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FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Hustle and bustle, Holiday from school and work. Visiting with relatives and friends. Stress of what to buy for Aunt Ruth and Uncle Bob, all the nieces and nephews, and a slew of friends and other relations.

Dinner and special outings to plan and so much more consumes our time and thoughts at this time of year. We are so caught up in the season and all the festivities and parties that we allow of lot of things to go by the wayside.

A recent event involving solar lights which burst into flame on a workbench in a garage could have resulted in a disastrous circumstance if it hadn't been for the quick thinking of an 11 year old Explorer who discovered the fire and grabbed an extinguisher and put out the flames. This example makes me think that we should be aware of hazardous situations during the holidays and be able to handle them.



A few things to watch for:

- * Christmas lights left on when no one is home.
- * Candles left unattended especially when toddlers are around.
- * Choking hazards left lying around for little ones to pop into their mouths.
- * Tablecloths hanging low over table edges which little hands can grab and pull.
- * Improper food prep and holding temperatures.
- * Chocolates left within reach of dogs, they can get very ill from ingesting chocolate.

These are just a few things to watch for over the holidays.

Enjoy yourselves and may you have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Maloney
Chief Commissioner BPSA-BC

IN THIS EDITION

Chief Commissioner's Desk.....	1
The Otter Raft.....	2
Call of Nature	3
Camp Cooking Recipes	4
Timber Wolves Den	5
Training - The Patrol System.....	6
The Scout Promise.....	8
Explorer Trail.....	8
See you in Mexico 2011 !.....	10

Click on the item of choice





Winter Outings For Otters

During the winter months a little extra attention will have to be paid to the health and safety of the Otters. For short periods outdoors, ordinary winter clothing may be sufficient. On the other hand, for a full evening, Saturday morning or afternoon, you should pay special attention to avoid unnecessary hardships and possibly, Hypothermia.

If the weather conditions are going to be too cold, too windy, or may lead to the Otters getting wet, then you should consider postponing the outing to another time, or have an alternate plan. Layers of light clothing are more effective than a single layer of heavy clothing.

Mittens and hats are essential.

Winter offers various opportunities for creative expression. You've all seen youngsters spread eagle in the snow, waving their arms to make snow angels. Consider making snow sculptures. They don't have to be complicated.

Have the Otters look at snowflakes under a magnifying glass. At another meeting, have them make snowflakes.

Glitter Snowflakes

This is a super easy craft to make. Simply draw a snowflake with glue, sprinkle with glitter, and that's it! Place a piece of wax paper over a simple snowflake pattern. Using super tacky glue, squeeze a line of glue very carefully, following the pattern. The thicker the line, the fatter your snowflake. Sprinkle the glue with the glitter of your choice. Let dry, then peel the finished snowflake from the wax paper.



On a winter hike, observe animal tracks in the snow. Talk to the Otters about hibernation, and which animals remain out in the winter. Make a snowman and sprinkle bird seed over it. Talk about which birds fly south and which ones stay.

Being outdoors often make one feel special. A greater awareness of the changing seasons and the cycle of living things, can impart a greater appreciation of all living things.



BLOW BALL.

The players divide into two sides and take their positions at each end of a wooden table about 6 feet long. A ping-pong ball (balloon or any light ball) is placed in the center, and each side tries to blow it off the table at the other end-if it goes off the sides it does not count, but is put back in the center again. The game soon develops strong lungs, but needs composure just as much-because the best player is the one who can blow without laughing at the faces of those opposite him as they blow. It is best to play kneeling or sitting round the table. A more complicated way for five players a side is to have a goal at each end marked on the table ; then each side has a goalkeeper, two forwards, stationed at the other end to blow into the enemy's goal, and two backs to pass the ball to their forwards.

CALL OF NATURE

I don't know of anyone who does not enjoy watching the birds, large and small, chirping, flying around, feeding and especially looking after their young. I remember two or three years ago how much stir was caused in camp by the discovery of a robin's nest with a couple of fuzzy little hatchlings.

