



Messenger

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Meet Andrew Willis

What is your new position?

I am the new Order of the Arrow Chapter Adviser for Bitani Chapter within Santa Margarita District. This position was previously held by Walt Treadwell who provided us an outstanding 2012 year of service.

What is your past involvement with scouting?

I first took notice to Scouting during a presentation at school. The district provides presentations at all school levels to increase recruitment and show what Scouting has to offer. Since seeing that presentation in 1994, I've been hooked.

The following is a quick timeline:

1994-1995: Webelos Scout/Arrow of Light, Pack 134 Manchester, NH
1995-2002: Eagle Scout (Double Silver Palm), Religious Emblem (x2), Brotherhood (Order of the Arrow)

Patrol Leader/Scribe/Asst Senior Patrol Leader/Senior Patrol Leader,
Troop 134 Manchester, NH

Crew President/Co-Founder, Crew 134 Manchester, NH
Chapter Vice-Chief, Massabesic Chapter/Passaconaway Lodge
Lodge Secretary, Passaconaway Lodge

Camp Staff (3 years), Hidden Valley Scout Reservation,
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH

2002-Present: Adult Volunteer

2002-2004: Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 134 Manchester, NH

2005-2006: Webelos Den Leader, Pack 77 MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

2012-Present: Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 789 Camp Pendleton, CA

What project(s) do you look forward to in the coming year?

During the winter and spring season the following are some projects which will be keeping our Arrowmen busy:

- Ceremonies: Arrow of Light, Call-outs, and Ordeal/Brotherhood.
- Camp promotions
- Service at the District Awards Ceremony

I would like to remind all Arrowmen that the Chapter meets at First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside, 2001 South El Camino Real, Oceanside, CA 92054 from 7:00-8:30pm on the third Thursday of each month.

Plus, you can find us on Facebook, search for Bitani Chapter - Tiwahe Lodge #45 Order of the Arrow.

Santa Margarita District

The District Executive Minute - Jim Trageser

Hello Santa Margarita District Scouting families!

It's been a busy, hectic but mostly fun first 3 months on the job as Santa Margarita District Executive. After a lifetime in Scouting as Scout and Scouter, being on staff as a professional has been every bit as rewarding as I'd hoped - and it's because of the wonderful help and assistance all of you have provided. Your passion for Scouting, your willingness to pitch in on behalf of our Cubs, Scouts and Venturers is inspiring. Thank you for welcoming me into the Santa Margarita family.

The last quarter of any year can get us wrapped up in the numbers crunch that goes along with the business side of large successful organization. In our case, we've been focused on popcorn sales, recruiting and rechartering. None of these are necessarily the funnest part of Scouting, but they are what make the fun, rewarding times possible.

As we head into the New Year and start looking ahead to Blue & Gold Banquets, Pinewood Derbies, Camporee and Summer Camp, you'll also be hearing about our annual Friends of Scouting pledge drive.

FOS is the final piece in the business side of Scouting. The fees we all recently paid during the rechartering of our Pack, Troop, Team, Crew and/or Ship are what fund the operations of the National Council in Texas. Friends of Scouting is in large part how we pay for our local Council operations: running our camps at Mataguay and Fiesta Island, staffing the Service Center in Balboa Park. Hiring District Executives. When an FOS presenter comes to your unit, please take a few minutes and consider what Scouting is worth to your son or daughter - to your family.

Finally, as we move ahead please keep the family of our Popcorn Kernel Sharon Baker in your thoughts and prayers. Many of you have heard that Sharon died unexpectedly this fall, and I am sure her sons and husband would welcome any prayers on their behalf. She was by all accounts a treasure, and her years of service to Scouting were recognized recently with a Silver Beaver Award.

I look forward to meeting more and more of you in the coming months, and working with you to continue providing our district the best Scouting program we can.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim Trageser

District Executive



The District Chair Minute - John Howells

Happy New Year! This is the time of year that we review our last year and set goals to improve and impact our futures and the future of those we serve. We are so pleased with all of the efforts of the leaders on behalf of the boys so many attended camp and have advanced in rank and it is in large part a tribute to the leaders. Thank You.

As you set goals for this year I would encourage you to look at your own training and make sure that you are up to date on the required training but also that you have taken advantage of some of the optional advanced training that is offered by our district and council, maybe even Philmont. As a scoutmaster I always felt that it was my responsibility to attend all of the offered training so that I would be prepared in any situation as I appreciated the trust the parents placed in me by allowing their sons to go on adventures with our troop. It also adds to your credibility with the boys as you teach them some of the cool things you learn from the seasoned instructors that have so much hands on camping experience. I was able to take boys several times to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the top of Mt. Whitney and canoeing on the Colorado to name a few and I did it with confidence and preparation, knowing that I could handle emergency situations. Be Prepared!

John Howell

District Chair

Are You Our Next Webmaster?

