

## QUARTZ MINING:

The quartz mining outing was very fun and all the scouts seemed to have a great time. The scouts found lots of quartz crystals that they brought home. Although there was a few issues with scouts getting soaked in the rain and being very cold and having to sit around the fire for a while. Also we had a visit from AAA to come get some keys out of a car. Despite these setbacks the scouts seemed to have a great time.

## OPEN HOUSE:

As any scout within the Green Machine will tell you, Troop 32 is the biggest and best troop in Northern California (and possibly the world). But how do we maintain this status? By continuing to recruit and advance new scouts, of course! And the number one way to get new scouts for Troop 32 is the open house. This display of everything our troop has to offer is always a massive event, with weeks of planning and then an amazing show for the groups of Webelos that come through. This year we had a variety of engaging stations including knife safety, a common favorite, cooking, in which Webelos made and ate cheesesteaks, and a fire station, in which basic fire building and safety skills were taught. Travis, a Webelos that came through, said, "I liked it. First aid was fun to learn about". His brother Austin, another Webelos, remarked that, "It was great. Cold, but great." Altogether, this year's Open House was a massive success, and we'll see come May how many Webelos bridge over!

## VETERANS' DAY:

Troop 32 recently had the privilege of receiving a speech on Veterans' Day by one of our own resident veteran, Mr. Dagget. The revered scoutmaster was joined by his wife, Mrs. Dagget, one of the many women to become active in military service in the last few years. Mr. Dagget began by saying that every day should be Veterans' Day, a valid point considering that 2.3 million people currently serving in the military services. Veterans' Day, as was explained in the speech, was originally created in celebration of the cease-fire in World War One. This is how it came to be honored on November eleventh. Veterans' Day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is specifically designated to honor those who have died in service. Veterans' Day, however, honors everyone. A veteran is anyone who has served in any branch of military with an honorable discharge. That includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and the Air Force. Our own Mr. Dagget served as an infantryman and an airman.

One may think that Veterans' Day is not important, as we are currently in peacetime. However, lack of army could cause major problems if someone attacks, and lack of war does not affect the courage of veterans. And one may also believe that knowledge of the military and its customs are also irrelevant. After all, a military life may not be for everyone! This being said, scouting has always been entwined with the army, going so far as to have immediate promotions given to Eagle scouts. In the words of Mr. Dagget, "Everybody should serve if it fits, it will make you a better citizen."

#### NIGHT HIKE:

On the day of the night hike everyone involved showed up at Olivers for a nighttime adventure. We departed and immediately hit the trailhead at Point Reyes, armed only with our lightweight daypacks. The first part was simple, just uphill hiking in ordinary light conditions. Chatter was in the air, and a few members of the group even managed to sight a fox. We made our way to the summit, a bald patch of earth with a placard surrounded by pine trees. After an ambitious session of tree climbing and mild stick war, we regrouped for the descent. This was when night fell, but we still did not turn on our lights. We hiked in this atmosphere for a while until we hit the pitch-black forested area. Still, this was only for a small time as we soon emerged back at the base of the trail. We reboarded our vehicles and rounded out the whole experience with a trip to In n' Out.

#### ALLIANCE REDWOODS:

Every week, month, day, and year, Troop 32 advertises and thinks of itself as the biggest and best troop in northern California and possibly the world. But does this just pertain to us on the ground? Of course not! Troop 32 is just as outstanding in air and water, as we demonstrated at the Alliance Redwoods outing. For a camping trip, the accommodations were exquisite. We slept in pre-made tents called yurts complete with bunk beds(with mattresses!), sinks, lights, and most important of all, heaters. We were within walking distance was the dining hall, where we ate amazing food prepared in an actual kitchen, and the rec center, which was complete with a gym, two pool tables, two ping-pong tables, two foosball tables, and an air hockey table. On the first day we grabbed our daypacks and started our first hike of the trip. It was not a long one, but it was a hike nonetheless. The outing's participants had been split into two groups, A and B. Group A went to the small zipline known as the Gecko Glider and B went to the challenge called the North Pole. Once everyone had completed these stations, the groups rotated. B went to the Gecko glider while A went to a giant swing called the Sky Swing. Before long both groups headed to lunch, before spending the next hour and a half moving one large pile of wood into four smaller piles farther down a hill. After this, we moved into the rec

room. Sometime in this it had started to rain. After dinner we all watched a movie before heading to bed.

After breakfast the next morning there was one more activity. Group B went to the Sky Swing and group A went to the North Pole. By now it was really raining, which made climbing the rungs of North Pole even harder. After these daring exploits both groups went back to the rec room before cleaning up and heading home.

#### GOODSPEED TRAIL HIKE:

On December 12, 2015, a small group of scouts gathered at Olivers Market for the HIKE OF THEIR LIVES. After loading into cars we headed to Goodspeed Trail, a training hike for the Joshua Tree backpacking trip. As we assembled at the trailhead, you could easily pick out the scouts going on the backpacking trip from the ones who weren't, due to the fact that the backpackers came with fully weighted backpacks to gain experience. The hike was to be 7.7 miles long round trip, hiking up and then back down a mountain. As a group we experienced water crossings, blisters, and worst of all, switchbacks. At times the trails were very steep, which was no great help going up or down for the people burdened with twenty to forty-pound backpacks. But the group pushed through with typical Troop 32 strength and valor, and seldom was a whining complaint heard( though we did get lectured about the manliness of telling that you have a hot spot). Overall, the hike was another great Troop 32 success.

#### PICTURES: