



SCOUTING ABOUT

Spring - 2006

News from the South African Scout Association.

<http://www.scouting.org.za/scoutingabout/>

0860SCOUTS



This is the Spring edition of our publication – the very word “Spring” is exciting as it conjures up thoughts of youth and the beginning of new life. It is the time of the year when Nature breaks the chains of a cold dark winter and gives to the world new hope and a new beginning.

Amongst the great experiences, which formulate our characters, are our contacts with Nature. The contacts can only be made if we leave our homes, towns and

cities and go out to our mountains, veld and sea. There you will find a peace of mind and an upliftment to your soul, which will make you a better and happier person. These contacts with Nature will give you peace and the strength to do your work in a most rewarding way.

Learn to Walk with Nature and your lives will be greatly enriched.

Arthur Johnstone – former Chief Scout of South Africa - Veld Lore 1977.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Natalie Brown - Kwazulu Natal Area
Emma-Lee Petersen - Kwazulu Natal Area
Timothy Anderson - Kwazulu Natal Area
Vaughn van Wyk - Gauteng Area
Tracey Hurrel - Gauteng Area



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The 1 January 2007 will see the start of a year long celebration of Scouting's Centenary. This will undoubtedly be the worlds biggest party with more than 28 million scouts worldwide, celebrating our achievements over the past 100 years. But it is not only about celebrating the past, it is also celebrating the future and, an opportunity of demonstrating to the world, the unique contribution that Scouting can offer.

South Africa will once again be leading the celebrations by hosting the first two international events – the Mafikeng Rover Moot and the Senior Scout Adventure. Both these events start on 28 December 2006 and end on 2 and 8 January 2007 respectively. Other international events will be held in various countries throughout the year with the biggest being the 21st World

Scout jamboree to be held in the United Kingdom from 27 July to 8 August 2007. We will be well represented at this Jamboree with a contingent of more than 200.

It is said that by the year 2007 more than 500 000 000 people would have promised to live by the Scout Promise and Law and therefore the Centenary Celebration should be a celebration for all, present and past members of the Movement. While the international events will draw a lot of attention we should not forget about the cub and scout who will not be able to attend these events. It is with this in mind that the National Scout Council have encouraged Areas to organise local events to ensure that every South African Scout member is part of at least one celebratory event. A number of Areas will be

organising Centenary Jamboree Camps and Hikes during the latter part of next year and every Group in the country is encouraged to organise some type of event where former members could be invited to share in the celebrations. It is recommended that this be done on 1 August 2007 as this is significantly the date when we move into the new Century of Scouting.

Finally, our Centenary Gifts for Peace project is well on its way with a number of good projects being carried out nationally. If you are not yet involved, I encourage you to do so. This is a very rewarding project which has received worldwide recognition and has been featured in the latest report of the World Scout Foundation.

Brian A. February - International Commissioner

2007 One World One Promise





21/22 October 2006

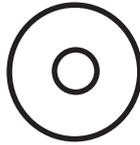
What is the Jamboree-On-The-Air?

The JOTA is an annual event in which about half a million Scouts and Guides all over the world make contacts with each other by means of amateur radio. Short-wave radio signals carry their voices to virtually any corner of the world. It's the sheer excitement of having a live conversation with a fellow Scout or Guide at some other place in the world that attracts so many youngsters to this event. It's a unique opportunity for each individual Scout to get the real feeling of belonging to a world-wide movement.

What is the Jamboree-On-The-Internet?

Similar to the JOTA, the Jamboree On The Internet connects Scouts using Internet techniques. The JOTI is a separate event, but held on the same weekend as the Jamboree-On-The-Air. Scouts and Guides can choose to take part in either one event or both.

During the JOTA weekend, visit an amateur radio station with your Scout group or invite a radio amateur to install his radio station in your Scout building. Many Groups, Districts or Areas in your vicinity will organise to participate – visit their station. Via the radio, call "CQ Jamboree" on the recognised frequencies or listen for the "CQ" call and respond and you will soon be in business.



GONE HOME

**Alexander William Stonell
13th August 1913 - 7th July 2006**

"Alec" a great and wonderful Scout, imbued with an understanding of the Great Game, a love for the outdoors, a natural way with young people together with a devotion to everything that Scouting stood for.

Alec with his beloved wife Mickey, were Natal Division to us in the rest of Boy Scouts South Africa. As Divisional Secretary and Deputy Camp Chief of the South African Training Team, Alec achieved the zenith of his hobby and life career.

