



PostScript

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PS'S FIRST
EXCLUSIVE
INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALISM

See Page 4.

Contents

1. *Chair's report*
2. *Longridge Activity Weekend*
3. *Book Review*
Ou est Eri>| ?
4. *Page of Random things.*
5. *Winter Walking™.*
6. *Rally Around.*
7. *Rally ideas form.*

“Why does it always rain on me?”

-Travis

The question on everyone's lips who went on the Longridge activity weekend. See page 2 for details. We also have a literary review, and our regular feature 'Ou est Eri>|'? Plus a couple of unusual contributions on our random things page. Those wanting to go on Winter Walking™ can find details on page 5. Just reply to stop Keith asking you the question: 'You are going on Winter Walking™ aren't you?' (I have no idea how he says '™'). Also rally ideas for our rally should be filled out on the form on the back page.



Mark Hawkins – Queen's College
PostScript Editor.

Chair's Report

Alison Parker – St. Anne's

Though I say so myself, I think Michaelmas term for OUSGG has got off to an excellent start. It's great to see so many new members enjoying (I think!) OUSGG activities, as well as the return of our old members [Don't you mean current members – Ed]. If you didn't read the last issue of postscript, welcome (back).

Despite my stresses, and copious e-mails from various current members pointing out potential downfalls, we've had no real disastrous meetings so far.

Even the transport to the bonfire sorted itself out in the end due to the amazing flexibility of the taxi company. This is mainly due to all the help I've received - a humungous thank you to everyone who's written quiz rounds, scored at the quiz, provided glasses and meeting rooms, driven people all over the country, lit fires, set up and lit fireworks, provided food, gone to stores, stopped me from throwing myself under taxis and blowing myself up (the combination of hot potatoes and fireworks in the same rucksack might not have been ideal!)



I hope you've all enjoyed the term so far - particular highlights for me have been the wine tasting, which I thought was very informative and of course the Longridge (in)activity weekend. Despite the fact that we fuffed too much to do any real activities, I think everyone enjoyed the climbing and kayaking, and the tea room which everyone else reverted to without their leader (who'd gone to find more gas) to guide them away from such pathetic ways.... a full report form Maddy and Noga should be later, sorry if I've given too much away!

It's also great to see our links to local Scouting and Guiding (particularly the new Oxfordshire Scout Network) strengthening. I fail to see this being detrimental to either party, in fact the converse, I think they will support each other very well.

I think that's all I have to say, except that I hope you continue to enjoy the rest of the term!

Longridge Weekend

OUSGG went camping and we forgot:

- Penknives
- Butter
- Sugar
- Crisps
- Milk
- Wooden spoon
- First aid kit
- Washing up bowl
- Washing up liquid
- Enough gas



Note: picture not actually from our trip

Despite being somewhat under-equipped we had a lovely weekend crawling in and out of wet tents!

On Friday night we went searching for food. We had a Chinese takeaway, only we didn't have to take it away. We ate in an otherwise typical pub, which had two bars, one for drinks, the other for Chinese. Back at the campsite we met the late arrival (Noga), and Tristam managed to light a fire with some very wet wood (10 Brownie points). Some service crew saw our fire, and like typical Ventures threw lots of wood on it. They then bored us silly with their drinking stories. By 3am the fire had died down so we pattered off to bed. Dampness rating: 2

Saturday morning and it was raining. So Alison decided it was perfect weather to take us climbing! We did group belaying, miraculously we all survived. Dampness rating: 9

Alison: "Don't come in Phil we're getting naked."

Gas bottle empty. Oh dear. So we all trekked into Marlow, a pretty little town which doesn't do refills [for gas bottles – Ed]. Alison and Tristam were volunteered to search for refills elsewhere while the rest of us, in true OUSGG tradition, retired to a teashop. Walk back through the dark, wet, manky evening to the campsite. We then hid in a tiny tent for two hours scoffing chocolate (what else can you do in the rain?) [I thought that was supposed to be lunch (at 5pm) – Ed]. Dampness level: 10

Fireworks night. The display was fantastic, with the fireworks being let off from an island in the Thames to a selection of 'popular classics'. I'm sure Handel's Firework Music was in there somewhere! The service crew had a built a huge pagoda bonfire. We stood around watching our clothes steam. Dampness level: falling appreciably.

