



THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

Volume 5 Edition 8

June 2008

From the BPSA-BC's Chief Commissioner's Desk June 2008

As promised here is an excerpt from my ancient Scout Book on Chivalry and I decided to add a bit about the Challenge of the Present.

CHIVALRY

The term chivalry was first used to signify that gallantry in battle and high sense of honour in daily life that was expected of knights. In the training of a Scout it is the term used to include all the precepts of the Scout Law. The boy who keeps the Law is chivalrous, or, to put it another way, chivalry is the Scout Law put into practice.

Early Chivalry came to an end with the feudal system, but the flame which it kindled of helpfulness to others has never been extinguished. There are, indeed, many pages in the long record of human progress glowing, with the deeds of exalted self-sacrifice and service. Many pages are filled besides with records of the lesser events of history—of individual endeavour, of the sacrifices made by parents for their children and of one generation of our race for another.

Canadians of this generation, and of those yet to come, should never forget the pioneers, both of French and British origin, who opened this great Dominion to settlement. Remote from friends and family connections, besieged by the rigours of winter, confronted at times by savage native tribes, facing the dangers of unknown forest, lakes and streams, the early settlers endured and finally by their toil and pluck overcame countless difficulties that their children's children might possess this glorious heritage which is our to-day. There is some thing of the sublime too in the dauntless faith with which the pioneer missionaries, many of them men of high education and refinement, made their way into the hostile Indian encampments and willingly gave up even their lives in order that they might carry the message of Christianity to the savages.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE PRESENT

Times change and the conditions of life which confronted the Knights of the Round Table, the Crusaders, and the pioneers of settlement and religion in North America, no longer exist. Yet is there continuing need for the spirit of chivalry in our homes, on the street, in our games and sports, in commercial affairs; and it is one of the aims of the Boy Scout Movement to keep alive amongst us the rules of fair play which have done so much for the moral tone of our race.

The Boy Scout Movement in the words of an American Writer,+ is a call to boys of to-day “to become in spirit members of the order of chivalry and a challenge to them to make their lives count in the communities in which they live—for clean lives, clean speech, clean spirit, clean habits, and clean relationships with others. It is also a challenge for them to stand for the right against wrong, for the truth against falsehood, to help the weak and oppressed and to love and seek the best things of life”

**John L. Alexander in the Handbook for Boys of the Boy Scouts of America*

First off any reference to boys is now interpreted as youth (male and female) when this was first written Scouting was a male thing and the girls formed the Girl Scouts which later became the Girl Guides.

I find it interesting that when reading the above text, it is still relevant today. I am constantly amazed that no matter how the world is changing, the important things in life remain the same.

Warrants

Warrant of Appointments Cancelled - Ron Long of Salmon Arm.

*Just a note to all Group Scout Masters....If you have any leaders that have not yet received their Warrant of Appointment, please let me know as soon as possible so that they can be issued. Also, if you have had any leaders resign kindly let me know so that their Warrants of Appointment can be cancelled.

It looks promising that the Summer Camp this year may have some guests from our Brother Scouts from Washington State join us. Should be scads of fun eh what?

Next issue I shall have a series on the Scout Law dealing with each part over the next several months. The story of Jack Cornwell, V.C. will also be covered. *I bet you are all running for your reference books to look that one up!*

Till next, ta, ta, and 'good scouting', enjoy the great outdoors to the fullest and keep safe.

Scouter Mike



Scouters Five

How to catch a herd of Elephants:

You will need the following materials: A pair of binoculars, a pair of tweezers, a milk bottle, and a sign with the words "Elafant crossing" with the word elephant misspelled.

- 1) Place the sign near where a herd of elephants will cross.
- 2) Hide behind the bushes and wait
- 3) When the first elephant comes and sees the sign with the word elephant misspelled, he will start to laugh and call the rest of the herd over to see.
- 4) While the herd is distracted, laughing at the sign, jump up from behind the bushes, look thru the binoculars backwards, use the tweezers to pick up the herd and drop them in the milk bottle!

Then ask: What happens when you look through a pair of binoculars? (looking for the answer that things appear closer, you see better, smaller things...)