**100km BAY TO BAY CHALLENGE
"WALK FOR KIDS"**

Jefferies Bay to Algoa Bay – 2007

Over the past five years, Cubs and Scouts in Port Elizabeth have been challenged to walk the 100km from Jeffreys Bay to the Algoa Sea Scout Hall in Port Elizabeth. The aim is to raise funds to support the local Missionvale Care Centre. In those

five years R67 000 has been raised to assist with the building and equipping of a home for AIDS orphans and other destitute children. Year by year this effort has grown and in March 2006, R26 500 was handed over to Sister Ethel, the magnificent lady who runs this Centre in the poorest area of the city.

2007 – The 100th year of Scouting, the organisers Challenge not only the Cubs and Scouts of Port Elizabeth, but every Scout in South Africa to walk the 100km. The event has caught the imagination of a large sponsor and has

grown to include a 100km Road-Run by professional athletes. Are they going for R100 000 for the Missionvale Care Centre in Scoutings Centenary Year as part of their "Gift for Peace"?



Sister Ethel with her supporters.

Photo: Die Burger

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION

The International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment is organized annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer and Nikon Corporation. It has been held since 1991 and has received over 170,000 entries from children in over 100 countries.

This year's competition is the sixteenth and will focus on the theme of Climate Change. Preliminary selection will be done by UNEP Regional Offices and their partners while the final selection will be done by the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, UNEP, Bayer and Nikon.

The organizers invite children all over the world to submit their paintings to the UNEP office in their regions.

Entries from Africa should be sent to:

UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
P.O Box 30552
Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Phone : (254 2) 7624 284
Fax: (254 2) 7623 928
Email: roainfo@unep.org

Who Can Participate?

Children who will be between the age of 6 and 14 years on World Environment Day 2007 (5 June).

Entry Rules

1. Paintings must be done on A4 or A3 papers.
2. Write out the following in English print letters on the back of each painting.
 - i.) Full name
 - ii.) Birth date including year
 - iii.) Home address/phone number
 - iv.) Name of a school and grade
 - v.) School address including country code name/phone number & fax number
 - vi.) e-mail address (if you have)

3. The Style of painting is free: crayons, coloured pencils, water colours, etc.
4. Paintings that have already been shown elsewhere or accepted for another contest will not qualify for this Competition.
5. Paintings that show a particular person, an organization or a brand name will not be accepted.
6. Do not include any words in the paintings.
7. Only hard copies of paintings will be accepted. E-mail entries will not be accepted without the hard copies.

Don't forget to include the information below in your message:

- Full name
- Birth date including year
- Home address/phone number
- Name of a school and grade
- School address including country code name/phone number & fax number

Entries must reach the relevant UNEP regional offices by 31 December 2006 at the latest.



This well known Logo – the World Wide Wildlife Panda superimposed on the Scout Arrowhead – indicates to all who see it that World Scouting, including South African Scouting, is serious when, in their law, they say “A Scout is a friend to animals”. Not only animals, but all that sustains animals and ourselves on our planet. In short, our Natural Heritage, the beauty of nature all around us. We have received this Heritage from our parents, it’s our responsibility to see that we pass it on to our children.

BLAZE A TRAIL OTHERS CAN FOLLOW

Make your Logbook a Guidebook!

The idea is that, after your hike is over, and Logbook judging is complete, you present your Logbook to your Troop library. In this way, for years to come, other Scouts can follow all or part of the trail you pioneered – using your Logbook as a Nature Trail Guidebook, and enhancing their knowledge of Nature with the help of your written and illustrated observations.

HIKING

All our advancement badges require that Scouts get out and hike. Short, simple hikes at first, then more advanced hikes with logbooks and a consultation with their Commissioner to make sure that Scout norms are met and that the Scout is “doing his/her best”. We must use the preliminary hikes to train up to an acceptable standard for later on. Get physically fit and wear in good boots. Safety is a paramount importance in all hike planning – don’t let that take all the fun and adventure out of the exercise as so many of present day reports would indicate.

Hike Kit

How to pack your hike kit

Not all of us have “state of the art” rucksacks, designed to carry the load “just so”. Whatever we have must be packed tight and well: - Work from a complete list – don’t rely on memory. Fill the bottom corners of your rucksack first, with the things you will need last and least – this brings the things you need first to the top. Pack so that soft items are against your back. Before you start, decide what items you should reserve for the outside pockets of your rucksack – things you’ll want quickly, or often, along the trail.