Scout Law # 6 tells us that "*A Scout is a friend to animals.*" That of course also includes birds. With the onset of Winter, there are two concerns many nature lovers have regarding the birds: helping them survive the winter by making food easily available to them in feeders and providing them with good, safe opportunities for nesting in Spring.

Setting up and looking after a bird feeder is a very rewarding experience for Scouts at all age levels. It also gives life to our Promise to do a good deed every day. There are many good books easily available in your local Public Library on how to build an all weather bird feeder, with instructions on what kind of feed to use. In general terms, a bag of "wild bird seed" from your local supermarket or department store will most likely fit the bill. In Canada, Walmart sells an 18kg bag for approximately \$13.00. The Great Canadian Superstore may have similar prices, Safeway and other supermarkets charge higher prices. It should last for 2 or 3 feeders most of the winter. It is a mixture of millet, sunflower seed, and other grains. It is also important to put out some suet as it provides much needed energy and protein which birds otherwise get from eating bugs.

A suet ball is a good winter project for Otters and Timber Wolves:

Here's what you will need.:

- * a bunch of suet
- * a couple of toothpicks or bamboo skewers or even large matches will do
- * a bag of bird seeds
- * string that is strong enough to hold the ball

Suet (beef fat) is sold in many food stores, but if you ask your local butcher, he will be happy to save you a lot of off-cuts which he would otherwise throw away. I am deliberately not giving any specific measures as they don't really matter much. Use your imagination.

Leave the suet for a couple of hours at room temperature. It will be easier to work with. Chop the suet in a food processor until you achieve a coarse paste.

Dump it into a large bowl, add as much bird seed as you like and mix well together. If I know Otters and Timber Wolves,

this is going to get really messy. Naturally, that is the fun part of it. Just make sure that their clothes don't get too greasy or you'll hear from mom.

Cut your skewers into pieces a bit smaller than your intended size of the a suet ball. So, for a 8 cm ball you would cut your pieces to about 5 cm. Tie the pieces into a cross with a square lashing, or simply glue them together. Then you attach them to a string at least 24 inches or 60 cm long. This is the basis on which your suet will hang. The sticks are important as they prevent the suet from simply sliding down off the string. It is useful to tie a bowline loop at the other end of the string. Better make the string a bit longer to keep it out of reach of squirrels and other unwelcome rodents. In winter time the competition for food especially good nutritious food is very fierce.

When you have decided that your meeting room has been sufficiently messed up, you press the delightful goo into balls about 3 inches or 8 cm across, around your cross. The mixture will be quite soft at room temperature.

Here comes the hard part: You will need to convince mom to allow you to store it for a few hours or better still a whole day in her fridge until the suet hardens enough to stay on the string. If you try to hang it while it is at room temperature, it will probably slip off its string and make quite a greasy gooey mess on the floor. Not a good idea. Cool it.

The next day comes the moment of glory. You can take your suet and hang it on a tree branch that is at least 6 feet or 2 metres off the ground and a minimum of 3 feet or 1 metre from the trunk or other branches. This is necessary to protect the food from squirrels, rats

and other raiders.

Another good location is outside your window, hanging from the roof overhang. You will probably find other good places, as long as they are suspended far away from other structures that would make it easy for animals to poach the food.

No doubt you will attract many birds, such as chickadees, house sparrows, northern flicker, hairy woodpeckers and many others. In no time, your suet ball will become a favourite meeting place for all sorts of fine feathered friends.

text & photo: Karl Pollak



A dark-eyed junco at a feeder



CAMP COOKING RECIPES

Bannock (campfire bread)

This is a simple bread made by the Native Peoples across the country. There are many local variations because this basic recipe is extremely versatile.

Ingredients:

- * 1 cup of flour
- * 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- * 1/4 teaspoon of salt

Cooking instructions:

Combine ingredients and add enough water to make firm dough, form into cake about ¾ inch (1 cm) thick, fry in a well greased pan over medium heat, cook until golden brown.

Hints:

Make sure you use only medium heat, do not leave the pan directly on the hot coals or in the flames. That will give the dough enough time to cook through and not burn the crust. Each cup of flour will feed approximately one person.

You can add variety by adding a few berries or raisins. Another variation adds quarter of cup of sugar for each cup of flour used.

