

RYLEET 2002



“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.”

Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2002 edition of the Pylet. The Pylet is our annual yearbook documenting the summer and many of the other events we have done over the past year. Within the pages are a lot of photos; messages that will inspire you, information about our different programs and addresses of all the staff that worked this summer.

As you take time to look at the pictures and read the articles be sure to spend time thinking about your experience at camp, reflecting on the lessons you learned and the challenges you accomplished. Keep the Pylet handy and refer back to it now and then to keep those memories alive.

Don't forget to write to your counselor or some of the other staff members you met at camp. They get lonely in the wintertime and always enjoy hearing from you guys!

I hope you enjoy the Pylet and it brings back good memories.



Shotgun

Dedicated to Paul "Rocky" Leitzell

Each year we dedicate our Pylet to a person who is an important part of Pyles Boys Camp. This year that special person is **Paul "Rocky" Leitzell**, our Camp Director and Executive Director from 1986 until his departure in June of this year to take a position as administrator of his church.

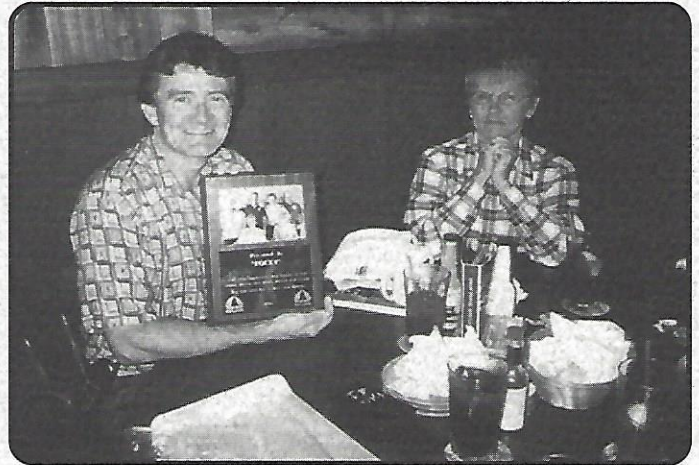
Rocky was a camper in 1969 from Ventura County and continued with the program, working almost every summer in a variety of seasonal positions, until he was hired full-time as Camp Director. Rocky graduated from Humboldt State University with the help of a Pyles Camp scholarship.

As Camp Director, Rocky was instrumental in many of the additions to Pyles Boys Camp that campers are enjoying today. He helped plan the Lion Meadow program when the 120 acres at Lion Meadow was purchased in the late 70's and was one of its first Directors. Rocky added the Ropes Course in 1992, the Voyager program, and most recently, our new kitchen. Rocky has assisted Stan "Coach" Moe with PLT's for several summers and we hope he will be able to continue. Rocky has always had a great love, respect, and knowledge of the forest and wilderness areas.

In 1993 Rocky became Executive Director to manage the "business" aspect of camp and to assure the necessary funds are raised so young men can continue to experience Pyles Boys Camp.

Those of us who know and love Rocky have always admired his good nature, high energy, enthusiasm for life, and his ability to juggle a myriad of tasks at the same time. Rocky always gives 120% to any project before him. We know that will continue in his new position.

We thank Rocky for all he has done to help make Pyles Boys Camp special to all of us. We know Rocky's love of Pyles Camp will always keep in close in mind and spirit and it is our pleasure to honor him as an important member of our family.



Rocky's farewell party

A Caring Hand

What **Paul "Rocky" Leitzell** has been to me has no words to define the friendship and generosity he has offered. I grew up in East Los Angeles and was a camper at Pyles Camp at the age of 14. My father left when I was 8 and have very few memories of him. During my years at camp Rocky was a *mentor* to me. He knows more about my life than anyone else because *I trusted the man*. I could speak freely with him and not be afraid of being punished or judged for who I was. He was also my PLT counselor, which provided me with more opportunities to learn from him.

I took a break from the camp for a few years. In 1987 I called Pyles Camp and found out that Rocky was the Camp Director and he asked me if I wanted to work. Right away I signed up to work that summer and have worked ever since.

After my first child, things weren't going good for me but Rocky was there to support me. I will always remember the words he used to tell me; "*Dolphin I know you have a lot of potential*". Those words kept me going when things got hard. In my mind, no matter where I was, I always knew someone out there believed in me - Rocky. He helped me with my alcoholism. When it got bad, he took me to a hospital and helped me get sober.

There are many other times he was there for me *like a father*. Rocky, I wish you the best in your life. I will carry the torch you lit and pass it on to the next runner; doing what you did for me I will do for others. **God bless you Rocky.**

Your Friend
Dolphin

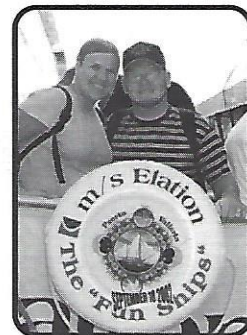


Rocky, Debbie & Dolphin

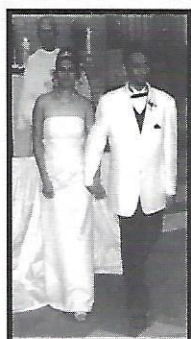
Wedding Bells Were Ringing



It is with great joy that the Pyles Camp family sends it congratulations to **Wes "Sweetchuck" Morris** on his recent marriage. On Saturday, September 14, 2002, Sweetchuck and his wife Kelly were married in their hometown of Taft, CA. After a nice wedding ceremony, in typical Sweetchuck fashion slideshow and all, everyone gathered for the reception. The couple spent their honeymoon on a cruise to Mexico. We wish you a long life filled with joy and happiness together.



Dolphin, Silk & Vivi



We would also like to send our congratulations to **Miguel "Silk" Sanchez** who married **Vivi Robles** on Saturday, October 19, 2002 in Las Vegas. We wish you a life time of happiness together.



Pyles Staff & Alumni at the Wedding

Message from Beaver

“It is better to try and fail than to do nothing and succeed”

Author unknown

We had quite a summer this year at Pyles Camp. Receiving this Pylet means that you are one of the fortunate ones who had the chance to go to Pyles this summer. Because of the McNally Fire, we were forced to cancel 4th, 5th, and 6th sessions. This resulted in potentially 250 campers,ioneers, and voyagers who did not experience the same opportunities as you.

What will you do with your blessings? Have you gone back to the same old routine or have you used the lessons and experiences from your stay at camp to improve your life and the lives of those around you?

Have you ever found yourself thinking “why me” or “I wish this would happen to someone else and not me”? We often do not get to choose what life brings our way. We do, however, have the opportunity to choose what we make of the things that come our way. Remember, *when given lemons, make lemonade*.

Take a minute to think about some of history’s great leaders. Do you think they sat around and let others “take care” of them? I think not. They tried and failed, and they tried and succeeded. Most of all, they **did something!**

Are you trying to conform to what others think you should be? Do you do things to “fit in”? Are you a follower, content with allowing others to choose your path in life? Do you act, dress, and talk like someone else to make others think you are “cool”?

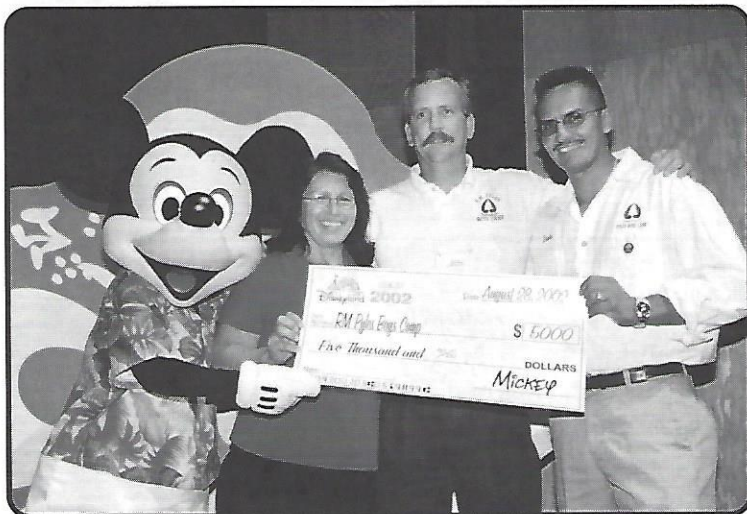
Be a leader. Set your goals high and become a leader of others. Let your friends and others want to act like you because they look up to you. Set the standard that others will want to follow.

Many of us worry about other people talking about us. I would worry more if they were not talking about you. When people talk about you it means you have given them something to talk about. What will people say when they talk about you? Is it something good, or important, which will be remembered and talked about when you are no longer around?

Each of you has the opportunity to change the world. But, to change the world, you must start with yourself. Please change the world in a positive way by improving yourself. Start today, make a difference, and be a positive leader.

My message to you, **do something!**

Beaver



Beaver and Dolphin at Disneyland receiving a check from Mickey Mouse and Rosemary Aguilar. Rosemary Aguilar is a member of the Disneyland Resort Cast Community and mother of Pyles Camp alumni Richard “Bullet” Rodriguez

Dolphin's Message

"Don't be afraid to fail trying. Be afraid to fail not trying at all."

During the summer we get together at camp to have a good time and learn things that will help us in our lives. When I was young Pyles Camp helped to direct my life in many ways. Although, I stumbled a few times I always got back up and continued forward. I am telling you that there is nothing that can stop you from being successful in your life. Working hard, doing well in school and everything else you do in this life will pay you back.

We are all like birds; we all have wings that can take us places, we all fly in the same sky. Some birds use their wings to fly high and travel long distances getting to see and experience many things. Other birds rarely use their wings at all, never getting to see what opportunities they have. *Opportunities come for everyone; it's up to you to grab the success produced by these opportunities in your life as they come around.* For you, success and opportunities are your wings. **Where will your wings take you?**

Take care and God Bless you all.

