



THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

Volume 5 Edition 7

May 2008

From the Commissioner's Desk, May 02nd 2008

This month I am submitting from the pages of my 1918 Scout Handbook for Canada. Chapter X. THE HONOUR OF A SCOUT

"I trust you on your honour to keep this promise." In these terms every Tenderfoot is received by his Scoutmaster into the great brotherhood of Scouts.

A Scout is always on his honour - not only when he is in uniform and taking part in the patrol activities, but equally so at home, at school, at work or play. For Scouting aims to produce a type of personal character so high that every action of one's life will be controlled by the spirit of fair play. No matter how many badges he may wear a Scout must be doing his very best to live up to the Promise and Law, or he is no true Scout. The Scout Promise and Law have been described as the moral groundwork of the whole Scout Movement. They are also the moral groundwork for the training of individual Scouts.

Notice the wording of the Law. It tells what a Scout is. He is described as honourable, loyal, useful, friendly, courteous, kind to animals, obedient, cheery, thrifty, and clean. Unless he is really trying to live up to these requirements he is not playing the game; his honour is not to be trusted. Notice also this point that unlike the ordinary laws of the land this Law of the Scouts is not made up of things forbidden; it is instead a trumpet call to high endeavour. Let not this feature, therefore, of Scouting be overlooked, for Scout training which does not take proper account of the character forming side of the work overlooks the central aim and purpose of the whole Movement.

The knightly orders of ancient chivalry were sworn to uphold their honour at all costs and it is from the rules of knighthood that the laws of the Boy Scouts have been derived. In medieval times there were many tyrants - not, indeed, without their imitators in these days - who believed that might makes right, "that they should take who have the power and they should keep who can." Knighthood, however, opposed itself to this selfish doctrine and taught that it was the duty of the strong to defend the poor and those who could not defend themselves. When the country was at peace, the knight used to ride out daily as a "knight errant," looking for the chance of doing a good turn to any in need of help. His desire was "to live pure, right wrong, speak true, follow the King." The knights of old were the patrol leaders of their day and their men at arms, the Scouts. Like the Scouts, they were pledged to do a good turn to somebody every day. Their patron saint was St. George and their battle cry "For Saint George and Merrie England."

Well next month I shall continue these excerpts with an outtake on Chivalry.

I sincerely hope that you will read over "The Honour of a Scout" several times and note that it is all applicable to us today. Are we truly following in the mandate laid out by our founder Lord Baden Powell or are we in the movement for the wrong reasons?

Hopefully by looking back on our past and traditions laid down we can become better Scouts, better members of society and better members of humanity.

Till next time, 'Happy Scouting.'

Scouter Mike



Scouters Five

Knives at Scouts Own

Is a knife a weapon or a tool, and if it is not a weapon, must it be left in a knife block at Scouts Own? That question was posed on the Scoutcan Issues page with considerable discussion. Eventually it was determined that there is no documented LAW or REQUIREMENT within Scouting to leave your knife (tool) at the entrance to a Scouts Own. This practice was probably carried over from "laying down your weapons before God", although a kilted Scot wearing a "skean dhu" would not remove his "black knife" from his stocking when entering a church. It may have come from the Knight's Chapel in a camp, although it is not clear if a Knight removed his weapons when entering a church. The long and short of it is if you are entering a place of worship other than your own, respect their wishes if they ask you to leave your knife at the "door".

However, when I conduct a Scouts Own in the middle of nowhere, I will not ask my Explorers to remove their "tool", and therefore will not associate a knife with being a weapon. Maybe this positive reinforcement will assist in teaching the youth of today responsibility.

If we all are willing to respect the wishes of others, but also willing to have the courage to instil the responsibility in our own ceremonies by allowing our youth to wear their knives, maybe, just maybe, we can build a better tomorrow through understanding and responsibility.

The choice is ours.



Patrol Leaders Corner

What makes a good camp cook?

With summer approaching and camps aplenty coming up, it's time to talk a bit about cooking in camp. As Patrol Leader, your job is to teach your Explorers how to be camp cooks and how to prepare them for that task. So the first thing you need to do is become a camp cook yourself. There are lots of books/websites to help you, but the best teacher is experience. Practice cooking every chance you get, cooking doesn't have to be a chore, it can be fun and rewarding!

