

# The 661 BUGLE

News and Lifestyles of Scouts, Scouters and Friends of Troop 661

This issue's theme:  
**"Clean"**  
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## SPECIAL SUMMER CAMP EDITION



THE SUN SETS ON ANOTHER PERFECT DAY AT EMERALD BAY

### REMEMBERING PAST SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURES AT EMERALD BAY

By Adam Smith

Several years ago I was at the dentist for my annual check up. The dentist and I are about the same age and we both have children who were also about the same age. Of course at the dentist's office there's a lot of small talk (if you ever been, you know what I mean) and during our chat, he asked me what I was going to do over the summer. I proudly said we were going to spend a week at Emerald Bay. Hearing the name Emerald Bay, his face lit up and with a huge grin he asked "do they still have war canoe?!"

Turns out my dentist was in fact himself a scout and spent many of his summers at the very same place we were headed to. All these years later, I still can't say enough great things about our summer camp adventures at Emerald Bay. Once you've been, you will no doubt feel the same way. For an adult, it was a chance to get two great trips rolled into one. A time to see scouts having a great summer camp experience, while being able to enjoy one of California's most unique destinations.

For this edition, I've decided to bring some of those memories alive with photos (and a few words) about our adventures. I hope you enjoy our walk down memory lane and look forward to our next edition where we see what this year's trip was like!

WATCH FOR THESE  
IN FUTURE EDITIONS:  
**Our newest Eagles**  
**Summer Camp '10**  
**Dutch oven delights**

### EAGLE WATCH!

The Bugle is watching to see which scouts have finished their Eagle project and are in the pipeline to achieve Eagle. Do you know who they are?





The gang all ready to jump in our cars and head up to Long Beach where we picked up the Catalina Flyer. You might not recognize some of the scouts here, but several have already achieved Eagle! (From 2006)



On the boat ride over to Catalina Island, tables come at a premium. Here we see diligent scouts Keelin, Jesse, Chris and Cooper protecting their territory! Look for younger versions of these guys later. (From 2008)





Literally a boat-load of scouts! This is where the waiting begins. Scouts need to wait while we off-load bags, adults and Senior Patrol Leaders. All of our stuff goes into the barge (tied to the Flyer) and the rest of us go into smaller shore-boats for the ride to the Emerald Bay pier.



Unless you're up for a swim, these shore boats are the only way to get to Emerald Bay. It's almost like the Jungle Cruise at Disneyland!

Uh Oh! An ominous sign to those who don't come in Class "A"! Clearly you want to be a scout to come here. This is the sign hanging just over the pier as you leave the shore-boat and head to dry land.





## SWIM TEST!

Why does it always seem our swim test happens at 6 in the morning!? But if you want to do anything around water (and Emerald Bay is on an Island, so everything here is surrounded by water) you must take the swim test...that includes the adults too! Here our brave Scoutmaster poses with two successful swim test participants.



Waiting for grub. Here we see the troop waiting to be called into the mess hall for a meal. The mess hall manager calls your troop in for meals, so we were always trying to figure out the secret to get our troop called first. (From 2005)

The waiting is over. Ah mealtime. Waiting isn't so bad when you know you have a delicious meal that's waiting for you. Here we see some hungry scouts enjoying what looks like fried chicken with all the fixing's. If these guys look familiar, it's because you saw three of them back on the boat guarding their table. (From 2006)





## “What I did at Summer Camp”



A typical day at camp. I suspect there are playing cards on that picnic table. (From 2005)



The picture to the left is from 2008. Clearly there are cards on this table and Keelin has a killer hand!

Check out the adult leaders trying to look busy in the picture to the right,. Mr. Smith is either concentrating very hard or has fallen asleep. And we all know Mr. McPherson is only pretending to read! (From 2008)







Above, a couple of our “senior” scouts enjoy some of the finest snorkeling in the world. Both these scouts have gone on to earn their Eagle. Below, there’s also great hiking available at Emerald Bay. This picture was taken from our campsite in 2008.







Top - Cooper and Mr. Geers show off their time on the Buffalo Run. Right - These “Thrifty” scouts missed their skateboards back home, so they improvised a couple of boards out of bark. Now that’s talent! Below - the gang gathers for a friendly game of football. Oops, looks like Keelin just scored a touchdown!





