

**Gold Country District
Golden Empire Council, B. S. A.**



2012 Klondike Derby

February 24-26, 2012

Tahoe Regional Park, 6600 Donner Road, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

One mile west of Hwy. 267 and one mile North of Hwy. 28

**UNIT PARTICIPATION
GUIDE**

\$12 per Scout/Adult, \$3 per vehicle

Updated 1-12-2012

History

According to the Great Yukon Guru:

The Klondike Gold Rush, sometimes referred to as the Yukon gold rush, was a frenzy of gold rush immigration to and for gold prospecting, along the Klondike River near Dawson City, Yukon, Canada after gold was discovered there in the late 19th century. In total, about 12.5 million ounces of gold (about 390 tons) have been taken from the Klondike area in the century since its discovery.

Discovery



Discovery Claim on Bonanza Creek is seen in August 2009.

In August 1896, a party led by Keish (Skookum Jim) Mason, a member of the Tagish First Nations, headed north, down the Yukon River from the Carcross area, looking for his sister Kate and her husband George Carmack. The party consisted of Skookum Jim, his cousin, known as Dawson Charlie (or sometimes Tagish Charlie), and his nephew Patsy Henderson. After meeting up with George and Kate, who were fishing for salmon at the mouth of the Klondike River, they ran into Robert Henderson of Nova Scotia who had been mining gold on the Indian River, just south of the big dike. Henderson told George Carmack about where he was mining and that he did not want any "Siwashes" (Indians) near him.

August 16, 1896, the Skookum party discovered rich placer gold deposits in Bonanza (Rabbit) Creek, Yukon. It is not clear who made the actual discovery, with some accounts saying that it was Kate Carmack, while others credit Skookum Jim. George Carmack was officially credited for the gold discovery because the actual claim was staked in his name. The group agreed to this because they felt that other miners would be reluctant to recognize a claim made by an Indian, given the strong racist attitudes of the time.

The Rush begins



Miners wait to register their claims.

The news spread to other mining camps in the Yukon River valley. Gold was first discovered in Rabbit Creek, which was later named Bonanza Creek. The Bonanza, Eldorado, and Hunker Creeks were rapidly staked by miners who had been previously working creeks and sandbars on the Fortymile and Stewart Rivers.

Klondike stampede

News reached the United States in July 1897 at the height of a significant series of financial recessions and bank failures in the 1890s. The American economy had been hard hit by the Panic of 1893 and the Panic of 1896 which caused widespread unemployment. Many who were hurt by the financial crises were motivated to try their luck in the gold fields. The first successful prospectors arrived in San Francisco, California on July 15 and in Seattle, Washington on July 17, setting off the Klondike stampede. In 1898, the population in the Klondike may have reached 40,000, which threatened to cause a famine.



A typical gold mining operation, on Bonanza Creek.

Men from all walks of life headed for the Yukon from as far away as New York, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Surprisingly, a large proportion were professionals, such as teachers and doctors, even a mayor or two, who gave up respectable careers to make the journey. For instance, the residents of Camp Skagway Number One included William Howard Taft, who went on to become a U.S. President; Frederick Russell Burnham, the celebrated American scout who arrived from Africa only to be called back to take part in the Second Boer War; and W. W. White, author and explorer. Most were perfectly aware that their chance of finding significant amounts of gold was slim to none, and went for the adventure. As many as half of those who reached Dawson City kept right on going without doing any prospecting at all. Thus, by bringing large numbers of entrepreneurial adventurers to the region, the Gold Rush significantly contributed to the economic development of Western Canada, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.



Miners and prospectors ascend the Chilkoot Trail during the Klondike Gold Rush

Most prospectors landed at the Alaskan towns of Skagway and Dyea, both located at the head of the Lynn Canal. From these towns they traveled the Chilkoot Trail and crossed the Chilkoot Pass, or they hiked up to the White Pass into and proceeded thence to Lake Lindeman or Bennett Lake, the headwaters of the Yukon River. Here, some 25 to 35 miles (40 to 56 km) from where they landed, prospectors built rafts and boats that would take them the final 500-plus miles (800-plus km) down the Yukon to Dawson City, near the gold fields. Stampeders had to carry a year's supply of goods — about a ton, more than half of it food over the passes to be allowed to enter Canada. At the top of the passes, the stampeders encountered Canada's North West Mounted Police (NWMP and now the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) post that enforced that regulation, as well as customs and duties. It was put in place to avert shortages like those that had occurred in the previous two winters in Dawson City, and also to restrict the entry of guns, particularly handguns, into British territory. Another reason was to keep out of Canadian territory the criminal element under the leadership of Soapy Smith which had established itself in Skagway and the other Yukon Ports (then still claimed as British territory), as well as the fears by British and Canadian authorities about a possible armed takeover of the goldfields as an American territory.

What is a Klondike Derby?

