

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

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SCOUTS
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS



*THE CHIEF SCOUT AND
EVERY COMMISSIONER WISH
YOU A MOST ENJOYABLE
CHRISTMAS AND THE YEAR
2011 FILLED WITH JOY AND
ACHIEVEMENT!*

*Remember, when making your New Year
resolutions, resolve to give your Cubs and
Scouts an even greater FUN and ADVENTURE
experience than they had in the past year.*

SCOUTING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GERMAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION (DPSG)

Running a joint Climate Change Campaign in 2011

The two Scout Associations have signed a memorandum of understanding in September to run a joint campaign on climate change. Scouts in South Africa and Germany will do activities to combat and adapt to climate change.

SASA's annual challenge in 2011 is the Climate Change Badge. Cubs, Scouts and Rovers will take part in the programme. The Cubs and Scouts will each need to fulfil individual requirements, take part in

specific climate change pack and troop programmes and complete a service project.

Three dates that fit in with the theme have been chosen for this programme, namely Water Week (third week of March), Mandela Day and Arbour Week (first week in September).

A booklet with all the information on the challenge will be distributed in February 2011.

Summer 2010/11

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Matthew Albertyn – Western Cape
Jay Benson – Western Cape
Stephen Cloete – Western Cape
Kelly-Anne de Kock – Cape Western
Nicholas Harvey – Western Cape
Marcell Mulders – Western Cape
James Peart – Western Cape
Brandon Rijs – Western Cape
Joshua van der Ploeg – Western Cape
Guy Wagenvoorde – Western Cape
John Smale – Western Cape
Jean-Jacques de Villiers – Western Cape
Luke Goemans – Western Cape
Shona Troost – Western Cape
Terrence O'Brien – Western Cape
James Olivier – Gauteng
Jarrod Willson – Gauteng
Kyle Oberholzer – Gauteng
Dane Nothling – Gauteng
Dean Houghton – Gauteng
Delbert Botes – Gauteng
Camillo Caccia – Gauteng
Keith Potgieter – KwaZulu-Natal
Waldo Staude – KwaZulu-Natal

CONGRATULATIONS CHIEF!

Our CHIEF SCOUT has had a DPhil Degree conferred on him by the University of Johannesburg. **Rev Vukile Charles Mehana**, South Africa's Chief Scout, now has DPhil, Doctor of Philosophy, behind his name, together with the many other accomplishments he has achieved over the years, not only here in South Africa but in the UK and France.

Rev Mehana was ordained a Methodist minister in 1989 and serves as the

Convener of the church's Mediation Panel, a member of the Revision Committee and lectures on the L&D at the Seth Mokitimi Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. He has served in the Ulundi Circuit, Jabavu circuit, Johannesburg and is a part time minister in the Johannesburg East circuit.

Reverend Mehana has a passion for local government, and the leadership issues that confront service delivery. His

qualitative research study, conducted through in-depth interviews and literature reviews, and validated through grounded theory, explores and validates the relevance of the "Three-dimensional Leadership Competency Model" in Developmental Local Government.

Rev. Vukile Mehana has been accepted as a candidate for election to the World Scout Committee at the 39th World Scout Conference in Brazil in the new-year.

be prepared....

LET B-P INSTRUCT US IN FINDING DIRECTION

I am certain that you know that the needle of a compass has the habit of swinging round until it points in one definite direction. If you follow the direction indicated by one end of the needle you will come out north of Canada, some distance from the North Pole. The reason for this is that at this spot there is a powerful magnetic force. It is this force which attracts the magnetic north point of the needle and makes it point to "Magnetic North".

North is only one of the compass points. Every sailor knows the other points of the compass by heart, and so should a Scout. I have talked about north, but that is only because we usually think of north as the starting point. That is just for convenience – we could just as well use south.

Explorers seldom refer to compass points, they use compass degrees as they are more exact. When you look at a compass chart you will notice that it is marked not only with the points, but also with figures running clockwise from 0 at the north point round to north again which also has the figure 360. So any point can be given either as a compass name or as a degree number. Thus east is 90 degrees, south is 180, west 270, and so on. Instead of saying S.E. we can say 135 degrees.

How a Compass Helped My Career.

Knowing the right way to use a compass helped to give me a good start in my army career.

It was this way: With a number of other young officers I was being tested in surveying. We had to take a reading with our compass to a certain spot, and from there to another point, and from there to a third point. If one did it correctly, this last reading should land us exactly at the spot whence we started.

But it means extreme care to take an accurate reading. If you misread your compass by not much more than a hair's breadth you would fail. Only one of our party had been exact enough to succeed, and that was little me.

As a result of this and a few good marks in other subjects, I got promoted with extra pay, with which I was able to buy the best horse I ever had.

Finding North Without a Compass

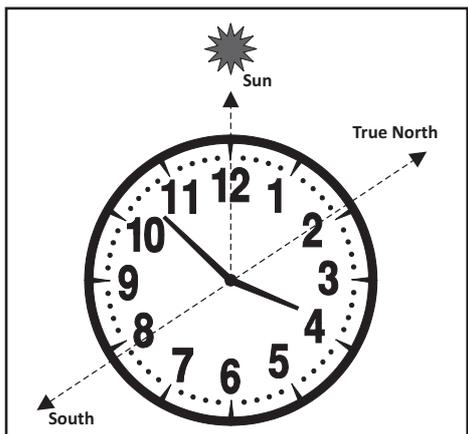
Besides the "Magnetic North" which you find with your compass, there is the other north of the North Pole at the very top of the earth. This is the real north and for that reason is named "True North".

North by the Sun

If you have no compass to show you "Magnetic North", the sun will tell you by day where "True North" is, and from that you can figure out the other directions. (In Summer, if you live near Durban or Johannesburg, at six o'clock in the morning the sun is east, at 9 it is north-east. At noon it is north and at three o'clock in the afternoon it is north-west and at six o'clock, west. Port Elizabeth's true noon is about 20 minutes later and Cape Town is just under one hour later than Durban. We must make adjustments for this. The reason for this is because South Africa's time zone is calculated from longitude 30 degree east. In Winter the sun rise and sunset will not be exactly east and west but a bit northward because of the shorter daylight.) *This section and B-P's diagram have been adjusted for us in the Southern Hemisphere.*

The Phoenicians who sailed around Africa in ancient times noticed that when they started the sun rose on their left hand side – they were going south. Then they came to a strange country where the sun rose on the wrong quarter, namely on their right hand side. The truth was that they had sailed round the Cape of Good Hope, and were heading north again, up the east side of Africa.

To find north at any time of the day by the sun, hold your watch, with a dial, flat, face upwards so that the sun shines on it. Turn it around until the 12 points towards the sun. Without moving the watch, lay a thin stick across the face of the watch so that it rests on the centre of the dial and points out half-way between twelve and the hour hand. The direction in which it points is north.



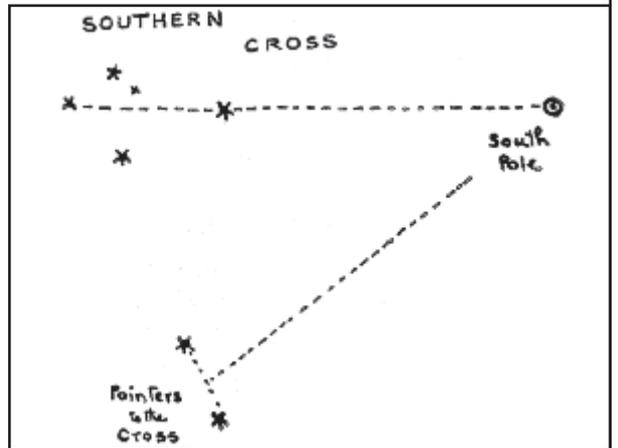
South by the Stars

Various groups of stars have been given names because they seemed to make some kind of picture outline of men and animals.