Menu Planning

Before anything else, you need to know your patrol. What are their likes and their dislikes? Many people have food allergies, lactose intolerance and some have religious prohibitions to eating certain foods, camp is **not** where you want to find this out!

So how do I find this information, you ask? The simplest way is to ask your patrol. A brainstorming session on camp menus is a good start. In your patrol corner, go around the members and ask each one what they want for dinner, no duplicates are allowed, this is not a decision making process, this is idea gathering. Let them know that all ideas are accepted as one wild idea may lead to a more sensible one. Write down their ideas, this shows that you are interested and you will have a record for future camps. Go around several times until the Kraft Dinner, hamburgers, pork & beans and hotdogs, etc. have all been said and some new ideas come forward. If you find the ideas are not forthcoming, make some suggestions yourself to stimulate them. Go through each of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Meals should be nutritious and healthy. Carrots and celery sticks are better choices than chips and candy bars, really!



Annual Dues remain the same!

Dues for 2008/2009 have been set to remain at \$40. Anyone registering after April 1 is deemed to be paid up until August 2009. At this price, why not consider a membership drive now?

Don't get excited, annual dues are not due until September.



The Patrol System

IV. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Before the first Troop Camp of the four Patrols, George had each Patrol out for a weekend camp previously; he did not feel that the Patrol Leaders had quite enough experience to run their own camps. "Next year they can," he said to himself. He wanted, of course, to make quite sure of a sound foundation for a Troop tradition in camping.

As a guide for general organisation, George had B.-P.'s advice to go upon.

"As the camping season is now upon us, I may say that one or two of the camps which I have already seen have been unfortunately on wrong lines, though others were very satisfactory. I strongly advise small camps of about half a dozen Patrols; each Patrol in a separate tent and on separate ground, so that the Scouts do not feel themselves to be part of a big herd, but members of independent responsible units.

"Large camps prevent scout-work and necessitate military training; and one which I visited the other day, though exceedingly well carried out as a bit of Army organisation, appealed to me very little, because not only was it entirely on military lines, but the Patrols — the essence of our system — were broken up to fit the members into the tents.

"Patrols should be kept intact under all circumstances. If more than six or seven Patrols are out at the same time, they should preferably be divided into two camps located at, say, two miles or more apart."

He particularly noted the phrases "independent responsible units" and "Patrols kept intact." Then he also noted B.-P.'s suggestion that each Scout should have a definite job; he had done this in the Hound camps and by changing jobs by rotation (other than Patrol Leader) there had been variety of experience. B.-P.'s list, which, of course, was only intended as a rough guide and not as a rigid system, was as follows:

"Patrol Leader. In supreme charge, responsible for assigning duties and seeing that they are carried out.

"Second Leader. Quartermaster in charge of supplies of food and equipment and first aid.

"No. 1 Scout. Cook, preparing meals.

"No. 2 Scout. Scribe, keeping accounts of moneys and stores, keeps log of the camp or hike.

"No. 3 Scout. Pioneer, making drains, bridges, latrines.

"No. 4 Scout. Sanitation, keeping camp clean, incinerator.

"No. 5 Scout. Axeman, supplying firewood. Fireman and waterman, has charge of cooking or camp fire and of water supply."

There is no need here to go into a full account of the preparations made for the camp, nor of the actual day to day happenings. Each Patrol camped as a separate self-contained unit, and the site allowed them to be a good distance away from each other. Things went wrong at times, but by now George had enough wisdom not to charge in and try to put things right on his own; a few words to the Patrol Leaders, or a hint dropped to one Patrol Leader about any particular weakness, soon worked wonders.

George did, however, blow up once; this was on the subject of general tidiness; his strong words on the subject were all the more effective because so unusual, and the startled Patrol Leaders were soon putting things, and keeping them, to rights. The Inter-Patrol camping competition helped considerably in keying things up and getting the best out of each Scout.