Dolphin



Dolphin with campers at camp

Pyles Leadership Training

Becoming a counselor at Pyles Camp is not guaranteed. It is earned! While at camp your experience and safety was dependent to a large degree on your counselor. We expect a lot from our counseling staff. Besides the rigorous main camp program and learning to turn eight strangers into a close-knit team, we entrust them with your safety during the five day outcamp trip into the wilderness. This is no small task! The PLT program prepares them for this challenge.

Pyles Leadership Training (PLT) is an intense two-week long training session that every staff member goes through prior to becoming a counselor. This year's PLT's were **Method, Bamm Bamm, Hollywood, Serpico, Thinker, Windbreaker, Chief, Gunther and Venom.**

This group of outstanding young men were chosen to participate in this special program based on their ability to work hard, enthusiasm for camp and the desire to work closely with you, the campers. Each PLT learns the importance of group responsibility, teamwork, supervision, decision-making skills and safety. In addition to learning counseling skills the PLT's tour the backcountry to become familiar with outcamp locations and to practice their outdoor living skills.

For about the last eight years **Stan "Coach" Moe** (Pyles Camp Board Member and Retired Kern County Sheriff Commander) has been our lead instructor. Due to the important role of a counselor, Coach requires a lot from each participant.

Congratulations to this year's PLT's!



1st Session: Bakersfield & Kern County



Vortex's "White Tigers"

Top: Jonathan Caithness, "Vortex", Kegan Henry, Fredrick Delouth, *Bottom:* Saul Tapia, Devin Chambers, Jose Vasquez, Corbin Cheever, Mario Gonzalez.



Goblin's "Trail Blazers"

Top: Jonathan Celaya, Rowdy Sneed, Michael Gurrola, "Goblin"; *Bottom:* David Rutherford, Jeff Reed, Cassidy Turner, Brandon Lawson, George Bravo.



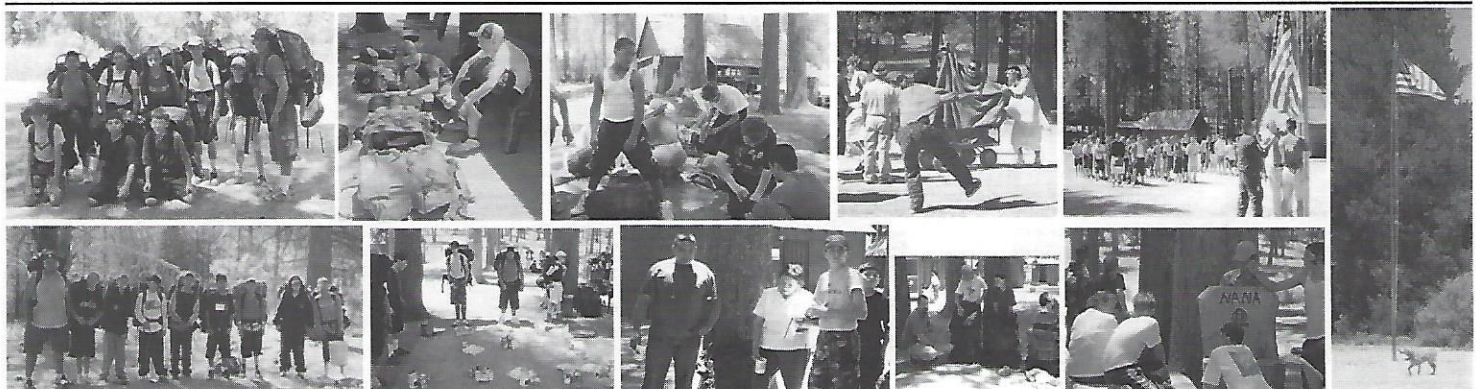
Cosmo's "Cobras"

Top: Ricardo Jara, "Cosmo", David Rodriguez, Chris Heskett; *Bottom:* Joseph Parra, Steve Fracasso, Jeremy Queheillalt, Richard Tarkington, Alex Behill



Groove's "Habitat"

Top: Arturo Campos, Mauro Aguilar, "Groove", Tony Cisneros; *Bottom:* Eric Palomino, Nathan Peeve, Paul Rodriquez, Dustin Little, Matt Chacon.





Bear's "Classifieds"

Top: David Sanchez, James Mincks, Ein Brown, **"Bear"**;
Bottom: Aaron Winslow, Adam Villarreal, Bryan Payne Jr., Jeffrey McDonald.



Impact's "Surfers"

Top: Erik Hallmark, Josh Pierce, Fernando Juarez, David Navarro; *Bottom:* Chris Rodriguez, Geoffery Holcombe, **"Impact"**, Eder Caro, Michael Finley.



Duke's "Bludevils"

Top: Calvin McDermott, **"Duke"**, Lonnie Clevenger, Roman Beccera; *Bottom:* Mike Ledesma, Nikko Angelica, Mitchell Willard, Monty Sipe, Gustavo Magallanes.



Shorty's "Night Hikers"

Top: David Finley, **"Shorty"**, Tyler Miller; *Bottom:* Mike Socia, Logan Board, Fernando Amaya, Stephen Black, Jesus Ramirez.



Gizmo's "Gadgets"

Top: Eddie Martinez, Justin Brown, Eric Carrillo, Josh Jackson, **"Gizmo"**; *Bottom:* Donta Allen, Aaron Rolls, Daniel Sanchez, Timothy Knight.

Honor Campers

Ramon Becerra

Ein Brown

Jonathon Celaya

Mathew Chacon

Lonnie Clevenger

David Finley

Eric Hallmark

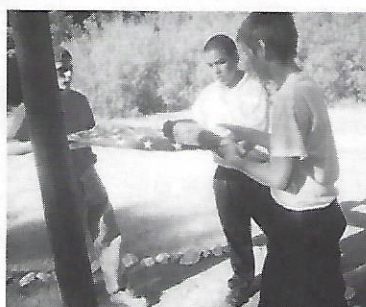
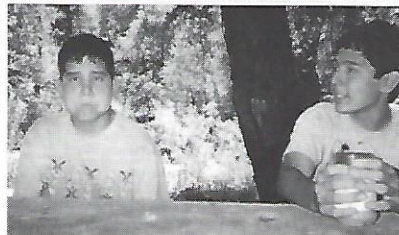
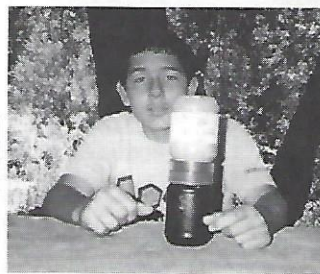
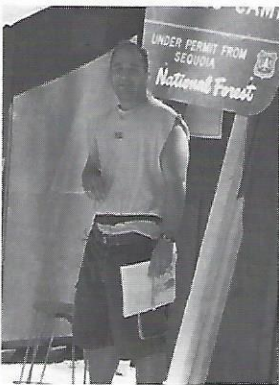
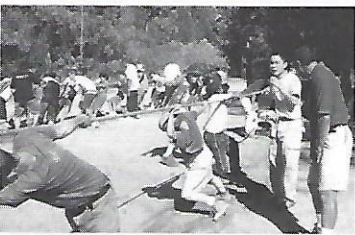
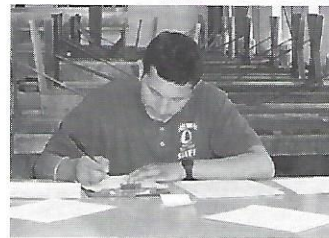
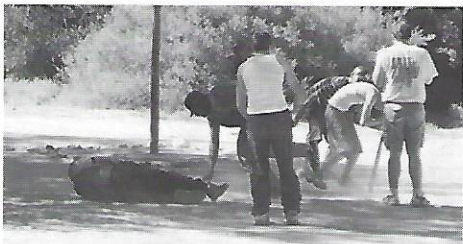
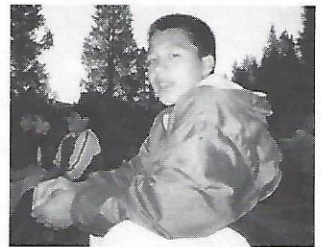
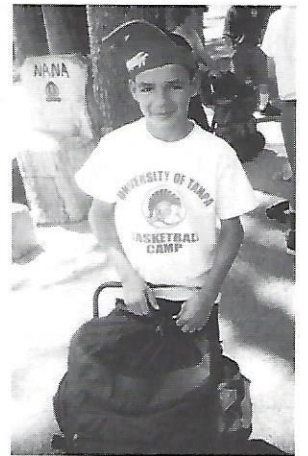
Gus Magallanos

Michael Socia

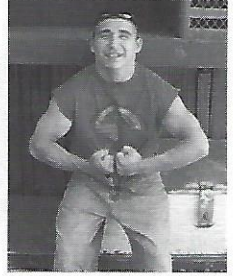
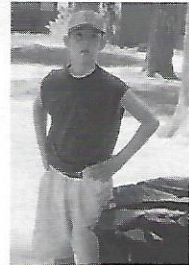
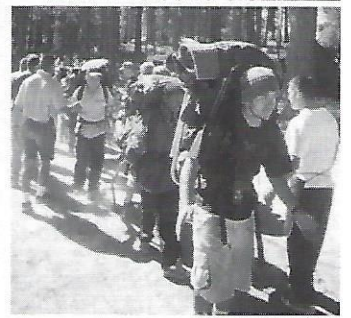
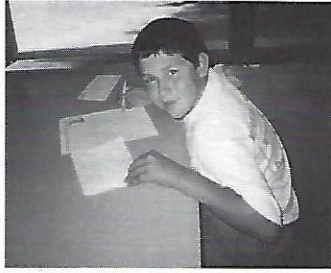
Cassidy Paul Turner

Jose Vasquez

Reflections of



the Summer



2nd Session: Kern & L.A. County



Impact's "Unbreakables"

Top: Daniel Lucas, "Impact", Raphael Camou; *Bottom:* Pedro Prieto, Salvador Moreno, Everett Jones, Elder Solano.