The locals go home and the service team, and us, settle around the fire, which has now been supplemented by lots of pallets. We finally figured out the difference between Scouts and Guides: Guides like to make stuff; Scouts like to destroy stuff!

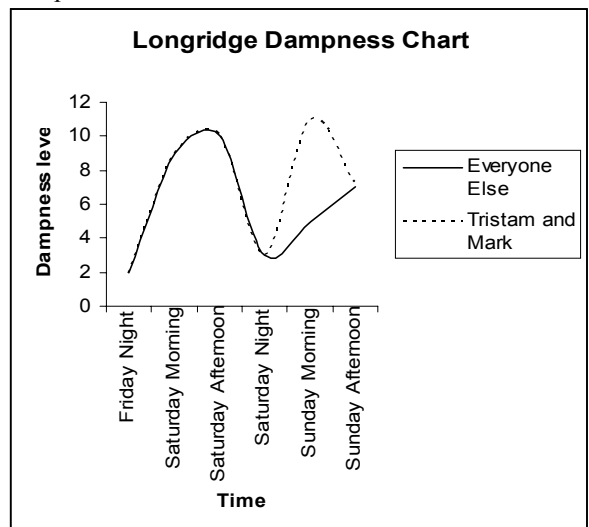
Dampness level: 3 (after hours in front of the fire)

Longridge donated us spare gas canisters, time for lunch. It was raining again. Water and oil being a bad mix, we had a really impressive frying pan fire. Lucky no one listened when Tristam suggested we should have cooked nearer the tents. Then we experience a

strange vision, probably owing to the wetness, tiredness, and psychological damage inflicted by the fire! Walking across the campsite was a tall figure in a distinctive black and yellow rugby shirt;

we had a strange sensation that somebody was checking up on us! [Chris in case anyone does not get this reference – Ed]. By the time we had packed up the rain had created a perfect double rainbow over Longridge. It was time to go home.

Dampness level: 7.



By Noga and Maddy, who are sacrificing their 'fresher' status having both now been on a trip and written an article for Postscript!

Book Review:

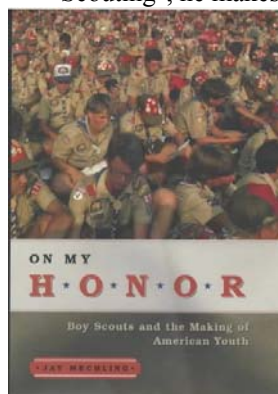
"On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth" by Jay Mechling, University of Chicago Press, 2001

As a social organisation, it is interesting to note how little Scouting has been examined from an anthropological or sociological perspective, especially given its size, age, and historical importance (which could be, of course, a whole book in itself). Based on observations of troop camps held by the pseudonymous "Troop 49" over twenty or so years, Jay Mechling's book is an important asset in attempting to explain just what precisely goes on in a Scouting environment, and why. Using a narrative device, detailing events over fourteen days at a camp which - we are assured - did take place, just not in chronological order and with characters composed of key types of those observed, allows Mechling to develop his central theses in a way which those with no background in anthropology, like myself, can understand. Some may scoff at his deconstructions, which is a common criticism of such works, but human behaviour cannot be understood any other way. I recommend the section on a game of "Capture the Flag" - whilst the idea of deconstructing a harmless wide game might seem futile, he raises important points about how loyalties, roles in groups, and the nature of leadership can change according to situation, and even flux within a brief period of time when a Scout gets injured.

Every aspect of camp life is noted and commented upon. Sometimes, the opinions of the gruff Scout leader, "Pete", are the same as the author, although without the academic spin. A prominent example of this is the nature of the Scout training scheme and the ethos of the movement: "Pete" argues that it is the only organisation one can be involved with where it doesn't matter if someone "[fluff' - apparently some people find the real word used more offensive than, say, the arms trade] up", especially the 13 year old Patrol Leaders. That the "[fluff]-up" principle of Scouting

has gone for so long unreported is a great advance and a fine advert for the educational aspects of the scheme. And Mechling provides us with plenty of examples of the "[fluff]-up" principle in action.

