

THE TRAILHEAD

A Periodic Publication of the GLAAC High Adventure Team

Visit our website GLAAC-HAT.org for more HAT information.

For information & use of Western Area Units

Dennis Cline, Editor Number 238 Jul-Aug 2017 Steve Dodson, Chair

The TrailHead is published six times a year by the GLAAC High Adventure Team as an information and educational service to adult Scouters. It is distributed to all registered Scouters and Venture Leaders by GLAAC via link through the council on-line newsletter. Others, who wish to receive a direct electronic copy in PDF format, send your request to Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org.

The most recent issue of *The TrailHead* is available on the HAT website: GLAAC-HAT.org.

TRAINING CALENDAR 2017

Trail Boss (Advanced)	2 Sep
HAT Meeting	5 Sep
Desert Camping Seminar	9 Sep
ALBT Fall Class #1	16 Sep
Desert Weekend Outing	TBD
ALBT Fall Class #2	30 Sep
HAT Meeting	3 Oct
Level I Climbing Instructor	13-15 Oct
Wilderness First Aid	28-30 Oct
Winter Camping/Ice Axe Seminar	4 Nov
HAT Meeting	7 Nov
Navigation & Orienteering	18 Nov
Level II Climbing Instructor	18-19 Nov
HAT Meeting	5 Dec

TRAINING CALENDAR 2018

HAT Meeting	2 Jan
X-C Ski/Snowshoe Seminar	8 Jan
Cross-Country Ski Field Experience	13 Jan

Ice Axe Field Experience	20 Jan
Snowshoe Field Experience	27 Jan
HAT Meeting	6 Feb
Winter Camp Field Experience	10-11 Feb
Adult Ldr Backpack Training	23-25 Feb
ALBT Weekend Outing	TBD
Scout/Leader Backpack Class	3 Mar
HAT Meeting	6 Mar
Junior BP Weekend Outing	17-18 Mar
Level I Climbing Instructor	16-18 Mar
Wilderness First Aid	25-26 Mar
HAT Meeting	3 Apr
Wilderness First Aid	7-8 Apr
Rock, Rope, Rescue Seminar	9 Apr
CA Trails Day/Trail Boss	14 Apr
Level II Climbing Instructor	21-22 Apr
HAT Meeting	1 May
Trail Boss (Advanced)	5 May
Rock & Rope Field Experience	5-6 May
National Trails Day/Trail Boss	2 Jun
HAT Meeting	5 Jun
Philmont Provisional	6-21 Jul
Log Cabin Provisional	28 Jul-4 Aug
Trail Boss (Advanced)	1 Sep
HAT Meeting	4 Sep
Desert Camping Seminar	8 Sep
Desert Weekend Outing	TBD
Adult Ldr Backpack Training	15 & 22 Sep
HAT Meeting	2 Oct
Level I Climbing Instructor	19-21 Oct
Wilderness First Aid	27-28 Oct
Winter Camping/Ice Axe Seminar	3 Nov
HAT Meeting	6 Nov
Navigation & Orienteering	10 Nov
Level II Climbing Instructor	17-18 Nov
HAT Meeting	4 Dec

For updates to the training calendar, see:

<http://glaac-hat.org/flyers/HighAdventureTrainingCalendarLatest.pdf>

HAT WEB SITE/MAIL BAG

You can contact *The Trailhead* at our email address. Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org. Have an idea for Hike of the month? Have an interesting trail experience to share? A favorite hike or trail recipe? Share it with your fellow High Adventure leaders.

HAT MEETINGS JULY/AUGUST

HAT is dark in July and August. Look for us on the trail.

PATCH OF THE MONTH Adult Leader Backpack Training



Typically, we devote this space to a hiking award that your troop can earn. This month, we're taking a step back to the beginning. How do you ensure that your troop is benefiting from a well-run High Adventure program? Start with #1. You have probably been through our Adult Leader Backpack Training but how about your other troop Scouters? Every Scoutmaster should encourage adults to become trained in troop activities. For High Adventure troops, this means Basic Backpack Training. At this class, we will

also provide you with information on other; more advanced high adventure training available from your GLAAC High Adventure Team.