Then ask: What about when you look through the binoculars backwards, like in my joke? (looking for the answer that things seem far away, smaller, see less detail...)

Being a scout in our troop means we accept one another without conditions. Kind of like looking through the binoculars backwards. We don't see all the small things or details about you. You are a member of our troop, and that's enough for us. When one of you doesn't come in full uniform, or has your shirt tail out, or is sloppy looking. We over look it, because we want you as a part of our troop.

Many in the world are uncomfortable with scouting. Our stand for character and morals only highlights their lack of these fundamental needs in our society. Therefore, when you are a scout, the world kind of looks at you

through a pair of binoculars. The world is looking at all the details. Trying to find a flaw in scouting to discredit and dishonour scouting and its stand for these character and morals. Each time you come to a meeting or scout function, and dress sloppy, or act unscoutlike the world sees and they use this against us.

In our troop, we choose to overlook the small things, unfortunately the world won't give us that break. What you do in your life as a scout, reflects not only on yourself (which really is the most important) but also on ALL other scouts in your troop and around the world. Remember, someone is always watching you through binoculars!



The Patrol System

V. LOOKING AHEAD

After the Troop had been going for about three years, George found himself faced with a new set of problems. One of the most interesting parts of Scouting he discovered was its unexpectedness — something fresh was always cropping up. This was all right for him and his Assistant Scoutmaster; it prevented them from getting into a dull routine, but George felt that there was *something* wrong with the Troop — or with him. Yet he felt as keen as ever; still, there was no dodging the fact that some of the Scouts were getting stale. He talked it over with the District Scoutmaster.

“I can’t make out what’s wrong!” said George. “The Patrol Leaders are doing their job properly; the Scouts are getting through their tests steadily, but we seem to go a bit dead at times.” “Anyone chucked it lately?” asked the District Scoutmaster. “How did you guess that? As a matter of fact, two have dropped out — two of the originals unfortunately. Both good enough fellows, too. They’ve both left school and gone to work. Is that the reason?”

“Maybe. I expect it’s the old trouble — just growing-up. You haven’t lost a Patrol Leader?” “Thank goodness, no. I don’t know what we should do without them.” “That’s just the trouble, George. Those chaps who left were probably just tired of the old round, and knew there was little chance of being Patrol Leaders. No, I’m not going to tell you what to do; you’ll discover the remedy yourself. I’ll only drop this hint — the Patrol System was not designed just for the training of four Patrol Leaders.”

At first George refused to face the facts. He just couldn’t imagine the Troop without his present Patrol Leaders — especially without Fred and his Hounds, and Harry and his Wolves. It wouldn’t be the same! Yet, there was a lot in what the District Scoutmaster hinted. It might be two or three years before another Hound Patrol Leader was wanted, and there were some good fellows who ought to be Patrol Leaders or Seconds. If they didn’t get the chance, they might slack off, or leave. Perhaps the District Scoutmaster was right. There was only one thing to do — talk it over with the Patrol Leaders and see what they could suggest. After he had put the position fairly, Harry said that he would be quite willing to make way for someone else; after all, he’d

had his fun and although he'd hate to leave the Wolves, he saw the point. Fred agreed but with more reluctance: he wanted to know what would happen to him and Harry. What was there for them to go on to? They were too young to be Rovers, though he supposed there would be a Rover Crew later on.

This point had already occurred to George and he had played with the idea of forming a special Patrol of any older Scouts who would like more advanced Scouting and have their own meetings. When he threw this out as a suggestion, it was at once welcomed. "Just like the old Hounds," said Fred and Harry. "Not quite," said George. "The new Patrol will need its own Patrol Leader and Second, and later on we may have to form another one." George was surprised at the keenness roused. His immediate concern was, "Who was going to run this new Patrol?" He wanted to himself, but he simply couldn't spare more time for Scouting. His Assistant Scoutmaster was quite capable of running the Troop, but he'd need another Assistant Scoutmaster. Then the Troop could be practically handed over to them while he kept a general eye on it, and gave his chief energies to the older Scouts.

