

THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

Volume 3 – Edition 4

April 2005

Commissioner's Corner

Greetings One and All !!

It is a sad time for the executive of BPSA-BC as Bill prepares to move east to Kingston, Ontario in July. On behalf of the Provincial Council, thank you Bill for your many years of service to the movement in BC, and may you enjoy your three years in Ontario. We are saving your position for you! I have accepted the Chief Commissioners role until affirmed at our AGM in September (unless someone else is elected).

Congratulations to Mr. Jack Service of Quesnel for stepping into the role of District Commissioner, Thompson/Cariboo. Welcome aboard Jack!

In the coming months we must expose our movement to as much media coverage as possible. Any ideas or suggestions on how to expand our movement will be most happily and gratefully received.

The Woodbeads 1 Training Course held at Chehalis Forestry Campsite the weekend of 22 – 24 April was a colossal success thanks to the efforts of our Provincial Trainer, Terry Blaker. Well done Terry! We had a few Timberwolves and Explorers on hand which added a whole new dimension to the training aspect. I thought that we were the first to do this, but after talking with the trainer on several of my training events and who was also a member of my training team during my term as ADC Training for the Kamloops District, I found out that she had used Cubs and Scouts as a Part 1 and had as much success as we did. Oh well, guess we can't be the first to do everything, just do it right and traditionally!

On behalf of the Provincial Council I would like to extend thanks to the leaders from 1st Logan Lake and 15th Horizontes who gave up their weekend to partake of the Woodbeads Course. May you have a long and fulfilling time with BPSA – BC.

As your Groups participate in activities, preferably outdoors, please take a moment to write up the event and send it along to me so we can reprint it in the Brownsea Gazette.

Good Scouting to All
YITS
Mike Maloney
Chief Commissioner
BPSA-BC

Provincial Council News –

Mr Mike Maloney has assumed the duties of Chief Commissioner due to Bill's posting to Kingston.

Mr Ron Long has assumed the duties of Provincial Secretary due to Mary's posting to Kingston.

Mr Terry Blaker and Mr Mike Maloney of the Provincial Training Team have been awarded their 4th Beads. Congratulations. Both Mike and Terry have also been awarded their WFIS National Trainer Badges, the very first to be awarded in Canada.



World Federation of Independent Scouts News:

WFIS World Council has announced a change to the venue of the 2007 World Jamboree. The National Council of the Boy Scouts of Chile has asked that the Jamboree be moved to Paraguay. The dates are to be announced.

Our sister association, the Canadian Independent Scouting Association (CISA) has changed its name to reflect their international make-up. They are now known as the Independent Scouting Association (ISA), and are currently running Groups in Canada, the USA, and Pakistan.

The WFIS Trainers Conference is being held in Paraguay, during August of 2005.



Camp Recipe Corner

Here's more cooking tips and recipes for your next camp, once again they're direct from the dark, damp and dusty archives of the 3rd Colwood BPSA Group.....our Galloping Goose Gourmets ☺

Hints for Frying Eggs

Whether you like your eggs sunny side up, turned over, fried hard or soft, here are a few basic rules that will make them a success anytime.

- Don't have the frying pan too hot.
- Go easy on the grease.
- Don't overcook them.
- If you turn your eggs over to cook on both sides, salt the yolks before flipping over to prevent them from breaking.
- Always have the pan hot before dropping in the egg or it will run out too thin in the pan before it starts to cook.

Fruit Grill

- Mandarin Oranges
- cherries
- pineapple chunks
- bananas
- plums
- strawberries
- melon
- marshmallows

Line a shallow baking pan with foil, leaving enough to fold across the top of the pan. Fill pan with suggested fruits. Allow one cup of fruit per person.

Arrange marshmallows on top of the fruit, (about four large marshmallows per cup of fruit). Fold foil over top of pan and heat on hot coals until the marshmallows begin to melt (about 15 minutes). Serve plain or over ice cream.



The Wolf Den

Ceremonies

Ceremonies in Scouting are best when they involve the participants emotionally and even spiritually. Scout ceremonies, around the campfire or deep in the woods, should touch on ongoing themes in the lives of youth, like belonging, identity, self-expression, success, independence, and personal values.

An effective ceremony is part myth and ritual, perhaps invisibly echoing long-lost rites of passage that our forbearers took part in at times beyond our cultural memory. They can remind participants of the great values of love, acceptance, personal growth, spirituality, cooperation, and togetherness which are available to them in the best moments of Scouting.