Buddha's "Super Fragilestic Redwoods"

Top: Samuel Maly, Jorge Perez, Elias Ventura, Alan Salazar, "Buddha"; *Bottom:* Austin Joseph, Santos Pelayo, Samuel Aguirra, (not pictured) Steven Boone.



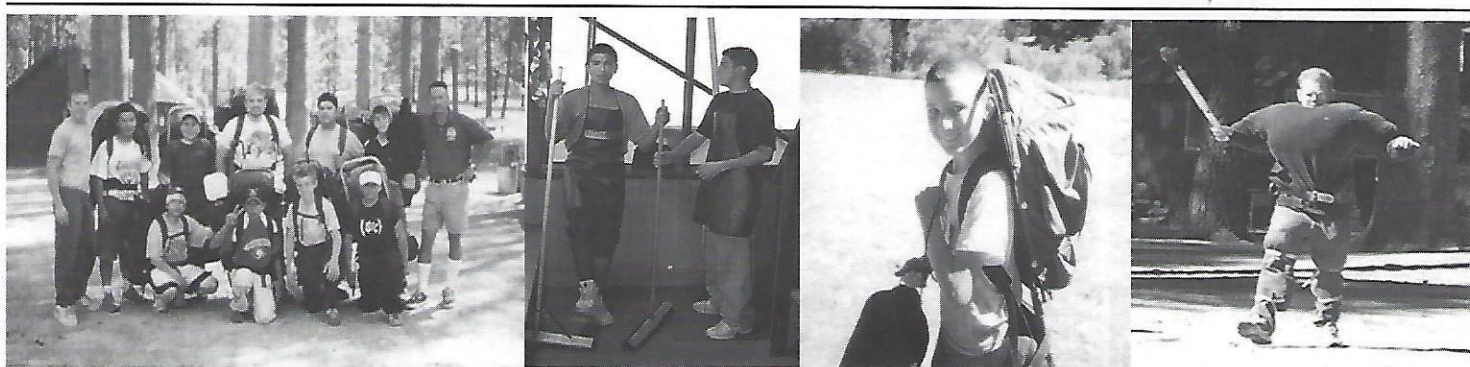
Chainsaw's "Hermits"

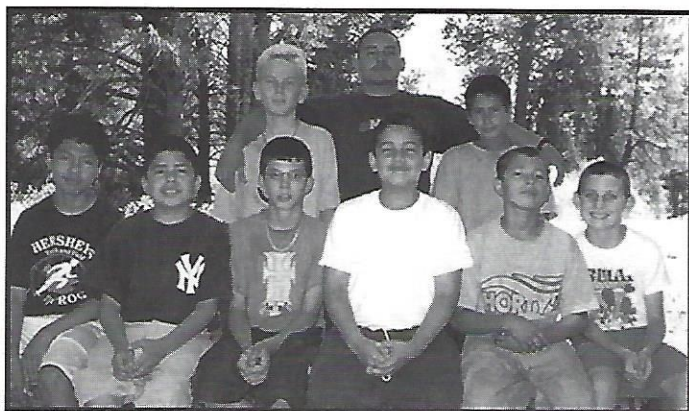
Top: Raul Aguirre, "Chainsaw", Daniel Casarez, Jose Soriano; *Bottom:* Louis Velasquez, Andrew Robbins, Ricardo Navarro, Miguel Saldana, Scott Ragsdale.



Shorty's "Family"

Top: Alberto Blando, Juan Ruvalcaba, "Shorty", Miguel Valencia, Davionne Dunson; *Bottom:* Freddy Bernabe, Robert Ortega, Ian Frahtzweig, Jose Barboza.





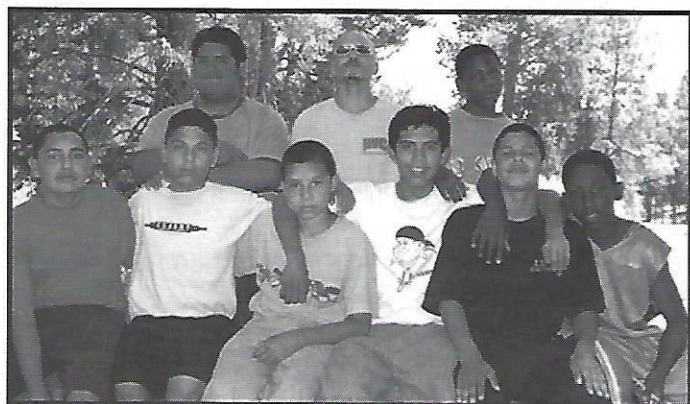
Fader's "Invaders"

Top: Christian Avila, "Fader", Sean Mince; Bottom: Rigo Estevez, Jose Gamboa, Axel Lundstedt, Ernest Rojas, Steven Cortez, Chad Alyea.



Lobo's "Titans"

Top: Brian Vigouroux, Michael Sanchez, Miguel Venegas, "Lobo", Ricardo Ventura, Louis Franco; Bottom: Juan Carlos Lopez, Corey Khan, Joey Hernandez.



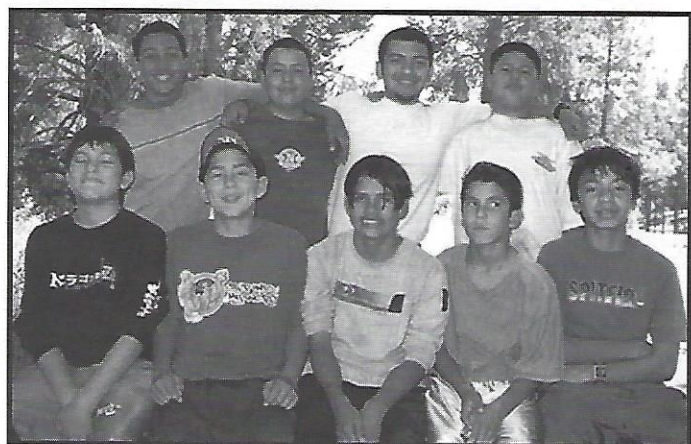
Duke's "Warriors"

Top: Christian Lopez, "Duke", Linzy Sims; Bottom: Alejandro Ceja, Gilbert Escuita, Jesus Aceves, Oliver Nunez, Andrew Montell, Tyshawn Givens.



Groove's "Point"

Top: Christian Ramirez, "Groove", David Soto, Brandon Amesquita; Bottom: Aaron Hildebracht, Jeffrey Napier, Apolinar Lara, Max Fuentes, Hector Moreno.



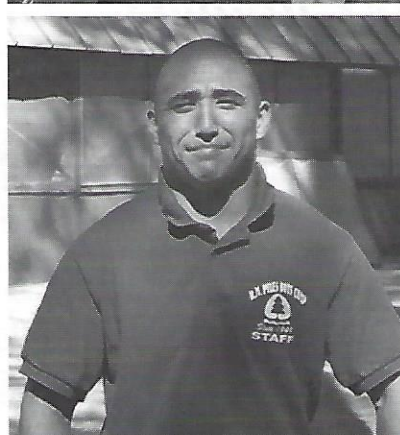
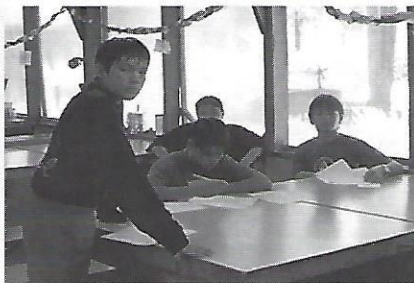
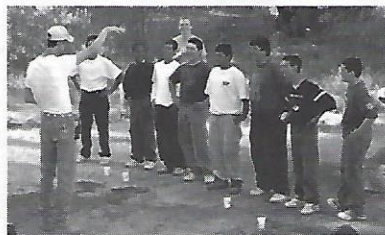
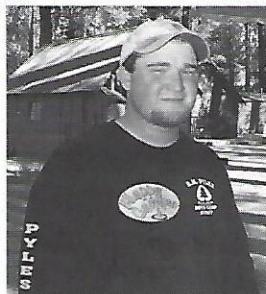
Gizmo's "Hikers"

Top: Robert Hernandez, Edwin Aceves, "Gizmo", Jimmy Romero; Bottom: Michael Sepulveda, Jose Garnica, Jonathan Velasquez, Eric Solorio Angel Munoz.

