive. Items collected in the Utah drive will go to

the Utah Food Bank and the State Hunger Network.

Prior to the pick-up date, Scouts will deliver plastic bags for community members to fill with commercially packaged, nonperishable food, such as canned meat, fruit, vegetables, soup, chili, stew, pre-packaged meals, cereal, macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter. Scouts will pick up the bags and take them to collection points to be boxed and loaded aboard trucks for delivery to the Utah Food Bank.

For further information about Scouting for Food, contact your district or council leaders.

### **Council Vice President's Message** **Service makes a difference!**

*By Bry Davis*

When you consider all of what Varsity Scouting is, or for that matter what Scouting is, you will find that service to others is in the center. The Scout slogan is "Do a good turn daily." A wise man or woman will realize early in life that to give of his or her time and means brings much more happiness than any self-serving activity. Our neighborhoods and communities are filled with boundless opportunities of service. Care centers for seniors and special needs individuals, hospitals, schools and needy homes are all around. The Team stands ready to take these opportunities and bring joy to those who are helped. This month is our annual Scouting for Food drive. A combined effort from all our Scout Families will bring in food for thousands. Coaches and committee members should encourage participation in this great event. The Team captain and Service Program Manager, working closely with the adult leader, can plan for other service projects that lift the needy, give comfort and bring untold joy to others and their Team members. The guiding principle of service in a young boy's life will bring a generation of kindness.

"Service is at the heart of every Varsity Scout Team. **Through service, team members can experience the satisfaction of making a difference in the world.**" (*Varsity Scout Guide Book*, page 99.)

### **Warm welcome appreciated**

"Thanks for a Warm Utah Welcome!" a

message from the Paul Moore, has been posted on the Great Salt Lake council web site. Moore, the council's new Scout Executive, uses his inaugural message to thank everyone in the council for welcoming him so warmly when he arrived in January. The open letter also introduces himself, provides some background, and describes the challenges offered by this new position. Moore's message is found at, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/se/index.cfm>.

In last month's *Varsity Letter*, an article about Moore erroneously stated that he had been a professional Scouter for 47 years. Moore, who began his 47-year tenure with Scouting as an 8-year-old Cub Scout, has been a professional Scouter for 33 years. The editor apologizes for the error.

### **VS Basic Training classes offered**

The Varsity Scout basic training class is designed for all adult and youth team leaders. Those who can benefit from the basic training include adult coaches, assistant coaches, program advisers, and committee members, and youth team captains, co-captains, and program managers.

The *Varsity Scout Guidebook* (WW34827A) is the class textbook. Please bring your personal copy with you to the training.

As we learn of planned training dates the information will be posted on the web site (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/training/>). Check back often so that you can have that opportunity for the training that will help you become the greatest Varsity Scout leader ever.

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
26	2126 E Gyrfalcon	3/6	7:30 a.m.
28	13366 S 1300 E	3/18	6:30 p.m.
3	2064 South 800 West	3/20	8:00 a.m.
21	336 E Vine Street	3/20	8:00 a.m.
26	9119 S 1300 E	3/20	8:00 a.m.
22	TBA	4/8	6:15 p.m.
13	3276 S Hillsdale Dr	4/10	8:00 a.m.
26	9636 S 1700 E	4/17	7:45 a.m.
4	TBA	5/15	8:00 a.m.
28	13085 S 300 E, Draper	5/20	6:30 p.m.
GSLC	Big Event	6/17-19	TBA
GSLC	On Belay	7/26-31	TBA
GSLC	University of Scouting	12/4	8:30 a.m.

## Spring rendezvous planned

Three districts plan spring mountain man rendezvous events during April.

A spring rendezvous organized jointly by the Deseret Peak (11) and Granger (13) districts is scheduled April 23-24 at Big Hollow along Utah 199 between Rush Valley and Dugway in Tooele County.

Golden Eagle District (15) plans a Varsity Scout rendezvous in conjunction with the district spring camporee in April at the Clover Springs Campground southwest of Tooele.

## District news roundup

Several events for Varsity Scouts and leaders are planned by local districts throughout the Great Salt Lake Council over the next few months. Many of the following events are included in the published 2003-2004 council calendar, available at the service center and Scout Shops. District vice chairmen are encouraged to submit information about upcoming Varsity activities to the editor for inclusion in the *Varsity Letter*.

A web site for each district in the Great Salt Lake Council is included in the district section of the council web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/districts/index.cfm>.

### District 4 (City Creek)

About 100 Boy Scouts from City Creek District took part in the district's second annual Ecumenical Church Tour on February 7. The Scouts visited St. Ann's Catholic Church, Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, the LDS 10th Ward chapel, and Calvary Baptist Church.

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training is offered to new Varsity Scout leaders following roundtable each month. For information, contact Jim Wood.

