



PACK CHAT

January 2010 – Volume 3

Compliments of the season to you all.

New Year brings new beginnings, new opportunities and new challenges. Let's make this special year – 2010 – a humdinger of a year – fill it to overflowing with fun and excitement for our Cubs.

'OPEN BOOK'

There is nothing to beat the warm feeling one gets when we see the bright, eager young faces of the Cubs as they attend a Pack Meeting or attend a special event. Here we have a 'blank page', waiting for us to write a new experience. As they progress to Scouts and, hopefully, Rovers, we have more and more to write on that original 'blank page'. The fact is that we do the writing, we are the means by which that youngster can gain those new experiences and we must never under-estimate the contribution of the adult to a young person's Scouting experiences.

Adults paint the pictures in this 'open book' by providing fun and opportunities for exciting and challenging activities and have a responsibility to keep the balance in the programme, with equal elements of 'out' and 'in'. I know that, often, we hear that the most important part of Scouting is the 'out' in Scouting but, if you look at it closely, Scouting has 'out' and 'in' next to each other – each is as important as the other as, without them, Scouting would not exist!

Our 'open book' is a tremendous challenge for us. The enthusiastic young person may not realize at the time the vital part being a Member of the Scout Movement plays in writing and illustrating those 'blank pages' but, as a means of opening the doors to new

and exciting experiences, Scouting is unparalleled, thanks to the input, time and skills of adults.

Our adult Leaders come from many walks of life which is, I believe, our major strength. All who come in to our Movement have something tangible and worthwhile to offer, from the home executive to the labourer. Although some may not necessarily be academically brilliant, their skills and experience of life are an invaluable asset to the success of our Movement. They have much to offer to fill those 'blank pages' in the minds and experience of the young people in their charge. Their reward is to see the pleasure of those young people who have done something new... all made possible by the adult giving of their time, experience, skills and expertise.

You must never under-estimate the fact that, through you, many young people get a new perspective on life and have their experience of life stretched and enhanced by the opportunities you present in their week-to-week Scouting. You may not feel that your efforts are always appreciated but, again, you must take on board the fact that frustration is part of being an adult Leader in our Movement. Your degree of success is easily measured by the fact that your young people return each week and you should be encouraged by that as, for that to happen, you must be doing something right and, accordingly, your time and effort is being appreciated.

You are an author as you fill in the pages of that precious book. Not only that, you have an effect on those around you... your other Leaders and Helpers. They learn from you as you, often, learn from them. The "open

book” is never completed, as it is always having another chapter written, another picture painted and experiences and memories added. A further bonus is that the ‘open book’ inevitably becomes the equivalent of a technical manual from which others learn. The skills and experiences gathered over the years are often the basis for new experiences for the young person in Scouting, passed on by the adult as they instruct adventurous and challenging activities in a safe and competent way.

This is the basis of good Scouting – the chance to introduce and to give the opportunity to a youngster to acquire new skills, new interests, new experiences – some of which they may have thought to be outside their abilities to ever experience.

Even those with special needs have the chance to experience so much of what Scouting offers, thanks to adults who care and take the time to share, encourage, help, adapt and persevere to overcome doubts and lack of confidence. Those adults help to make Scouting accessible to the vast majority of young people who could enjoy and benefit from what our Movement offers. Their ‘books’ are open to being filled with the colour, magic, thrills and unique experiences that Scouting can provide.

We should never shirk from our opportunities of authorship or feel that we are inadequate in any way. That initial step in to Leadership, with its tremendous potential, is us grasping that ‘authorship’ opportunity which can only be of benefit to all!

(Adapted from Scouting Magazine – July 2000)

DID YOU KNOW.....

January and February are CANSA Sun Smart Awareness months.

22 March is World Water Day – what a lovely theme for a month.



23 March is World Meteorological Day.

27 March – Earth Hour 2010.

Pow Wow is only three and half months away – 24 to 26 April 2010. Have you booked your seat for “A Mystery Safari”?

PROGRAMME IDEAS

Stuck for ideas – how about turning your old CD’s into:

- * **Sliders** - using a permanent marker pen, make a set of six CDs with the name of each Six. Chalk a target on the floor and play a form of giant shove, sliding the discs in to the target area.
- * **Target Practice** - hang a number of CDs on differing lengths of string and mark each disc with a number. Cubs get to fire at the discs with a water pistol. Total up the scores on the discs they hit.
- * **Night time wide games** - tie a disc on to the wrist of each player in a wide game and they will reflect in torchlight, so that opposing teams can be ‘caught’.
- * **Camp fires** - use them as an anti-drip candle holder for candles at a campfire.
- * **Giant tiddlywinks** - decorate your CD’s to identify each person’s disc and then off you go!
- * **Frisbee bowls** – have a ‘jack’, as in lawn bowls, at one end of the den and Frisbee flick your teams’ CDs to get as many as possible near the jack, or within a target.
- * **Sun catchers** – drill a hole in the top and bottom edges of CDs and hang them from pieces of string. Several strings of CDs could be hung up to make a curtain.
- * Use them to play signaling games.
- * Wheels on model cars.
- * Bird scarers.