Generally, a ceremony is a type of program that has a central controlling theme, subject, idea or message. Everything that happens in the ceremony leads to the full development of that theme. A ceremony may be sad, serious, funny, dignified, happy or sober, but it must have a definite purpose. A ceremony may inspire spiritual values, happiness, character development, love of the outdoors, love for our fellow humans; the list is endless. Ceremonies need to fit the place, the people and the message.

The Purpose in Ceremonies

Our overall purpose in conducting ceremonies is to encourage an attitude of continuous growth among learners in their day-to-day activities. In addition, we include ceremonies in the program because they:

- Bring people together.
- Add meaning, depth, and dignity.
- Provide time for reflection.
- Present a special message.
- Establish a mood or atmosphere.

It is our hope that the youth will grow to become inspirational leaders who will in turn instill the guiding spirit in the youth of tomorrow. We expand our members' horizons by giving them a planned adventure to its grand climax. Careful development and presentation of the ceremonies must evidence strong principles, an integrated purpose, and set an example for continued achievement of higher goals.

We sustain this foundation for growth through constant program innovation and development and by using pack, six, and individual ceremonies or rituals. We continue to build from the foundation by planning and conducting ceremonial or spiritual activities. These are based on the master plan outlined in this book and, more importantly, on the leaders' own experience. We evaluate the activity and write down the idea for posterity.

When Ceremonies are Appropriate

There are many occasions for ceremonies. This is only a partial list of the possibilities:

- Awards, campfires, legends.
- PL and Sixer investitures.
- Two Star Timber Wolves
- Opening and closing ceremonies.
- Membership--investiture, and departure of old members.
- Holidays, dedications, commemorative days.

You can use ceremonies to mark any special occasion, though they ought not be abused. The program should be punctuated by ceremonies, not dominated by them.

Planning Ceremonies

For maximum effectiveness, ceremonies must be planned and rehearsed. When planning a ceremony:

- Keep it simple and short. Cut the long speeches. Ceremonies have more impact when they are kept to the point. Make them impressive, dignified, simple, sincere.
- A ceremony is not the same as a religious service. It is inappropriate, given the many different beliefs present in participants, to make it religious.
- The location and setting ought to fit the mood that the planners want to achieve.
- Each of the people helping to present the ceremony must know exactly what he is doing and when to do it. A rehearsal makes a huge difference.
- Use variety in your ceremonies. Don't present the same kind of ceremony repeatedly. Keep ceremonies fresh by making them relevant in some way to the individuals for whom the ceremony is being presented.
- Know the difference between sentiment and sentimentality.
- Long faced solemnity is not always the desired mood for a ceremony. Humor may have a quiet dignity running through its lightness.
- Ceremonies can be dramatic, inspiring, and colourful, and they should help participants feel more connected to other group members and a part of the group.
- Every ceremony needs to have a plan and a goal. Organization is vital to the effectiveness and success of the ceremony.
- A ceremony belongs to the group. It ought to be planned to suit the needs and the abilities of the participants.
- Use ceremonies to promote a better understanding of the group aims, ideals and responsibilities.

Location, Location

Remember that the setting is one of the most important factors affecting the success of the ceremony. Choose a location that:

- Limits the likelihood of disturbance by others
- Permits all participants to view the proceedings
- Fits the size of the group
- Permits people to stand or sit as needed
- If a fire is desired, is fire-safe.

People ought to be comfortable watching the ceremony. You can't keep their attention if they're worried about falling off the side of a hill.

Keep a Smooth Flow

The ceremony ought to flow easily, with a definite, although inconspicuous, structure. The ceremonial master of ceremonies needs to be well-organized. The event should be well-planned and rehearsed, and the agenda clear to everyone who is helping with the ceremony.

Allow ceremony participants and leaders to express their personal thoughts, if appropriate. Be careful, because this can take a considerable amount of time. Use ceremonies to enhance group experience and to add to the depth of thought and feeling. Develop a sense of group consciousness. Encourage development of meaningful values.

Practice, Practice

If possible, go to the actual site of the ceremony and practice there. If you're including a potentially difficult stunt, like remotely lighting a fire, try it out a few times until you are confident it works without fail. Get all of the leaders together and rehearse your movements. Time how long it takes to actually perform certain events, as this may alter your decisions about what you will do.

Nothing jars a ceremony and disturbs the mood you are trying to create than to have something go obviously wrong. Make sure you rehearse with all of the props and materials needed. The details are essential to the complete mood of the ceremony.





Backpacker's Corner

Fire Starters

Here is our summary of various types of home-made Fire Starters.