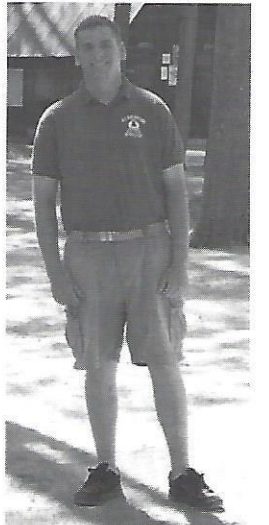
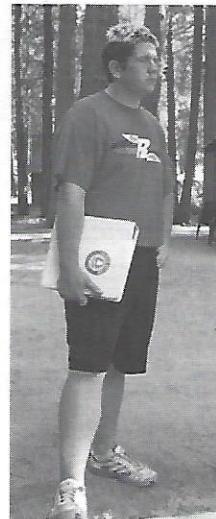
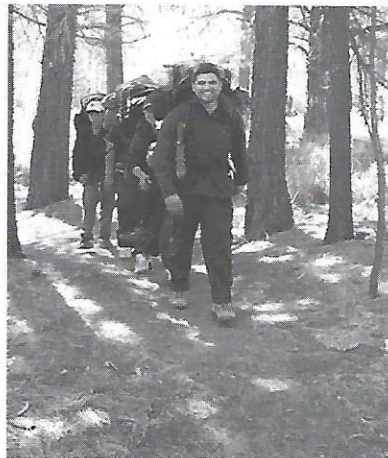
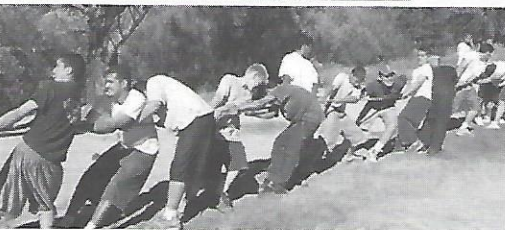
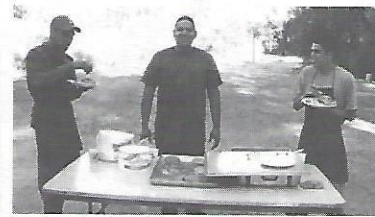
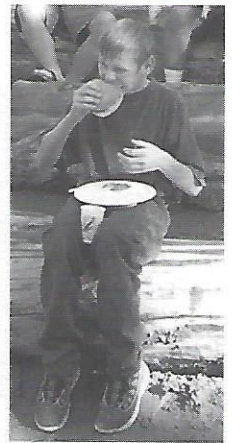
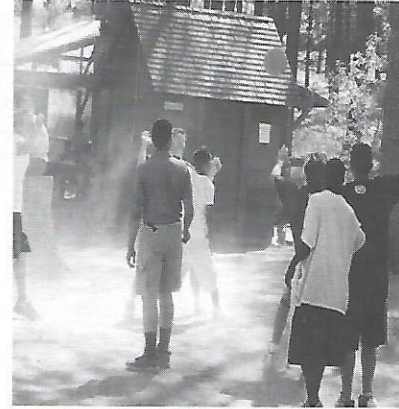
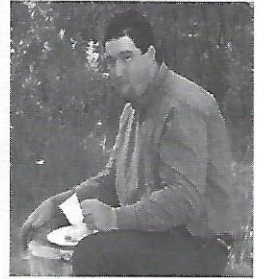
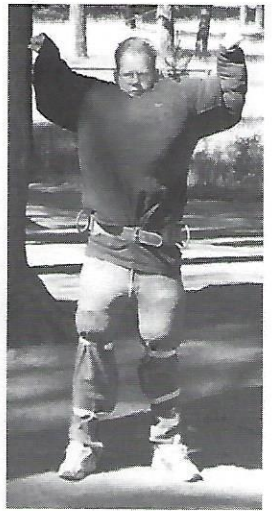
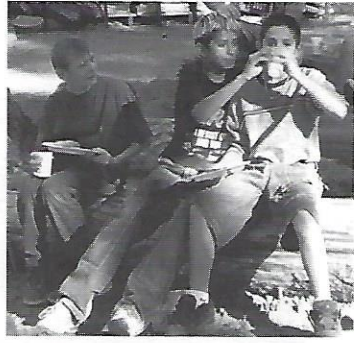
Honor Campers

- Raoul Aguirre*
- Chad Alyea*
- Freddy Bernabe*
- Daniel Casarez*
- Louis Franco*
- Jose Hernandez*
- Christian Lopez*
- Salvador Moreno*
- Juan Ruvalcaba*
- Michael Sanchez*
- Miguel Valencia*
- Miguel Venegas*
- Brian Vigouroux*

Memories from



the Summer



3rd Session: Santa Maria & L.A. County



Gizmo's "Recruits"

Top: Alvin Huynh, Curtis Hamane, "Gizmo", Sam Aviña, Beau Brown, *Bottom:* Anthony Robledo, Aaron Perez, Robert Campos, Chris Rodriguez



Impact's "Elite Eight"

Top: Fernando Mendoza, Andy Mena, "Impact", Dominique Hunter, Robert Ruby, *Bottom:* Alex Chavez, Drew Healey, Ivan Velasquez, Claro "Junior" Campos



Bamm Bamm's "Wolfpack"

Top: Jose Pereyra, "Bamm Bamm", Michael Brooks, Samuel Rodriguez, *Bottom:* Stevie Urias, Juan Miranda, Andrew Beebe, Daniel Swan



Chainsaw's "Diablos"

Top: Adrian Pichardo, Steven Sapien, "Chainsaw", Michael Cantu, Jonathan Smith, *Bottom:* Luis Rojas, Michael Padre, Daniel Macias, C.K. Satterthwaite

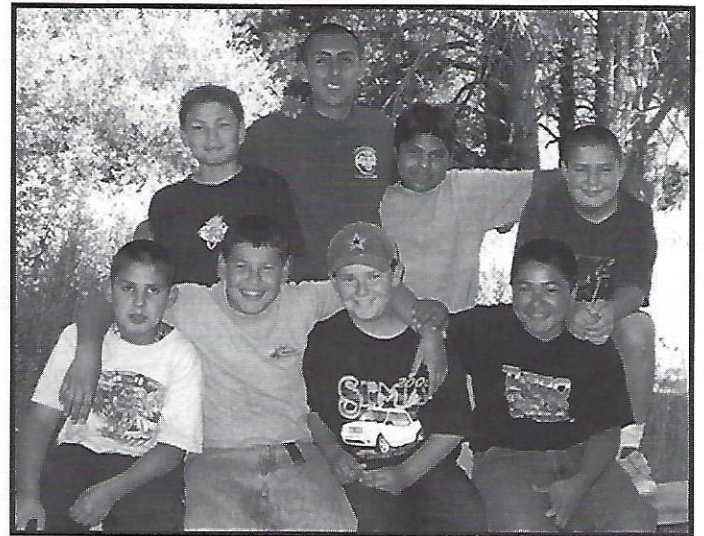
Honor Campers

Steven Alvarez	Curtis Hamane	Adalberto Ramirez	Louie Torres
Peter Avina	Brian Minero	Daniel Stoneburner	Ivan Velasquez
Daniel Diaz	Juan Miranda	Daniel Swan	



Groove's "Bulldogs"

Top: Peter Aviña, "**Groove**", Jesse Orozco, Frank Lewis, James Guerrero, *Bottom:* Eddie Cota, Ivan Garcia, Roberto Arroyo, Jared Zimmer



Dare Devil's "Black Hawks"

Top: Michael Gomez, "**Dare Devil**", Felipe Guzman, Lorenzo Rivera, *Bottom:* Johnny Soto, Brian Minero, John Duncan, Ruben Montelongo



Vortex's "Jaguars"

Top: Justin Buchan, "**Vortex**", Jesse Aragon, Stephen Burgueño, *Bottom:* Adalberto Ramirez, Emmanuel Aguilar, Daniel Stoneburner, Daniel Diaz, Jose Morales



Draco's "Eight Headed Dragons"

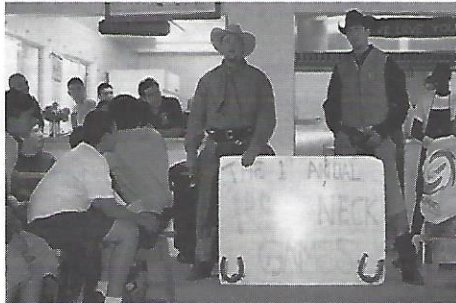
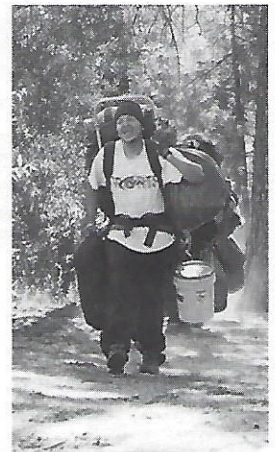
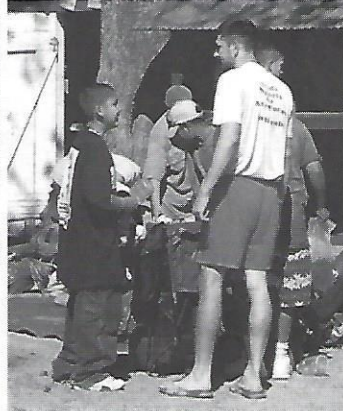
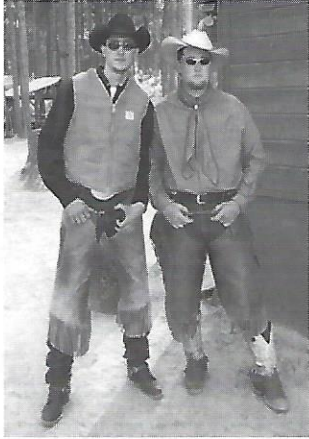
Top: "**Draco**", Adam Lesmeister, Steven Alvarez, Anthony Balestrieri, *Bottom:* Paul White, Adrian Garcia, Juan Garcia, Manuel Aviña, Ricardo Tobias



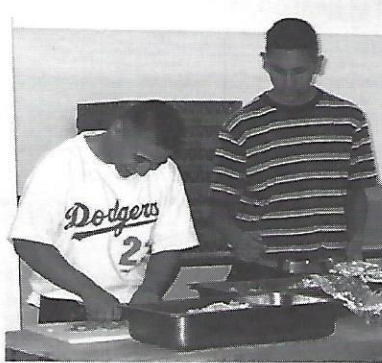
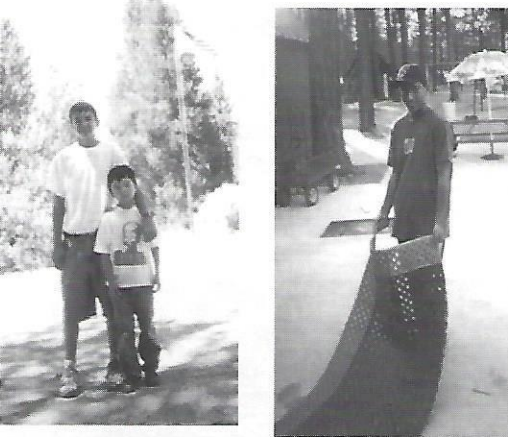
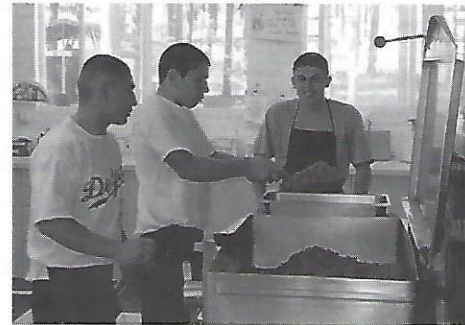
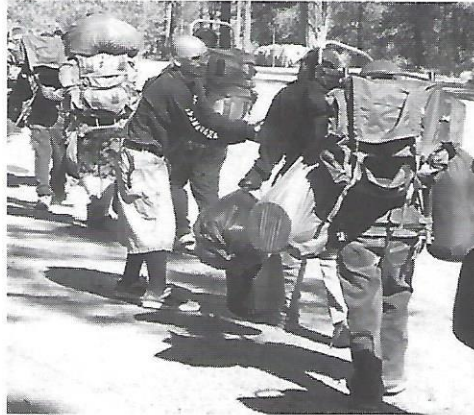
Method's "Dominators"