Another Assistant Scoutmaster took a bit of finding, but at last he was discovered, and the new organisation of the Troop set up. Several of the older Scouts chose to join the new Patrol and almost at once the Troop seemed rejuvenated. Two more Patrol Leaders were appointed, and this made everyone feel that things were moving and that there were more chances of becoming a Patrol Leader or a Second. And so the 5th Noeyewash Troop formed its first Senior Scout Patrol. At that stage we must leave them.

Next edition: WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO

Working the Patrol System
E. E. Reynolds
Courtesy of the "Dump"



Scouters Notes

THE OUT-OF-DOORS

Oxygen for Ox's Strength.-I once saw some very smart physical drill by a Scout Troop in their headquarters. It was very fresh and good, but, my wig, the air was not! It was, to say the least, "niffy." There was no ventilation. The boys were working like engines, but actually undoing their work by sucking in poison instead of strengthening their blood.

Fresh air is half the battle towards producing results in physical exercises and it may advantageously be taken through the skin as well as through the nose when possible.

Yes - that open air is the secret of success. It is what Scouting is for - to develop the out-of-doors habit as much as possible.

I asked a Scoutmaster once, in a great city, how he managed his Saturday hikes, whether in the park or in the country?

He did not have them at all. Why not? Because his boys did not care about them. They preferred to come into the meeting room on Saturday afternoons!

Of course they preferred it, poor little beggars; they were accustomed to being indoors. But that is what we are out to prevent in the Scouts - our object is to wean them from indoors and to make the outdoors attractive to them.

Alexandre Dumas wrote: "If I were King of France I wouldn't allow any child of under twelve years to come into a town. Till then the youngsters would have to live in the open - out in the sun, in the fields, in the woods, in company with dogs and horses, face to face with nature, which strengthens the bodies, lends intelligence to the understanding, gives poetry to the soul, and rouses in them a curiosity which is more valuable to education than all the grammar books in the world.

"They would understand the noises as well as the silences of the night; they would have the best of religions - that which God himself reveals in the glorious sight of His daily wonders.

"And at twelve years of age, strong, high-minded and full of understanding, they would be capable of receiving the methodical instruction which it would then be right to give them, and whose inculcation would then be easily accomplished in four or five years.

"Unfortunately for the youngsters, though happily for France, I don't happen to be King.

"All that I can do is to give the advice and to suggest the way. The way is - make physical education of the child a first step in his life."

In the Scouts especially, if we adhere to our proper *métier*, we ought to make a big step in this direction.

The open-air is the real objective of Scouting, and the key to its success. But with too much town life we are apt to overlook our object and revert to type.

We are not a club - nor a Sunday school - but a school of the woods. We must get more into the open for the health, whether of the body or the soul, of Scout and of Scoutmaster.

The camp is what the boy looks forward to in Scouting, and is the Scoutmaster's great opportunity.

The camp cannot fail to grip every boy with its outdoor life and taste of the wild, with its improvised cooking expedients, the games over woodland or moor, the tracking, the path-finding, the pioneering, the minor hardships and the jolly camp fire sing songs.

We want open-air space, grounds of our own, preferably permanent camp grounds easily accessible for the use of Scouts. As the Movement grows these should form regular institutions at all centers of Scouting.

Besides serving this great purpose such camps would have a double value. They could form centers of instruction for officers, where they could receive training in camp craft and Nature lore, and above all could imbibe the spirit of the out-of-doors - the Brotherhood of the Backwoods.

In the past years many such grounds have been acquired, for use as Training Grounds for Scouters, and Camping Grounds for Scouts. These permanent grounds have well proved their value for camp life, but we want more and that soon before all the ground round our cities has been bought up for building purposes.

I used the expression "camp life." Keep in mind that "camp life" is different from "living under canvas."

I was shown a pattern school boy camp not long ago where there were rows of tents smartly pitched and perfectly aligned, with a fine big mess marquee and well-appointed cooks' quarters.

There were brick paths and wooden bathing houses and latrines. It was all exceedingly well planned, and put up by the contractor. The officer who organized it all merely had to pay down a certain sum and the whole thing was done. It was quite simple and businesslike.