One incident of the camp gave George much to think about. John Petts was one of the newer Scouts; he didn't seem to fit in, and Fred was his Patrol Leader. John was untidy, and careless; always mislaying things; often un-punctual. Still he was cheerful and seemed to like his Scouting. Fred came along one evening and let himself go on the subject of John Petts. According to him, John should be chucked out. George felt a bit guilty: he hadn't really had time to get to know John, who had come in with a number of recruits during the summer. So he calmed Fred down and took an early opportunity of having a chat with John. He wanted to find out what the boy was really keen about — and at last John rather shyly admitted that he liked birds and trees “and that sort of thing.” That gave George an idea. At the daily Court of Honour he had with the Patrol Leaders that evening he threw out the suggestion that there should be an Inter-Patrol competition over the next three days for the best nature diary and collections. No one seemed thrilled at the idea, but it was accepted. John at last found something he could contribute to the Patrol; when the Hounds came out top, even Fred had to admit that John was not so useless after all.

George used this example in explaining to the Patrol Leaders how they must try to find out a Scout's interests and then enlist these in the service of the Patrol while seeing that general training carried all along in the right direction. He realised more frilly himself the importance of his own study of each Scout; the Patrol Leaders could certainly be trusted to carry out their jobs, but after all they were boys and could not be expected to weigh up and assess the finer qualities of character. That would always be his chief business as Scoutmaster. Their general judgment was sound; George discovered this when the stage was reached of new Patrol Leaders being appointed by the Court of Honour. Once or twice he had some doubt of the wisdom of the choice made, but he found that time and again the new responsibility brought out all kinds of unsuspected qualities in the new Patrol Leader.

By the time there were four Patrol Leaders, George was reasonably satisfied that they could be trusted to carry on Tenderfoot training and much of the Second Class work. But he wanted to see those Patrol Leaders get their First Class Badges. All Troop Meetings now included some Second Class and First Class work, but this rather intermittent instruction wanted pulling together. So George decided to take the Patrol Leaders together as his Patrol and train them in First Class Scouting — actually he was also hankering after a return to those early days when he was really a Patrol Leader.

There were other advantages in this scheme of a Patrol Leaders' Patrol; all the time the way in which it was run would serve as a standard for the Patrol Leaders in their own work, and George would be getting more and more knowledge of each of them.

With the other demands on time, this Patrol Leaders' Patrol could only meet once a fortnight; they had also their own week-end camp at the beginning of the camping season, and occasionally they had a Saturday afternoon expedition together,

A few months showed the value of this new development.

The Patrol Leaders gained additional prestige in the eyes of their Scouts. (What were these mysterious special meetings and camps of the Scoutmaster and Patrol Leaders?) They became keen on earning their First Class, and their increased knowledge and efficiency soon made itself felt amongst their Patrols.

It was not always easy to find the time for all these activities, but George was convinced that it was well worth the trouble. His greatest satisfaction was to watch how the Patrol Leaders — in spite of occasional set-backs and disappointments — fulfilled B.-P. 's saying, “Expect a great deal of your Patrol Leaders and nine times out often they will play up to your expectation.”

Working the Patrol System

E. E. Reynolds

Courtesy of the "Dump"

Part V will continue in the next edition.



Scouters Notes

THE SCOUT SPIRIT

The underlying feature is the spirit of the Movement, and the key that unlocks this spirit is the romance of Woodcraft and Nature Lore.

Where is there a boy, or for the matter of that a grown-up man, even in these materialistic times to whom the call of the wild and the open road does not appeal?

Maybe it is a primitive instinct - anyway it is there. With that key a great door may be unlocked, if it is only to admit fresh air and sunshine into lives that were otherwise grey.

But generally it can do more than this.

The heroes of the wild, the frontiersmen and explorers, the rovers of the sea, the airmen of the clouds are Pied Pipers to the boys.

Where they lead the boys will follow, and these will dance to their tune when it sings the song of manliness and pluck, of adventure and high endeavor, of efficiency and skill, of cheerful sacrifice of self for others.

There's meat in this for the boy; there's soul in it.

Watch that lad going down the street, his eyes are looking far out. Is his vision across the prairie or over the grey-backed seas? At any rate, it isn't here. Don't I know it!

Have you never seen the buffaloes roaming in Kensington Gardens? And can't you see the smoke from the Sioux Lodges under the shadow of the Albert Memorial? I have seen them there these many years.

Through Scouting the boy has now the chance to deck himself in a frontier kit as one of the great Brotherhood of Backwoodsmen. He can track and follow signs, he can signal, he can light his fire and build his shack and cook his grub. He can turn his hand to many things in pioneering and campcraft.