A simpler version is to cook the dough wrapped around a twig or a stick until the dough starts getting golden brown. Experiment with additional ingredients or garnishes. Try it with fried chopped onion or wrapped around a cooked sausage for an excellent pig-in-a-blanket. Also a good companion to stews etc.





Now I want to tell you some more about Mowgli and the Jungle Pack. Do you remember who the chief animals were?

Akela was the wise Old Wolf, the head of the Pack, who lay on the Council Rock and saw the younger Wolves all kept the Law of the Pack. He was like an older man who could teach boys what to do to make themselves strong and useful.

Akela is an Indian word, and it means “one who is alone.” There can be only one adult leading the Pack, just as Akela was alone on the Council Rock. If there were several leaders in a Pack, they might all try to do different things at the same time, and some Timber Wolves would follow one, and some another, until in the end your Pack would be like the Seonee Pack of the Jungle Book, after the wolves set their old Akela aside and followed many leaders. After awhile, some of them were lame from the traps they had fallen into, some limped from shot wounds and some were mangy from eating bad food, and many were missing. If they had followed Akela, the one leader of the Pack, that would never have happened.



Shere Khan was the great bullying tiger, all stripes and teeth and claws; but, like most bullies among boys, was not very brave at heart if you only tackled him.

Then Tabaqui was the mean sneaking jackal who tried to make friends with everybody by flattering them; but he only wanted to get scraps from them. There are lots of boys like Tabaqui who will sneak or suck up to others hoping to get things given to them instead of working for them themselves.

So you see the animals in the jungle are very like human beings in their ways.

But there are more animals in the jungle than those I have told you about.

When Mowgli was brought to the Council Rock he had to be made one of the Pack, which meant that he would have to be taught the laws and customs of the Pack before he could properly be made a member of it. So old Baloo the bear, who was a wise though fat and sleepy old beggar, was told to teach him the laws. And Bagheera the great black panther, who was a strong and cunning hunter, was to teach him his hunting and jungle work.

So in your Pack I expect you will learn to call your leader “Akela,” because he is your leader. If he has other grown-ups to help him, perhaps you will call them “Baloo” and “Bagheera.” When you speak about all of them together, you can call them “Old Wolves.”

Why not give some of the Timber Wolves in your Pack special Jungle names? The Sixer of the Grey Six might be called “Grey Brother,” for example; or the cheeriest Cub might be “Rikkitikki-tavi” (or “Rikki,” for short); or the Pack Scribe might be “Sahi” (the Porcupine).

TRAINING - THE PATROL SYSTEM

“The Patrol System is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from that of all other organizations, and where the System is properly applied, it is absolutely bound to bring success. It cannot help itself! The formation of the boys into Patrols of from six to eight and training them as separate units each under its own responsible leader is the key to a good Troop.” - Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell

This quote from the Founder indicates just how important the Patrol System is to an effective Scouting program. Explorers (Scouts) are organised in small groups (about six to eight members) because this is the natural way children work together. These patrols are therefore more important than the Scout troop. Patrols must be kept intact under all circumstances, including working, tenting, learning, cooking, and surviving together. In a Patrol the Scouts learn to work with others, while the Patrol leader learns responsibility for others. In reading earlier editions of the Brownsea Gazette, I see several articles on things a Patrol can do to be effective. The emphasis is often on the importance of the Patrol Leader in realising this effectiveness and success. So how does the Adult Scouter train the Patrol Leader to be an effective leader?



The first thing the adult must acknowledge and accept is that the Patrol is the main operating group in the troop. The troop simply becomes the common meeting ground for the Patrols and enables the adult leaders to work with all the Patrols simultaneously. However, it is important that the program and activities are dictated by, and operated for the benefit of, the individual patrols. This is accomplished by holding meetings of Patrol Leaders, called “Court of Honour”, with the adult leaders as advisors. This is part of the self-governing aspect of Scouting.

FIRST PRINCIPLE: The Patrol Leader is appointed by the adult Scouter in conjunction with the Court of Honour.

Primarily patrols are groups of youth who work well together or gangs if you will. In 1968 the mainstream Scouting organisations changed the patrol system (which was based on natural gangs) and made it more like street gangs where the leader was chosen by election rather than appointment which resulted in PLs with no leadership qualifications and in many cases no Scouting qualifications. The problem is that in the street context, gangs have no clear purpose or *raison d'être*. In Scouts, we have a clear purpose for our gangs (Patrols.) And in order for that purpose to be accomplished, a Patrol needs a leader who is capable of leading the Patrol towards that purpose. Thus, the election of a Patrol Leader by Patrol members often doesn't work as the leader is chosen on the basis of popularity and not on qualification. This is where the input of the adult leader is crucial. The adult leader should assign the position of Patrol Leader to a member of the Patrol, who by experience and training is capable of leading the Patrol towards Scouting's purpose. This requires a delicate balancing act. The

Patrol Leader (PL) has to be qualified and also must be accepted by the other members of the Patrol. An astute adult leader will be able to ensure this as long as the reason for the appointment is for the good of the Patrol and not necessarily the troop, the leaders, or the PL. The PL then appoints an assistant PL or Second. The Second is chosen to understudy the PL with the intention of eventually becoming a PL. In this manner, the Second can substitute for the PL if necessary.

SECOND PRINCIPLE: Patrol Leaders must schedule and conduct Patrol Meetings.

Patrol meetings are held separate from Troop meetings and often are held at a different time and usually in the outdoors or in the home of one of the members. Adult leaders are not invited nor are they needed. Under the leadership of the PL the Patrol plans its outings, activities, etc. Typically Patrol meetings are held once a week.

The duty of the adult Scouter is to teach the PL on how to hold an effective meeting. This can be done in a special session of the Court of Honour conducted by the Scouter (just for this purpose.) Aside from the usual formal aspect of meetings –

record keeping, etc. the adult must stress upon the Patrol Leaders the following principles of effective meetings:

1. Group discussion must secure the lively interaction of many minds. This is accomplished by allowing everyone to speak on the topic under discussion. To secure this lively interaction, members must keep their comments short.
2. Group discussion must adhere to strict rules of relevance. The “lively interaction of many minds” results in action only when all discuss the same thing at the same time.

The role, then, of the PL is to monitor the group discussion to ensure these principles are followed. It will mean limiting discussion. The PL must be firm. No one person may dominate if the meeting is to accomplish results. This includes the Patrol Leader. In the special training session, each PL should role-play being a PL and learn to direct discussion. Also, each PL should read “The Patrol System” booklet available on the Dump at <http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/patrolsystem.pdf>

THIRD PRINCIPLE: The Court of Honour is the governing body for all troop activity.

The Court of Honour is a meeting between the adult leaders and the PLs (and Seconders if desired) to discuss and plan the operation of the troop in the Court of Honour, mentioned above. By the way, the expression “Court of Honour” is not a disciplinary session – the name comes from the King Arthur Legends and the Court of the Round Table. The Court of Honour is run by the PLs with advice and counsel from the adults. The adult leader is expected to point out to the Court of Honour when, in his/her opinion, the decisions of the PLs may not produce expected results. Otherwise, it is up to the youth. Trust them.

FOURTH PRINCIPLE: The Scouting Movement is founded on the notion of youth training youth.

In some troops an older Explorer (Scout) who has been a PL is designated as Troop Leader (TL) and assists the adults in the running of the troop. The TL is usually one who has completed all the steps in the program and having once been a PL is a great peer level mentor for the PLs. The TL is often the nominal leader of the Court of Honour. In my experience, the TL is often more effective than the adult leaders. If the training has been consistent, the TL will example leadership qualities to the PLs and then when the PL becomes a TL he/she too will be a example of effective leadership.

The role of the adult Scouter is to follow the youth on their journey. He/she is not out in front leading the way. Rather the leader follows at the rear of the column to help the stragglers while all the time being able to see all of the youth ahead and if necessary volunteer advice when needed.