- Use pine cones covered with wax.**
- Pack charcoal in paper egg cartons and tie shut. When ready to use, just light the carton.
- Put a piece of charcoal in each section of a paper egg carton. Cover with melted wax.** Tear apart and use as needed. You can also use sawdust, dryer lint or Pistachio shells instead of the charcoal.
- Take 100% cotton balls and thoroughly rub Vaseline into them. Keep in a ziplock bag.
- Newspaper cut into strips(3"-4" wide). Roll up and tie with string. Cover with melted wax.**
- Use lint from your dryer as a fire starter.
- Bundle about 10-12 Diamond brand "strike-anywhere" wooden kitchen matches together with waxed dental floss. The heads of the matches should all be pointing in the same direction. Generously soak the bundle of matches (except heads) in melted paraffin wax** to waterproof and to provide a long burn time. Dip heads lightly only to waterproof them. Simply strike on flat rock to ignite.

- Cut a cotton cord into 1" lengths and soak in melted wax.** Let dry and store in empty film container or ziplock bag.
- These are called candy kisses. Use the small 6" emergency candles and wrap them up in waxed paper. Tie/twist both ends of the waxed paper to seal in the candle (looks like a salt water taffy candy). Light an end when you are ready to start your fire.
- Cut waxed milk cartons into strips to be used as kindling for your campfire.
- Stuff paper towel or toilet paper rolls with paper.
- To get your charcoal pieces ready quicker, use a charcoal chimney.
- Newspaper crumbled into a ball
- Use dried pine needles
- Soak a piece of charcoal in lighter fluid. Coat with wax.**
- Use small condiment or "sample-size" cups. Add a long wick to each cup and fill with melted wax.** You can also fill them with sawdust.
- Stack of small pieces of cardboard covered in wax**
- Waterproof your matches by dipping them in wax** or coating them with clear nail polish
- Use cotton string about 3-4" long, put in wax paper bathroom cup with about an inch hanging over the edge. Fill cup nearly to the top with saw dust and pour melted wax into the cup. The saw dust will compact and become waterproof. The extra string length is a wick to start burning the starter, but can also be tied to another starter string through a pack loop to carry outside your pack. - Submitted by C. Berman

*** Never use liquid igniters on your campfire. Example: lighter fluid, gasoline etc.**

**** When melting wax, only use a double boiler set up. Melted wax can easily ignite. Have a fire extinguisher handy in case of emergency.**



Patrol Leaders Corner

Why the Uniform?

From: "27 Years with Baden-Powell", by Eileen K. Wade, 1957
Chapter 12.

I was talking lately on the telephone to a friend who remarked that if she were a millionaire she would give to every Explorer in the movement a proper Explorer hat and ask him to wear it. "What a joy it would be," she said, "to see Explorers dressed as Explorers, even if only on formal occasions."

I suppose the lid does not really matter so much as what is inside the box, but to the Founder the hat, like every other part of a Explorer's uniform, had a significance that was almost spiritual. Boys who first wore it had to put up with a good deal of ridicule and, by "sticking it out," had achieved for their uniform a general admiration and respect.

Even in Scotland, where boys would have much preferred to wear their bonnet, they gave in to their Chief's ruling out of a sense of loyalty and in order to preserve uniformity throughout the Explorer world.

The hat distinguished the Explorer from every other boy in the world.

I see in this [wrote the Chief], a value far above a mere perversity in dress. A like uniform hides all differences of social standing in a country and makes for equality; but, more important still, it covers differences of country and race and creed, and makes all feel that they are members with one another of the one great brotherhood.

By his hat, his shorts and his staff was a Explorer known, and his uniform was no mere fancy dress, but was carefully designed with a view to its practical usefulness for his work. It came to be recognised as the outward sign of something for which Exploring stood.

In early days much of the uniform was made at home. An ordinary shirt could be dyed and a pair of father's trousers cut down to shorts; but the hat had to be bought; and, because it had to be saved for and taken care of, it was prized and treasured and worn originally with three dents to remind the Explorer of his three Promises.

The Explorer hat originally got its initials "B.P." from the words "Boss of the Plains", the hat manufactured by Stetson. It was worn by the members of the South African Constabulary (raised and commanded by B-P. during the South African War) as being both distinctive and practical. It shaded the face from sun, protected it from heavy rain, shaded the eyes when Explorering at a distance, was useful for watering horses, for fanning a fire, for carrying water in emergencies, and in many other directions. It suited all climates and is still worn by the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



Many suggestions have been made for celebrating the centenary of the Founder's birth and the golden Jubilee of Explorering. I can think of none that would have pleased him so much as the wholesale return of the movement to the Explorer hat, which he defended as vigorously as he did Mafeking!

