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Western Region  
President, 2013-14

### President's Summer:

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to return back to school. I know that I had a wonderful summer traveling around the country for Scouting activities.

I started my summer in May with a week at the National Annual Meeting in Grapevine, Texas. I also got to see my family when I was in Texas so that was an extra special trip for me! A few weeks later in June, I had the privilege to travel to Philmont Scout Ranch with the rest of the National Venturing Cabinet for our National Cabinet Orientation. VOA Advisor Ken Bower

and I had a lot of time to meet together during the orientation week so we were able to plan a lot of ideas for the Region this year! We are both very excited for the year to come!

Like many of my fellow cabinet members, I had the privilege to attend the National Jamboree, the first one ever at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in beautiful Wet & Wild West Virginia!

I was a member of the Extreme Sports Administration Team and was in the Program tent in Jamboree Headquarters. I had so much fun at Jamboree and met some really amazing people!

I was tent mates with Gillian Clay, who is the granddaughter of Lord Baden-Powell! It was really amazing to hear about her life in Scouting and I was really impressed with how active and involved she still is in Scouting in the UK. I was also able to do the "Big Zip" and many of the shooting sports activities before the participants arrived, which was a real treat for me!

I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the Chief Seattle Crew for hosting me for a wonderful dinner one evening! I had a great time hanging out with all of you! Even though there were some rough days at the Jamboree due to lightning, rain, and mud it was a wonderful experience!

Did you know you can attend the High Adventure Base at the Summit starting in summer 2014? Check out [summit.scouting.org](http://summit.scouting.org) for more information!

To close my Scouting-filled summer, I attended Wood Badge in Elko, Nevada -- W3-329-13 -- and am the newest and littlest "fox." A big "thank you" to Liz Finley, Kathi Colbert and the entire Wood Badge staff for an absolutely amazing and inspiring opportunity.

I encourage you to attend Wood Badge; you will NOT regret it. Attend your council's or a cluster course; if either doesn't fit your schedule, branch out (like I did!) and take the course in a different council.

Again, I hope you all had a wonderful summer! Feel free to share your summer activities with us via email or on the Western Region Venturing Facebook page! We would love to hear what you did this summer!

The Newest and Littlest Fox,  
Jillian



### A New Antelope In The Western Region

The Western Region Venturing Officer's Association would like to formally congratulate our Cabinet Advocate, Elder David Wilson, on being presented with the Silver Antelope Award from the Western Region!

Elder Wilson was presented with the Silver Antelope at the 2013 National Annual Meeting this past May in Texas. He was one of eight recipients from the Western Region.

The Silver Antelope is presented to Scouters who go above and beyond with their service to the youth of their region. Elder Wilson is a prime example of somebody who does all he can to serve the youth of the Western Region.

We are so proud of Elder Wilson and appreciate his dedication to Scouting! The Western Region VOA sends a huge THANK YOU to him for all of his ideas, help, guidance, support, and friendship!

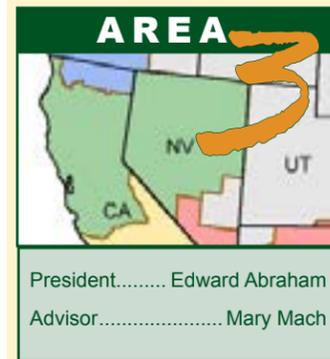


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# Summer around the Western Region

## Northern California and Northern Nevada



Summer 2013 was a very busy one, and as the Summer winds down, one of the most memorable things I did was attending the National Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico during July. Being able to participate on a Philmont trek in 2010 was a very memorable and life changing experience. When I heard that I had the opportunity to go to Philmont again this year, I was not reluctant.

Not only was I able to experience Philmont's beauty, but I was able to bond with eight other individuals that lived all across the United States. At the beginning of the week, we were nine individuals with different personalities and had different ways of doing this, but through team development and activities such as COPE, Wilderness First Aid, Search and Rescue, and Hiking! NAYLE has definitely changed how I am as a leader and individual, and I believe I'll be able to bring those skills to my crew, council, and area.



## Great Southwest

I had a very adventurous couple of months this Summer: I was a Troop Guide at National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT); a participant at National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE); participated and staffed at our council's Powder Horn; as well as back-packed more than 90 miles at the world-renowned Philmont Scout Ranch!

I really enjoyed everything I did this Summer. I would have to say that Philmont was the best experience and is a memory I will hold on to and share the rest of my life! Adding to the experience was the fact that it was the 75th Anniversary of the Philmont Scout Ranch which made the trek that much more memorable. I am now part of a 75-year tradition - having hiked

the same trails other Scouts have hiked - up and over mountain tops and along the trails of the backcountry so many have walked before.

My friends made this special. I went with one other girl, who also happens to be the Area 6 Vice President of Communications, Katie Schneider. Along with Katie were seven of my best friends and together we made memories we will never forget. Together, we stood atop the Tooth of Time - nothing better encompasses what I love about Venturing. Too many don't get to experience even basic "car" camping, and here we were. A Crew. Alone on top of a 9,003-foot peak.

Going to Philmont was one of the best experiences of my life and one I will never forget.