Top: Ruben Moreno, "**Method**", Miguel Cardenas, Louie Torres, *Bottom:* Steve Santizo, Aaron Romero, Andres Romero, Brian Baker

Summer



Experiences



Lion Meadows

Lion Meadows is a beautiful place with a creek running through it, a few rustic cabins, a meadow and the summer home of future leaders. It's a place called home by Lioneers and a potential destination for campers on their outcamp. This past summer marked the 25th year of the Lion Meadows Program and though the summer was cut short, the Lioneers were exceptional. Everyone was faced with unique challenges and fears. Though the trail may have been long and the packs heavy every Lioneer persevered. The Lioneers grew to care for one another, to trust each other and to be responsible for each other; in short we became a family for two weeks. As I look back on this past summer, the last two days of each session stand out for me as very special. When we hiked back to main camp, that whole day and the next morning, being with the Lioneers felt like I was among champions. Lioneers, never forget what you accomplished, how it felt when the job was done and continue to carry yourselves like the champions you are.

This rich tradition which is Lion Meadows began in 1977 under the leadership of Smokey, Rifle, Rocky and Bravo, four past Pyles Camp leaders who have given their all and then some to the camp. They envisioned a place where campers can continue to expand their leadership and work potential. The two weeks can be tough, just ask any Lioneer. There is no "Nana" for the Lioneers, unfortunately, and living as our ancestors did, without any modern conveniences; it's either you make it happen or it doesn't happen.

The past summer's Lioneers were exceptional and accepted the challenges that were asked of them. First session traveled many miles northeast to a place said to be sacred to the Native Americans, an awesome place called Coyote Lakes. There were a few young men in this group who were small in stature and could have easily passed for campers. Looks are deceiving and these guys proved it. Second session, a whole lot of heart and unselfishness truly defined these young men. What unfortunately became our last session, third session was by far a group that faced the stiffest challenge; that challenge being the fire. It was amazing the way these Lioneers jelled together and calmly handled the situation when things got hot. For second and third session Lioneers, remember your outcamp on the river. Due to the fire the forest in that area will look very different for many years. All of you have a lot to be proud of, never forget. It was an honor for me and the rest of the Lion Meadows staff to guide these young men.

Winter is now here and a chill is in the air. School, work and football are the order of the day. The busy life of the city occupies our lives now and camp is just a memory. I would like to take a moment to thank the staff for a job well done. Lion Meadows 2002 couldn't have been possible without these great leaders: **McFly, Batman, Tiger and Cosmo**. Thank you for all your hard work and support.

Lion Meadows is quiet now. I'm sure the wildlife is glad we're gone and they have the place to themselves. What a summer it was for Pyles Boys Camp and Lion Meadows. The fire spared our summer home and I am thankful. **I encourage you campers to challenge yourselves and when Dolphin calls say, "YES, I ACCEPT THE LION MEADOWS CHALLENGE!"** The torch is passed on to you guys; lets have 25 more years.

Apache

2002 Lion Meadows Director



After two weeks at Lion Meadows this could be you.



1st Session Lioneers

Xavier Armenta, Justin Balduc, Marvin Bonilla, Oscar Chacon, Christopher Gist, Tyler James Grady, Raymundo Martinez, Justin Williams, **Apache, McFly, Batman**



2nd Session Lioneers

Edgar Alvarez, Fernando Cortez, Aaron Giesing, Travis W. Holston, Aaron Jackson, Johnny Perez, Efren Rodriguez, Emanuel Rodriguez, Nicholas Rye, Randy Todd, Jr., Samuel Torres, Ray Villegas, **Apache, Tiger**



3rd Session Lioneers

Francisco Basaldua, Chris Clemo, Curtis Fisher, Roland Haywood, Alonzo Lopez, Matthew Lundien, Javier Medina, Nick Pasmant, Jerry "Seth" Pollock, Jeremy Smith, Jesus Villareal, **Apache, Cosmo**

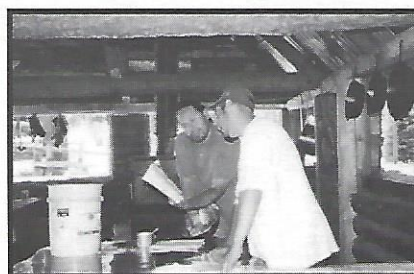
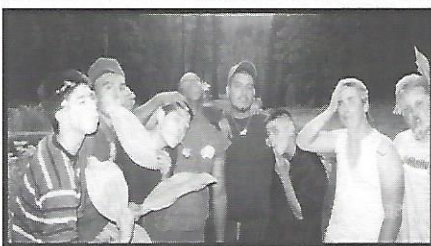
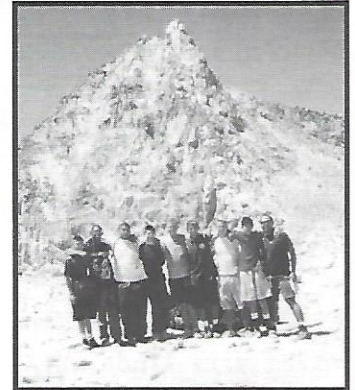
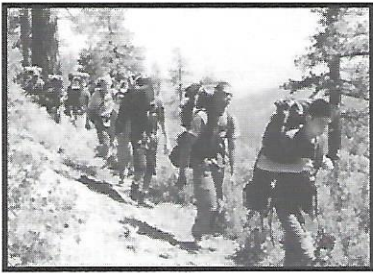
2002 Voyagers

This year the third session Voyagers had the great fortune of experiencing the backcountry prior to the wild fires that cancelled the remaining sessions. The Voyager experience was exhilarating because we practiced hard work ethics, communication skills, as well as wilderness survival skills. *We worked together to become a team that learned to bring out the best in each other, which led to every team member feeling more confident about themselves.*

Third session Voyager's itinerary took us into the Mineral King Wilderness. We entered through Shotgun Pass and dropped into the valley for a few days. We explored two lakes before returning back to the Golden Trout Wilderness. On the way back to Pyles Camp we spent a couple days at Silver Lake and a few days at Lion Meadows.

Reminiscing back to the two weeks that I spent leading the Voyagers, the word that comes to mind is spectacular. I cannot wait until next summer to see the guys again. I want to congratulate the Voyagers **Jose Molina, Mark Ayala, Cody Hildebrand, Jonathon Crump, Charles Burnett, Andreas Gomez, Encarnacion Olmos** and co-leader **Thinker** for their successful journey, for their dedication to Pyles Camp, and for their willingness to accept new challenges. To all the Pyles family, have a great winter and see you next year.

Sincerely,
Wizard



Staff Training

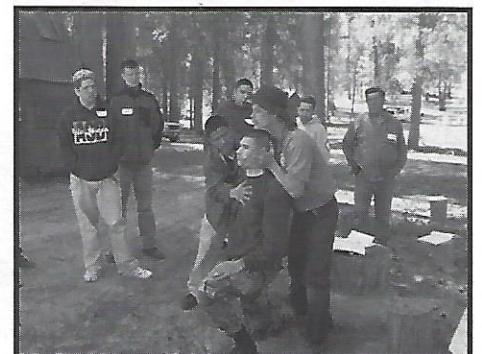
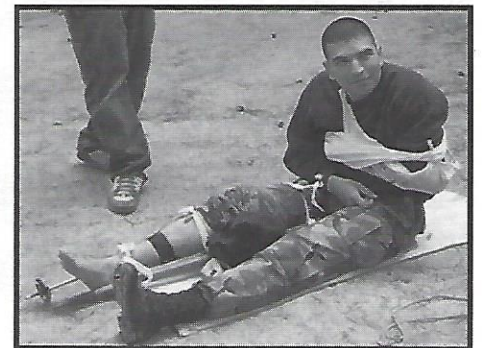
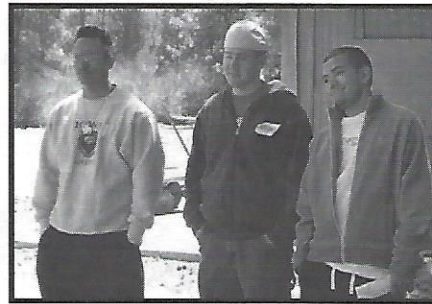
To be a top-notch staff member it takes hard work and dedication to the program. Each staff member takes time out of his busy winter schedule to participate in various training sessions. These training sessions include Basic first aid and CPR, Wilderness Emergency Care, outdoor living skills and counseling skills.

At various times staff get together to upgrade their existing skills. These information packed sessions are intense and require each staff member to be involved in the learning process. The mission is to serve you better and to make camp the best possible program anywhere.

Perhaps you will be a staff member one day and join us for these exciting opportunities to grow.