My only complaint about it was that it wasn't camping. Living under canvas is a very different thing from camping. Any ass, so to speak, can live under canvas where he is one of a herd with everything done for him; but he might just as well stop at home for all the good it is likely to do him.



In Scouting we know that what appeals to the boys, and is at the same time an education for them, is real camping - that is, where they prepare their own encampment even to the extent of previously making their own tents and learning to cook their own food.

Camp is essential to the successful training of a Troop. But the camp must be a busy one and not school for aimless loafing.

Then the pitching of tents in separate sites and selected nooks, by Patrols, the arranging of water-supply and firewood, the preparation of bathing places, field kitchens, latrines, grease and refuse pits, etc., the use of camp expedients, and the making of camp utensils and furniture, will give a keen interest and invaluable training.

Where you have a large number of boys in a canvas town you are forced to have drill and special instruction as a means of supplying mass occupation; whereas with a few Patrols, apart from their camp work, which fills up a lot of time, there is the continuous opportunity for education in nature lore and in the development of health of body and mind through cross-country runs and hikes, and the outdoor life of the woods.

My ideal camp is one where everybody is cheery and busy, where the Patrols are kept intact under all circumstances, and where every Patrol Leader and Scout takes a genuine pride in his camp and his gadgets.

In a small camp so very much can be done through the example of the Scoutmaster. You are living among your boys and are watched by each of them, and imitated unconsciously by them, and probably unobserved by yourself.

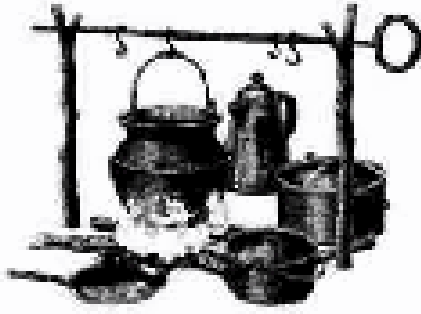
If you are lazy they will be lazy; if you make cleanliness a hobby it will become theirs; if you are clever at devising camp accessories, they will become rival inventors, and so on.

But don't do too much of what should be done by the boys themselves, see that they do it - "when you want a thing done don't do it yourself" is the right motto.

We want not only really healthy and clean camps, carried out in accordance with the local instructions, but camps where the boys can employ the nearest approach to a backwoodsman life and adventure.

Aids to Scoutmastership





Camp Recipe Corner

A recipe is merely words on paper; a guideline, a starting point from which to improvise. It cannot pretend to replace the practiced hand and telling glance of a watchful cook. For that reason feel free to stir your own ideas. When you cook it once, it becomes yours, so personalize it a bit. Add more of an ingredient you like or less of something you don't like. Try substituting one ingredient for another. Remember words have no flavour, you have to add your own!



The Backpacker's Corner

How to Plan Meals for a Backpack Trip

Source: eHow.com

Backpacking through the mountains is a great way to get back to nature. However, eating on the trail can prove tricky if you don't know what to pack. Planning meals for a backpack trip is easy, so long as you select dishes that are simple to prepare and easy to carry. Soups, dry mixes and dehydrated foods are all ideal for a backpack trip.

Breakfast

Step 1 - Select a dry breakfast mix, like pancake mix, and store it in a Ziploc bag. Mix a cup of the dry ingredients with three tablespoons of oil and enough water to make a soft dough. Drop tablespoons of the dough into a hot frying pan, and cook until golden brown. Dip the pancakes into a variety of toppings, including cinnamon and sugar, brown sugar, honey or jelly.

Step 2 - Pack a variety of instant breakfast cereal bars, which contain as much calcium and vitamins as a bowl of cereal with milk.

Step 3 - Bake a small batch of muffins or breakfast breads at home, to have handy on the trail. Store them in a plastic or tin container that can fit inside a backpack. This will be enough for one quick breakfast on the trail.