ORION: One of the group of stars or constellation, represents a man wearing a sword and belt, can be easily identified in the Southern Hemisphere in summer, by the three stars in a line, the "belt" and three smaller stars in another line close by, the sword. Two stars to right and left below the sword represent Orion's feet, which point towards us in this country. We seldom see his head as the constellation is close to our horizon. Orion can be used to indicate south: extend a line from the middle star in his belt, through the bottom star of his sword and that is roughly south.

The Zulus call Orion's belt and sword the "Ingolubu", or three pigs pursued by three dogs. The Masai tribe in East Africa say the three stars in the belt are three bachelors being followed by three old maids. Different names by different peoples.

SOUTHERN CROSS: On the south side of the world, in South Africa, South America, New Zealand and Australia, Scouts can always identify the Southern Cross when the sky is clear.



It is a group of five stars in the shape of a cross with the bottom of the cross pointing to the South Pole. If you carry your eye along in that direction, the long stem of the Cross, for about 3.5 times its length, directly below that, on the horizon, is "True South". To identify the "true Cross" look for the two Pointers to its left, two of the brightest stars in the southern heavens, alpha and beta Centauri. As the diagram indicates use this alternative method to locate the South Pole.

1st PIETERMARITZBURG SCOUT GROUP

The 1st Pietermaritzburg Scout Troop, started in October 1909 by Mr Job Brookes, held it's first camp during Easter 1910 at Zwartkops, near Blackridge.

Mr Brookes' son Edgar, a member of the Troop, was later to become a Senator, Professor of History and well known author. At the age of 76 he was ordained an Anglican priest.

Mr John Hawkins the present Chairman of the Group has given me a copy of the "Green and Gold" a history of the 1st Pietermaritzburg Scout Group by Michael J Mullany 1972. This history confirms the dates as mentioned in the above publication and says Mr Job Brookes was the first Scoutmaster in Natal. The first Patrol, the Fox Patrol, were: F.H. Green (P.L.), V Backerleg (Corporal), T. Backerleg, M. Smith, H Williams, B Wainwright and Edgar H. Brookes.

The Troop met for the first time on Friday, 24th October 1909 in the Metropolitan Methodist Church Hall. Scouting was experimental at that time and was run on military lines. The Y.M.C.A. offered the use of their hall. The Troop met there from the following week.

Originally it was intended to keep the Troop small, admitting only the members of Mr Brookes' Sunday School class. However, at the very next parade there were over forty boys seeking enrolment. Mr Brookes would not have them turned away.

One hundred and one years later the Troop and Pack are still running, but need a Troop Scouter to keep this very historic Group operational. Where are the many old boys who have been through the Troop?



It is suggested that Edgar is the tough looking Scout on the right. Victorian and Edwardian Natal - Verbeek

THE GOVERNOR'S CUP

The bi-annual Governor's Cup Sail Race between Simonstown in False Bay and St Helena Island will start on 1st December 2010. Among the entrants will be JML Rotary Scout a Tosca 39 yacht owned by the South African Scout Association. Volunteer co-skippers Mark Jennings and Peter Bosch with a crew of five Scouts and one Ranger Guide, are between the ages of 14 and 18 years. Two of the Scouts, Curtis Peters and Kyle Yon, are members of the 1st Jamestown Scout Group on St Helena Island.

JML Rotary Scout is normally moored at the False Bay Yacht Club in Simonstown, has a very active sailing programme. Scouts are taken out most weekends. About 400 school children from less privileged schools have been taken on a Marine Environmental Awareness Programme, run by the Scout Association, over the last 18 months. The youth stay at the Sea Scout Base at Sandvlei where they learn Marine Ecology, enjoy a trip to the Two Ocean Aquarium at the V&A Waterfront and of course, learn the basics of sailing on JML Rotary Scout.