### District 10 (Westview)

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training, a 30-minute introduction to the basics of Scouting, is offered prior to the monthly roundtable at 6:30 p.m. (except in August and December). For additional information, contact Mike Lingwall at 250-0880.

### District 11 (Deseret Peak)

Basic Training will be held concurrently with district roundtables at Tooele Junior High School. They are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

A spring mountain man rendezvous organized jointly by the Deseret Peak and Granger (13) districts is scheduled April 23-24 at Big Hollow along Utah 199 between Rush Valley and Dugway in Tooele County.

Contact Bryan Slade for more information.

### District 12 (Olde English Fort)

The full district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d12/raining/index.htm>. Contact Woody Haycock for information about district events.

### District 13 (Granger)

Team coaches are encouraged to invite the youth team captains to attend district roundtable each month. Service will be the focus of the March 4 roundtable. Jeff Honsvick will lead the discussion.

Because several members of the district Varsity committee moved last year, there are a number of vacancies. Anyone interested in serving on the district committee during the coming year should contact Steve Honsvick, district vice chairman, or another member of the committee.

Granger District will hold its annual merit badge pow wow Saturday, March 20. The event will be held at the LDS meetinghouse located at 3650 West 4400 South. Registration costs \$5.00. Sign-ups begin at 8:00 with classes starting at 8:30 a.m. Additional details are available from the district staff.

VS Fast-Start adult leader training is offered 30 minutes prior to the monthly roundtable. To make other arrangements, contact Glen Fairclough, district Varsity training coordinator, or check out the Varsity Fast Start video at the service center.

The next scheduled date for basic training will be held Saturday, April 10. Granger East Zone will host the training at the LDS meetinghouse at 3276 South Hillsdale Drive (2760 West). Additional details are available at [http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d13/training\\_action.cfm?dtrainID=23](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d13/training_action.cfm?dtrainID=23).

Zone Commissioners can arrange basic training in their zones through Dale Walker,

district 13 training coordinator.

A spring mountain man rendezvous organized jointly by the Granger and Deseret Peak (11) districts is scheduled April 23-24 at Big Hollow along Utah 199 between Rush Valley and Dugway in Tooele County.

Teams should also begin looking forward to participation in the Big Event at East Fork of the Bear in June.

Teams are encouraged to register for the week-long On Belay leadership training at East Fork of the Bear, July 26-31.

Coaches will also want to take advantage of one of the Wood Badge courses offered in 2004. Scholarships may be available through your zone or the Wood Badge Association.

Stay abreast of district events, current news, and meetings via the district's web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d13/>.

#### **District 14 (Pony Express)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d14/training.htm>. For information about district events, contact Ole B. Jensen.

#### **District 15 (Golden Eagle)**

A Varsity Scout rendezvous is planned in conjunction with the district spring camporee in April at the Clover Springs Campground southwest of Tooele.

Contact Jim Crane ([cranejh@juno.com](mailto:cranejh@juno.com)) for additional information.

#### **District 17 (White Buffalo)**

**Awards banquet:** Jim Smith, district commissioner, has announced that the annual awards banquet will be held at the River Oaks Stake Center, 8950 South 1300 West, on Thursday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. Varsity Leaders are assigned to bring a main course for 12 (Dutch oven if possible). If you are unable to bring something please bring your smile! :)

Many adult awards will be presented, including the District Award of Merit. Come and honor those who have distinguished themselves in service to our youth. Quality Unit Awards will be there for you to pick up as well.

All unit leaders, including committee members, are invited. Scout leaders are asked to come early to help set up tables and chairs.

All regular roundtable information will be available at the banquet.

**Roundtable:** Exciting things are happening to increase our support for the Varsity and Venture programs. Full details will be provided at the Roundtable, so please be there to learn about:

Cave Exploration (March)

Indoor and Outdoor Rock Climbing

Shooting and Climbing at Spring Camporee

Big Event in June

On Belay leadership training for youth and adult leaders

Special Discount at Teton High Adventure Base

As you can see, there are plenty of reasons to attend Roundtable.

The district is collecting unused cellular phones. Please bring any unused cell phones with you to roundtable.

**District activities:** The annual district Varsity/Venture caveman weekend is planned March 5-6. Learn to explore caves and pass the requirements for the Varsity Caving pin and the caving portion of the Venture Ranger Award. Groups must register in advance so organizers can get the right amount of equipment. We are also limited in the number we can bring in the cave at any one time. One adult leader from each participating group must attend roundtable on March 4. Each group must file a tour permit, and each boy must have a permission form and class one medical. We meet at the roundtable building at 3:30 p.m. and depart promptly at 3:45 p.m. You must travel with us as a group. Each group will provide their own camping gear and food. There is no cost to participate. Each participant must have three lights of their own, preferably at least one will be a headlamp.

A combined Varsity/Venture backpacking trip is set May 14-15.