## Vice President of Administration

This summer has been such an adventure like many of us. I know that I had a blast during the summer. I worked as the Assistant Waterfront Director at Camp Winton with the Golden Empire Council in Northern California. We had some of the best Scouts come into this program, and it was a joy to have them in my classes. Winton really wants to have Venturers come do the Mock Expeditions, which is the high adventure program we offer, but isn't well known yet. I hope to see Ventures - male and female - experience Winton, and "Mock X". I love the Venturing program and seeing all these young men and women come enjoy all these different areas of camp, makes my job so much more enjoyable. I love Scouting and this summer is a testament to why "West is Best!"



## Area 4's Long Beach Area Council Venturing Regatta

On August 17th, the Long Beach Area Council Sea Scouts held their 4th Annual Long Beach Venturing Regatta. The Venturing Regatta allows crews to have a chance to compete against each other in various skill and knowledge-based events, similar to a Sea Scout Regatta or Rendezvous. Sea Scouts from various SS-Ships staffed the events.

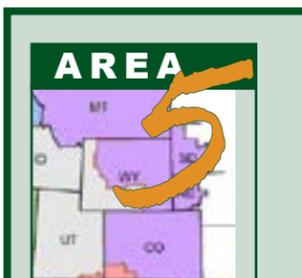
There were Venturers from Long Beach Area Council Sea Scout Ships Volunteer, Conquest, White Shark, Venture 29 and even Morning Star from West Las Angeles Area Council. This year, seven crews participated, with crews 21, 134, 148, 205 and 550 from Long Beach Area Council as well as crews 461 and 476 from Los Angeles Area Council attended, contributing to a total of 43 youth participants.

The Regatta had 12 events, and it was exciting to watch all the

participants and staff enjoy the competition between the crews. The day was very intense and the scores were very impressive. There were records shattered that may never be broken again. In the end it was a great day and everyone had a blast!

Congratulations to this year's Venturing Regatta winners, Crew 550 from Long Beach Area Council!

Hope to see you all next year for even more fun!



The 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 the development of Council VOAs to strengthen Venturing in each council.

## Communications

Hey Western Region! My summer was jam-packed with Scouting activities! My most memorable activity was my time at the Summit Betchel Reserve for the National Jamboree, where I attended as a participant and member of Crew F714. I had an amazing time at Jamboree, doing everything from shooting at the ranges to riding the Big Zip. If you ever have the chance to go to an event at The Summit, I highly recommend it.

When I was at the Jamboree, I got to see an amazing number of Venturers, including many from the Western Region. It was great to see how strong the Venturing Program really can be.

In addition, I spent time helping out Chief Seattle Council's National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) courses. I had previously helped to train the staff of the two courses, and so it was a great experience to see the staff in action.



## Area 3 Sea Scout Summer Cruise

With every summer cruise brings new knowledge, new experiences and new memories. This one was no exception.

The crew members of the SSS-Albatross kicked off the Summer Cruise bound for Walnut Grove, our first destination -- a very secluded, small and quaint place that allowed the youth to explore and “just relax” after the first day of cruising.

Cruising up for about eight hours gives one a LOT of time to learn new things. Every cruise includes routine watches that have to be done in order to keep the boat running. Probably one of the coolest things about summer cruise (and just getting to cruise in general) is that the boat is primarily manned by the youth. Youth doing the majority of the work (with occasional adult supervision) gives them more practice and a better theoretical knowledge of what they are doing.

The next day brought yet another long day of cruising up to Old Sacramento, but the trip is always well worth it. Old Sacramento is

a town that will swallow you up and never spit you back out. There is so much to see that it is impossible to just enjoy everything that was there (for all of the two days we had there). The shops are whimsical and very different to say the least; Evangeline’s being the crew’s favorite. The beaches are packed with people yet the atmosphere is very enjoyable and fun.

Our departure from Old Sacramento was ever so dreaded yet the company of the SSS Intrepid, as we followed them up to Windmill Cove, gave everyone something new to look forward to. Although our stay in Windmill Cove was brief it was very enjoyable. Taking the ski boat out to go tubing is always a crew favorite, and was done “to the excess” in Windmill Cove. Adding to the summer cruise highlight was the local favorite “Taco Tuesday” (if you can guess, an every Tuesday event), and the avid-eating youth were ever so present.

The following day was the ever so anticipated trip up to West Gate. Every year many Sea Scout ships in the Bay area go to West Gate and they all meet up. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other ships and also get to meet up with friends we haven’t seen in awhile. But summer cruise isn’t only about fun and relaxation. One thing we always do in West Gate is get advancement in ranks; like swimming the mile or learning how to use safe swim defense at all times. The learning environment on the boat is a very practical, hands-on way; which is really nice compared to our usual school books and lectures. That’s what makes the program in general so effective and so fun to always attend.

At the end of our journey we take our last prolonged cruise home. When home port is finally in sight we know that the cruise has made us more knowledgeable, and more full people who can’t wait for the next years cruise.

*Submitted by Ken Shupe,  
Mate, SSS Albatross,  
Mt. Diablo-Silverado Council*