Yours in Traditional Scouting,



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A few weeks ago we have observed Remembrance Day in memory of those who fought and perished in wars, especially World War I. It is estimated that in that war alone, there were around 40,000 Scouts or former Scouts and Scouters in the British Armed Forces. One such Scouter was Captain Roland E. Philipps who served with the 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, and was the Commissioner For East and North-East London, as well as being the Assistant Commissioner For Wales.

Just as we keep in touch by e-mail and texting today, a hundred years ago, people used to write letters to each other. Capt. Philipps kept in touch with his troop back home by exchanging letters with one of his Troup's Patrol Leaders. Scouter Roland was killed in action, July 7th, 1916. A year later, his Letters to a Patrol Leader were published in a book. Scouter Roland's advice to his Patrol Leader Jim is just as sound today as it was nearly 100 years ago. In the coming issues we will share with you some of his letters.



THE SCOUT PROMISE.

My Dear Jim,

I have just got your letter telling me that you are to be a Patrol leader. After your two years of Scouting you have certainly deserved it. The great thing about your appointment is that it shows that your Scoutmaster trusts you. It is up to you to show your Scoutmaster that he is right.

You tell me that you mean to have the finest patrol in the Scout Movement. If that is what you are out for, you are up against a pretty tough job, but it is something to be a Leader who is ready to have a try.

It is not succeeding that makes a man so much as trying. If you go on trying hard enough, success will come; but when it does come you need not bother very much about it.

Trying gives a man big muscles, but if a man bothers too much about success it sometimes gives him a swelled head.

The first thing you have to make up your mind about if you want to be a leader is where you want to lead the people who are going to follow you. There are six other chaps in the Kangaroo Patrol besides yourself. They can jump along pretty well if you tell them where to jump to; but, when I see a lot of Kangaroos jumping about in no particular direction, it makes me feel that it is the Leader himself who had better hop it and give the chance to somebody else who is a bit more of a Scout.

Your job, then, as a Patrol Leader, is to produce seven good Scouts, one of them being yourself, and every time you creep or crawl or walk or run in the direction of good Scouting you are on the road that your Chief asks you to take.

Some people think that a Scout is a bloke with dirty knees and a big hat; other people believe that he is a boy with a clean mind and a big heart. As you go about the world wearing your Tenderfoot Badge in your buttonhole, you will find that people have mixed ideas as to the meaning of Scouting; but, so long as your own ideas are not mixed, it does not much matter about those of anyone else.

There is only one definition of a Scout. A Scout is a boy who stands holding up his three fingers and says:

*"I Promise on my Honour to do my best —
First, to do my Duty to God and to the King;
Secondly, to Help other people at all times; and
Thirdly, to Obey the ten Scout Laws."*

Every boy in the world who has taken that Promise is a Scout, and without taking it nobody can join the Scout Brotherhood. But the Leader of the Kangaroos must be more than a Scout; he must be a good Scout and not a bad one.

The difference is this: A bad Scout is a boy who has taken the Promise and does not care very much about it; while a good Scout is a boy who takes the Promise with pride, and is trying every moment of the day to keep it.

A good Scout is always thinking about his Promise; he repeats it to himself in order to remind himself of it. He knows the Scout Laws by heart, and he knows, too, what they mean. He knows what they mean through having practised them. Unless you know what a law means, you cannot keep it.

On the other hand, if you practise it, you find that it has a grand meaning which you would never have discovered if you merely learnt it out of a book. You have made up your mind, then, to have a good patrol; and a good patrol means a patrol of good Scouts.

You are going to meet your patrol for the first time on Thursday night. Make it quite clear to the other chaps what Scouting means — that you intend not only to remember your Laws, but also to carry them out — and the moment you begin trying to practise the Laws you will find that you want to work for some of those fifty-three badges you were talking to me about the other evening on your way back from work.

You will tell your patrol that they cannot rescue a drowning man by taking off their hats to him and by offering him a seat on the bank of the river instead of a bed in the middle of it. You will tell them that you cannot help a horse that has got entangled with its harness in the street by stroking its neck and offering it a lump of sugar.