- * **Fashion parade** – challenge each Six to make an outfit or fashion accessory using CDs. Have a parade for the finished items.
- * Smash them up and use them to make **mosaics** – sand paper any sharp edges before you start.
- * Drinks coasters.
- * Use them to make a game of **Twister** – make the different coloured spots by painting the CDs with glass paint and allowing them to dry before use.
- * Make a sparkly mobile for babies.
- * **Plant pot hanger** – suspend two CDs on four pieces of strong twine. Rest plant pots on the CDs – the twine will hold the pots in.
- * Use them as the control points in orienteering exercises – each one could have a number or a letter written on it that has to be collected to crack a coded message.

If you don't have CD's, I am sure circles cut out of cardboard would, in most of the above activities, work just as well.

Acknowledgement – Scouting July 2000

Have you heard about:

THE JACKAL AND THE LION

One hot summer, all the streams dried up, and the animals had no water. After a long search, a tiny spring was found, but hardly any water flowed from it, as the hole was so small.

“Let us all dig a bigger hole” cried the Lion. The Jackal was lazy, and refused to work, so when the hole was dug, and the spring flowing freely, the animals decided that he should not be allowed to drink there.

“I'll watch over it,” roared the Lion, “and if that lazy Jackal comes near, I'll eat him up”.

Soon the Jackal came bounding up to the spring but instead of trying to drink he sat down beside the Lion and picked a piece of juicy honeycomb. “You see, Mr Lion,” he said, “I'm not thirsty at all. Would you like some?” “Rather”, said the Lion licking his lips. “To get the full flavour”, said the Jackal, “you must lie on your back and let it trickle down your throat”.

The Lion rolled over, waving his paws in delight at the treat. “I'm afraid you will hurt me with those great paws”, said the Jackal. “You'd better let me tie them up”, and with that, he did so. Of course the artful Jackal had a good drink, and ran off.

“Don't leave me”, roared the Lion. “I shall be the laughing stock of the whole Jungle. Please untie me, and I won't hurt you”,

The Jackal thought, if I don't untie him, the other animals will, then he will take his revenge. So trusting the Lion's honour he untied him, and he was allowed to drink at the spring with all the other animals.

Oh help!

BRAINTEASERS

Visit to the fair:

On my way to the fair I met 7 jugglers and a bear, every juggler had 6 cats, every cat had 5 rats, every rat had 4 houses, every house had 3 mouses, every mouse had 2 louses, every louse had a spouse.

How many are going to the fair?

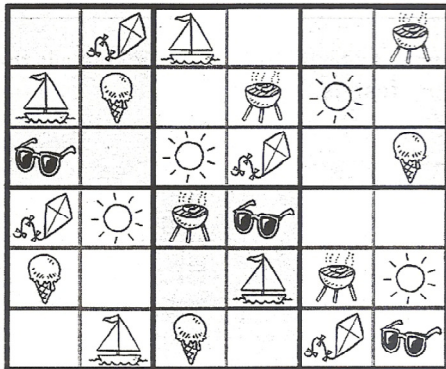
What are they?

1. This old one runs forever but never moves at all. He has not lungs nor throat but still a mighty roaring call. What is it?
2. No sooner spoken than broken. What is it?
3. Mountains will crumble and temples will fall and no man can survive its endless call. What is it?

SUMMER SUDOKU

Why not enlarge this picture or make your own and see how clever your Cubs are.

Fill in the pictures below so that every row, column and section contains only one of each.



FOR COMMISSIONERS

Dear Organisation,

When I begin volunteering, please outline the following:

1. What will I have to do?
2. How much time have I to give?
3. What do I do if something goes wrong?
4. What training are you going to give me?
5. After I have been volunteering for a while, will you encourage me to take the initiative in suggesting new ways of doing things?
6. How will you build up and maintain my confidence?
7. Will you help me to evaluate my skills?
8. Is there a support group for volunteers?
9. Will you let me know my limitations and when it is time to ask for help?
10. Have you thought of advertising our services/skills more widely?
11. If I am given more responsibility within the organization, how will you support me?
12. If I get tired of what I'm doing, will you help me to leave gracefully or give me a new challenge.

Yours voluntarily.....

This letter is not from any particular volunteer to any particular organization; it is a piece of work to demonstrate what a volunteer could write to pave the way towards effective involvement.

The letter was written by a group of volunteer organizers who put themselves collectively into the volunteer's shoes as an exercise at a seminar run by Volunteer Development Scotland in conjunction with the Ettrick and Lauderdale Association of Voluntary Service.

How xffxtivx arx wx?

An xxtrmxly, xxtraordinary xxcrpt

My typxwritxr works quitx wxll xxcpt for onx kxy. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that Scouting is likx my typxwritxr; not all thx kxys arx working proprly. You may say, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrncx". But you sxx, for thx movxmnt to bx xffxtivx, it nxxds thx activx participation of xvry pxrson.

So thx nxxt timx you think that your xffort is not nxxdx, rxmxbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf: "I am a kxy pxrson and nxxdx vxry much!"

If anyone would like to contribute something to Pack Chat, please pass this on to your APC Cub Programme.

HAPPINESS IS BEING A CUB – let's keep it that way.