

# The Westside Story

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Newsletter of the Firebird District, Grand Canyon Council, BSA

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## District Profile

### *John Valentine*

*Cub Scouts – Pack 98  
Surprise, Arizona*

*(The bio of John Valentine, Pack 98, continued)*

Two years ago if someone had mentioned Pack 98 out of Surprise, AZ the typical response would have been along the lines of "who" and "where"? But if you ask that same question today, you are likely to get quite a different response and maybe a few fun stories from anyone who has spent time with this up and coming group of Scouts & Scouters. The Cubmaster of this award winning 100% Boys Life, and the Quality Unit Award, called by his own District Commissioner as the "rising star of the District", is John Valentine.

John, an Arizona native, joined Pack 98 back in the fall of 2001. He was told that a Tiger Leader was needed or else the new 1<sup>st</sup> grade boys, along with his own son Nathan, wouldn't be able to join the Pack. They said it would only take an hour a week, and so he eagerly accepted the position.

John is well known for his over the top ceremonies which have been known to include magic, fire, smoke, lasers, music, costumes, lots of dry ice and much more. He writes most of his own songs, skits, and ceremonies for the boys and by the next year was unanimously appointed as Cubmaster where he is preparing to start his 4<sup>th</sup> and final year in that role. In addition to Cubmaster, he has served as the Den Leader for his son's Den each year.

To ensure that his boys are not lost after Cub Scouts, John will be starting the first Boy Scout Troop in Surprise next year. Troop 98 will be up and running by next summer so that the future Cub Scouts in this Pack will have a place to call home as they cross over into Boy Scouts.

As if his Pack duties weren't enough, he also can be found giving up another "hour a week" to serve on the Firebird District Roundtable staff. He teaches breakout sessions and has also taught at the Cub Scout Leader Training classes. At the last District dinner, those in attendance were there to congratulate John on winning the District Award of Merit.

*(but wait...there's more! Please continue reading about John Valentine & troop 98 on the next page.)*

He also holds knots for Tiger, Den & Webelos Leader, along with Cubmaster and 4 years straight of perfect attendance awards. The Pack has celebrated Quality Unit status ever since his introduction as Cubmaster and last year achieved the 100% Boys Life participation and the National Cub Scout Honor and Merit Award.

Over the last several years, Pack 98 has transformed into one of the most active Packs in the Council. For this upcoming school year, they estimate that the Pack will not double or triple, but likely quadruple in size. The entire paradigm of the Pack was shifted to prepare for this growth and to ensure the future success of this group. Much of this behind the scenes credit goes to John's partner in Scouting and love of his life, Stacy Valentine. Not to be outdone by John, Stacy was selected to receive both the Silver Whistle and Spark-plug awards last year.

This power couple of the Firebird District has sacrificed countless hours from their personal lives to make their Den, Pack, District, and Council the best that it can be, and have a system in place to bring it to even greater heights with this upcoming school year. Stacy serves as the Committee Chairperson for the Pack and will be staying on with them next year while John is busy starting his new Boy Scout Troop. She is also part of the Roundtable staff and can occasionally be found teaching classes there as well. And when Stacy is not giving her "hour a week" to the Cubbies, she is busy running her Brownie Girl Scout Troop for their 8-year-old daughter Savannah. This is one family that eats, sleeps, and breathes Scouting!

When asked to provide us with a closing thought, John replied by saying, "Involving yourself in Scouting with your children is an investment in the future of your family, community, state, country and to the world. Don't underestimate the power of time spent with them as they grow up and your ability to nurture that investment. The dividends of your "hour a week" in Scouts are paid out forever in the spirit of their never ending love."

**WOW!**

**Boy Scout Jamboree July, 2005**