You will explain to them that you cannot help a blind lady across the street if you are too blind yourself to notice her existence, nor can you prevent your pancake on Shrove Tuesday from turning into a scone merely by knowing that the ingredients are flour, milk, and eggs. In order, then, to be a Scout, you must practise Scouting. You cannot practise Scouting unless you know something about it, and you cannot know much about it unless you are ready to learn.

One of the best ways of learning is to go in for the Scout Badges. You begin by being a second-rate chap, we call it Second Class, and you go on afterwards and get your First Class Badge and make a bid for some of the fifty-three others, with the Gold Cords in the distance, and perhaps the Silver Wolf on the horizon to look forward to.

If you take a large slice of bread and jam in camp, somebody else may be a slice of bread and jam the less; but if you take an Ambulance Badge or a Pathfinder's Badge, you will find that somebody else — six others, perhaps — is an Ambulance or Pathfinder's Badge the more.

Badges are rather like chicken-pox. When the spots begin to come out, you know that you are getting them yourself, but you are not sneaking anybody else's. In fact, being a generous-hearted sort of fellow, you are giving even more than you get. It is just the same with Badges; if you are a good Leader, you get one and give six away to your patrol.

Well, Jim, you will be working very hard with your boys during the coming months; but the great thing is to make them feel the whole time that the backbone of Scouting is the Scout Promise and the Scout Laws.

The best way is to devote a quarter of an hour to the Scout Laws whenever you meet. You can take one Law each time and explain as best you can what it means. You will then ask your patrol what they think it means, and, between the seven of you, you ought to get some splendid ideas.

The next week, when you meet to discuss another Law, you will ask the patrol whether they have found out any new methods of keeping the one which you yarned about a week ago.

In this way the knowledge and keenness of the patrol will always be increasing, and the Scout Law will begin to take a very large part in the daily lives of the Kangaroos.

Your sincere brother Scout,

Roland E. Philipps



FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

A FEW NOTES ON 3RD WFIS WORLD JAMBOREE IN MEXICO

R.S. Alberto Aguilar Gonzalez

The world has witnessed alongside human history numerous events that had change its course and no one has the chance to prevent them... In scouting we have the chance to choose.

As all of us know, the scout way of life is based upon freedom. Freedom that we have to conquer every single day, because being a scout is not wearing a uniform every weekend or going out camping once in a while, it's about growing up living a life based on a Promise and a Law. Every single human, needs to make a lot of decisions in order to learn, to work in a project, even to play a game. Today, making the decision to come over to Mexico to the Jamboree can be one of your greatest decisions.

What can we tell about the Jamboree that hasn't been told? Which adventures can we describe that haven't already been described? Is there anything left to be found?

The answer lies there, in every one of us.

We can't tell anything to anyone about this Jamboree except all you will tell, we can't live all the adventures except yourselves, all that it is to be found will be discovered by you.

The 3rd WFIS World Jamboree not only represents an event that anyone who participate in it will remember it for life, it also represents something else, and as scouts we have always lived under it: the ideal of brotherhood.

This ideal is real, has no boundaries, has no frontiers, and if you don't trust me, trust to all the scouts who live scouting every single day of their lives, scouts like you, scouts like all my brothers here in Mexico who wait for this great and unique event and are really excited with the idea of meeting scouts from other countries and spent a whole week camping with them, sharing adventures, sharing tales, sharing techniques, sharing all that only scouts can share: our love for scouting.

Come and join us in our very own and special way of scouting life in Mexico. Learn from us and teach us your ways, together, as true scouting brothers can make this Jamboree one that will endure for many years, this experience will be one that worth all the efforts that the organizing committee is making to bring you a challenging but above all, safe experience.

As I told you earlier, we have to make choices every day, if you choose to be part of this experience, do it knowing that in doing so, you will be part of a truly change, you will be part of a brotherhood that trust, a brotherhood that trust in their brothers and sisters in scouting, a brotherhood that trust their brothers will keep them safe, a brotherhood that is committed with and for you, a brotherhood of Scouts.

The 3rd WFIS World Jamboree will be held at state park Flor Del Bosque in Puebla from 16th to 23rd of July 2011 and it will cost \$300 U.S. dollars.

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!

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Don't be shy – drop us a line!

