



Annaliese Parker
Western Region President
2012-2013

President's Message:

Hello, Western Region!

A lot has happened during the summer for us! We planned our first Superactivity for the Region for this Labor Day weekend. We also secured our date and location for the 2013 Western Region Venturing Youth Conference in Seattle, Washington.

Our Vice President of Communications, Teddy Heidmann, has created an Area email address for each Area President and Vice

President, as well as for the Region officers. He has also created the first Western Region updates email distribution list that anyone can subscribe to.

Our Vice President of Administration, Shantell Sallee, has been putting lots of time into distributing the peer-to-peer recruitment packets that were just released by National.

Please read on in the newsletter to find out about each of these topics and how to either sign up or subscribe.

Yours in Venturing,
Annaliese Parker
Western Region President, 2012-2013

Rafting Superactivity

Have you signed up for the Western Region Super-activity yet?! Coming this Labor Day weekend (Aug. 31 - Sept. 3) is the first of many Region Superactivities. This whitewater rafting trip is being held on the American River near Sacramento, California.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet people from around the Region and have some fun while doing it! We will be rafting class 3 and 4 rapids, have access to fishing on a private pond, have an opportunity to get a full or partial rafting Ranger Award elective completed (or the Whitewater Merit Badge), and food is included!

For those coming from farther parts of the region, we will have housing and transportation available upon request during registration.

More details are available on the website or on the flier also on the website. If you have any additional questions please contact:

superactivity@wrventuring-bsa.org



Take a look at page 2 for a history of how the website and one of its features, the Chart House, came to be.



Scan this QR code to be taken to the Rafting superactivity signup page! Remember, only 36 slots available, so sign up quick!

One Scout Oath and Law Proposed for all BSA Programs

The volunteer-led task forces supporting the 2011-2015 National Council Strategic Plan's Goal 411, after considerable deliberation, have recommended moving to the use of the Scout Oath and Law for all BSA programs. This change would primarily impact Cub Scouts and Venturing.

The recommendation has been reviewed and endorsed by the national support committee responsible for program content changes. It has also been discussed and endorsed by the national officers of the BSA, and Wayne Perry has directed that the recommendation be brought forward to the National Executive Board at its October 2012 meeting.

The basis for the recommendation is strategic in nature and is intended to reinforce the connection between all of our BSA programs and the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. Since it is the mission of the BSA "to prepare young people to make ethi-

cal and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law," it is the task forces' judgment that this goal is best achieved if all programs use the Scout Oath and Law as their primary statement of values and ideals.

As the changes might impact Cub Scouts, consultation with cognitive and child development specialists and educational practitioners involved in Scouting supported the reasonability of the recommendation and did not identify any age-appropriate difficulties with implementation. Additionally, research among parents and Cub Scout leaders was also supportive.

The changes as they impact Cub Scouts would be implemented with the full rollout of the work of the 411 Task Force, scheduled for the 2015-2016 program year.

For additional information about the task force's work, please contact the Region President at: president@wrventuring-bsa.org.

Chart House for website had interesting origin

The vision for the Chart House grew from my experience while serving in the Area VOA. The first question people asked always me was “What’s an Area?” (We have to admit that Areas are a bit of a secret, right?)

Members of the OA know about Sections, because they have annual Conclaves, but Areas have been the domain of adult volunteers, not youth. I could explain that my Area encompassed the 11 local Councils of the Pacific Northwest, but when I went on to say that it didn’t include all of Oregon and Idaho, but did take in

a portion of California, the looks became quizzical.

I also had no idea where the other Areas resided. It was time for a map, and since we include Sea Scouting, we needed it to be called a chart.

The other factor driving the creation of the Chart House was to display where BSA kept hidden its native High Adventure programs in the West. There are many, many HA resources out here, but which ones did we actually own and run? We needed to help our local councils with their High Adventure marketing.

Getting the accurate data remains a challenge! Identifying council boundaries was often a search for “Where’s Waldo?” along with tracing out highway and county lines on Google Maps. Finding enough colors to select so that some Councils could be differentiated from their direct neighbors was harder than expected. Did you know that the Nevada Area Council borders on 12 others?

Finally, I scanned each WR council website for their Venturing HA resources and then placed a marker on their chart. Too many markers could make for a crowded chart, so only actual Venturing HA resources were placed on those top-level charts.

The neat part of the Chart House is that it can easily be expanded. Click on Chart House on the WR web site menu... it immediately expands to show the Area Charts. With time, we can make local council charts within each of those areas, and allow Council VOAs to add markers for Service Centers, camps, or just about anything of interest to their local Venturing audience. These could even be District and Crew charts.

The Chart House, just like the rest of the website, is there to serve the Areas so that they can better serve their councils.