Curtis Peters, Cameron Ehlers, Kyle Yon, Chloe Blyth (Ranger Guide), Peter Bosch (co-skipper) Mark Jennings (co-skipper), Ian Davis (JML) seated on board JML Rotary Scout.

HOPE FOR OUR WORLD?

You may or may not think that the "Climate Change" thing is being overstated. Most of us live in comfortable denial and just carry on as we have always done in the past. Get off that comfy couch, become informed of what is really happening in the world around us.

Large newspaper headline "New climate battle looms in South Africa in 2011", dated 13 December 2010. (Reuters) – The world's governments face a new battle in South Africa in 2011 between rich and poor about slowing climate change, buoyed by some progress in Mexico but with faded hopes for a new treaty in coming years.

Frightening – That is governments, but what about us the people and our children's children? Will they have that comfy couch to sit on in the not too distant future?

The South African Scout Association is serious about "Climate Change" and all it portends, not only for our nation, but every single person and creature on the planet. We are called to do something about it, so read the announcement on the front page of this edition of Scouting About and leave space in your crowded diary to fit in those activities.

I suppose that what we and our Cubs and Scouts do in 2011 might not seem to be an awful lot, but if we do nothing we will not be planting and watering the seeds that just might make such a difference in the unfathomable future.

MAKE A PIZZA BOX SOLAR OVEN

Using an about-to-be-discarded Pizza box, I was able to cook an array of goodies at camp, starting with my own assembled Pizza – muffins – hot dog ‘worsies’ – potato crisps and at the next camp I will try more elaborate fare. You can even heat liquids in a tightly sealed oven bag. Try it, it’s so simple! There are one or two “dangers” – do not use any materials that can give off toxic fumes like a black plastic sheet – be aware that the oven can reach a temperature over 200°C in our Summer sun, use gloves to handle the cooked food when removing from the oven. I have now added side flaps, covered in foil, directing even more of the sun’s heat into the oven. It obviously takes longer to cook or heat up food in this oven, and you might have to move the box and reflector now and again to keep the sun heat at the optimal angle, as the sun moves across and higher in the heavens.

What you’ll Need

Recycled pizza box – black construction paper – Aluminum foil – clear plastic laminate – non-toxic glue, tape, scissors, ruler, magic marker, piece of string or dowel.

NOW: Draw a 3cm border on all four sides of the top of the pizza box. Cut along three sides, leaving the line along the back hinged side uncut.

Form a flap by folding back along the uncut line to form a crease. Cover the inside of the flap with foil. Glue in place.

Smooth out any wrinkles. Cut a piece of clear plastic laminate large enough to cover the opening and be glued to the underside of the box top to form a tightly sealed window so that air cannot escape from the oven interior.

Cut a piece of foil to line the bottom of the box. Cover the bottom, over the foil, inside with the black construction paper.

You are now ready to heat up – close the pizza box top (window), and open the flap of the box to direct the sun reflection through the window. Hold this at the right angle with the piece of string as a guy rope or prop with the dowel. Test how hot your oven can get by using a simple oven thermometer! *Happy cooking!*



A CONTRAST IN OUR LAND

A farm in our north western Cape where the owners have allowed it to revert to nature and are capitalizing on the tourist trade. A magnificent experience for city folk to take in nature’s wonder. An example of what nature can do without mans input!

Another farm close by, farming with goats – not a growing thing on the whole farm, no leaves on bushes or trees that can be reached by the goats standing up on their hind legs. Talking to the herder, he said he must keep moving the animals on in a search to find something to graze. In this case, the road verges leading up towards the first farm.



DUTY TO GOD



A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The future is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the future always lies beyond us.

This is what we are about:

We plant the seed that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end result, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are the workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of the future not our own.

Oscar Romero

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be prepared....