Lunch

Step 1 - Prepare a 3-minute pizza for a quick and easy lunch. Simply fill a pita pocket with spaghetti sauce, sliced pepperoni and shredded mozzarella cheese. Wrap it in tin foil and cook on hot coals for 1 to 2 minutes per side.

Step 2 - Make campfire corn poppers. In a collapsible bowl, mix one package of cornbread mix with one cup of canned corn (drained) and one cup of water. Ladle the batter into a hot frying pan cook until golden brown.

Step 3 - Make a black bean soup mix at home. Combine 7 oz. of dried black beans and 1/4 tsp. each of garlic powder, salt, cumin and cayenne. Add 4 cups of water to the mix in a pot, and bring to a boil. Reduce and let simmer for 10 minutes or until beans are tender.

Dinner

Step 1 - Add boiling water to a cup of instant chicken noodle soup for an easy dinner after a long day of hiking.

Step 2 - Add a quart of water to 3/4 pounds dehydrated ground sirloin steak, and let it soak for the day. Cook dried pasta over a campfire, drain the ground sirloin, toss with the cooked pasta, and serve.

Step 3 - Mix 1 cup of rehydrated mixed vegetables with one teaspoon of curry or beef bouillon and oil or margarine. Boil the mixture in 1 1/2 cups water, and then add one cup of couscous. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes before serving.



BPSA – British Columbia NEWS

Summer Camp – only 4 weeks to go!

Due to recent events, the Summer Camp will now be held on the shores of Lake Puntchesakut in the North Cariboo Region at the recently acquired property of Camp Puntchesakut. The Camp is owned by the Anglican Parishes and has been leased to BPSA for a 5 year period – who knows? This could become our Gilwell!

The camp will start with registration at noon on Saturday, July 5 and will close the following Saturday, July 12. All sections are welcome! Otters will camp with their parents, Timberwolves in tents in their sixes, and Explorers and Senior Explorers in Patrol Camps. Adults will have an area to camp as well. The camp will build on the skills learned last year and increase the challenges as we have done in each successive year. Please email Scouter Ric at ric14@gmail.com for more information. Hope to see you all there!



Upcoming Training Events

A Wood Beads I course will be held in Quesnel on June 20-22 at Pioneer Park. Contact dragonlake14th@bpsa-bc.org for more information.

A Wood Beads II course will be held at Camp Puntchesakut on July 6 to 12. Contact the commissioner@bpsa-bc.org for more information.



Craft Corner for the Junior Sections

How to make a Sundial

You run panting into Londinium's crowded amphitheatre. You spot your friends waving at you from the sea of faces surrounding the race track. As you dash up the steps to join them, your toga catches on the statue of Mercury the messenger god, and you fall over amidst much laughter.

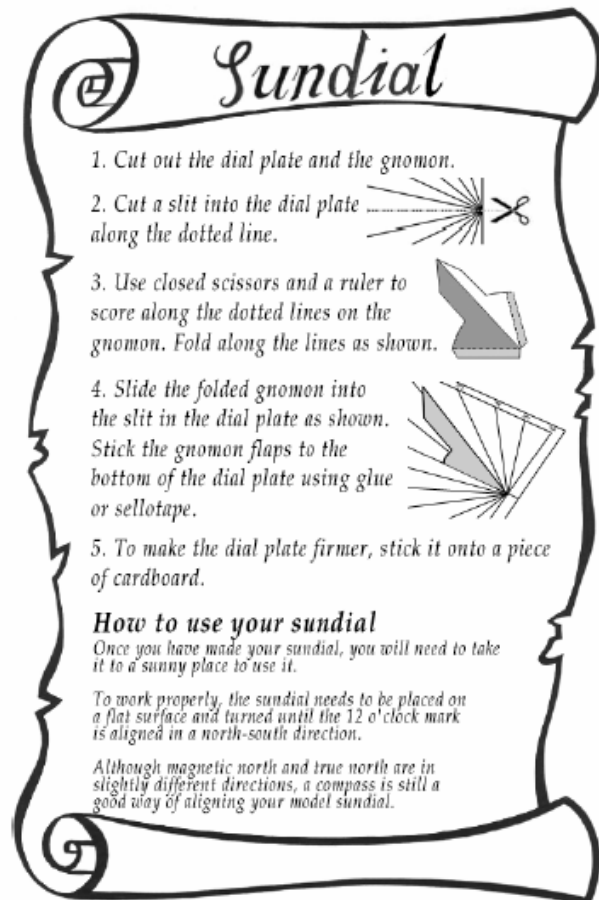
"Late again!" laughs your friend when you finally get to your seat.