—submitted by **Jeff Zantek**, Region youth webmaster 2011-2012



Jeff Zantek
Region Webmaster
2011-2012



Above, an Area page for the Chart House, one of Jeff Zantek’s many contributions.

If Scouting was a sport, Summer would be its season

Scout Camp, Day Camp, Sea Base, National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE), Wood Badge, Powder Horn, Philmont Leadership Challenge (PLC), National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), Jamboree, Camporee, Kodiak, The Summit, and most other events are held during the Summer.

This Summer is no exception. But, for the first time ever (and hopefully not the last), the Western Region had a NAYLE/PLC Course specifically for our Region! This course was the first time the two trainings were taught together and it was very successful.

The course was held at Camp Tamarancho, Marin Council, near Fairfax, California. There was a total of 68 participants and 25-plus staff.

There were people from five different states (California, Oregon, Ohio, Louisiana and Idaho), and ages ranged from 14 to “old” (many adults refused to give their age.). The course had excellent representation.

There was a high amount of enthusiasm throughout the course from all involved. There were skills taught ranging from Search

‘n’ Rescue, First Aid, Geocaching and Radio Usage to Cooking, Navy style showers, fire ban awareness and raccoon tracking and awareness.

Most of all, we were all taught the concept of Servant Leadership using the ideal “*Primus inter Parus*” or “First among Equals.”

Graduation was of mixed emotion, as we all left a team. We had arrived individuals from different backgrounds, but we still learned to work together. I had been placed in a “Crew” of eight: myself, a boy from California and six older boys who had traveled from Louisiana.

Were I to give an opinion of this course and others like it, I would say, “10 stars!” This course was well taught and prepared. The price was well worth it.

I am glad to say Philmont is no longer the *only* option for these courses. I encourage all of you to attend if you get the chance.

— submitted by a proud participant,
Copper Quist, Area 1 President

AREA 1

President.....Jeremy Felty
 Vice Presidents...Ryan Peterson
 Kim Black-Ward Jeff Zantek
 Advisor.....Dr. Bruce Noonan

Great summer activities in Area 1

Venturers in Area 1 have really been enjoying summer! We've had some great events take place so far, and several more are planned for the month of August.

In June, Pacific Harbor Council held a Powderhorn Course, as well as an NYLT Course!

The council also had its annual Adventure Trek – a bike,

hike, raft and canoe adventure! Chief Seattle Council has also been busy, conducting a NYLT course June 16-21.

The councils in Area 1 also have a bunch of great events. Mt. Baker Council will conduct another NYLT coming up August 13, as well as the annual VenturePaloosa on Aug. 24-25!

All the councils in Washington join together the year before National Jamboree and put on WashJam! It's on August 16-19 at

Joint Base Lewis-McCord! You don't just have to be from Washington to attend so sign up soon!

The Area 1 VOA has begun planning for the Area Training Conference! It'll be on November 9-10 at Camp Thunderbird; Venturers in Area 1 that are interested in higher leadership please come check us out!

If you have any questions about anything Venturing related, please be sure to email me at area1-president@wrventuring-bsa.org!

Venturing is young; you will have to enter the arena and risk embarrassment and failure. But if you never put in the effort, then you, your fellow scouts, and Venturing as a whole will never know the sweet taste of victory.

By Jeremy Felty
 2012-2013 Area 1 Venturing President
area1-president@wrventuring-bsa.org



Area 2 leadership remains on growth track

The Area 2 Venturing Officers Association is currently comprised of myself (president), two vice presidents (communication and administration), and our advisers. Their are also three Council VOA Presidents who are members of our VOA.

Three of our Councils are busy with Summer events and have not been able to organize a new VOA. Therefore, the Area VOA will remain incomplete until this Fall. Nevertheless, we've been busy these last few months with our "regular" jobs: staffing Scout Camp or attending other trainings. All the while, we have juggled our personal lives and made preparations to begin work in earnest in the Fall.

As most Councils are busy with their Summer programs. We are excited to be working with these Councils and look forward to the many challenges unique to our Area. We have had a conference call and worked using email to prepare for a Area Retreat, as well as gather details for the Area Conference. There is a high level of enthusiasm in our Area and we will work to put it to good use. The Region's Venturing program future looks bright and we hope to be an instigator of its success.

By Copper Quist
 2012-2013 Area 2 Venturing President
area2-president@wrventuring-bsa.org

AREA 2

President.....Copper Quist
 Vice Presidents.....Justin Harris
 Advisor.....John Harris

Area 3 preps for whitewater Superactivity



Area Three had its first meeting of the term on June 24 where the Area Vice Presidents were officially announced: Amanda Clark as Vice President of Administration, Forrest Yeh as Vice President of Program, and Indy Nelson as Area Vice President of Communication.