Backcountry Emergency Care Training 2002



3 Sessions Forced to Cancel Due to Forest Fire

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 21, things were going great. The Olympics were in full swing, the Lioneers had just returned to main camp and we were eagerly awaiting the Voyagers return. It was the last full day of third session with a great group of boys. The staff were looking forward to what would potentially be a really good last campfire.

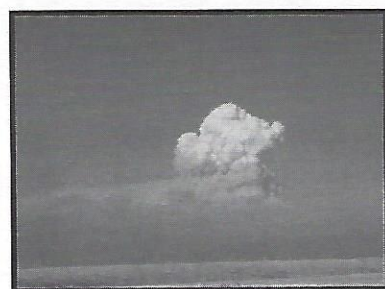
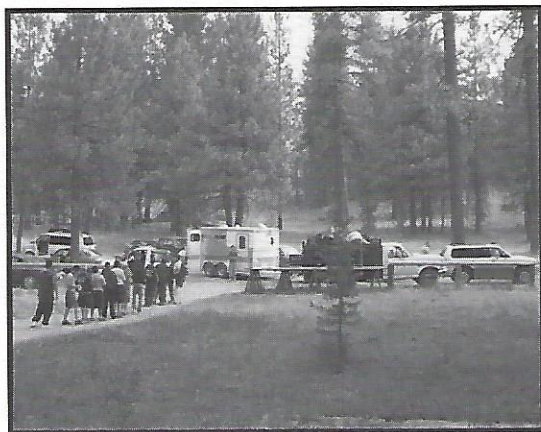
Around 3 pm Maverick, who was working on cutting a dozer line around Camp Whitsett, radioed and informed us that there was a fire racing up the canyon and heading toward Johnsondale and Camp Whitsett. At that time we could see no sign of a fire from camp, but within thirty minutes the sky turned dark, the sun turned red and ashes began to float to the ground. We knew at that time we were going to have to evacuate fearing that the road would become closed.

Due to delays with the buses and speed of the fire we were forced to evacuate using every personal car in camp. By 5:30 pm with the help of the Tulare County Sheriffs we were able to evacuate about 140 people to the Ponderosa Lodge where we would meet the buses. On our way to the Ponderosa we were able to see huge 100-foot walls of fire rolling over the ridges.

With great forethought the campers shirts and awards were brought with us and presented to each of the boys while waiting for the buses to arrive.

Needless to say, what is normally a long day turned into a very long day. Many of the campers and staff did not get home until early the next morning. **Thank you's** are well deserved to all the Staff for helping out, Selectors and Parents for coming out in all hours of the night and morning to pick up the boys and finally to all the 3rd Session Campers, Lioneers and Voyagers for hanging in there – helping us out – and understanding!

To the 3rd session Campers, Lioneers & Voyagers: All the staff feel sorry about the abrupt ending to your session. We were all really enjoying having each of you at camp. Please keep in contact with us this winter and try to attend the events in your area. We will be back in full swing next year and would like to see you back as Lioneers, Voyagers and Workers.



Camp after the Evacuation

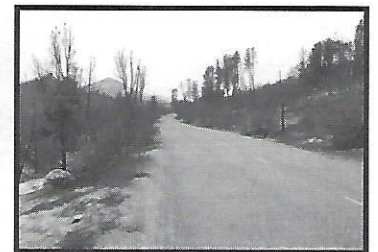
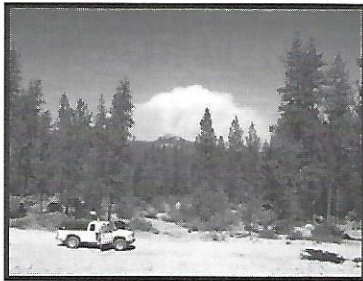
Over the next month things were hectic with many trips up and down the mountain checking on the camp and hauling down supplies. The first trip was hauling the horses down to Kernville. While some were loading horses others were loading radio equipment, computers and other things of value into trucks and trailer. At that time the fire was still heading our direction.

A few days later things started to feel better when we got to camp and saw a dozen or more fire trucks and about 60 – 80 firefighters using camp as a firebase. My hat goes off to these men and women not only for the work they do, but for the respect they showed to us and the facilities while they were there, camp was kept very clean. It was only after some persuading that we convinced them we wanted them to eat the food in the walk-in. After they got over their reserve they all wanted to meet Nana and thank her for the great food.

As the fire began moving away from camp so did the firefighters. With the camp empty and quiet a local bear decided to move in. During his stay he got into Mr. Pyles cabin, trash cans, the messhall and the kitchen. In the kitchen he walked around on the counters and sinks, ate some of Nana's spices and tore up one of the freezers. The steel plates were put up on the kitchen and things stored away; with nothing left for him to get into he has moved on and has not been seen.

On August 29, 2002 it was announced that the fire was 100% contained. The fire burned more then 150,000 acres (apx. 243 square miles) at a cost of more then \$44.7 million so far. This fire will not be completely out until there is snow on the ground.

Camp, Lion Meadows and about 90% of our outcamp destinations are safe. We may have lost some of our outcamp destinations along the Kern River, but will not know for sure and to what extent until next year.



Mule Days

Will Rogers once said, *"The best thing for the inside of a kid is the outside of a horse"* (or mule, in this case). As we pulled out of the fair grounds in Bishop after the final competition of the 2002 Mule Days show, many of us were changed. The fear, uncertainty and self-consciousness that we felt when we arrived had turned into courage, faith and self-confidence by the time we left.

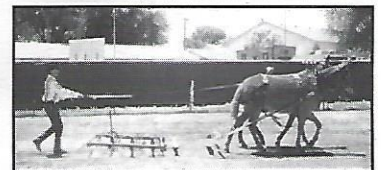
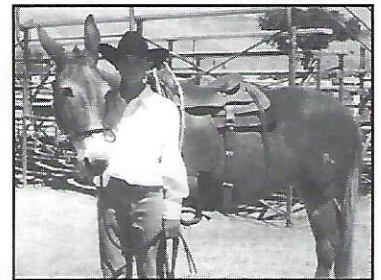
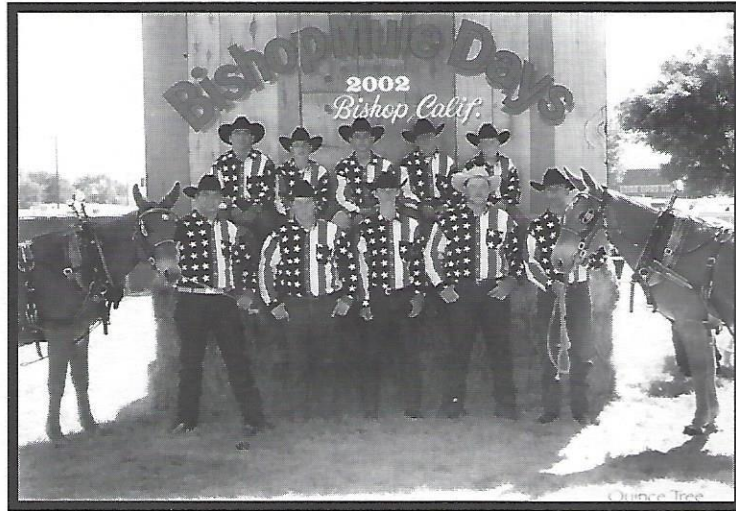
Pyles Camp was represented by another great team this year. Our Mule Days Director was **Reid Hopkins** and our Camp Leader was **Matt "Bodean" McDonald**. Competing contestants included **Marcos "Malosi" DeLaGarza, Josh "Cougar" James, Johnny Solario, Kenneth "Malcolm" Cleveland, Aaron Avis, Eric "Matrix" Perkins, David "Zero" Brand, Kris "Nemesis" Melton, Matt "Bodean" McDonald and Frank "Flame" Salinas**. The team competed in over ten different events and came home with over fifteen ribbons and a first place trophy for their parade entry. Congratulations to all of the boys for representing Pyles Boys Camp in a very positive and professional way.

As with any successful program, it could not have been possible without the many volunteers who gave unselfishly of their time and talents for the year-round preparation for this event. Special thanks to: **Duke Hingley, Jack and Sharon McGee, Dick and Micky Rivers, Wayne Gallagly, Kellee Van Rensselaer, Jack Scott and Arlena Pipkin, DVM and the entire staff of Panama Equine Hospital**. Also, to Reid Hopkins, for organizing and training the R.M. Pyles Boys Camp Mule Days Team for the eight consecutive years.

It was my pleasure to write this for the Mule Days Team!

Lynnette Woolwine

P.S. A special thanks also needs to be given to Lynnette Woolwine for the countless hours she contributes to supporting the Mule Days Team.



2002 Mule Days Team



What Camp Means To Me

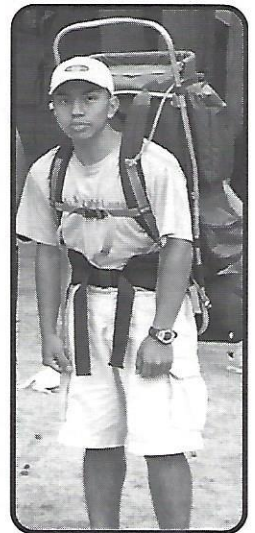
“Seeing challenges as a chance to grow”

My camp experience started in 1994, my camper year. I was a new immigrant to the country and didn't have very many acquaintances whom I could call 'friends'. I remember being invited to spend two weeks in a wilderness camp by my guidance counselor who thought a camp experience would help a teenager from a broken home assimilate to a 'foreign' culture. Although hesitant, I agreed to go.

As any first time camper, I was scared of not knowing what to expect. Yet, from the moment I reached camp I knew I had to take on numerous challenges. Climbing 'Jerky' was my biggest test as a camper, and to have a stranger (my counselor) try to push me was infuriating at first. Half way up, however, I decided to listen to his motivations and to accept his challenge, the camp's challenge. I set a goal to get to the top, and reaching it was the biggest accomplishment I had that summer—and, perhaps, of my life. It was the first time I realized what I was capable of doing. From then on I told myself that nothing could keep me away from something I truly wanted. Overcoming 'Jerky' was only the beginning of the many trials I faced at camp. And as these challenges came, I took them and looked at them as opportunities for me to prove to myself that I could go further, climb higher.