Rock climbing day is slated May 22.

District leaders have just arranged for a fantastic opportunity for boys 13 and up to attend the Teton High Adventure base at a discount. Let's have our whole district attend during the same week and have lots of fun together at one of the finest high adventure BSA bases in America. Join us either August 12-14 or August 19-21 and save \$45 off the normal price of \$195; all meals included. Register now to hold your spot by calling Don Bean (camp director) at the Scout office at 582-3663. Tell him you are from

**District 17.**

For additional information about district activities, contact Hal Myers (Hal.Myers@fairchildsemi.com) or David Bresnahan (David@Bresnahan.org).

**District 18 (Wasatch Peaks)**

Contact Glen Jones (glen.jones@twcompany.com) for information about district events.

**District 21 (Granite Trails)**

Topics for upcoming roundtable meetings include: CPR training (March 4), climbing (April 1), and cooking (May 6). Murray Zone will host the training at the LDS meetinghouse at 336 East Vine Street. The four-hour training begins at 8:00 a.m. For additional information, contact Bryant Furness.

**District 22 (East Millcreek)**

Topics for upcoming district roundtable meetings have been announced.

**March 4:** Eagle Ceremonies, Rock Climbing, Dutch Oven Dessert, and Coach's Minute

**April 1:** Primitive Fire Building, Religious Awards, Coordination, Uniforms, and Boards of Review

**May 6:** TBA

**June 3:** Games with a purpose, other topics  
TBA

The next scheduled date for basic training is April 8. For additional information, contact Doug Flegal (doc.flegal@juno.com) or Doug Mortenson.

**District 25 (Cottonwood)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d25/d25Training.htm>. Contact Bart Daniels for information about district events.

**District 26 (Silver Mesa)**

The full district training schedule is posted on the web site at [http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic\\_training.html](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic_training.html).

Contact Dave Acker for information about district events.

**District 28 (Eagle Peaks)**

The full district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d28/tr>

aining.htm.

Contact Carlos Madsen for information about district events.

**Council news****Council roundtable report**

The service program feature was the topic of the February roundtable.

**Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:**

**Advancement:** Charles Dressen reported that only 12 of the nearly 20,000 Varsity Scouts registered in the council earned the Denali Award in 2003. Dressen challenged district leaders to meet the goal of having an equal number of recipients of the Denali award and Eagle Scouts in 2004. Leaders should provide information about the Denali award to teams throughout council. Requirements for the award are listed on the council web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/Advancement/index.htm>. In addition, scorecards are available in the *Varsity Scout Guidebook* (page A-19) and at Scout Shops.

The Varsity committee would like to compile a list of all Varsity Scouts in the council who have received the Denali Award since it was introduced. Past recipients should contact Craig Edwards, council Varsity Scout adviser, by calling 582-3663 or by completing the e-mail form at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/contact/form.cfm?recordID=222>.

**Special Programs and Events:** Varsity Scout teams can begin preparations for next summer's Big Event by acquiring equipment and practicing together for various events. The Big Event is considered a camporee, not a long-term camp. Meetings to plan the 2004 Big Event have begun. Wendell Wilde is the committee chairman.

In years past, the date of the Turkey Shoot has fallen on the second Saturday of the deer hunt. Due to the opening day of the deer hunt starting one weekend later this year, the Turkey Shoot for 2004 is being moved to the Saturday before opening day instead of the originally scheduled day. The new date is Saturday, October 16, 2004.

**Service:** Varsity Scouts are encouraged to shovel the walkways of widows, the elderly, and those with physical limitations. Not only does this

provide an chance to serve, but it provides an opportunity to get to know the people of our neighborhood.

**Personal Development:** Varsity teams are admonished to include Scout-O-Rama on their annual activity calendars. The 2004 Scout-O-Rama will take place at the Fairpark on May 1. Each district is encouraged to have a booth which demonstrates Varsity Scouting. Varsity booths are being relocated further east. In addition, plans call for running two climbing towers to accommodate all who wish to participate.

**High Adventure and Sports:** Leaders are reminded of the importance of being aware of weather conditions and avalanche danger when going on winter hikes and camps. The Wasatch Cache National Forest Service web page (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/conditions/>) provides current information about weather, road conditions, and ongoing fires and emergencies. Weather information includes links to the National Weather Service (<http://weather.noaa.gov/weather/current/KSLC.html>) and National Avalanche Center (<http://www.avalanche.org/>) web sites. The URL for the Utah Avalanche Center is <http://www.avalanche.org/~uac/>.

**Training:** District trainers may purchase copies of the basic training syllabus and CD at the service center or Scout Shops.

The annual Trainer Development Conference and the College of Commissioner Science are scheduled at the Camp Tracy lodge in Millcreek Canyon on Saturday, March 6.

