

# Troop 691 News

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## Canoeing at Fiesta Island

By Michael Quileza

In early September, 16 scouts and 6 adults from Troop 691 drove down to Fiesta Island in San Diego for a canoeing trip. Down at Fiesta Island, scouts had the opportunity to work on the Canoeing Merit Badge or work on sign-offs for Tenderfoot through First Class.

When the troop first arrived, the more inexperienced scouts had a bit of hassle putting up the tents in the dark, but in the end the tents were put up in about an hour. In the morning, we had breakfast then changed clothes for canoeing. First, those working on the merit badge reviewed the first aid required, and learned the parts of the canoe. After the new scouts fitted themselves for life-vests and

paddles, they headed down to the water to take the swim test. Then they brought the canoes to the beach, chose partners and canoed on their own. The older scouts did sign-offs or took the BSA swim test so they could begin kayaking.

*“...one of the patrols realized that a squirrel had feasted upon their bread. But scouts are always prepared!”*

During lunch, the merit badge counselor, Steamroller, joined the scouts. It was then that one of the patrols realized that a squirrel had feasted upon their bread. But scouts are always prepared! The other patrol had two loaves of bread and shared one of their loaves. After a filling lunch they headed back down for more canoeing.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Troop 691 helped Ralph's #161, a long-time generous supporter of Scouting, celebrate their Grand Re-Opening this summer.



At the City of Irvine's August 23rd Council Meeting.

## Troop Tidbits

### Summer of Fun:

Whether you went on one of the exciting week-long camps or not, parents and Scouts were busy planning a lot of fun things for the Troop right here at home. Wild or mild, fun for the whole the family or just boys being boys, there was something for everyone. What activity was your favorite?

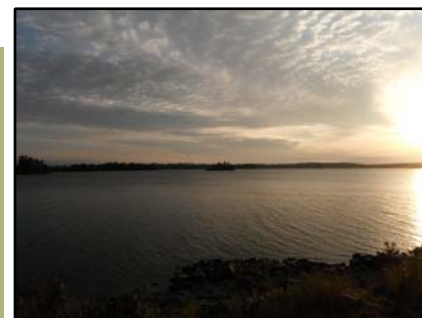
### Newport Beach Breakers:

Scouts and parents alike helped make this yet another successful

event. Their dedication to a job well done was appreciated by organizers and attendees alike.

### City of Irvine Council Meeting:

Over 20 Scouts performed the opening flag ceremony at the City of Irvine's August 23rd Council meeting. They met Mayor Kang and various city officials, then sat in on the meeting, listening to discussions on topics that affect our local community.

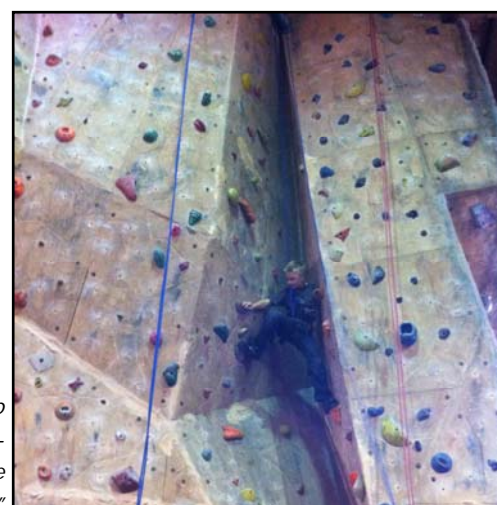


Northern Tier, MN

*"...many of my favorite experiences so far have come from [the Northern Tier] camp."*



*What better way to enjoy a beautiful summer evening than a bike ride to the beach?*



*This summer, Troop 691 gave a new meaning to the phrase "climbing the walls."*

## Canoeing at Fiesta Island

*(Continued from page 1)*

After lunch, the boys were instructed to canoe down to another section of beach. Steamroller said they could play in the mud or water about 20 minutes. Later the eager scouts took two canoes and capsized one of them to practice flipping the canoes right side up. On our way

back to the main beach, scouts had to battle the wind to get back.