For our purposes, a Klondike Derby is the annual Boy Scout Winter Skills and Camping event. Since 1949 The Boy Scouts have been participating in the celebration of the heritage of the Klondike Gold Rush. Prepare yourselves for multiple Compare style competitions, where Boy Scout Troops and Patrols compete against each other. Patrols of 5 or more will use a dog type "Sledge" that will be pulled with the everlasting Scout power. The sleds, which will be loaded with their personal and patrol equipment, will be pulled by the Scouts as they journey through the snow covered woods and fields stopping at different activity stations where they are tested on different Scout skills. When they arrive at these stations they will be timed and tested on their Scouting knowledge, team work and problem solving skills. Top performers will be awarded for their prowess, intelligence, fortitude, and sometimes deviousness.

Some of the things they may be tested on include:

- Sled and equipment inspection.
- Are they prepared with the right equipment?
- Build a fire in the snow using only 3 matches.
- Winter Survival Skill Tests:
 - Where do you find dry wood for a fire?
 - How can you start a fire without matches, using flint and steel or fire by friction?
 - What can you find to eat?
 - How do you build a shelter to get out of the elements?
 - How do you build a bed to sleep in and keep warm?
- Then demonstrate how to do these.
 - Pitching a tent in the snow, frozen ground or ice.
 - Map and compass navigation.
 - First aid, for hypothermia, broken bones, CPR, etc...
 - Pioneering - Lashing and Knots - building useful projects.
 - Emergency Search and Rescue competitions. Tests on how to search for a lost person, what to do if you get lost, how to pull someone out of the water.

Troops will arrive on Friday night to get their camps organized. Competitions and the tests are performed on Saturday morning/afternoon. It is recommended that an advanced guard be sent up early on Friday to make sure that the check in is done in a timely manner and that they can select their campsite, as they will be chosen on a first come first serve basis.

Who is the Klondike Derby Commissioner?

Kamal Amer (ksamer@ix.netcom.com)

Who can attend a Klondike Derby?

Boys Scouts and Venture Scouts are the ones that this event is intended for. Competitions will be judged by patrols. A patrol needs to be at least 5 scouts.

What will each troop have to provide?

Each troop will have to provide a copy of the scout medical form for each scout attending assembled in a folder alphabetically by last name that can be turned in upon check to help speed the process along. A troop roster with the final number of scouts and adults attending should be in the front.

Each troop will need to have at least one adult member who is OKPIK trained.

Each troop will need to provide a parent or two to run one of the stations during the competition. Troops can sign up for the competition event they would like to work at on a first come first serve basis. Some equipment will be available for certain competitions, others may need further equipment. This can be discussed as you sign up.

Cost and Deadline to sign up for the Klondike Derby?

Deadline to sign up for the Klondike Derby is Friday, February 17, 2012. The cost will be \$12 per person, scout and adult, plus \$3 per vehicle. This will cover the costs of the vehicles, camp registration and camp supplies. Registration needs to be done by troop on the district web site. We'll need the names of the patrols attending for the judges tracking sheets.

What kind of equipment do you need at a Klondike Derby?

The Sledge -- Every competing team (patrol) of Scouts needs a Klondike Derby Sledge. The sledge will look similar to an Alaskan Dog Sled. They need to be made of natural materials. Some materials that are used include plywood, pine boards, wooden dowels, old broom sticks and handles, wood screws, nuts and bolts, rope, etc... It's not recommended to use nails in the construction of the sledge because they tend to come loose under the tress/strain and banging the sledges are subjected too.

They must be labeled with the Troop number and Patrol name. Art work is encouraged and extra competition points will be awarded for tropical themed decorations. The sledges must e a minimum of 5 feet long and weigh at least 50 lbs empty. (They will be weighed) They need to be able to hold the patrol competition equipment and at least one (1) scout. One location for sledge ideas can be found at:

<http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/winter/gear/sleds/index.htm>

Clothing

The Scouts also need good outdoor winter clothing, such as long johns (thermal underwear), gloves, hats, warm coats, multiple pairs of socks, good waterproof boots, rain gear, etc... Basically to be prepared for a long cold weekend in cold, wet, snow. The best idea is to dress in layers, so that layers can be taken off when you're hot from working or more layers can be put on if you're cold.

Survival (Competition) Gear (to be packed on the sledge)

- Pouch to carry gold nuggets
- Notebook and Pencil
- Working Flashlight
- Boy Scout Handbook
- Patrol First Aid Kit
- Patrol Flag
- Poles or staves, at least 3, each at least 6 feet long
- Blankets, at least 2, for stretchers or warmth
- Pot or Metal Container to melt snow in
- Water bottle with water
- Matches, strike anywhere type (no lighters!)
- Natural Tinder (no metal, wax, accelerants!)
- Emergency Firewood (enough to melt snow)
- Compass, because you should always have one with you in the wilderness
- Rope, 50' coiled
- Lengths of short ropes in a bag. (At least 10, 10-12 feet long)
- Anchors (6 sticks, about 1" diameter, 1-2 feet long)
- Small shovel for snow.
- 2 or more pairs of homemade snowshoes.
- Any other equipment that the Patrol might deem necessary to move their sleds over obstacles.

REMEMBER THAT IT CAN GET VERY COLD. SAFETY IS ALWAYS FIRST.

