



Scouting Around the World

APRIL 2011

National Capital Area Council International Committee

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http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988

The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center , 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates: April 28 (special meeting), May 19

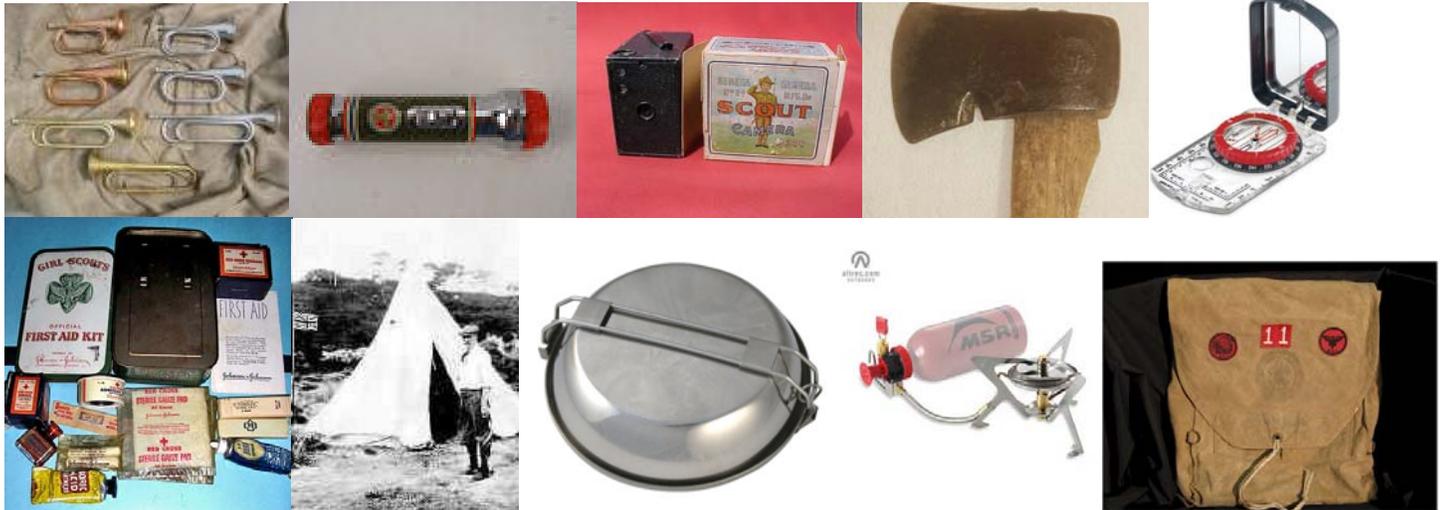
Newsletter editor: John Scheirer, Scouter8@verizon.net

BP Bits:



After B-P wrote *Scouting for Boys* in 1908, letters flooded the London office written by boys at the coast who asked how they could become Scouts in boats. B-P discussed this letter with his brother Warrington B-P and others on how this could be done and a scheme for Scouts on water was devised. In August 1909, a camp was held at Beaulieu Hampshire UK, to train Scouts who wished to take part in activities on the water. Fifty boys were selected to stay on board the training ship Mercury moored on the River Hamble while another fifty slept on shore at Bucklers Hard. The camp lasted a fortnight and after a week the boys swapped accommodation. It is from this date that Sea Scouting is considered to have started and in 1912 B-P asked his elder brother Warrington Baden-Powell (1847-1921) to write a book, *Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys*. This became the first official Handbook detailing the additional skills required by "Land Scouts" if they wished to become members of the Sea Scout branch, wearing the distinctive uniform but members of the same Scout Movement.

Collectors' Corner: Scout Gear



Bugles, flashlight, camera, axe, compass, Girl Scout first aid kit, Bell tent (w/B-P at Brownsea), mess kit, backpacker stove, backpack.

Scout Museums: Australia



Western Australia Scout Museum

581 Murray St, PERTH W.A 6000

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am -2pm

Monday & Friday by appointment

Nancy Bale, Curator, email: museum@scoutswa.com.au

Phone: (08) 9321 2814, Fax: (08) 9321 2804

The Museum has many items of West Australian as well as World Wide Scouting. These displays are open to the public

Victorian Scout Heritage Centre - Victoria, Australia

Como Avenue, South Yarra

For visits to the Heritage Centre, please contact the Booking Secretary Adele Sharpe 03 9857 6387

All enquires must be in writing to: P.O. Box 774, Mt Waverley, Victoria 3149

The Centre houses over 20,000 items and some of the highlights include:-

Uniforms of yesterday - including over 700 scarves

Lone Scout Fence Pickets

An extensive library including a copy of the 1912 Royal Charter and "Every Saturday"

Jamboree memorabilia - Films, photographs, badges, awards, travel bags, meal tickets

Changi Prisoner of War Rover Crew artifacts. Due to the extreme value of these artifacts, they are not on general display

Benghazi Boy Scouts Fill Vacuum of Libyan Social Services



When the Gadhafi government lost control of eastern Libya, a vacuum formed in social and other basic services. Among those who have stepped forward to help are the Benghazi Boy Scouts. The chaos that has engulfed Libya in the last few weeks has sent ripple effects throughout the society.

One unexpected group has been called up to fill gaps that no one could have anticipated. The Boy Scouts of Libya, around 3,500 in the town of Benghazi, are organized, and able. They find themselves called upon to take on tasks that many would expect of the state - or at least more professional, trained volunteers.

But the state is all but gone in rebel-controlled Libya. Its offices just burnt-out shells. For 42 years the Gadhafi government set things up so that it was the only game in town, when it came to social services and running the country. As opposition spokesman Mustafa Gheriani puts it, that left a troubling gap.

"The regime really did not invest any time or money in building these institutions," he said. "Basically, the regime ran this country like a company and he puts a head in each department and that particular head has one interest - line up his pockets. And when the revolution came, these guys disappeared and we found out that there is no system, just a big vacuum." Also compounding the problem is that so many of those who should be doing these jobs came from neighboring countries. Libya's population is sparse and outside workers were needed. And they were first to flee when the fighting started.

So, whether it is working in the bloody mayhem of a hospital or directing traffic because no one trusts anyone in a government uniform, in many cases it is now scouts who are sorting out the international medical aid that has flooded in.



These young boys and men - in uniforms recognizable around the world - are no longer just a youth organization. They are helping to keep order - a job perhaps well beyond their tender years. Every day the scouts, who range in age from 7 to 18, meet to learn vital skills that can be used to help the people of their city - including first aid and organizational skills. It's no longer just about getting a merit badge. With the fighting showing no sign of slowing down anytime soon, it appears that what now seems like play time could soon be all too real for these young boys in uniform - the Boy Scouts of Benghazi.

A young Boy Scout directs traffic in Benghazi, March 7, 2011