Like the hat, each part of the uniform had its special significance and romance. It is difficult today to realise what a sensation was caused in 1908 by the appearance of Explorers in shorts. Small boys at that time wore "long-shorts" extending below the knee, while older boys wore breeches or long trousers. In introducing shorts the Founder had to fight a certain amount of opposition, for he was told that boys would get cold through having their knees uncovered. His reply to this took the form of a sketch showing a pair of bare knees, with noses attached, and handkerchiefs blowing the same.

All kinds of epithets were hurled after Explorers, and a boy had to be tough to take these with a smile. "It doesn't matter if you are called 'Crusty knees'," wrote Roland Philipps in his Letters to a Patrol Leader, "so long as you are not crusty inside." As the Explorer movement developed and shorts became common wear, even by men, the habit of wearing them spread throughout the country. Freedom of movement, so necessary in Explorering, was soon found to be an asset in games and shorts proved an economy for the mothers of growing boys.

The Explorer scarf, worn with a triangular piece at the back, was designed for its practical use, and not for any artistic merit that it might possess. To protect the back of the neck against hot sun; the nose and mouth against dust; as an emergency handkerchief; or pad: as a triangular bandage; as ties or straps for a stretcher: there were few uses to which a scarf could not be put. In games it served as a distinguishing mark or "flash"; or in sudden cold weather it could be re-tied to protect the chest.

An extra knot in front was to remind an Explorer to do his good turn for the day: when this was done he untied it.

The original Explorer scarf was green, like that of the S.A. Constabulary; but as troops sprang up everywhere, distinctive colours were adopted, giving a pleasing variety of rainbow-hue in any large assembly. The "Woodbeads scarf", is one variety now known in many lands, and was one which the Founder was proud to wear. On her travels round the world the Chief Guide delights at meeting this scarf in many out-of-the-way corners of the Commonwealth and world.

The origin of the Explorer garter is interesting and may well have been lost sight of. A plait of wool, of the same colour as the stockings, tied below the knee, had a double purpose. It both supported the stocking and supplied its mending wool. Threads from it could be pulled out for other purposes too, such as tying up bunches of flowers, etc.

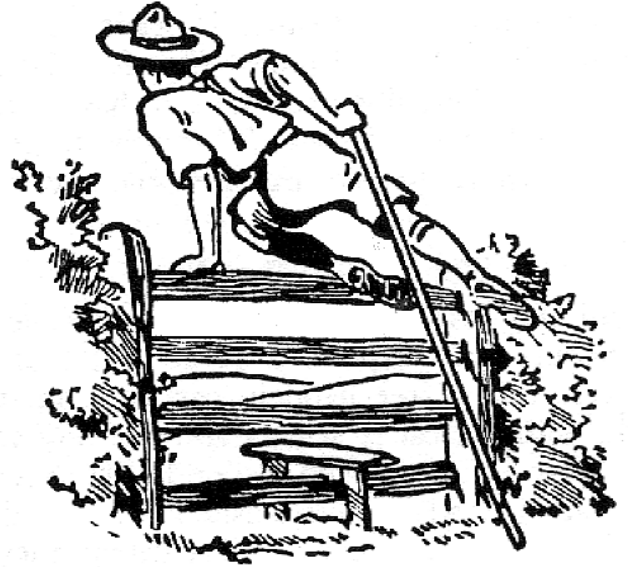
The staff was an integral part of the uniform and was carried by every Explorer. Its uses were too numerous to mention, but were constantly described and illustrated by the Founder. They included the making of stretchers, the rescuing of skaters who had fallen through thin ice; the fording of rivers, the climbing of hills; the gauging of heights and distances. A Explorer's staff was, like himself, one of a number yet having its own characteristics.

He could notch it to mark his progress up the Explorer ladder, or use it as other people would use a scrapbook or diary. The Chief, in writing of the staff, said:

“To the outsider's eye the Explorers' staves are so many broomsticks, but to the Explorer they are different. His staff, decorated with his own particular totem and signs, is typical; like his staff, among a mass he is an individual having his own traits, his own character, his own potentialities. He may be one of a herd but he has his own entity.”

The staff had been a part of the Chief's own equipment in all his overseas adventures and had proved an invaluable companion. One of his favourite home-made mottoes was that "A smile and a stick will carry you through every difficulty".

The Explorer staff was so much a part of the original uniform that the first Girl Guides, in imitating their brothers, not only called themselves Explorers, but also carried staves. At Heather Baden-Powell's christening at Ewhurst in 1915 the girls of Roedean School, complete with Explorer hats and staves, formed the Guard of Honour!



The Editor-in-Chief requires articles and news items from all of our groups!!!

Uniform pictures will only be included if they are in full and correct uniform

Please submissions to: brownsea@rovermail.org