Although Mechling fails to overtly define "Scouting", he makes a very good case for saying that



whatever it might be, it can only be defined at the Troop level. The impression is made that the reason the Boy Scouts of America are in such disarray over issues like insurance, homosexuality, religion, and other divisive issues is because the policy of headquarters is distanced from the needs and values of the individual groups. Whilst in Britain the over-centralisation

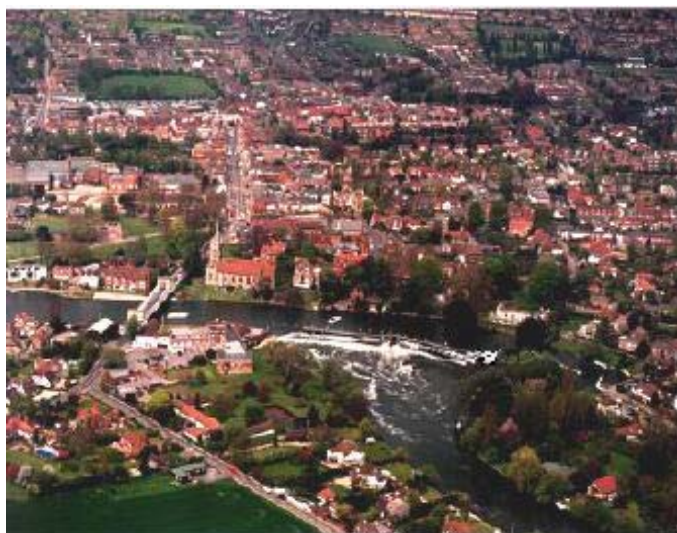
of the Scout Association (not to mention its oligarchic structure) is a serious cause for concern and resentment, the UK is far smaller than the continental reach of the USA, which exacerbates the problem. Even if the anthropological deconstructions are ignored or refuted, this is the most compelling part of the book. Certainly, a version centred on UK Scout life would be more relevant for our purposes, but much of what is discussed and argued about does apply to Scouting around the world. Anybody with a desire to get to grips with Scouting at a deeper level, or who wants to increase their understanding of the problems facing the Movement, would do well to read this book.

Phil Alderton, St Peter's

Ou est Eri>| ?

Sorry if it's a bit hard.

1 point for the town.
2 points for finding
Eri>|.



Page of random things:


Chris's Sheep Top Trump Card

I am not sure if Chris is planning to bring out a full set of these desirable sheep themed top trumps cards or if this is a one off. Cut it out, keep it, swap it with your friends (if you have any after they find out about your strange curiosity with sheep).

Ed.

Seward Industries inc. present:

Ovine Top Trumps: 1



Pocket Sheepie

Fleece factor	32
Portability rating	84
Cuteness	76
Applicability	48

Rally Post-mortem:

Below are the contents of an email clandestinely obtained, to one of our members after a rally. The identification of both parties has been removed to save embarrassment. Make of it what you will, just remember that there are forces in OUSGG that no one knows about.

Ed.

“OK, don't ask me why, but I seem to have spent most of the latter half of the rally, not to mention the journey home thinking about you.

Why not indulge me by ignoring everything that OUSGG have told you about me (much of which is wildly exaggerated in any case), and taking me at face value as we've only met a couple of times? You are, after all, an attractive and intelligent person; what's more, I'm sure I caught you making eyes at me during the campfire :) This isn't one of my infamous drunken love-emails (indeed I'm still sober), just a civilised request to ask if we can possibly stay in touch.

*I *did* dream about you on Friday night, but maybe the details are best left undivulged (don't worry, it wasn't *that* sort of dream). If you think my conscious is weird, my sub-conscious has a lot to answer for :) Best not to warp your innocent mind (ahem!).*

You never know, if you convince me there's a chance ... [rest of message removed so as to avoid identification of sender].”

