Committee Chair Update – John Hager
New Scoutmaster – Please welcome Mike Brown as Troop 84’s new Scoutmaster. He takes over for Mark Vicars who stepped down last month. A very special thank you also to Mark Drisko and Al Nichols for serving as interim leaders and for assisting in the transition.

Treasurer’s Report (as of Mar. 31, 2009) – Rick Martin

On file

Past Activities
Snow Camping – 5 Scouts and 3 adults took part in Troop 84’s annual snow camping trip on March 21-22. There was lots of snow for the boys to build two shelters. It was a cold night (temps dropped to 17°F) and they awoke to 26” of fresh snow the next morning. Thanks to Lou Poitras for organizing this trip and teaching the Scouts the art of survival in such conditions.

Forest Home Farms Clean-up – 11 Scouts & 7 adults/family members worked a total of 45 manhours on the morning of Sat. March 28th helping clean-up the grounds of Forest Home Farms for “Farm Spruce-Up Day”.

Church Clean-up – On Sat. April 4th, 10 Scouts and one adult helped clean up the church grounds. The weather was great and the group logged almost 34 hours of work.

10-mile Hike – Jim Lauffer led a group on a 10-mile hike on Mt. Diablo on Sat. April 11. 7 adults and 11 Scouts enjoyed great weather and some good exercise.

Pre-Camporee – Troop 84’s annual Pre-Camporee took place April 18-19 at Mt. Diablo. 13 Scouts and 7 adults enjoyed a weekend of building new friendships and getting a number of rank requirements signed off.

Upcoming Activities
10-Mile Hike (Lauffer) – The next 10-mile hike will take place on Sat. May 9th. See recent email from Jim Lauffer for all the details.

Camporee (Brown) – The annual District Camporee is being held May 29-31 at Rancho Los Mochos, in the hills south of Livermore. It’s a fun weekend with a number of patrol competitions between Troops, including an Iron Chef cooking contest and a “Battle of the Bands”. See recent email and permission slip from Mike Brown. Sign-ups and payment are due now.

Conditioning Hikes (Lee/Lauffer) – Conditioning hikes, to prepare Scouts for the 50-milers this summer or just for some good exercise, are being held every Mon. and Thurs. evenings at 7 pm. Meet across the street from Scott Perkins’ home for a prompt departure at 7:05 pm. Family members are welcome.

Upcoming Activities (Cont’d)
Summer Camp (Lee) – Preparations for summer camp at Wente are in full gear. There will be a mandatory meeting on Tues. June 9th (in conjunction with the regularly scheduled monthly parent meeting) for all parents with Scouts attending camp. At that time medical forms and permission slips (Troop 84 and Firearms Use) will be collected. NOTE: All attending Scouts and adults are required to have the correct medical form completed and signed by their doctor. Forms are available on Troop 84’s website. For details on the camp and merit badges being offered, visit Wente’s website: http://www.wentescoutreservation.org/index.html.

50-milers (Lee) – Two 50-mile backpacking trips are planned for this summer. The first, from July 18 – 25, will take place at Emigrant Pass and is geared toward beginner or first-time hikers. The second, for Scouts who have been on at least one previous 50-miler, will take place Aug. 8-15 at Yosemite. See recent emails from Aaron Lee for details and permission slips.

Merit Badges
Personal Fitness (H. Martin/Dawson) – Underway.
Personal Mgmt (Drisko) – Started in Jan. Eagle-required.
First Aid (Poitras/Lee) – Started in Jan. Eagle-required.
Hiking (Brown) – Underway. Open to all Scouts.
Cit in Community (H. Martin) – Underway. Eagle-required.
Cit in Nation (Drisko) – Underway. Eagle-required badge.
Communications (K. Nichols) – Started in Feb. Eagle-required.
Railroading (Brown) – Open to all. Started in February.
Dog Care (Lonie) – Underway. Open to all Scouts with a dog.
Cycling (Lee) – Open to all. Starting in May.
Fishing (Dami) – Open to all. Starting in May. See recent emails.
Space Exploration (Brown) – Open to all. Will start in the spring.
Scholarship (Houston) – Open to all. Email Mrs. Houston if interested.
Reading (Houston) – Open to all. Email Mrs. Houston if interested.

Key Dates for Upcoming Events (www.troop84bsa.org)

May
9 10-mile Hike (Morgan Territory Wilderness/Vasco Lake)
16 Fishing Trip/Merit Badge
23-24 Yosemite Overnight / Hike to Yosemite Falls
29-31 Camporee (Rancho Los Mochos)

June
13-14 Introductory Backpacking trip (location TBD)
20 10-mile Hike (Mt. St. Helena)
28-7/4 Summer Camp (Wente)

July
18-25 50-Miler (Emigrant Wilderness)

Announcements
National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) – All Life Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend a leadership course to prepare them for their Eagle Scout project. There are two 1-week sessions this summer. See Al Nichols for more details.