Get the weight up on your shoulders

Don’t pack blankets in the rucksack – make a bedroll to lash on top of your rucksack: First lay out a tough plastic sheet; on this lay out your blankets or sleeping bag. On the blankets, lay spare togs you won’t need during the day’s hike. Fold the blankets at the sides, so that the roll will be about shoulder width – then fold in the protective plastic sheet; roll up tightly. Strap or tie the bedroll firmly on the top of your rucksack or to the rucksack frame. Also tie, with tight cord, at the sides, so the bedroll won’t wobble. A belt attached at the bottom of the rucksack will suspend it above the hips. (Avoid billycans and other items dangling loose – secure everything so that there’s no rock-‘n-roll).

Shoulder Protection

Fix a pad of some sort to each shoulder strap. Lengths of thick felt can be slit and the straps passed through the slits; or, sew thick pieces of foam rubber in strong cloth, and tape onto the shoulder straps.

Rain Protection

Against heavy rain, make a simple rucksack cover from a large plastic bag. Keep your raincoat or plastic poncho where you can get at it in a hurry – that’s something for an outside pocket or tucked between the rucksack and frame at your back.

Lighten your load!

Eliminate all unnecessary utensils – substitute aluminium foil. Eliminate tins

and bottles - substitute plastic bags. Use a plastic water bottle – you can make your own. Only one light blanket or light sleeping bag in warm weather. Study every item – ponder how you can make it lighter. Think small! Why take a cake of soap when a small piece will do? Why a big towel when a small one will do? Why take a fork – clasp-knife and spoon are adequate? Why take a plate when you can make one from foil? A large metal mug covered in foil is all you will require to boil water, make porridge or even a stew. Take dehydrated food on the hike if water is readily available.

Collective Gear.

There are items, which the hike party will share, and which must be distributed fairly according to age, size and strength of individuals. Avoid duplication – one handaxe for the patrol is adequate; cooking utensils can be shared, if you take any at all; at least two can share a hike-tent, and so on. Make up a collective gear list even if there are only two of you, and work out a simple toting plan.

You have heard of “Murphy’s Law”; well there is a “Hiker’s Law” which comes into play the further you walk – “Damn it! I’ve packed too much gear again!”. The enjoyment of too many hikes is lost by too heavy a pack, and bad boots. On the other hand you must have packed sufficient if an emergency arises!

Veld Lore

THE CELL PHONE

When I was a Scout we had “tickies”, a coin, in the First Aid box so that we could use a public telephone if an emergency arose. Today every scout has a cell phone on their person – an irritation at troop meeting nights as someone from one patrol corner, phones someone in another corner just for fun, or to find out how they are going in the allotted task. They are certainly “handy” if you are having an activity in an area covered by the network, when a patrol gets “lost”. Saves you a lot of searching and heartache.

According to “Carte Blanche”, the TV programme on 30th July, we adults and of

course, those of us involved in Scouting, should be up-to-date with the technology of cell phones, as to what our youngsters and all young people can access using this device. Being preyed on in SMS chat rooms, pornography via the photo capabilities of their phones.

A recent newspaper headline: “Release of porn video cause for youngster’s death”. Apparently, a photograph taken of this young girl on a cell phone was superimposed on a short clip of a porn video and circulated, via other phones, to her friends and fellow school goes by a male classmate. Yes! she killed herself!

We certainly have the courage to make sure our Scouts know the dangers of HIV/Aids, what problems can arise through the use of the Web and Internet on our computers, where parents do have some control of their use - now we must add the Cell phone. Parents give their children a phone for “safety” reasons, so they can be in touch at any time – they also give them “freedom”, freedom from parental control to use the appliance for whatever they wish. Let us in Scouting be aware of the dangers of this device and counsel our Scouts accordingly.

RUN THE TEN

I felt some trepidation when I assumed my role as a Troop Scouter. My camping and fire lighting skills were as good as anyone's. What I was concerned about, however, was the part called counselling.

I think that I worried most that a Scout would come to me for an answer and I would not be able to help. Like many Troop Scouters, I had accepted the responsibility in part to repay a debt from when I was young and asked for help and got it. I remember my Troop Scouter as wise and helpful. I wanted to be the same. But I wasn't sure if I knew how.

Handing a scout a book and asking him to read the chapter about ethics just wouldn't cut it. Paraphrasing wise quotations only confuses a boy when the situation shifts.

Then one evening at summer camp the Scouts of the Wolf Patrol of our Troop came to me for advice. They faced what they considered a difficult decision. "Mr Linke, our patrol won a Sasquatch Egg in the hunt, and we don't want to share it with the rest of the troop," the patrol leader said. "Do we have to?"

Sasquatch Eggs look and taste remarkably like watermelon. The Wolf Patrol had run the course well to beat the rest of the patrols and had been handed a really oversized Egg.