Our Area has decided that since we had such a great event last spring, that we will try to continue it with a second Area Three Leadership Summit. But before we have our Leadership Summit, Area Three is hosting the Superactivity that is sponsored by Western Region – whitewater rafting the American River over the Labor Day weekend. No doubt it will be a great weekend, full of fun and excitement!

By Tess Mitchell,
 2012-2013 Area 3 Venturing President
area3-president@wrventuring-bsa.org

AREA 3

President.....Tess Mitchell
 Vice Presidents....Amanda Clark
 Forrest Yeh Indy Nelson
 Advisor.....Larry Peterson



The Western Region VOA presents...



AMERICAN RIVER RAFTING TRIP



WHEN: Labor Day Weekend: August 31 - September 3

WHERE: American River, CA

WHO: up to 36 Venturers from the Western Region (more if meals only)

WHAT: Join us Labor Day weekend for an exciting rafting trip down the American River, one of the most popular and heavily rafted river systems in the United States.

COST: \$295/person. Fee includes rafting, meals (Saturday, Sunday and Monday breakfast) and campsites with tents and sleeping pads. Spots are limited. If you are providing transportation, meals for the weekend can be purchased for \$100.

SIGN-UP: Go to www.wrventuring-bsa.org/superactivity and click on the registration link, or scan the code to the right.

Questions? Email superactivity@wrventuring-bsa.org



A word from the field, and from the Region VP-Admin

What have I been doing over the last two months, you ask? I have been working at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch, in Red Feather Lakes, CO.

I hold and do a ton of different jobs up here. I've also been working on updating the contact list, working with area VP-Admins to get in touch with council and district VOAs, and to see how I can give them a hand.

I've been working on a list of awards that Venturers can earn and where to find and learn about them. I have also been working on planning an Area 5 wide 'BIG' training event, hopefully to be held next May, if not the following year!

By Shantell Sallee
2012-2013 VP of Administration
vpadmin@wrventuring-bsa.org

Area 3 Takes Charge!!

One incredible event Area Three decided to put on was a Leadership Summit. The weekend was dedicated to helping teach our Council VOA Officers important skills that they would be interested in learning, such as Communications and Leave No Trace.

We also had some courses that would help with award advancement, such as Ethical Controversies and a Q&A about how to earn the Gold and Silver Awards.

We are already looking forward to next year's Leadership Summit and hope that Venturers from other Areas join us in next spring's Leadership Summit.

- submitted by *Tess Mitchell*

VP-Comms Query of the Month:

"If you were stuck on a deserted island, what one thing would you want to have with you?"

Here are the responses from each Area representative:

Area 1: Really comfortable hammock: so I could relax in peace.

Area 2: Navy SEAL Team: Is there anyone better in this situation?

Area 3: Llama wearing sunglasses: because they are classy creatures.

Area 4: Kindle "Fire": so I can watch movies and read all day

Area 6: A hammock: I like to be comfortable when I sleep. :)

President: Solar toaster oven: so i can cook any food i find

VP Comms: My computer with internet access: so i can rule the world

VP Admin: A knife: if you know how to use well enough it can save your life!

Have a question you want to see answered in our next newsletter?? Send it to: vpcomms@wrventuring-bsa.org



Jillian Infusino
Area 4 VOA
President - 2012-13

Kudos to Area 4 Venturers on the go

Area 4 has some very busy councils this summer! To kick off the summer programs, Los Angeles Area Council has a council contingent going on a two-week trip to Philmont as well having their annual Venturing Week at Forest Lawn Summer Camp.

Long Beach Area Council is hosting a Venturing Regatta on August 18 that is open to the entire Area. Orange County Council is busy preparing for their Powder Horn Course this fall that everyone is welcome to attend!

The Area 4 Cabinet would also like to give a very special shout out to Alexandra "Ali" Wurm, the San Gabriel Valley Council VOA President for earning her Stars and Stripes Award as an American Heritage Girl.

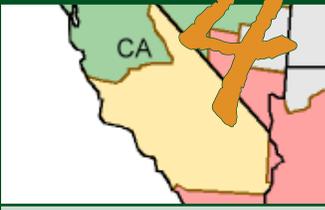
Both meetings and fundraisers have started for the Council Venturing Patrols all over the Area which are attending the 2013 National Scout Jamboree.

The Area 4 President will be visiting the Summit July 10 -15 for the official Jamboree Shake-down as a staff member. The Area President and Area Advisor are currently working with some Venturers in West Los Angeles to establish a Venturing Officer's Association in West LA.

Go Area 4!