Winter Walking™ 2002/2003

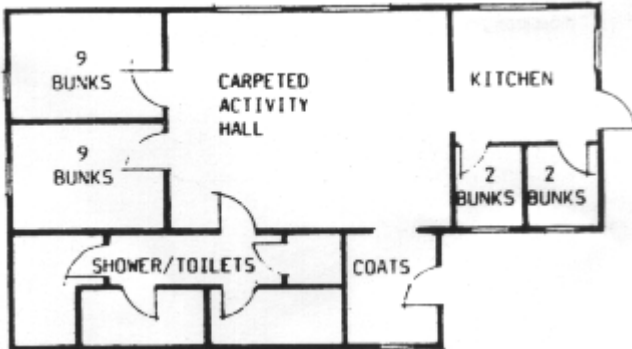
Keith Crothers – LMH.

Yes that time has come again, time for the keen walkers to go walking and the rest of us to find the nearest teashop.

WW02/03 will be held at Blackhills Scout Campsite (OS ref. SE 100 373) in the Grimley Centre. For those of you who can't be bothered to find the appropriate map, it is near Bingley and about 10 miles south of Ilkley Moor.

Details plagiarised directly from the brochure:

The Grimley Centre



(Also available at <http://www.blackhills.ukonline.co.uk/accomm.html>)

This building offers a good standard of indoor accommodation with the following amenities.

22 bunks in 4 carpeted bedrooms (2x9, & 2x2), 20' x 15' Carpeted Activity Hall
Flush Toilets and Showers, Full central heating with hot running water, Fitted kitchen with Commercial Oven (Gas), Fridge Freezer, Crockery, cutlery and all cooking utensils, Entrance Hall with boot and coat racks, Full fire precautions and safety equipment.

For all of this I will be charging a grand total of £10 per person per night. If you are interested please drop me a line telling me the usual details (if you have forgotten what they are, there is a form below to remind you) and preferably send me a cheque as well so I have some money to pay for this.

Any questions do not hesitate to ask. E-mail on winterwalking@ousgg.org.uk

Name:

Current Address:

E-Mail:

Contact Address (if different from above) for December:

Land Line No.:

Mobile No.:

Dates you will be coming:

Form of transport:

Car () Spare spaces with kit () / Without Kit ()

Train (), Plane (), Horse ().

Please find me a space in a car coming past my house ()

Rally Around

Most of you know that OUSGG will be running the SSAGO rally this July, and that your rally committee are already working hard to make sure we organise an enjoyable weekend. This article is really just to remind everyone that it is your rally, and that we'd welcome ideas and suggestions from anyone. In fact we absolutely insist. Two of the key components of a rally are the Saturday morning wide game, and the Sunday morning silly games and we'd like your ideas on what we should do. There should be a form somewhere near this article [*next page – Ed*] so that you can capture your brilliant ideas on paper and pass them onto the rally committee for our delectation. Don't feel you have to fill out the whole thing, just whatever you think will be useful.

We will need loads of silly game ideas (so feel free to ask for extra forms!!), these can be any sort of game or challenge for teams of between 4 and 8 ish. They can solo challenges or involve two or more teams in competition. In fact almost anything goes, the more water the better!

The wide game will again be in teams (same sort of size) and takes all of Saturday morning. We'd like it to be based in and around the city centre so that people get a chance to see Oxford but apart from that anything goes. Obviously we will only be running one of these, so even if you just have a comment about what makes a good/bad wide game let us know.

Finally, the rally theme is everyone's favourite board game - Monopoly, so if your idea can fit that theme all the better. Don't worry about it though.

I'd also like to take this chance to thank all of you that helped out by filling in the questionnaires Jenny was passing around. We made sixty pounds for the rally coffers in no time flat. If we keep that up we'll be able to run the best rally ever.

Well that's that, there'll be much more rally stuff as the year goes on and of course we'll need as many of you as possible to help at the actual rally, so stick the dates in your diary now (4th - 6th July, 2003)!!

Rob

(Rally chair's right hand man)



I have an absolutely fantastic idea for a

SILLY/WIDE* GAME

which could be used on the summer rally (you know – the one we're running)

My game is called:

Here's how you play it:

You'll need the following stuff, it it's going to work:

It can easily be Monopoly themed by:

You'll also need to know the following, why on earth didn't you leave me a box for it?

Don't forget my name – I want the credit for this great idea:

*Delete as appropriate. Fill in as many boxes as you feel like. You can even use more paper if your that keen.