"I... I didn't realise what the time was..." you gasp, out of breath.

"You should get one of these horizontal sundials" he replies.

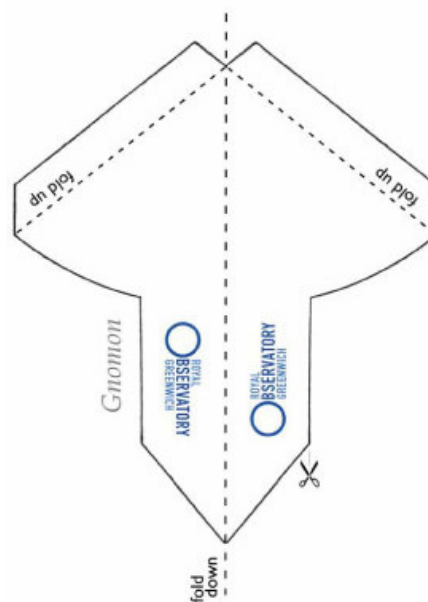
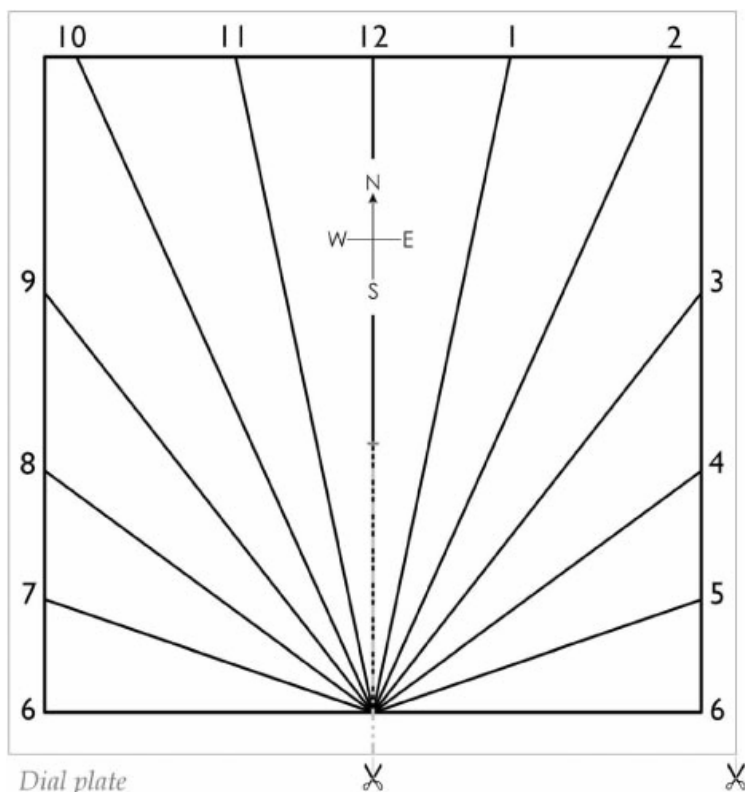
"Latest design by Ptolemy, that Greco-Egyptian astronomer. They tell you what time of day it is to the minute. Then you won't need winged sandals like Mercury to get to the games on time!" (more laughter.)

"Here, I've got a parchment sundial scroll, have a go at making one, just follow the instructions and..."



His voice is drowned by a roar from the crowd as the charioteers come onto the track.

Follow the instructions to make your own sundial...



The Quartermaster's Stores

Email the Quartermaster at qmstore.bpsa@gmail.com

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

Or for BPSA-Ontario

<http://www.geocities.com/bpsaqm/index.htm>

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

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



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!



Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it.

Arapaho