Dear Santa Margarita District Scouters, As you may have heard, our longtime Webmaster Jon Studer is going back to school as well as working - and needs someone to take on the day to day (well, week to week may be more accurate) running of our District web site. We are looking for a volunteer who is savvy in Web design - basic skills in HTML and CSS a plus, as are PHP coding and SQL database management. If you are interested in helping further the advancement of Scouting in our District, please contact our District Executive, Jim Trageser, at 760-522-0265 or at: jim.trageser@scouting.org



"We must change boys from a 'what can I get' to a 'what can I give' attitude."

Lord Baden Powell

Editor's Notes

Newsletter submittals

Please submit news and events regarding Scouts in the Santa Margarita District to K. Harris at kgraphics@att.net. We look forward to sharing your news with the District at large.

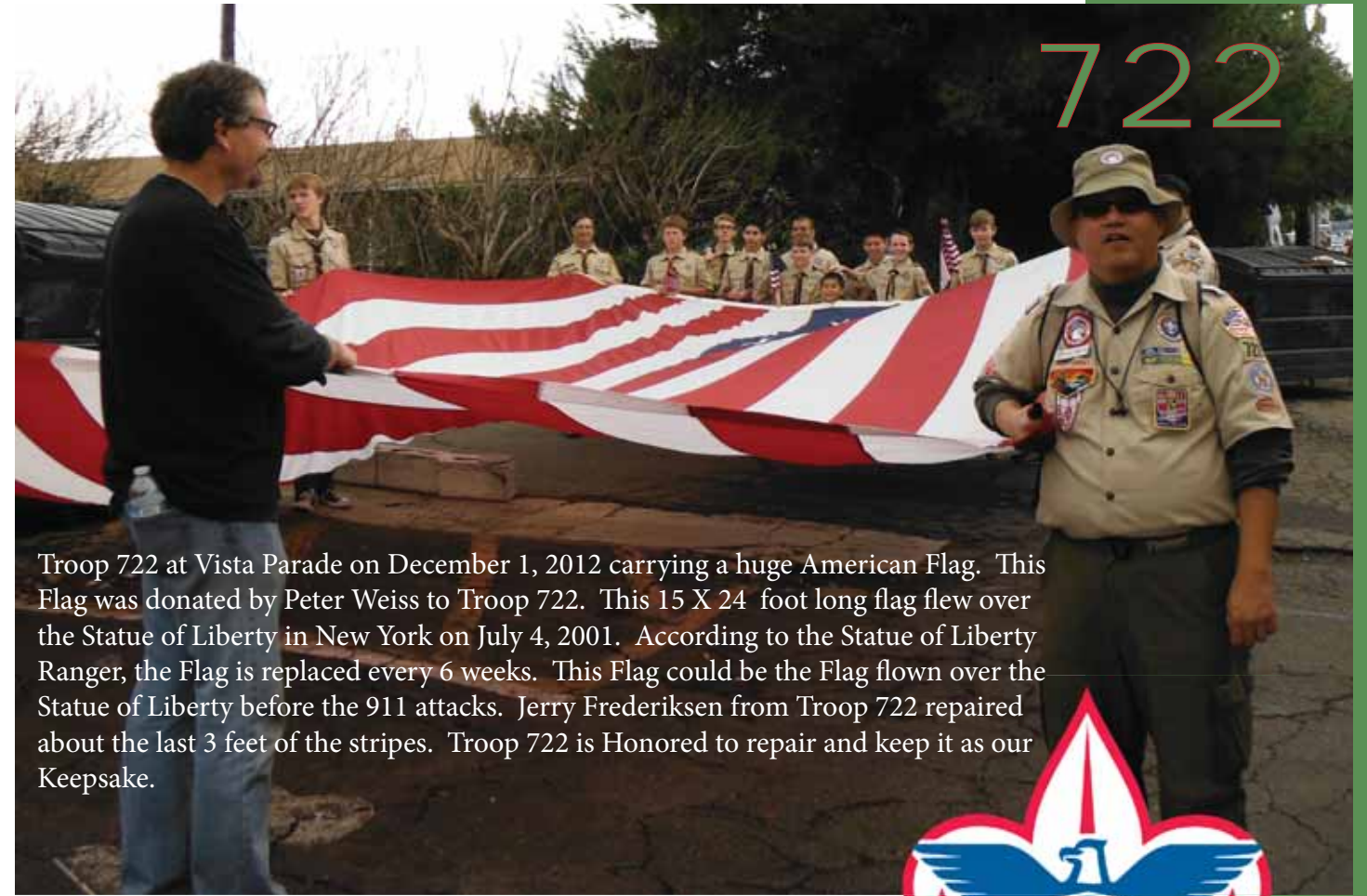
Please send in photos and a short caption explaining the event.

Please send Arrow of Light Ceremony, Blue and Gold Banquet and Pine Wood Derby photos for our next issue

K. Harris



Vista Christmas Parade



Troop 722 at Vista Parade on December 1, 2012 carrying a huge American Flag. This Flag was donated by Peter Weiss to Troop 722. This 15 X 24 foot long flag flew over the Statue of Liberty in New York on July 4, 2001. According to the Statue of Liberty Ranger, the Flag is replaced every 6 weeks. This Flag could be the Flag flown over the Statue of Liberty before the 911 attacks. Jerry Frederiksen from Troop 722 repaired about the last 3 feet of the stripes. Troop 722 is Honored to repair and keep it as our Keepsake.



