



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2006

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Skipper's Scrawl

Now that the wet tents have all been dried out and put away from after family camp the HQ is beginning to look a bit more ship-shape. That said, however, we now have to prepare for the Troop and Explorer Summer Camp in Holland, so camp gear is again being stored on the Main Deck, although in a much more condensed manner!

As reported in an earlier edition of *Water Rat*, we now have someone to take care of essential cleaning elements in the HQ, and the result has already begun to show. Can I remind all users of the building that, because we have someone cleaning, it is NOT in the job specification to do washing up, so please make sure you still clean up the Galley and sweep the main deck before you leave after a meeting.

Those of you at the AGM will know that I will be standing down as Group Scout Leader at the end of July and that Karen will be taking on overall responsibility for the sections. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Karen every success in this new role. We will also be looking to expand the responsibilities of the Executive Committee to take some of the administrative burden from the leaders, and over the coming months I will be working with Karen and Nigel to recruit more help on this management committee.

Finally, with Summer Camps and holidays approaching I hope everyone has a great break and returns fit for the

Great River Race on the 16th September. In total we will have eight crews participating this year, so if you are not competing yourself, put the date in your diary and come and see us off at the start. The race starts at 09.35 and our *Redheads' Revenge* should be one of the first boats away, with

the rest starting at about 10.15. Wind and tide permitting, we should all be reaching Greenwich between 12.15 and 13.15, so come and cheer your crews off at the start and, if you can, cheer them on at some of the bridges on the way down.

Keith

Beavers gain Animal Friend Badges

It has been another busy term at Beavers. This term we have been working very hard for our Animal Friend Badges. Animals have been researched, and the information presented to the group. We have designed animal habitats. We have investigated recipes for birds, we have looked after domestic pets or taken care of wildlife through regular feeding. We have even had some animal guests, two dogs, two guinea pigs, and a leopard-spotted gecko. Clearly, careful planning of visits was essential so that one guest didn't consume the others.

We did have a minor diversion from the rigours of badge completion with Fathers' Day cards, and animal themed games (Dead Lions, What's the Time Mr Wolf, Bulldog, Duck, Duck Goose, et al). We also had a visit to Canbury Gardens in order to treasure hunt one warm Summer's evening, all very pleasant activities.

The Beavers that were lucky enough to attend Family Camp thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They showed photos of our rowing, wall climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting and were awarded Overnight Stay Badges to reflect their endeavours. They were very proud of themselves, and justifiably so.

Next term we will be working towards our IT Stage 1 Badge. We will have a complete email list which will be used so the Beavers can use email to contact me, collect a letter a day, and complete an anagram. They will also be encouraged to find children's games on the Cbeebies website. We may even have an opportunity to use painting packages to develop artwork for posters. The possibilities are endless.

Many thanks to all the kind and helpful 'Mummy Helpers' who make my job so much easier, I couldn't do it without them - Karen, Fiona, Debbie, Jess, Charlie, Clare, Jenny, Jo, thanks.

Amy

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NaWaKa



No word from Leander Scouts and Explorers at camp in the Netherlands – they're probably trying to cope with the language and the temperature. However, here's a report on the opening ceremony from the Dutch Scout site:

<http://nawaka.scouting.nl/static/live/>

On that site you can look in the Fotoalbum for pictures from each day, Luchtfotos (aerial photos) and Opbouw (setting up).

The official opening ceremony for NaWaKa 2006 has been described as 'awesome', 'fantastic', 'spectacular' and 'amazing' by the scouts from out of The Netherlands. 6,000 scouts wearing their colour coded sub-camp shirt and following their sub-camp monsters, filed into and around the beach here and we entertained by a show. Aphrodite, Zeus and Poseidon were the judges in 'Monster Idol' to try to find out which monster should help look after the humans here at NaWaKa 2006 while they were on holiday. Conclusion - No monster was

better than the others and everyone working together will be the best.

The Mayor of Zevenaar also addressed the foreigners, and a big thank you to him for making us so welcome here. The evening ended with a great show by the band 'Full Circle' who played great tunes that had old and young alike singing and dancing.

Cubs

This term the Cubs have managed to do a fair amount outside, with a couple of evenings on the water (or in the water in quite a few cases) Fun was had by all!!!

We have also done work towards the athletics badge and a fun sports day that included welly throwing and cabbage slinging. We also went map reading/orienteering in Richmond Park. Some Cubs have managed to get their home help badge.

Caro

Dates for your Diary

Monday September 11 – First Beaver meeting after Summer

Saturday September 16 – Great River Race, 9.30am start at Richmond

Monday September 25 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Monday November 27 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Marine Band

Caller 1: Please change your course by 15 degrees North to avoid a collision.

Caller 2: I recommend YOU change your course by 15 degrees South to avoid a collision.

Caller 1: Negative, I MUST insist you change your course by 15 degrees North, please comply.

Caller 2: No SIR, you MUST change your course by 15 degrees South.

Caller 1: This is a military warship command, change your course by 15 degrees North to avoid a collision.

Caller 2: I really must suggest that it is YOU who changes your course by 15 degrees South.

Caller 1: THIS IS THE ROYAL NAVY BATTLESHIP HMS INVINCIBLE AND I DIRECTLY ORDER YOU ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE YOUR COURSE BY 15 DEGREES NORTH.

Caller 2: This is the Great Northern Rock Lighthouse ...