The seminar portion of the class is a series of presentations, discussions and demonstrations. We cover the full range of outdoor topics, including; leadership, planning and preparation, conditioning, equipment and clothing, menus and cooking, risk and safety, orienteering, route finding and mountain travel, conservation, outdoor courtesy, and long term planning. We stress the importance of training and transferring leadership to your Scouts.

Nobody escapes the paperwork, and we provide guidance on how to navigate the paper mill in your planning and award applications.

The second part of the class is a weekend experience trip in the local mountains where you practice the skills and use the equipment that were discussed at the conference. This is a backpack trip in the range of 5-7 miles.

Just by sheer coincidence, we have scheduled the first ever fall training session. This session will be on two Saturdays in September at the Trask Scout Reservation. Time is running out for reservations. See the sign-up sheet on page 8.

HIKE OF THE MONTH Dinkey Lakes

Location: Dinkey Lakes Wilderness
Trailhead: Dinkey Lakes Trailhead
Total Mileage: 8.5
Elevation Gain: 1200'
Campsites: Wilderness (LNT)
Map: USGS Topographic
Dogtooth Peak 7.5 min.

For navigating the Forest Service roads to the trailhead, you may want to add USGS Shaver Lake, Dinkey Creek, and Huntington Lake.

Verdugo hills HAT sponsors an award for the Dinkey Lakes Loop. This is a long term award requiring 5 nights on the trail and designates the route to be taken.

If you haven't got a whole week to spare, we can set our own route and do it in a long weekend. This hike is in the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness and requires a wilderness permit.

It is 270 miles (about 5 hours) to the trailhead so we are going to set out a day early. Drive North on I-5 over the grapevine and then take CA-99 north 60 miles to the Clovis Ave exit. Continue north through the city of Clovis to CA-168. Follow 168 to Shaver Lake. There are 2 BSA camps in the area whose hospitality you may inquire about - or there are several campgrounds in the area, all of which require advance reservations. You can also try for the Shaver Lake Hotel. They have 2 no-frills bunkhouses that each sleep 4. Camp overnight at Dinkey Lakes campground or one of several in the area.

In the morning, from the campground, head west on Dinkey Creek road to Rock Creek road. Say goodbye to pavement and follow Rock Creek Rd (9S9) for about 6 miles to Forest Service road 9S10. It's marked but you don't want to miss this turn. Follow 9S10 to a sharp right turn on 9S62, which ends in the parking lot for the Dinkey Lakes Trailhead at 8600 ft.

Allow 45 minutes to an hour to cover the 16 miles from civilization.

The trail starts out Northeast and after about a mile and a half and 200' gain, you will come to a trail junction for Mystery Lake. Stay on the main trail for another mile and a half and you come to First Dinkey Lake at 9239'. It's probably swampy here so keep going another mile

to Second Dinkey at 9600'. There are lots of good camping spots along the north shore.

If you're fishing, I'd try Island Lake or Fingerbowl Lake first.

Looking to the south, you see the profile that gave Three Sisters its name. At 10,619, Three Sisters is a 'C' Peak and makes a good day hike. To the southeast is Dogtooth Peak. Dogtooth is not on the Peak-Bagger list and is not recommended for Scouts. It is a rugged and unfriendly spire from which experienced hikers have been rescued in the past.

Stay at Second Dinkey for a second night or for a change of scenery; choose from any of 6 lakes within a mile. You could make this a one-night trip but once you get here, I guarantee you'll want to stay an extra night.

If you stayed two nights at Second Dinkey, retrace your route out. Another option is to backtrack about a half mile to the South Lake Trail. Follow the trail west along the North shores of South and Swede Lakes. Pass Mystery Lake and you're back at the trail junction you passed two days ago.

Continue back to the trailhead and head for the town of Shaver Lake. Stop in at Shaver Coffee and Deli for ice cream or if you are really hungry, head up the street to the Hungry Hut for the best grilled hamburger in the western Sierra.