By Jillian Infusino
2012-2013 Area 4 Venturing President
area4-president@wrventuring-bsa.org

AREA



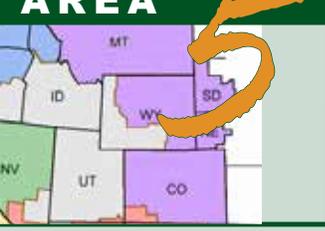
President.....	Jillian Infusino
Vice Presidents....	Chris Moncrief
Advisor.....	Chuck Williams



Area 5

Venturing Officers' Association continues to be a work-in-progress. Don Diaz, as Area representative, continues to work with each of the councils in developing Council VOAs to strengthen Venturing in each council.

AREA



VOA President	to be named
Area 5 Representative	Don Diaz



Malia Ashley
Area 6 VOA
President - 2012-13

Area 6 leaders build Region connections

Since the beginning of June, Area 6 has been delving into position descriptions and responsibilities of all the officers. Our Area Vice Presidents have introduced themselves to their respective Region Vice President counterparts, and have established a quality, on-going working relationship – especially in communications.

Our Administrative Vice President has been working to find contacts in the Hawaii councils Maui County and Aloha. Although we have not had much success finding Venturing representatives from these councils, we think it is possible for us to find out the strength of their Venturing program

New Email Distribution List

Western Region has a brand new email distribution list that you can subscribe to for details on upcoming events, newsletters, and many other updates from the Region or from individual Area VOAs.

To subscribe, go to www.wrventuring-bsa.org/emails and follow the instructions. We moderate all posts before they are sent out, and we promise not to send out too many (this is not a discussion blog! – it's for announcements only).

Contact List for Area, Region VOAs

Trying to contact the Area or Region officers, but don't know how, or even who?

The region communications team has put together a simple yet elegant system for contacting people!

Each officer has an email (i.e., area1-president@wrventuring-bsa.org) that has been set to automatically forward to their personal email and to their advisor's as well. It all goes to a single mailbox.

Go to the Area or Region VOA page at www.wrventuring-bsa.org and click on the email next to that officer's name. If the email isn't there, then contact the Area president and he/she can put you in contact with that officer.

through such recognitions as the Venturing Leadership Award and Silver Award.

On our program front, we continuing to promote our area event in the Las Vegas Area Council during August 24-26. This will be the first area event for Area 6, and we are really looking forward to more. One such event is an Area Leadership Conference tentatively set for early 2013.

Lastly, we have been working to create a communications subcommittee for the area. We have contacts for seven of our 10 councils and we are working to find people for the remaining three.

Further, our Communications Vice President has taken on the challenge of helping with the Western Region Newsletter to become familiar with the format, so we can set up an Area 6 newsletter during this term.

By Malia Ashley
2012-2013 Area 6 Venturing President
area4-president@wrventuring-bsa.org

AREA 6	
President.....	Malia Ashley
Vice President.....	David Carden Shannon Mulligan Brandi Tena
Advisor.....	Mackenzie Lardie



**Don't Miss
the Region
Superactivity
Aug. 31 - Sept 3**

Murray's websites created for Venturers!

In 2006, I met Ken Bower at a Powder Horn CDC. At that time, I was the webmaster for both the National Venturing Youth Cabinet and Kodiak websites, and I was writing my own website called the Venturing Notebook. As I got talking with Ken, I found he had some great Venturing items that I thought were worth sharing in the Venturing Notebook. From that discussion, I created a webpage in the Venturing Notebook called "Tips from the Trenches" which I still maintain today. (www.sageventure.com/venturing/tips.html)

My friendship with Ken grew and we discussed other ideas on how to make more Venturing information available. One idea was to create a Western Region Venturing website. Ken talked about our ideas with Robin Knoll (the current Western Region President at the time). Robin was very supportive and before the end of her term, she had the concept of WRVenturing-BSA.org approved. Thus begin the Western Region Venturing website.

I maintained the Western Region Venturing website from 2007 until 2011. Midyear 2011, the National Cabinet put into place the new Venturing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). With these new procedures, the position of VP of Communication was



Craig Murray and Robin Knoll, reconnecting at the World Jamboree in Sweden, 2011.

created at each level of Venturing. Annaliese Parker was the first to hold that position in Western Region and she chose Jeff Zantek to be the youth webmaster.

I first met Jeff on a 2009 Kodiak course that Carol Murray and I conducted during a white-water rafting trek on the Salmon River in Idaho, put together by Joe Garrett.

During the summer of 2011, Jeff and I met up at Philmont and made plans to get together in the fall to create the current website.

In September, 2011, I flew up to Washington and Jeff's parents put me up for the weekend. During that

time, Jeff and I developed the framework for the current website. He was a pleasure to work with and has done a fantastic job with the new website.

During those years as webmaster, I have to compliment, the adult, Ken Bower for his input and support with ideas for the site. And also I have to complement the youth, Jeff Zantek for being the first youth to take the reins and develop the new website. It has been a pleasure working with both!

– submitted by *Craig Murray*