

I became involved with troop 614 when my son was completing cub scouts in Scotts Valley. My wife (Claudine Wildman) was a den leader, and my son Chris was in that den. This was in the 1980's when the main troop in Scotts Valley was troop 604. I don't remember when troop 614 was started, but from what I remember, it was around this time.

The first scout master for troop 614 was Ernie Pitts (I'm not sure he was the first, but that's what I heard/remember). The reason another troop was started in Scotts Valley was because some of the adults didn't particularly like the "military style" of troop 604 and the way it operated. I was never a member of troop 604 or had any association with that troop at the time (early 1980's).

The scout master when I became involved was David "Dave" Affleck. Ernie Pitts stepped down and Dave took over the troop leadership. We had meetings at an activity room at Gateway Bible Church on granite creek by the freeway overpass. That is where we met for the 10 years I was involved with the troop.

Scout Leaders during this time were:

Dave Affleck - Scout Master

Frans Lind - Assistant Scout Master

Peter Lund - Assistant Scout Master

Charles "Chuck" Wildman - Assistant Scout Master, Committee Chairman

(I was also the high adventure leader for rafting & backpacking)

Richard Alsbury - heavily involved in the troop. Son = Michael Alsbury

Jeffery Hill - involved in the troop. Son= Stephen Hill

There were other active adult helpers, but I don't remember the names.

NOTE: Your best source of all things Troop 614 is David "Dave" Affleck.

Activities and events that the troop participated in over the years:

- Hiked/camped to the top of Mount Whitney.
- Hiked/camped to the top of Wheeler Peak (Nevada at 13,064 feet)
- Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico (multiple times, including backpacking)
- White Water rafting (American River in multiple places), Colorado River.
- Backpacking: Grand Canyon (rim to rim), and South rim.
- Camp Pico Blanco (near Carmel) - many times for summer camping.
- Death Valley Car/Park camping and back country exploration.

- Camp Cheesebrough Scout Reservation - summer camping.
- Big Basin to the Sea - backpacking/camping
- Scout Camp on Catalina Island - summer camping.

How we traveled by vehicle:

We traveled in multiple private vehicles using Citizen Band (CB) radios to stay in communication. The radios were all hand-held with cigarette lighter power adapters. If someone didn't have a radio, we provided it and instructed on how to use it. This was before cell phones were common and popular. The advantage of the CB radios was the 15+ miles line-of-sight range, and the fact that they worked in all conditions and terrain (like in canyons, etc) where there would be no cellular towers even in today's world.

The backpacking program prior to a trip included:

Exercise and full pack trekking up Tabor Drive, Scotts Valley.

Custom created meals using grocery store items - no store pack meals.

Pack packing training - rolling clothes, zip lock bags to organize, etc.

Pack adjustments for straps and waist belts.

Creating individual 1st aid kits with moleskin instruction.

Map and compass training.

Basic sewing kit and skills to use it. (repair pack, shirt buttons, etc).

The training was to make each scout responsible for their own equipment and to know how to use what they were carrying.

EAGLE Scouts: (there may have been more, these are all I remember)

- Chris Affleck
- Stephen Hill
- Michael Alsbury - Died in Virgin-Galactic crash as co-pilot/engineer.

<https://pressbanner.com/obituary-michael-tyner-alsbury/>

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2014/11/03/virgin-galactic-co-pilot-michael-alsbury-from-scotts-valley-2/>