His unit is the natural gang of the boy, led by its own boy leader.

He may be one of a herd, but he has his own entity. He gets to know the joy of life through the out-of-doors.

Then there is a spiritual side.

Through sips of nature lore imbibed in woodland hikes the puny soul grows up and looks around. The outdoors is par excellence the school for observation and for realizing the wonders of a wondrous universe.

It opens to the mind appreciation of the beautiful that lies before it day by day. It reveals to the city youngster that the stars are there beyond the city chimney-pots, and the sunset clouds are gleaming in their glory far above the roof of the "cinema" theater.

The study of nature brings into a harmonious whole the question of the infinite, the historic, and the microscopic as part of the Great Creator's work. And in these, sex and reproduction play an honored part.

Scoutcraft is a means through which the veriest hooligan can be brought to higher thought and to the elements of faith in God; and, coupled with the Scout's obligation to do a Good Turn every day, it gives the base of Duty to God and to Neighbour on which the parent or pastor can build with greater ease the form of belief that is desired.

"You can dress a lad as Cowboy, as a Tommy or a Jack,
You can drill him till he looks as smart as paint,
But it does not always follow when you come to scratch his back,
That he's really either hero or a saint."

It is the spirit within, not the veneer without that does it.

And the spirit is there in every boy when you get him, only it has to be discovered and brought to light.

The Scout Promise (or Oath) to carry out, on his honour, as far as in him lies, and the Scout Law is our binding disciplinary force, and with ninety-nine out of a hundred it pays. The boy is not governed by DON'T, but is led on by DO. The Scout Law is devised as a guide to his actions rather than as repressive of his faults. It merely states what is good form and expected of a Scout.

B-P in Aids to Scoutmastership



The Backpacker's Corner

Some Backpacking Suggestions

Minute Rice now has a long grain and wild rice mix that makes it a hit on outings. I am a big fan of Ziplock Freezer bags, put the mix in the Ziplock bag and add boiling water. The bags are strong enough to not melt or break. I usually use two, just in case but have never had one fail. Cleanup is a snap and it's one less pot to carry!

Backpacking chow can be really good if you just think about it. The old standby is Ramen noodles. Take a package or two of Ramen per person and prepare according to directions. Add a can of boned chicken, tuna, or whatever to the noodles to heat. Add chopped green onion, green pepper, dried and reconstituted mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, slivered carrots, or any other back packable veggie (one that won't get crushed easily and will keep a day or two out of the fridge).

The Ramen noodles also don't require draining, as the water you use becomes the soup when you add the seasoning packet. Have iced tea mix with this, some dried fruit, pita bread and margarine out of a squeeze bottle, and you've got a fine high-carbo meal that will stick with you the next day.

Try the spaghetti sauce out of an envelope, not a jar. This is pretty good, too, although a bit bland. The package directions call for 2 1/4 cups water, a couple tablespoons of oil, and a small can of tomato paste. Bring this to a boil, add the packet of spices, and simmer 15 minutes. Add to it whatever else you want in the way of veggies. Add summer sausage here, since summer sausage keeps without refrigeration as long as you don't open the packet. Angel hair pasta works well, too, since it only takes 2-3 minutes to cook. And add some spices to jazz up the sauce.

Breakfasts in the back country are usually of the bagel/dried fruit/coffee variety, although you can make pancakes once in a while with a homemade pancake mix that only requires adding water. Syrup is easy to make with equal amounts of brown sugar and water and a few drops of Maplene or vanilla extract.

Lunches are invariably of the trail variety--i.e., no cooking. Deviled ham or chicken, pita bread, cheese, dried fruit again, maybe a carrot stick, drink crystals, etc.

Happy Trails!



BPSA - Ontario NEWS

Rick Box has been named as the interim Provincial Commissioner for Ontario. You can reach Rick at rollingwaves2002@yahoo.ca



BPSA - New Brunswick NEWS

Shelley and Toon Pronk have moved temporarily to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, however, they will remain as the main contacts for the Fredericton Group.



BPSA – British Columbia NEWS

Summer Camp – only 9 weeks to go!