# WAR CANOE!



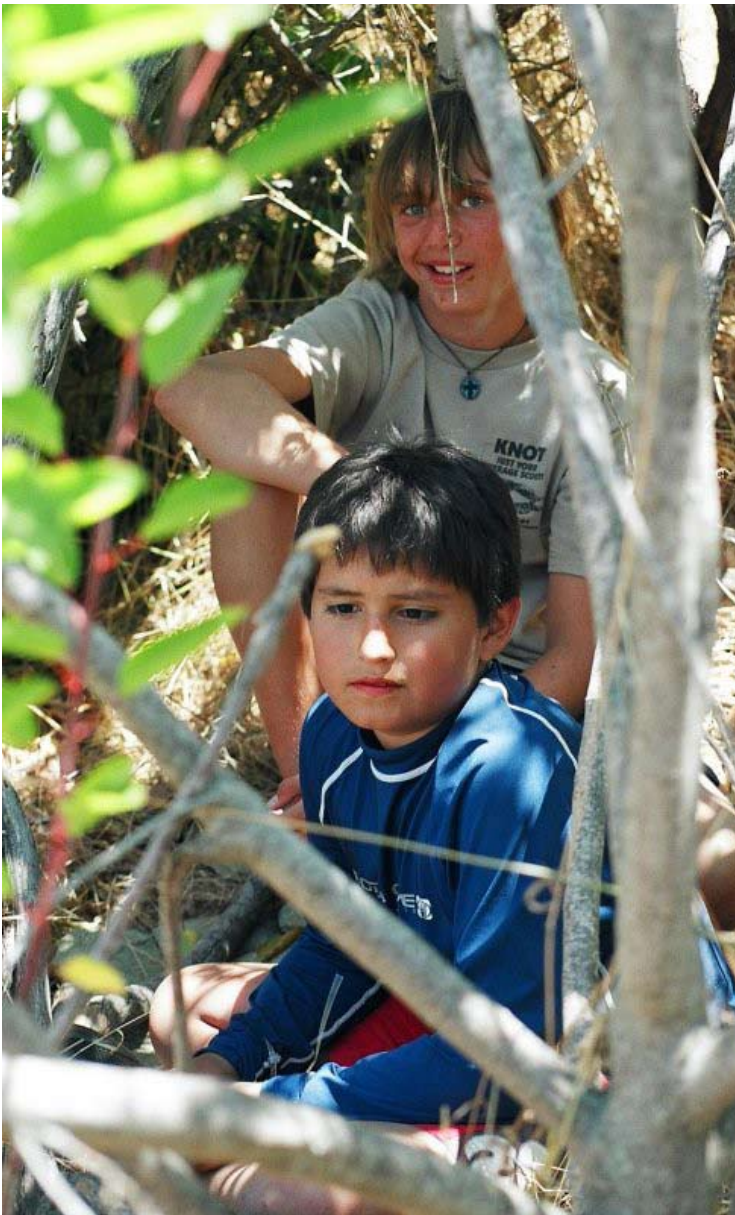
Above - Getting ready to head out. Scouts hike these canoes down the beach and into the harbor where they are loaded with sleeping bags, personal stuff, food, water and everything else we'll need to be "shipwrecked" on Parsons beach. Does our stuff get wet? Could be!

Below - No, it's not a scene from "Titanic", just some sea-worthy 661 scouts heading out to sea in their canoe.





# Wilderness Survival



If you're going to earn this merit badge, why not do it in paradise! Catalina Island offers some great natural supplies to build a shelter - which is a requirement for the badge. Above left - Jantzen and James build their shelter inland (from 2005). Above right - Cooper gathers fennel while Peter, Cooper and an unidentified scout work on a design for Peters shelter. Below, Coopers finished shelter is roomy and comfortable. And yes, we all "survived" the night.





## It's not all fun and games - we also earn merit badges!



Above - Parker with a knife! I think this was the year he cut off his finger! No kidding... blood and everything.  
Left - Andrew working on Leather working





The study never ends!  
Above - hard working  
scouts do their book-  
work for merit badges  
while (left) diligent  
scouts burn the mid-  
night oil studying for  
their merit badges.





Looks like these guys (above) had a rough night! The hard work does pay off though when they finally earn those merit badges. Below - Shipwrecked scouts get a cooking lesson while on the over-nighter at Parsons, which is part of the War Canoe experience.







## FUN TIME!

Mr. McPherson and Cooper find time to jam. Cooper also became a wandering minstrel cruising around camp with his guitar. Below left - Mr. McPherson represents 661 during the Aquacade in "Washington crossing the Delaware". Below - one of the high points of any summer camp, the campfire and closing ceremonies.





# Time to go

Below - The gang says farewell to another great year at Emerald Bay.  
Bottom - this picture says it all. It's been a great week but now it's time to get home and get some rest!

