

Troop 624 Hikes 185 Miles on Tahoe to Yosemite Trail



Just imagine, five or six young men, two older men, 185+ miles of Sierra trail, 14 days, 30-40 pound backpacks, freeze-dried food, granola, beef jerky, purified water, record breaking day hikes and life long memories. The group, members and adult leaders of Orangevale's Boy Scout Troop 624, just completed a trip from Meeks Bay to Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite. The Tahoe to Yosemite Trail is an officially recognized Boy Scout Trail (complete with its own Merit Badge) through the Sierras and has been hiked, in segments ranging from 15 miles to 75 miles in length since at least 1976. A Scout in Troop 624 (which is known as a Backpacking oriented Troop) has the opportunity to hike all segments of the Trail.

This year's journey started on July 17 with Westley Durham, Willie Diaz, Dannie Diaz, Dusty Van Gundy, Scouts and Don Howard and Aaron Montag, Leaders. Blake Van Gundy came to join in on July 19 at Echo Summit, although both he and his brother Dusty had to leave on July 22 from Lake Alpine to go to San Diego for the Junior Olympics. Westley Durham who will be a Senior at Folsom Lake High School this year, had to return home on July 29 due to a pulled muscle and was much chagrined as he really wanted to finish this year, but was concerned about slowing down the rest of the group. Westley went on his first hike on a short segment of this Trail when he was

11; he broke his arm the very first day on that hike and refused to leave until it was over, his parents expressed relief that the delay did not cause any problems for his arm. Since the Van Gundy's were at the Junior Olympics and the Diaz brothers had not yet returned, Westley was my main source of information. Westley said his favorite memory of this hike was swimming in Lake Aloha, because it was like swimming in a granite swimming pool, it was so clear. He told me the Diaz brothers (tremendously athletic) swam out to a small island in the lake, but he cautiously stayed nearer the shore and yelled at them to come back! Each Scout carried a pack weighing between 30 to



Blake & Dusty Van Gundy



L-R: Wes Durham, Dusty Van Gundy, Aaron Montag, Don Howard, Danny Diaz, William Diaz, Blake Van Gundy

four pounds, dividing the tents, tent poles and tent rain covers between them so that each had means to provide shelter if lost, they also carried water purification pumps, shovels, cooking gear and stoves. In addition, the Scouts divided the food for each day, with one Scout carrying breakfast, one lunches and one with dinners so that each one's pack was relieved during the day. They had arranged food and supply drops throughout the long hike, switching items as necessary.

The hiking days started easily enough, with the first few days only accomplishing 10-15 miles each, however, the Leaders Don Howard and Aaron Montag with Scouts Willie and Dannie finished with a flourish, hiking 27 miles from Smedburg Lake to Tuolumne Meadows in one day to set a new Troop record. Actually, the entire trip was a new Troop record; they hiked 185+ miles in 12 days, reaching 11,000 feet at one point, and 10,000 feet at four other locations. They had planned to hike into Yosemite Valley to Half Dome, however about two days out, they met a work crew who advised them of the fire at Mariposa and so determined to stop at Tuolumne Meadows. For Don Howard, who managed to celebrate his Birthday on the Trail this year, the trip was orchestrated wonderfully with Plants, trees, flowers, and wildlife all presenting themselves as if they had been specially ordered. Don advised that on all his trips the three main goals are Safety, Fun and Reaching their Goals and as he has been leading these hikes since 1976, he felt this was one of the most successful ever.

Boy Scout Troop 624 meets at the Oak Avenue Free Methodist Church at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesdays during the year and currently has several scouts starting their Eagle Scout Projects. This Troop and this hike are sponsored mainly by the Orangevale Rotary Club and help with several Rotary projects such as their annual Christmas gift program.

To Buy or Not To Buy ~ Continued from page 2

to be repaid at some time in the future) and can keep your principal and interest payments at or below 25% of your current (and projected) take home income.

The second consideration is your overall structured debt—loans, credit cards, and any other debt requiring monthly payments. There's more, but this is a good start.

Looking at other purchases, almost anything else is fair game but should be paid for in cash ... not credit, not no-payment-for-a-year offers (they really are traps for the unwary), or anything else where you are going to pledge part of your future in repayment.

And as for other kinds of investments, once again using the criteria, such as Capital Allocation, Reserve, Debt Retirement Programs, and Additional Resource Development, from Cash Mountain, this can also be one of the greatest times for stable, long-term investment opportunities.

So Much To Do, So Little Time

Most people are so busy these days it can be difficult to find the time to get everything done in the run of the day. There's work, shopping, taking the kids to ballet, soccer, swim lessons, checking in on an elderly relative, housework, cooking, and the list goes on and on. On top of all that there is the dog that needs grooming, which requires dropping the dog off and four to eight hours later going back to pick the dog up. Finding the time and trying to combine trips to save gas can be a hassle. There is another option, Patsy's Mobile Grooming. You may remember Patsy from a prior issue; she and Jerry were the first couple to be married at the new community service center at Hazel and Madison. Patsy is a long time Orangevale resident and has been grooming for five years now. She bought a van and became mobile

two years ago. She can add convenience to your life, because she comes to you. You can stay in the house where it's cool doing other things while she grooms your dog in her van in your driveway. The length of time it takes depends on your breed of dog. It allows you to take care of two things at once and your pet is not caged for hours. Your dog goes from the house to the van and back into the house, making it less stressful for the dog. She does everything a grooming shop does from bathing to clipping to blow drying to flea dips. If you have an elderly relative that has a dog but has difficulty getting out of the house, or no longer drives, save yourself the stress of trying to accomplish one more thing in your day and give Patsy a call at 988-2007, after all her motto is "I pamper your dog in your driveway".



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