GABRIELINO TRAIL WARNING

Ever since the Station Fire in 2009, a section of the Gabrielino Trail between Oakwilde Trail Camp and Switzer Camp Junction has been closed due to extensive damage. The lower portion of the trail between Oakwilde and JPL has remained a

popular destination for dayhikers. Recently, however, the trail has also attracted some people not interested in hiking or recreation.

The following are excerpts from an article in the August 8 edition of the Los Angeles Times:

Visitors to Gabrielino Trail say a growing transient population is posing safety risks.

BY SARA CARDINE

In June, deputies with the Crescenta Valley sheriff's station responded to a call from hikers who reported a makeshift encampment near the Gould Mesa campground whose occupants, they said, had confronted them with knives and machetes. By the time authorities arrived, the camp had been vacated.

Nancy Rose lives in El Monte and boards her horse at the Rose Bowl Riders club in Hahamongna Watershed Park. She said she's stopped using the Gabrielino Trail.

"I don't feel safe anymore," she said, describing fires, human feces and untethered dogs that spook horses. "It's really not fair to the public to have something like that happening — and nobody's doing anything."

Federal regulations prohibit camping outside designated areas, as well as installation of permanent camping facilities.

Angeles National Forest campgrounds impose a 14-day stay limit per trip and cap campers at 30 days per year. But such rules can be difficult to enforce, given the area's jurisdictional jumble of federal, county and local oversight.

Officials with the U.S. Forest Service turned down an interview request, instead offering a statement from Jamahl Butler of the Los Angeles River Ranger District.

"The Angeles National Forest is aware of issues related to unauthorized occupancy of federal lands at Gould Mesa. We are working with our partner agencies to develop effective strategies

to address these issues," the statement said. "The Forest Service remains committed to resource protection and public safety consistent with our mission and available resources."

You can see the complete article at:

<http://enewspaper.latimes.com/desktop/lati/latimes/default.aspx?&edid=6d6da19a-1465-49a5-82f0-4d6fca6e5ddf>

ADULT LEADER BACKPACK TRAINING

*** NEW ***

*** NEW ***

*** NEW ***

For the first time ever, we are offering our basic Adult Leader Backpack Training class in the fall. The class will be offered on September 16 and 30 with an additional weekend outing to be scheduled at the time of the class. The sessions will be the same as the February class, except that no overnight stay will be required.

For this training, 30 Scouters will descend on Trask Scout Reservation, north of Pasadena for classes in trek planning; equipment & clothing; menus & cooking; route finding and mountain travel; conservation; risk, health & safety, and High Adventure awards & procedures.

Registration opens at 6:30 with classes beginning at 8:00. Breakfast and lunch will be provided with the day's festivities wrapping up at 4:30.

The class is limited to 30 students and pre-registration is required. The class costs \$80, which must be received by September 8 in order to avoid a late fee.

See the information/sign-up sheet on page yy

CONSERVATION/TRAILWORK

Whenever one of your Scouts wants to do trailwork for his Eagle Project, he contacts David Ledford, our HAT Trailboss coordinator. When David is not supporting Eagle Projects, he can be found

in the mountains working with various groups to keep our local trails in good shape.

Recently, David's crew had it's work cut out for them when they cleared a downfall from the Mt. Waterman Trail. The offending lumber was over 49 inches in diameter putting it out of range of the largest chainsaws, so the crew called in an old standby, the crosscut saw.



Photo by Alan Coles

David Ledford (in green helmet) leads a trail crew in clearing the Mt. Waterman Trail.

According to David, "The no-bark diameter to be a bit over 49 inches. Sergei counted rings, and said it was at least 450 years old. That represents a growth rate that averages about 9 years/inch, which seems reasonable. So that tree had been growing for at least 200 years prior to the American Revolution. Further evidence of how special our ANF is, and how important to protect. Hard to replace this kind of old-growth forest."