During the following years, I had the chance to become a pioneer, a worker, a voyager, a specialist, and in 1998, the privilege of having my own group. Being a counselor to these campers gave me a chance to pass on the knowledge I had gained from my camp experience—be it having **self-confidence, seeing challenges as a chance to grow, or taking ownership of my actions**.

As I live in the city, I think about everything I learned each summer and apply it to my day-to-day life. Camp has taught me how to have trust in myself in everything I do. It created bonds of friendship and helped open doors. Now, as I finish my senior year at Berkeley, and as I apply to several graduate schools in Clinical Psychology, I look back to where I was several summers ago. My experience at camp made me a very different person now—someone who is always working towards a goal, someone who will not let opportunities pass by, and someone who will always have the time to give a part of me to others. Many thanks to Pyles!



Noriel “Bullet” Lim
Camper 1994

“A Learning Experience”

Pyles Boys Camp has meant a great deal to me, and has made an impact in my life. The first time that I spent the summer and worked up at camp, I was very nervous and unsure, but after being up at camp for two months, my perspective had completely changed. It is amazing what kind of impact Pyles can have on young men's lives and how it can change them, by teaching them respect and responsibility.

Working up at camp and seeing these principles in action continually reinforces them in me as well. Up at camp, as camp staff and counselors, our entire purpose is the boys, to encourage them, to teach them, and to have fun with them, but it is always amazing how often that blessing comes back on us.

I have learned much from my time at camp from campers and how they react to situations, and it is a huge encouragement when I see a camper respond to a situation in a positive way, by being a leader. It is impossible to always be prepared for the situations I face up at camp, so I know that whenever I spend time up at camp it will be a learning experience.



Jason “Q-Ball” Perkins

Q-Ball with campers

Volunteers

There is not a single person that makes Pyles Camp what it is. Even back when Mr. Pyles was starting the camp he could not do it on his own. Mr. Pyles had the dream and desire, but it was with the help and support of many that got the camp going in 1949. Fifty-three years later this philosophy has remained the same, hundreds of hard working, dedicated volunteers that help make Pyles Camp what it is.

Pyles Camp volunteers fill many roles: the Board of Directors that oversee many aspects of the camp, Selectors who gather the boys, those that help raise funds through BBQ's and other events, individuals and groups who help at the reunions, and probably the largest group is the work party volunteers. All these people help to make camp what it is.

Opening camp this year provided the work party crews with a very large job. Due to the "Bark Beetle" infestation, we had to log out over twenty trees, which left a huge mess. On top of that we were having all the trees in camp trimmed and lifted for fire protection (boy did that save us this year or what), which added to the debris on the ground. It took the better part of two work parties to clean it up, but as normal they had camp looking sharp for the first group of boys.

To all those that volunteer and support the camp; **thank you!** We can't say it enough. It is with your help that the staff are able to work with the boys.

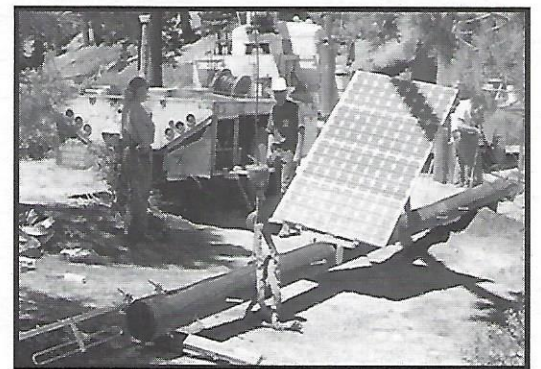
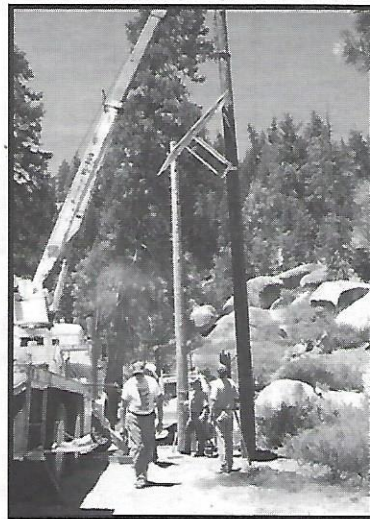
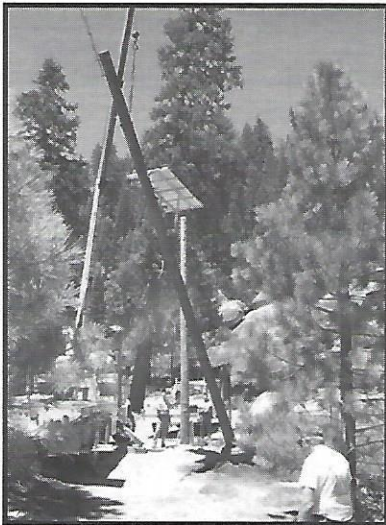
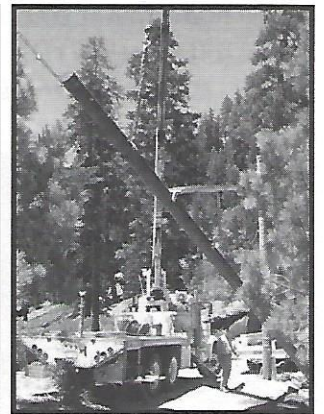
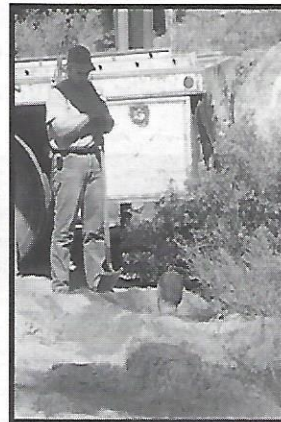


Can you hear me now?

We have all seen the commercial with the guy walking around with a phone saying “*Can you hear me now?*” Well that was what it felt like at camp while trying to use our phone, though we could not walk around. Many times the phone would cut out in the middle of a call or not work at all. Pyles Camp doesn’t have a regular phone system with phone lines; it’s a radiophone sending the signal through repeaters.

Pyles Camp is in the Bermuda Triangle for phone communications; sometimes it was there; sometimes it wasn’t. Being surrounded by high peaks, a lot of trees and a wide range of weather conditions it makes it very difficult to get a good signal and maintain the equipment. This year with the help of many people and lots of planning we installed a completely new system. This new system is far better than anything we have had throughout the history of camp. It worked seamlessly all season long.

Thank you to Applied Technology, Steve Grove, Dave Light, Pac Bell, Del Pengilly with the Forest Service and all the others who helped us over this critical hurdle!



The Winter Program

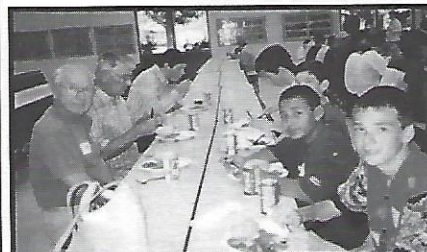
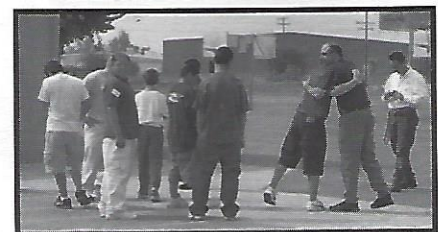
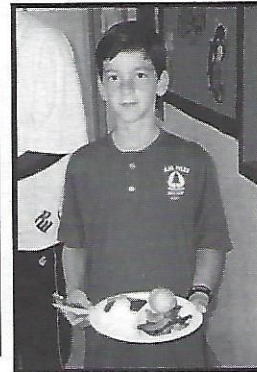
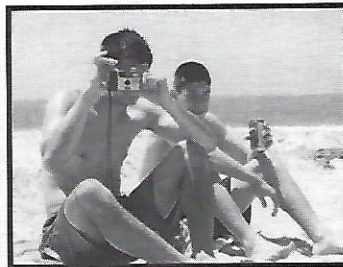
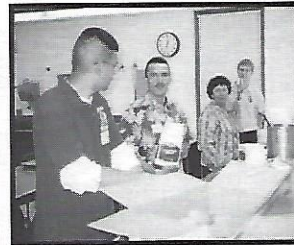
When the summer is over my job as the Outreach Coordinator starts up. My job is to keep in touch with you guys and organize various trips and events that bring us back together to talk about the things we learned at camp, see our friends and staff from the summer, have fun and learn some new stuff. Some of the events like Ice Skating and Lakers Games are designed to get together and have a good time. Other events like touring different businesses or going to the Museum of Tolerance are designed to open our eyes to things we may never get to see.

Some of the events I'm planning for this winter include: going to a Lakers Game, visiting the Hearst Castle, La Brea Tar Pits, Hockey game in Long Beach, Ice Skating, Lincoln Training Center for the Disabled, Convalescent Home for the Elderly, and visiting different businesses just to name a few. If things work out we may take a group Whale Watching and a trip to Magic Mountain. One of the most important events this winter for the new and potential workers will be the "Worker Pow Wow". We will be renting a camp where we'll spend the weekend together having a lot of fun, learning a lot about leadership and hopefully playing in the SNOW!

Besides the trips and events, I am here to help you with whatever you need. I hope you are doing well in school and at home, but if you are having problems please call me and I'll do what I can to help you out! I can be reach at the office toll free (877) RMPYLES or page me at (661) 632-8986.

Remember the key to success is education; it's your key to the world of opportunities!