Two Wood Badge courses are on the 2004 calendar. Pam Smith is the director for the spring weekend course and Andy Wilde is director for the summer week-long course. On Belay, the council's week-long Junior Leader Training Conference, is scheduled at the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, July 26-31. This leadership course designed to provide team training for both adult and youth leaders. Hal Myers is the course director.

## Roundtable calendar set

District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council Varsity roundtable on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Roundtable is now held at Murray High School,

5440 South State. The meeting is held in the Little Theater (room 105) on the first floor (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/documents/map.pdf>). Parking is available on the south side of the school and Scouters may enter the school from the south side. Members will receive training which they can then pass on to the coaches and other leaders at the district roundtable the following month.

Dates and themes for upcoming council roundtables follow:

**March 17, 2004:** Preparations for Scout-O-Rama and the Varsity Big Event

**April 21, 2004:** Operation On-Target

**May 19, 2004:** Safe Scouting

No roundtable meetings are scheduled in June and July. Planning for October 2004-May 2005 will occur in August 2004.

## Course youth staff needed

Additional youth are needed to serve on this year's On Belay staff. Applicants should have completed a Junior Leader Training course (On Belay, Silver Moccasin, or Coup Trail). Those interested should contact Hal Myers, course director, at [Hal.Myers@fairchildsemi.com](mailto:Hal.Myers@fairchildsemi.com).

## On Belay leader course set

Registrations are now being accepted for both youth and adult participants who want to see a Varsity Scout team in action. On Belay teaches that a young man is capable of planning and running a program which meets the aims and methods of Scouting. It teaches young men to aspire to higher values and rely upon a coach and his committee as a resource to accomplish the activities they have planned.

The course will run July 26-31, 2004, at the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation. Registration is \$155 per person, which includes the cost of project materials, instruction supplies, handouts, food, cap, T-shirt, and insurance. A \$10 discount applies when the fee is paid before July 14. An additional 10 percent discount per person is available for teams when at least two leaders and six boys register together. For information, see the On Belay web page, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/onbelay/index.htm>. Registration forms are also available at district roundtable meetings, at any Scout

Shop, or downloaded from the web site.

## Wood Badge courses slated

Registration is under way for Wood Badge for the 21st Century--a single training program for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturing, council and district volunteer leaders and professionals.

The spring weekend course will be held at Camp Tracy in April (15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24), and the summer week-long course at the Travis Training Center at the East Fork of the Bear Boy Scout Camp runs August 9-14.

Cost for the course is \$190.00. For more information call 582-3663 and ask for the Camp Desk, send e-mail to [woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org), or visit the web site: <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/woodbadge>. Registration forms are available at district roundtable meetings, at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the council web site.

## Jamboral 2004 planned

All Scout troops in the Great Salt Lake Council are invited to a council jamboree overnight encampment to be held Friday and Saturday, September 17-18, 2004, at the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park and Events Center in South Jordan.

"Celebrate Our Founding Fathers" is the theme for Jamboral 2004. The event will give Scouts the opportunity to experience a "jamboree-style" encampment.

Jamboral leader's guide available at the council service center and Scout Shops.

Registration under way. The cost is \$15 per person (Scout or leader) if made by September 3, 2004. After September 3, the cost increases to \$20 per person. Registration includes a full embroidered hat, Jamboral patch, and 22 district trading pins. Registration forms may be downloaded from the Jamboral web site <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/jamboral.cfm>. Online registration and payment are available.

## Register now for Big Event

Early registration for the annual Varsity Scout Big Event is under way. The Big Event is scheduled June 17-19 at East Fork of the Bear.

The registration fee (\$14 per person until

April 30, \$16 thereafter) covers all regular activities as well as the participation medal and a pin which can be earned. There is an additional \$2 fee for those participating in shooting sports. A commissary plan which provides seven meals is available for \$21.

Information is available from the Big Event web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/index.htm>. Registration forms may be downloaded from the council web site.

## Eagle recognition dinner set

The annual Eagle Scout recognition dinner is scheduled on Thursday, April 29, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rice Eccles Stadium on the University of Utah campus. The guest speaker and honoree is Urban Meyer, University of Utah head football coach.

Everyone who has earned the rank of Eagle is invited. Any Eagle Scouts whose Board of Review occurred in 2003 will be admitted at no cost. The admission charge for all others is \$10.

Advance reservations are necessary. For information or reservations call the council advancement office at 582-3663.

## 2004 Varsity Scout calendar

**Scouting for Food Drive**, Saturday, March 27

**Scout-O-Rama**, Saturday, May 1

**Big Event**, East Fork of the Bear, Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19

**Operation On-Target**, Saturday, July 17

**On Belay youth and adult leader training**, East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, July 26-31

**Jamboral 2004**, Friday & Saturday, September 17-18

**Turkey Shoot**, Saturday, October 16

**47th Jamboree on the Air**, October 16-17