



The Water Rat



Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

December 2006

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News from the Sections

Beavers now have over 20, with a full attendance at most meetings. Earlier in the Autumn, they had a very enjoyable night walk to spot wildlife. Unfortunately most of it was frightened away! It looks as though they enjoyed their Christmas party and that game with the parachute - aren't we a Sea Scout Group!

Cubs are now working on their Environment badge and the older Cubs are getting a new 'rôle' to challenge them before they go up to the Troop. There will also be some liaison activities to smooth the transition to Scouts.

Explorers are very active, although conflicts with schoolwork and school activities sometimes mean attendance at meetings is not high.

However, good contact is maintained by all via email and text.

Some are raising money to support attendance at the Jamboree, They have assisted on the Rotary Club's Carol Wagon, and are considering organising a quiz night and possibly a musical evening.



Centenary Camp

The District Centenary Camp will be at Polyapes Camp Site on May 25th -28th, 2007

Parents will all have received a flyer tucked into *Insight*, the District Newsletter, about the Centenary Camp, celebrating 100 years of Scouting. We are hoping to get as many Cubs, Scouts and Explorers camping. It's going to be a unique event, with loads of activities to get involved in - and parents, you can have a bit of peace with your son or daughter away on camp. Please talk to your section leader for further details.



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Coxswain's Corner

One of the regular activities that we have to do every Winter, is to bring all the boats off the water – doesn't sound too big a job, but the gigs are heavy and hold a surprising amount of rain water. With great willingness, the Scouts bail them out, scrub and clean them inside and out – five gigs coming in does take quite a few weeks to do, so many thanks to all those who got wet and dirty – at least any maintenance can be done in the dry of the boat deck.

Troop meetings have seen a variety of interesting activities, from our regular seamanship to holding a world election and solving difficult lateral thinking exercises. Any Scout parent should ask about the squirrel and the ears of corn – can they get the right answer?

The District Night Hike took place recently, centred on Polyapes, our brave

teams navigated around the muddy fields and woods, then, in hike tents, slept through a very windy and stormy night. Who says young people are too soft? We are very proud of our Scouts, who really do like a challenge.

My thanks to Sorrel and Liz, who help make it possible to run the Troop, and especially to Karen, who not only is involved with Explorers, is always down at Scouts and now is doing a great job as Assistant Group Scout Leader.

Please note: first Scout meeting in the New Year Tuesday 9th January, and the District Scout and Explorer Swimming Gala, at Cheam Pool, follows on Saturday 13th January.

May you all have a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas.

Coxswain



"Last time we looked, this was a tent, not an airship!"



Ali with Gold Medal for u-14 Pistol

Dates for your Diary

Monday February 12 – Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Monday April 16 – Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Wednesday May 2 – RN Inspection

Monday June 4 – Annual General Meeting

Sunday July 1 – National Sea Scout Regatta (tbc)

Leander Centenary

You wait a hundred years for a centenary, then, all of a sudden, two come along! What we now know as 'Leander' was established as the 2nd Kingston Scout Troop in 1908, and probably first met in the Spring Grove area. It became a Sea Scout Troop a few years later, under Scout Master Erik Robinson, son of a famous marine engineer.

The Executive Committee and leaders are in the process of thinking how we might celebrate our own centenary. Possibilities discussed so far include section activities using it as a 'thread' throughout the year, a Group camp, Centenary Dinner, Sunday afternoon barbecue. We could also try to contact as many ex-Leanders as possible, and digitise the Group archives for the website.

Any further suggestions or offers of help would be very welcome.

Building and Budget

We are all grateful for the work that Dick Riches has put into keeping the building in good repair, most recently repairing the back fence and gate. Jeff Barley confirms that the smoke alarms are now all functional.

Other jobs, for which we will need to organise working parties in the Spring, include: finishing the steps at the rear of the building, grading down the slope adjacent to the side door, completing the loft lagging, internal painting prior to the RN Inspection.

A discussion of the budget at the recent Executive identified anticipated expenditure: repairs to the patrol tents, replacement camping gear (e.g. stoves), electric water pump to bail out gigs, boat covers for gigs and the Ebbage, a replacement safety boat.

We are keen to get a couple of further parents on the Executive Committee. It would be good if Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers could all be represented. If you would like to find out more, please speak to the section Leader.