Taking a closer look at the rings:

Ring #1 – 1567. The shoot makes its first appearance in what will become known as the San Gabriel Mountains.

Ring #12 – 1579. Francis Drake Claims territory along the west coast for England.

Ring #35 – 1602. Sebastián Vizcaíno maps the California coast.

Ring #198 – 1765. Spain begins colonizing Alta California.

Ring #202 – 1769. Fr. Junipero Serra founded the first mission in CA at San Diego de Alcalá.

Ring #204 – 1771. In the foothills close by, Mission San Gabriel establishes the first hospital in Alta California

Ring #257 – 1824. Mexico declares independence from Spain.

Ring #268 – 1835. Richard Henry Dana chronicles his travels along the California coast in "Two Years Before the Mast"

Ring #279 – 1846. The U.S declares war on Mexico. California Republic flag is raised.

Ring #281 – 1848. Gold is discovered at Sutter's mill.

Ring #283 – 1850. California becomes the 31st state.

Ring #293 – 1860. The pony express Begins service from Missouri to California.

Ring #325 – 1892. Angeles National Forest was created by proclamation of President Benjamin Harrison.

Ring #326 – 1893. Mt. Lowe Railway begins operation.

Ring #350 – 1917. The world's largest telescope is completed at the Mt. Wilson Observatory

Ring #357 – 1924. The Switzer-Land Resort dedicates the stone chapel on the Cliffside 200' above Switzer Falls

Ring #359 – 1926. Albert Michelson measures the speed of light using a system of mirrors on Mt. Wilson and Mt. San Antonio.

Ring #362 – 1939. Construction begins on Angeles Crest Highway.

Ring #379 - 1956. Angeles Crest Highway is completed.

Ring #450 – 2009. The tree sustains major damage in the Station Fire.

Ring #450 – 2017. Weakened by 5 years of drought, the tree falls.

Trail Boss Training-Fall 2017

SEP 2, 2017

The USDA-Forest Service, Los Angeles River Ranger District, and the Greater Los Angeles Area Council-High Adventure Team invite you to attend the next of the on-going series of Trail Boss Training sessions.

- When: Sep 6, 2016; 8:00 am to not later than 3:00 pm.
- Where: Please contact one of the sources listed below, **after August 25**, for the location of this event and directions.

The objective of this High Adventure training is to train and qualify adult volunteers to organize and supervise conservation projects by sponsored groups, such as a Scout Unit. Interested persons may begin this field training whenever a session is offered and proceed through it at the convenience of their schedule and interest.

Only adults may take this training, which is offered free to anyone who is interested in doing conservation work in the Angeles National Forest. Registration is not required; just show up at the indicated time and place. Persons already certified as Trail Bosses are encouraged to attend, to assist with the training and to upgrade their skills.

The next session of Trail Boss Training is scheduled for May 2018, California Trails Day, April 2018, will also provide some training opportunities. An Administrative Pass, valid for this date, will be provided for vehicles that lack an Adventure Pass.

Clothing and Equipment

Persons attending need to be dressed and equipped to do a full day of trail work. This includes long pants, long sleeve shirt, work boots, gloves, and a broad-brimmed hat. These are supplemented with sunscreen/sun block, dark glasses, insect repellent, and lots of water.

Sneakers/sport shoes are not appropriate wear when swinging a Pulaski and moving large rocks. Conservation project sites tend to be hot, sunny, dusty, and lunchrooms for insects. Bring your lunch and snacks. These training sessions are usually at remote sites in the Angeles.

Additional Information

- USDA-Forest Service, LA River Ranger District, Little Tujunga Station,
(Daytime): Dennis Merkel, Recreation Officer (818) 899-1900 X229
email : dmerkel@fs.fed.us.
- Dave Ledford, GLAAC-HAT Trail Boss Training: 1-310-373-2111
email: gdledford@verizon.net

Desert Camping and Travel Training – 2017

This High Adventure training begins with a seminar Saturday, September 9, 2017, 8:00 am to about 4:00 pm, at the Cushman-Watt Service Center, 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles. The seminar is conducted as a series of demonstrations and presentations. They consider the unique, harsh reality of the desert, and cover: special equipment and clothing; menu planning; desert travel and route finding; water requirements and conservation; safety and first aid; equipment and other needs for vehicles. A syllabus that covers the materials discussed will be given to each participant.