The annual Summer Camporee in B.C. will be held in the Okanagan District this year on beautiful Kalamalka Lake near the small community of Oyama. The dates are Saturday, July 5 to Saturday, July 12.

This by the way, is not a "wilderness" setting because it's almost impossible to get away from civilization in the Okanagan Valley and still be "on the water". More details will appear in the next issue of the Gazette or check the website at www.bpsa-bc.org



Group Activities

The 14th Dragon Lake Girl Explorers and Boy Explorers are planning a three week trip to Europe in the summer of 2009. Scouter Tammy has been in touch with Klaus in Germany to meet up with as many WFIS groups as possible. The Explorers have been busy fundraising with bottle drives, a garage sale, bottle returns from restaurants, cell phone recycling, preparing event meals, highway cleanup and offering to perform yard services for donations. There's a lot of work ahead for this group, but everyone is very excited



Upcoming Training Events

A Wood Beads 1 course will be held in Quesnel on June 21/22 at Pioneer Park. Contact dragonlake14th@bpsa-bc.org for more information.



The Timber Wolf Pack

Sherlock Holmes Goes Camping

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip.

After a good meal and a cuppa tea, they lay down for the night and went to sleep.

Some hours later Holmes woke up, nudged his faithful friend and said, "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a moment and replied,

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo.

Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three.

Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant.

Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

What does it tell you, Holmes ?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke.

"Watson, you idiot.

It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."



The Quartermaster's Stores

Email the Quartermaster at qmstore.bpsa@gmail.com

Place your uniform order at <http://www.bpsa-bc.org/qm.htm>

Email the Badge Secretary at badges.bpsa@gmail.com

Place your badge order at <http://www.bpsa-bc.org/b-order.htm>

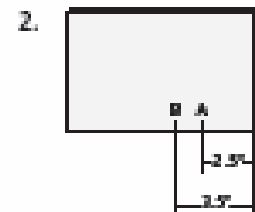
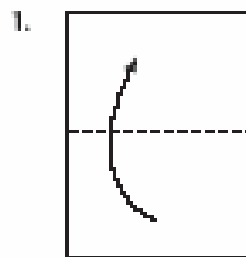


Otter Tales

Go Fly a Kite!

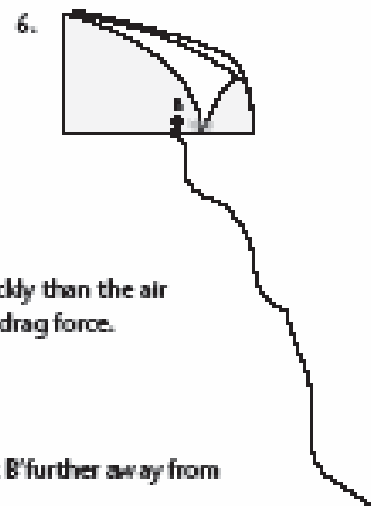
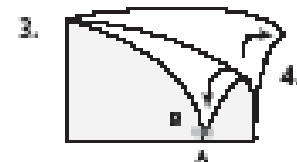
What you need

- Letter size paper (8.5" x 11")
- String
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tape
- Hole puncher



What to do

1. Fold the letter size paper in half length-wise.
2. Use the ruler and pencil and mark point A 2½" from one end, along the folded edge. Then mark point B 3½" from the same end.
3. Bend one corner down to point A and tape in place. You want it curved, so do not crease the paper!
4. Turn the kite over and bend down the other corner to point A and tape in place.
5. Cut a piece of string ~60cm for the kite line.
6. Punch a hole just above point B and tie on kite line.
7. Take your kite outside to fly!



What's happening?

The kite is able to fly because the air moves on the top of the wings more quickly than the air below it. This causes it to lift into the air. Air pushing against the kite causes a drag force. When the lift is greater than the drag, your kite will be able to fly!

Now try this

What happens if you adjust the length of your string? What if you move point B further away from point A? What other adjustments can you do to make your kite fly better?



Editorial

Send us news from your Group. We would like to tell everyone what your members have achieved and what interesting things you have done lately.

Let us know what you would like to see in the Gazette – you could even write a story for us!

The editor has a new e-mail address:

gazette.bpsa@gmail.com

Don't be shy – drop us a line!



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. ~Native American Proverb