**Take care and God Bless,
Dolphin**



The 2002 Team



1st Session 2002 Staff

Beaver, Dolphin, Shotgun, Nana, Duke, Shorty, Bear, Gizmo, Goblin, Groove, Cosmo, Vortex, Impact, Lobo, Art-e, Bodean, Bamm Bamm, Hermano, Venom, Buddha, Chief, Draco, Maverick, Apache, McFly, Batman, Malosi, Viper, Flame, Malcolm, Beast, Gambit

2nd Session 2002 Staff

Beaver, Shotgun, Dolphin, Nana, Cosmo, Buddha, Lobo, Duke, Impact, Gizmo, Shorty, Chainsaw, Fader, Groove, Mustang, Wizard, Bodean, Cadillac, McFly, Thunderbird, Art-e, Malosi, Draco, Maverick, Apache, Tiger, Coach, Rocky, Echo, Stretch, Ewok, Slider, Little One, Gambit, Flame, Waterboy, Malcolm, Mr. Spock, Chrome, Matrix, Cloud



3rd Session 2002 Staff

Beaver, Shotgun, Dolphin, Duke, Nana, Gizmo, Draco, Groove, Vortex, Method, Impact, Daredevil, Bamm Bamm, Chainsaw, Lobo, McFly, Bodean, Cadillac, Mustang, Venom, Art-E, Fader, Malosi, Maverick, Apache, Cosmo, Echo, Little One, Hero, Speedy, Gambit, Mousy, Ewok, Thunderbird, Flame, Waterboy, Hollywood, Wizard, Thinker, Tiger



2002 Staff Addresses

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp

27211 Henry Mayo Dr. Valencia, CA 91355

(661) 294-1394 / (877) RMPYLES (Toll Free)

Apache	John Rodriguez	8531 Vicki Dr.	Whittier	CA	90606 (562) 463-2719
Art-e	Karen Akamine	P.O. Box 271	Hunt. Beach	CA	92648 (949) 631-3387
Bamm Bamm	Dale Decker, Jr.	3408 Siesta Way	Oxnard	CA	93033 (805) 488-4706
Bear	Ralph Gutierrez	304 Beverly Place	Exeter	CA	93221 (559) 592-5313
Beast	Lo-mel Hamilton	212 West 76th St.	Los Angeles	CA	90003 (323) 750-3088
Blade	Gaylon Cowan	237 W. 83rd St.	Los Angeles	CA	90003 (323) 971-3229
Bodean	Matt McDonald	117 Monroe	Taft	CA	93268 (661) 763-3452
Buddha	Thanh Luong	922 "F" St.	Eureka	CA	95501 (707) 268-8748
Bullet	Noriel Lim	2237 Haste St. #1	Berkeley	CA	94704 (510) 540-4100
Cadillac	Robert Jernigan	6733 E. Wilson Road	Bakersfield	CA	93307 (661) 342-5882
Chainsaw	Brandon Carlton	1462 Champlain Ave.	Ventura	CA	93004 (805) 672-0447
Chief	Jonathan Fox	409 E. Utica St. #14B	Hunt. Beach	CA	92648 (714) 969-3009
Chrome	Christian Ayala	10447 Lanark St.	Sun Valley	CA	91352 (818) 768-3473
Cloud	Richard McEnulty	16126 Black Hawk Ave.	Bakersfield	CA	93312 (661) 589-9618
Coach	Stan Moe	4807 Cheltenham Ct	Bakersfield	CA	93313 (661) 588-0658
Cosmo	Ryan McAdams	3050 Olive Drive	Prescott	AZ	86301 (520) 778-3546
Daredevil	Jacob Cortez	13645 Bunker Hill Pl.	Chino	CA	91710 (909) 628-3756
Dolphin	Juan Jimenez	27211 Henry Mayo Dr.	Valencia	CA	91355 (877) 767-9537
Draco	Julio Alvarez	419 Austin St.	Bakersfield	CA	93307 (661) 366-7021
Duke	Robert Cherry	37646 Melton Ave.	Palmdale	CA	93550 (661) 265-7832
Echo	Jonathan Martinez	314 N. School St.	Santa Maria	CA	93454 (805) 928-4254
Equis	Milton Gilder	2465 Caspian Ave.	Long Beach	CA	90810 (562) 989-0081
Ewok	Roy Galindo	501 E. Park Ave. #3	Santa Maria	CA	93454 (805) 928-2473
Fader	Hector Jimenez	1328 N. Milwaukee Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622 (773) 278-2930
Flame	Frank Salinas, Jr.	413 Larry St.	Bakersfield	CA	93307 (661) 321-9328
Flip	Brandon Frausto	203A Oildale Dr.	Bakersfield	CA	93308 (661) 392-8991
Gambit	Steven Manuel	212 W. Hickory Ave.	Lompoc	CA	93436 (805) 735-4002
Gizmo	Ruben Sanchez	2007 Mt. Vernon	Bakersfield	CA	93306 (661) 872-8202
Goblin	Khai Tan	3175 Granada Ave.	El Monte	CA	91733 (626) 443-6725
Groove	Joshua Juarez	3611 Denver Ave.	Long Beach	CA	90810 (562) 221-1844
Gunther	Robert Chavira	7022 Glengarry Ave.	Whittier	CA	90606 (562) 692-2337
Hermano	Kim Robinson	408 Brighton St.	Salinas	CA	93907 (831) 758-3174
Hero	Abraham Pulido	2359 Elmgrove St.	Los Angeles	CA	90031 (323) 342-9775
Hollywood	Donald Norton	636 Peashway Ave.	So. Bend	IN	46617 (574) 289-5135
Impact	Michael Martinez	3213 Candlewood Dr.	Bakersfield	CA	93306 (661) 872-6002
Jester	Mike Garcia	3212 Ridgedale St.	Bakersfield	CA	93306 (661) 872-3763

Remember:

If you move or change your phone number, PLEASE let us know!

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Little One	Jose Mosqueda	8914 Far Hills Ave.	Lamont	CA	93241	(661) 845-1554
Lobo	Cesar Molina	826 E. 9th St. #D	Long Beach	CA	90813	(562) 437-7842
Malcom	Kenneth Cleveland	6412 Parsons Way	Bakersfield	CA	93307	(661) 397-6391
Malosi	Marcos De La Garza	3615 Tony St.	Bakersfield	CA	93306	(661) 363-7838
Matrix	Eric Perkins	4604 Tilyard Ct.	Bakersfield	CA	93311	(661) 663-3864
Maverick	Jim Uny	HCR 1, Box 107	Kernville	CA	93238	(760) 376-3195
McFly	Chris McEnulty	16126 Black Hawk Ave.	Bakersfield	CA	93312	(661) 589-9618
Method	Jonathan Mukes	37708 Gilworth Ave.	Palmdale	CA	93550	(661) 265-0054
Mousy	Jonathan Trevizo	626 W. Rainier Way	Santa Maria	CA	93458	(805) 922-4855
Mr. Spock	Gatlin Bredeson	400 Lucretia	Bakersfield	CA	93312	(661) 588-3273
Mustang	Daniel Dirksen	856 Pollard Road	Los Gatos	CA	95032	(805) 714-4183
Nana	Rose Urbina	10901 Reagan St.	Los Alamitos	CA	90720	(562) 596-5436
Nemesis	Kris Finley	727 Jeffrey St.	Bakersfield	CA	93305	(661) 324-1827
Night Wolf	Daron Jones	1114 W. 65th St.	Los Angeles	CA	90044	(323) 751-2642
Ozo	Manuel Delgado	317 E. 65th St.	Long Beach	CA	90805	(562) 728-4958
Pokey	Rene Reyes	2401 Preisker Ln #7	Santa Maria	CA	93458	(805) 347-1203
Q-Ball	Jason Perkins	8310 Laborough Dr #D	Bakersfield	CA	93311	(661) 665-2188
Rusty	Sammy Cortez	4258 Valerie Lane	Chino	CA	91710	(909) 464-9327
Serpico	Frank Gonzales	964 Corsicana Drive	Oxnard	CA	93030	(805) 983-8722
Shorty	Robert Yanez	5083 Sandpiper	Guadalupe	CA	93434	(805) 343-9856
Shotgun	Darren King	P.O. Box 842	Lebec	CA	93243	(661) 248-6309
Sniper	Idris Gant	14228 Green Vista Dr.	Fontana	CA	92337	(909) 829-0461
Sonic	Daniel Oliva	7840 Lemp Ave.	No. Hollywood	CA	91605	(818) 988-1727
Speedy	Von Cowan	237 W. 83rd St.	Los Angeles	CA	90003	(323) 971-3229
Stretch	Alex Pimienta	3213 Crestline Rd.	Bakersfield	CA	93306	(661) 872-3419
Sweetchuck	Wesley Morris	328 E. San Emidio	Taft	CA	93224	(661) 765-2021
Thinker	Raul Jimenez	1328 N. Milwaukee Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622	(773) 278-2930
Thunderbird	Steven Nunez	1496 W. 154th St.	Compton	CA	90220	(310) 608-2616
Tiger	Anthony Tafoya	1421 Holly Ave.	Oxnard	CA	93030	(805) 278-1968
Venom	Guadalupe Luna, Jr.	19137 Newhouse St.	Cyn. Country	CA	91351	(661) 251-2743
Viper	Jose Alipio	1754 Cerritos Ave. #1754	Long Beach	CA	90813	(562) 599-1635
Vortex	Juan Molina	826 E. 9th St. #D	Long Beach	CA	90813	(562) 437-7842
Water Boy	Bobby Stevenson	14012 Las Estradas	Bakersfield	CA	93312	(661) 588-5953
Windbreaker	Eamonn Fox	409 E. Utica St. #14B	Hunt. Beach	CA	92648	(714) 969-3009
Wizard	Carlos Vasquez					(661) 255-7628

KEEP IN TOUCH!

“Fame is vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings. Only one thing endures and that is character.”

Abraham Lincoln

(1809-1865)



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