Vista Christmas Parade December 1, 2012



Christmas Caroling Arcadia Place- Senior Center

In Remembrance Sharon Baker

She will be missed!



"Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Others stay for a while leaving footprints on our hearts,
and we are forever changed." - Anonymous



Save the Date!

Join other Catholic Scouts
for a day of faith, service, & fun!

Activities for all levels of Scouting!

Saturday, April 13, 2013
Old Mission San Luis Rey

More information coming soon!



Contact Tony Kyamko-Yap at: kyamkoyap@aim.com or
Pam Dixon at: northcountyeagles@hotmail.com



Old Town San Diego Hike

Sunday, November 11, 2012, the Catholic Committee on Scouting hosted a 4K hike through Old Town San Diego. Here scouts learned about the early days of education while sitting at desks in the first public school house in San Diego county, the Mason Street School.



SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNCIL

Annual Recognition Dinner and Business Meeting

Presenting the
2012 Silver Beaver Awards

Friday, February 8, 2013

Silver Beaver Reception from 6:30-7:15
Dinner program begins at 7:30 pm

Please join us for this special evening of celebration and recognition of some special Scouters. The highlight of the Council Recognition Dinner is the presentation of the prestigious Silver Beaver Awards. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor a local Council can bestow on a volunteer leader. Recipients of this award are individuals that have truly made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to a Boy Scout Council.

Scottish Rite Event Center

1895 Camino Del Rio South
San Diego, CA 92108

\$40.00 per person
Business dress or Scout uniform

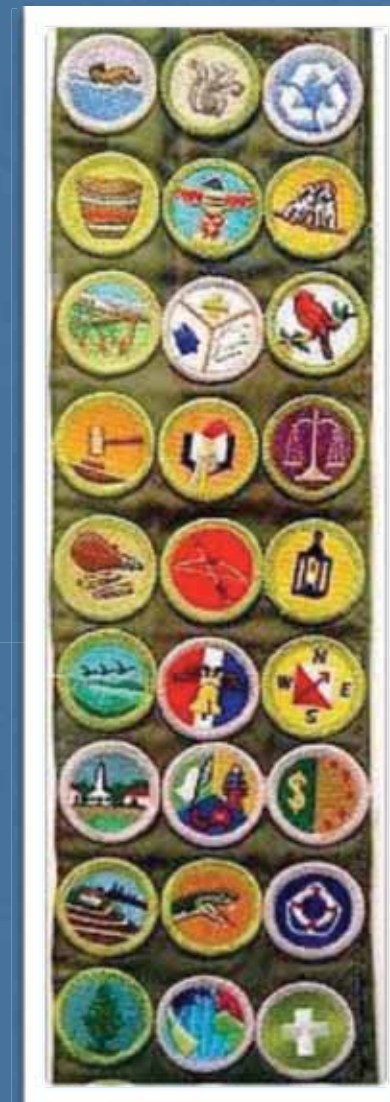
For further information about the event contact:
David Hodges—619-298-6121 x 255
Registration information contact:
Debbie Lenart at 619-298-6121 x 235

REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.SDICBSA.ORG

SANTA MARGARITA

DISTRICT CAMPOREE

2013



Mark Your Calendars!
April 26-28, 2013
Vista Antique Gas & Steam
Engine Museum



Activities: Merit Badge Classes, Totin-Chip, Firem'n Chit, Games, Contests, Campfire Show, and our Bitani Order of the Arrow Call-out!

Team Eagle Program 2012

Thanks to everyone that helped with our Team Eagle program in 2012. With your help, our district gained 70 new Eagle Scouts! Our council set a new record – 561 Eagle Scouts in 2012! Great job scouts!

I would like to take this time to thank those that volunteered this past year as Eagle Board Members. Their job is to interview each candidate and decide if they have shown the leadership required to be an Eagle Scout. Each month, new board members come and help out. They are truly the best volunteers one could ever work with! Thank you!

A special thanks to our “Team 7” Eagle Counselors! These men have taken many hours to help guide and support each and every Eagle Candidate during the final phase of the Eagle Trail. Our district Eagles are very fortunate to have their wisdom.

Please check out our district Eagle website at: northcountyeagles.org. There you will find information on our Eagle program, trainings scheduled, photos, and a listing of our Eagle Scouts.

Thank you again for making 2012 the best year yet!

YIS,
Pam Dixon
Santa Margarita Eagle Board Chair



Save the Date!

The 2013 District Dinner will be held on **Thursday, May 16th**
at the LDS Church, 451 W. Bobier. More info soon!

It's time to start looking for nominations for the District Award of Merit.
Applications can be found at: smscouting.org

Be part of the big show! Email us a fave pic of yourself from the 70's!
Prizes will be awarded! Send photos to: northcountyeagles@hotmail.com