During the day, we will select a date and plan for a weekend field trip to Joshua Tree National Park (The park has a \$25.00 per vehicle entry fee). A backpack of about 5 miles, round trip, to a dry campsite, provides the opportunity to demonstrate the seminar topics.

A fee of \$20.00 is charged for the training. Registration is required by September 1. You will be sent a notice of cancellation if there are fewer than 5 sign-ups by that date. It is recommended that participants have attended Adult Leaders Backpack Training, as the topics covered here build on the basic information you received in that class.

Hike Aid 3, "Full Dimension High Adventure Training", has a complete discussion of the training activities of the LAAC-HAT. It may be downloaded from the Council High Adventure website at: <http://glaac-hat.org/HikeAids.html>. Questions about this class are to be directed to Tarin Casillas, Course Director: (310) 515-3647; e-mail, ticasillas@msn.com.

Online registration with check, paypal or credit card is available at <http://glaac-hat.org/register> or mail the following with your check.

----- Detach and include with your check -----

Desert Camping and Travel Training-2017

Please register me for attendance at this GLAAC-HAT conducted training program. A check for \$20.00, payable to the Boy Scouts of America-GLAAC, is enclosed. I understand that I may incur other nominal expenses in order to complete it.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Unit No.: _____ District: _____ Position: _____

Mail to: Greater Los Angeles Area Council-BSA
3450 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

Attn: Danette: Camping Department

Adult Leaders Backpack Training Fall 2017

The Greater Los Angeles Area Council's High Adventure Team will conduct its Fall 2017 backpack training program for adult Scouters on **two Saturdays**: Sept. 16, and Sept. 30, with a weekend backpack outing to be arranged.

The objectives are:

- To acquaint you with a basic understanding of how to plan and conduct outdoor activities
- To stimulate your participation and leadership in a High Adventure Program at the Unit level
- To inform you of the many programs and activities of the GLAAC-HAT.

This High Adventure training provides an overview of the necessities for safe and enjoyable outings. The importance of training and transferring leadership to your Scouts is stressed. While the emphasis is on backpacking, it is generally applicable to all types of outdoor activities. This is the next step beyond the camp-craft skills that are covered in Outdoor Leadership Skills (OLS).

The seminar is conducted at the Trask Scout Reservation. Registration takes place 6:30-8:00am on Sept. 16. The programs will run from 8am-4:30pm on both Saturdays. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Participants may bring their gear and camp (free) at the facility. Also, please bring a compass, paper and pencil – everything else is provided. A syllabus that covers the materials discussed will be given to each participant.

A fee of \$80.00 is charged for this training, when received at GLAAC-Camping by Sept.8th; \$90.00, after that date. This fee includes breakfast and lunch on both Saturdays. **Early registration is mandatory to ensure sufficient meals, snacks, and course materials. This class is strictly limited to 30 participants.** Persons whose registration is received by Sept.8th will be sent a confirmation, map to the location, and other details. Completion of this training is recognized by the award of a special patch.

Online registration & payment is available at <http://glaac-hat.org/register>. Or you may mail the following with a check.

----- Detach and include with your check -----

Adult Leaders Backpack Training – Fall 2017

Please register me for attendance at this GLAAC-HAT training program. A check for \$80.00, payable to the "Boy Scouts of America – GLAAC", is enclosed (\$90.00, after Sept. 8th). I understand that I may incur other nominal expenses in order to complete it.

Name: _____
Telephone (Res.): _____ E-mail: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ ZIP Code: _____
Unit No.: _____ District: _____ Position: _____
Dietary restrictions if any (please be specific): _____

Mail to: Greater Los Angeles Area Council-BSA
3450 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
Attn: Danette, Camping Department