



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 2006

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Skipper's Scrawl

With boats now back on the moorings, water activities are well under way. Although there is no regatta this year, there is still the need to practise for the Great River Race, and with Summer camp in Holland the Scouts and Explorers can look forward to experiencing the Dutch 'Lillyflats'.

I am already being approached by people wanting to use a gig for the Great River Race and to date have requests from the Police (2), London United Buses and Rotary. As usual we will have a crew from Scouts, Explorers, Guild, Mutineers and of course the Coypu Cult Leaders! Is it possible we could have a Beaver/Cub leaders crew this year, or perhaps a mums crew? It takes six to make a gig crew for the race, so let me know if you are interested.

Those of you who attended the Family camp will have seen that the Group now has a new marquee, and the weather for the weekend camp showed this to be a worthwhile purchase, providing undercover seating for mealtimes and activities. Our thanks go to Karen for her organisation of the camp, the advance party who erected the tents and of course Coxswain and Johnny for towing the boats to Marlow.

I know everyone who attended had a great time, despite having to hang up all the wet canvas to dry!

Congratulations also to Karen, who was presented with a Long Service Award for ten years as a leader by the District Commissioner, Bob Bushell.



Finally, a reminder that the Group's AGM is on Monday 5th of June, 8.00pm at the HQ. Please come along, as this is a time you can let us know your views and contribute to the future direction of the Group.

Keith

Coxswain's Corner

With everyone keen to get out boating, we have had some good weather and have been on the water every meeting since Easter. In early May The District held a large all weekend event, 24/7, in which Leander had eight Scouts taking part. This was a very ambitious event, in which teams of Scouts walked or were bussed to ten headquarters around the District, where different activities had been laid on over Saturday and Sunday, with a Hawaiian theme night, supper and sleepover on Saturday night at 1st Hook. Including leaders, drivers, helpers and explorers, nearly 150 people were involved in the event. Activities included archery, air rifle, blindfold tent pitching, hot air balloons, Scalectrix racing, network computer games, jousting, remote vehicles, pushball and water activities.

Without a doubt a very unique and very successful weekend.

Our summer camp at Nawaka 2006 is not far away now, with all the camping gear and boats to check out before we load them into a large articulated truck, jump onto Eurostar and join 5000 other Dutch and European Sea Scouts at a site just outside Arnhem. It's a really great event, full of activities and very different from UK camps.

Coxswain

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Family Camp



It's a good thing the English are waterproof, because there was a lot of water at Longridge Water Activities Centre for our recent Family Camp, much of it coming from the skies. A large group of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, brothers and sisters, parents and leaders spent a wet weekend by the Thames at Marlow. As with all such activities, much preparation had been done (a brilliant job by Karen) to ensure that everyone had a great time.

The advance party set up the new marquee (very impressive), the mess tent and countless patrol and hike tents, whilst Coxswain and JB in 'Ebbage 2', our safety boat, towed a gig, a coypu, canoes and essential equipment up to Marlow – a long day's journey with ten locks to go through.

Divided into four teams, everybody took part in climbing, shooting, pulling and Bell-boating – everyone got very wet in the Bell-boats, without

exception! The day finished with a grand camp fire and the traditional songs that go with it.

Although Sunday morning weather looked ominous, we carried on with the activities, but sure enough, by lunchtime, the heavens had opened. The parents were fantastic: striking camp with wet canvas and tents is difficult enough, but they all set to with real enthusiasm and everything was packed on the trailer in record time. All that was left to do was to hang the tents up back in the HQ, a real chore, but it has to be done, the whole place was packed full of sodden tents, which needed a good week to dry out.

A great weekend, which everyone, from the very youngest to the oldest, appeared to enjoy. These are invaluable events, enabling families to get to know each other, to take part in exciting activities and to be part of the world of Scouting.

Coxswain

Beavers' Exploring Afternoon

This month we have three reports about the Exploring Afternoon from Cameron, Joseph and Max. I hope I've put the right names to their words ...

A few weeks ago three of us from Leander went on an explorers afternoon. We didn't know what was going to happen but we had lots of fun. At the beginning we looked at famous explorers and then built mini-houses out of natural materials that we found lying around. We were pleased with our design! After a snack we collected corks and the Colony with the most was the winner. Leander did well and came second. — Joseph

To get our badge we had to do a few tasks. We had to explore the grounds looking for special items. Inside the hut we went around writing down the

numbers of famous explorers, such as David Livingston, Daniel Boone and Eric the Red! Then we read about each of them. We had to find things to build a shelter for our whale! Finally we had to find as many corks as possible, it was a race. We did really well and came second – just. We had a great time getting our badges. — Cameron

First we did this number thing where you had to find the number of the



explorer and write it down. Then we made a house for an animal. Finally we had to find as many corks as possible. Then they announced who was first, second and third, and we came second. Then we got our badges. — Max