Dinner was almost perfect until the other patrol realized the squirrel had returned and eaten their tortillas. Then the Scoutmaster gave the patrol's Grubmaster an idea to make an unusual, but delicious mix of food made from the leftovers from lunch and breakfast including salsa,

several cheeses, sausage, chicken, and a little bit of effort.

Later in the evening a flag retirement ceremony was held and leadership made a speech. In the end, the boys learned lessons in camping, canoeing, and improvising thanks to a renegade squirrel.

## Tahquitz

By Stephen Ko

BSA Troop 691 recently went on a one week campout this summer at an amazing site called Tahquitz. At Tahquitz, the majority of the troop went to merit badge classes to earn merit badges. Most of us had about 3 or 4 classes which ended around lunchtime. After lunchtime we had special activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and more. Other than merit badges and activities, there were also some scouts that did the mile swim. Some of these scouts are Jack Peabody and Michael Harper. Camp Tahquitz was a blast for everyone and we hope the upcoming campouts will be just as good!



*Getting away from it all at Camp Tahquitz.*

## Northern Tier, MN: Land of Cheese Curd & Lakes

By Ian Campbell

This past summer me and several other scouts from Troop 691 ventured to Minnesota to go to Northern Tier, one of the BSA's 3 high adventure summer camps. Each one is unique and each exemplifies the terrain of their location as well as the many activities a scout can do there. Whether it be canoeing, hiking or scuba diving there is a camp for everyone. Minnesota is a pretty great state. It's close enough to Canada that everyone is very friendly but it also has all the creature comforts we are used to in California. One of the first places we stopped after getting out of the airport was Walmart and I that point I knew we were still in the U.S. For a few of us this experience wasn't new; Jeffrey, Robbie and I had been to Philmont, New Mexico so we knew the feeling traveling for hours and eating junk food all the way there. Basically I just want to

say Minnesota is great and they sell cheese curd in super markets, so there.

Our first two days in Minnesota were mainly spent hanging out at a sports dorms/ski resort near the base mainly due to a scheduling mistake on Northern Tier's part, but it was still fun. Once we finally did get to go we spent a majority of our time preparing to actually leave. We got food from the commissary, stoves and pans from the base HQ and before we knew it we were putting our canoes in the water and paddling away from a base camp we hardly new. We did lots of things, mainly paddling and carrying the canoe but still there was many experience unique to Minnesota and unique to Northern Tier. We camped on islands (specifically Norway Island as Robbie and Jared insisted), we paddled through moose muck, rain and

even snow, we were even chased off a campsite by a bear (right before it started snowing believe it or not). We also ate great food; Kool-Aid flavored cheese cake (my fault), Hudson Bay Bread with Nutella, and various tasty forms of G.O.R.P (Good Old Raisins and Peanuts). All these things can be experiences nowhere else but Northern Tier. Overall the trip was great and I know that many of my favorite experiences so far have come from this camp. It's definitely worth the preparation and the money and I encourage anyone remotely interested to come and join us. Because these things we do are things only doable in scouts and only doable when you participate in high adventure. Thanks for reading and I hope to see many of you come next summer when we go to Florida Sea Base.

## Contact Info

### Scoutmaster:

Mr. Jody Johannessen  
nanook4@cox.net

### Committee Chair:

Mr. Mark Peabody  
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## Meeting Location

### St. John Neumann

Youth Center  
5101 Alton Parkway  
Irvine, Calif.

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Conservation Camping Trip
6 Conservation Camping Trip	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Troop Open House	15	16	17 Committee Meeting	18	19
20	21 No Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 TLC Meeting	29	30			

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Joshua Tree Camping & Climbing MB	10 Joshua Tree Camping & Climbing MB
11 Joshua Tree Camping & Climbing MB	12	13	14	15 Committee Meeting	16	17
18	19 40th Anniversary Celebration Lakeview Sr. Ctr.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 No Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 TBD Ski Day or...
8 TBD ...Snow Weekend	9 Troop Open House	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 No Meeting	17	18	19 Committee Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

We're on the web at  
troop691.net



*The Scouts and their parents would like to thank **St. John Neumann Church**, whose generous support helps Troop 691 in Irvine a great place for boys to learn scouting.*