

CSHA Trail Trials

State Championship Event

September 26-27, 2009

Holcomb Valley Scout Ranch

Big Bear Lake, CA

About Holcomb Valley Scout Reservation

Somewhere between the crisp air of a mountain meadow and the burning of a western sunset lays Holcomb Valley Scout Reservation. Quickly becoming one of the premiere camps in the West through providing adventure and scouting in a uniquely Western Ranch setting, Holcomb Valley is a beautiful camp nestled in the San Bernardino Mountains near Big Bear Lake in California. A camp rich in history and legend serving as a base to enjoy the great out-of-doors, Holcomb Valley presents a ranch-style camp setting. Whether you've been to Holcomb Valley before, or will be visiting us for the first time, you're sure to have a fantastic experience.

Operated by the San Gabriel Valley Council Boy Scouts of America, Holcomb Valley is located in the San Bernardino Mountains just over the ridge from Big Bear Lake. The high sierra forest is at its best at camp, and the large meadow stretching through the camp is a jewel known far and wide for its striking views. Facilities include a covered dining hall, a historical ranch, a fabulous campfire bowl, nature trails, showers, and flush toilets. Opportunities for fun and adventure are endless. Established in 1970 by the Old Baldy Council, Holcomb Valley is rich in tradition. As one of the hallmark camps in the western United States, excellence in Scouting is achieved through a dedicated summer staff, a hardworking professional staff, an army of volunteers, and a camp program that will meet every boy's camping goals. Teaching life skills, personal ethics, environmental responsibility, citizenship, and high moral values is at the core of the camping program.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Early visitors did not come to Bear Valley to ski, hunt, or ride as they do today. They came to find gold. In 1845, Benjamin Davis Wilson and 22 young Californians went into the valley in search of Indians who had been raiding cattle from the Southland ranches. When they arrived, they found the valley full of grizzly bears. After killing 11 grizzly bears they named the place Bear Valley.

Gold was first discovered in 1848 far to the north in Coloma at Sutter's Mill. The Gold Rush was in full swing by 1849, hence the name "49ers". Around 1855, miners were getting about \$3.00 a day out of the area now called Baldwin Lake in Bear Valley. In 1859, Jo Caldwell ran a placer mine at the south end of the Stanfield Cutoff. This was known as "Starvation Flat", because of the small amount of gold mined.

About this time, Billy Holcomb and his partner joined these miners. Billy became known for his marksmanship among the prospectors. After about 10 years of prospecting they still had no major success. As food sources were diminishing, some of the prospectors hired Billy to hunt grizzly bears to provide food for the long winter months. "Uncle Billy" as he was known was hunting grizzly bears in Bear Valley, when he climbed the hilltop out of Polique Canyon, and saw a small valley among the mountains and canyons. The valley was home to the largest grizzly bear he had ever seen. Billy Holcomb took aim and shot at the monster grizzly. He hit it, but as he approached the valley floor it was nowhere to be found. He trailed the bear until sundown and set up camp. The next morning, while continuing his pursuit of the monster grizzly bear, he found a quartz vein bearing gold.

SHOWER AND RESTROOM FACILITIES

The camp provides shower and restrooms for all campers. New shower facilities are now available in each camp site. These facilities are always available to campers, but should be used before quiet time. Maintenance of the facility is the responsibility of all who use it. Report any malfunctions to the Camp Director at once. Please help everyone do their part to keep the restrooms and showers clean and safe.

FOR A COLOR BROCHURE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW:

<http://www.sgvcbbsa.org/assets/pdf/camping/HVSR%202008/01779-BSA%20Holcomb%20Valley%20Scout%20Reservationh%20Brochure%2011-27-07.pdf>

BELOW ARE PHOTOS OF HOLCOMB VALLEY



SCE Horse Boarding facilities –

High lining with tree savers or portable corrals of some type. No rental pens will be available at all.

For questions or information contact:

SCE Chairman Rick Wagner at 32thunder@att.net or cell 714-476-0545