Some instinct overlooked me. I surprised myself by saying, "Did you run the ten?" It meant something to me, but it puzzled the Scouts. "Run the Ten? Ten What?" "You know, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, brotherly..." "Ooooooh. The Scout Law! But why 'Run the Ten'; what does that mean?" Their eyes were bright.

I paused and said: "You can test any action before you take it by running the ten. Compare your actions against the ten points of the Scout Law. Is my action trustworthy? Is it Loyal? Is it Helpful? And so on. It is possible that you will get some red lights from your chosen plan when you run the ten. Maybe your action is unfriendly or unkind. In my experience, unfriendly or unkind actions always come home to roost."

"You might take the action anyway, but be prepared for some bad results. You might want to modify your action to avoid some unfriendly or unkind parts of the action; that's O.K., in fact it's a sign that you are growing up and able to project the consequences of your action."

The patrol went off to huddle with their Egg. They then returned with their decision – "We thought it would be friendly to share half of the Egg with the rest of the Troop. Besides we can't eat it anyway, we're stuffed."

For the rest of the time in camp, I couldn't wait to use my powerful new counselling tool I had just "discovered."

I didn't invent any of this, The Scout Law has been around for generations. Right and Wrong have been around for ever. It just fits together so beautifully and helps to make a good decision so naturally.

I'm not even sure what triggered the phrase "Run the Ten" when I first used it with the Wolf Patrol, I like to imagine that the words were whispered into my mind, that happy night, by Scouting's founder himself, Robert Baden Powell.

Thanks, Harold R. Linke, engineer and Scoutmaster.

ECO CUBBING



The Human Footprint

Those of us who live on the coast or go to the coast on holiday, have the chance to walk on a beach very, very, early in the morning, a beach swept clean of all sign of yesterday's footprints by the tide. As you walk, you stop and look back. There behind you are your footprints, the only ones on the beach. Go back in the afternoon and every part of the beach is covered by footprints of all those who visited the beach during the day. Unfortunately there are no tides that wash over our country and wash away all the awful things that humans are doing to our countryside and in our towns.

Last week, I flew on SAA from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg. In the bright sunlight I watched as the city was stretched out below me. I recognised the various suburbs and industrial areas of my familiar hometown. Soon we were over the open countryside with ploughed fields, roads and then the coastal mountains slipped by. I was over the Karoo – the thin ribbon of roads and the small cluster of houses of the various towns we flew over, dams shining back at me. For some reason we flew close to Lesotho and in the distance I saw the snow covered Drakensberg mountains. All too suddenly, down below, I saw the Vaal River and the Vaal Dam and immediately as we entered Gauteng airspace I could see no more of the beautiful open South African countryside - houses, factories, tar highways all the way, and as we got nearer to Johannesburg, the skyscrapers and what is left of the mine dumps.

Scientists call all this "The Human Footprint" on the land, what man has done to South Africa in the past few hundred years. Sure we need our houses to live in, factories, offices and farms to earn money to buy our food. Roads to get to our schools and playing fields. Some places we need to leave to nature so that our wild animals have somewhere to roam as they are supposed to.

South Africa belongs to all of us who live here; lets make sure that when we are able, we will make sure that only good things happen to our land. The South Africans, who have not yet been born, have to live here in the years to come, lets make sure they have something to be proud of.

STARS & ASTRONOMER BADGES

A few weeks ago I was with my Troop camping on an "uncle's" farm on the southern edge of the Karoo, far from the big city lights. After the Camp Fire, I looked up and saw so many more of the myriad stars and heavenly bodies that the normal city scout ever sees, I could see deep into the Milky Way. I gazed in wonderment with those Scouts who had not yet rushed off to bed, having difficulty in "finding" the Southern Cross and other Constellations tucked away among so many other stars.

When my National Geographic Magazine arrived a few days later, there I saw and read of "Africa's New Eye on the Sky". A huge telescope has begun to peer into the austral night: the South African Large Telescope (SALT), rising from a hilltop near

the little town of Sutherland, South Africa. With a mirror more than 10 metres across composed of 91 hexagonal pieces, the telescope captures the title not only the largest in Africa, but in the entire Southern Hemisphere. David Buckley the project scientist says; "The SALT has become an iconic symbol for what can be achieved in science and technology in the new South Africa."

So SALT can glimpse, ultraviolet, visible, and infrared light, emitted from distant stars, galaxies, and quasars a billionth as bright as the celestial objects I gazed on from that farm campsite. I believe that SALT could see the light of a candle if one was placed on the surface of the moon.

Contributions can be:

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