PLEASE STAY WARM, DRY AND HYDRATED.

Activity Schedule

Friday, February 24, 2012

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| 3:00 – 9:00 PM | Check-In: Bring Troop Roster, Medical Forms, and Tour Permits. Establish camp, dinner. |
| 9:00 PM | SPL/SM Cracker Barrel |
| 11:00 PM | Lights Out. |

Saturday, February 25, 2012

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| 7:00 AM | Reveille, Breakfast |
| 7:00 – 8:30 AM | Saturday arrivals make camp. Arriving SPL's and SM's report to Staff area. Turn in Troop Roster, Medical Forms, and Tour Permits. |
| 9:00 AM | Opening ceremonies. |
| 9:30 AM | The Klondike Gold Rush begins. All patrols should Mush to the various stations to compete. All others continue preparing camps, building snow shelters and practicing skills. |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch |
| 12:45 PM | Unfinished patrols complete the Gold Rush. |
| 2:00 PM | The Great Klondike Sledge Race |
| 3:00 PM | The Great Klondike Snowshoe Relay Race |
| 4:00 PM | Patrols Turn in their "Nuggets" for tallying. |
| 5:00 PM | Patrol Awards and Closing Ceremonies. |
| 6:00 PM | Dinner |
| 8:00 PM | Campfire |
| 11:00PM | Lights Out |

Sunday, February 26, 2012

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| 7:00 AM | Reveille, Breakfast, Camp Breakfast/ Clean-up begins |
| 9:00 AM | Non-Denominational Troop Service |
| 9:30 AM | Campsite inspection and checkout begins. |
| 11:00 AM | All Klondike personnel clear of the Park |

The Events

Gold Nuggets: Event Staff

Each event host will be provided gold nuggets. Up to 5 may be awarded to a patrol when they have finished competing in an event. Nuggets are awarded for Scout Spirit, Patrol Cooperation, Patrol Unity, and Completing the task at hand. A patrol may not receive gold nuggets more than once per event even if they redo the event later.

Blindfolded Stretcher Carry

Four blindfolded Tropical Scouts carry a fifth Scout (not blindfolded) on a stretcher around a course following directions given by the Scout on the stretcher. Timed Event

Compass Bearing

All members of the patrol sight on several objects and report collectively on the various bearings associated with those objects. Skill Event

Smooshboard Race

Four of the scouts from the patrol will be timed on their ability to tie their feet (all at the same time) to two planks and work their way around a course. Timed Event

Klondike History Competition

Patrols will be asked questions about the history of the Klondike as stated earlier in this guide. Knowledge Event

First Aid and Survival Kit Inspection

Each sled should have a patrol first aid kit and the various competition items (Survival Kit). At the station, the patrol kit and sledges are examined and Scouts will be asked to comment on the use of various items. Inventory and knowledge event

First Aid and Survival Quiz

Each patrol will be asked some basic questions and asked to demonstrate first aid and survival skills. Scores will be based on their overall basic first aid knowledge.

Height and Distance Estimation

Patrol estimates the height of a tree or rock face, and a horizontal distance. No climbing is allowed. Skill Event.

Iceberg Rescue

Each Scout throws a rope (made from the short lengths) to a "victim" who has "become trapped" on an iceberg and retrieves same. Patrol may be asked to demonstrate other forms of team rescue. Skill and Timed Event.

Knots and Lashings

Scouts will be timed on their ability to tie knots and lashings to construct a Trussel Structure. Time penalties can be incurred for wrong knots or lashings. Skill and Timed Event.

Panning for Gold

Patrol uses a blanket held at each corner by a scout to toss a provided "Nugget" over a horizontal rope 3 m above the ground. Overall score will be judged on the number of times the patrol can toss the nugget over the rope in a given period of time. Skill and Timed Event

Sled Balance

The Patrol has to get on the sled and balance on a provide fulcrum so that neither side touches the ground. Nuggets will be earned for establishing balance and for how long they keep it balanced. Skill and Timed Event.

The Great Deadfall Swing

This is a timed event where Patrols will be required to light their tinder and logs from their sled in order to burn through a string that will release a Deadfall Trap. Time stops when the Trap swings once and is caught. Skill and Timed Event.

The Great Klondike Sledge Race

Patrols man their sledges (4 pulling and 1 riding) will race the other patrols around a given course in deep snow on relatively flat ground. Scouts should be able to release their tow rope easily so that they will not be run over or dragged if they fall. Ropes may not be tied around waist.

The Great Klondike Snowshoe Relay Race

This is a Patrol relay race while wearing regular homemade snowshoes. A minimum of two pairs of snowshoes are required. While 1 is racing the next in line can putting on the next set of snowshoes. Needless to say if all 5 members have snowshoes it could be a big advantage.

Awards will be given based on each patrols rankings for each competition and for overall number of nuggets acquired.

The Overnight Survival Experience

Scouts and Leaders that are able to survive a night in an Okpik approved shelter can earn the "Snow Cave Survivor" patch. All snow shelters must be inspected by their troop Okpik representative and the Scout Master.