



THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

Volume 6 Edition 2

Dec. 2008

Commissioner's Ramblings

I thought I would deviate from the continuing articles from my 1918 Scout Manual and instead just write a few words from the heart.

As we work our through this weather which has gripped the entire country and we hear stories of homeless people refusing shelter and dying on our streets it makes me wonder if we are doing all we should for our fellow man!

It is all well and good to keep our uniforms in a good state of repair and wear them proudly, know our knots, have a good working knowledge of first aid, are able to find our way around a strange city or rural setting. Is it enough?

Could we be encouraging our youth to collect warm clothing, prepare some sandwiches and hot chocolate and hit the streets on cold evenings to seek out those less fortunate than ourselves and reach out with a touch of human kindness and compassion.

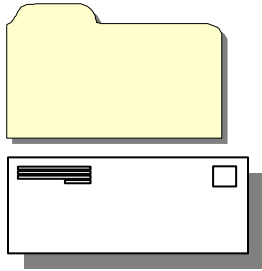
How good it makes us feel after having done a 'good turn', and perhaps we should go the extra mile. Things like assisting the local food banks, homeless shelters, popping in to an old folks' home and just visiting for a short time makes all the difference in the world to those who don't have as much as we do.

I think back to time some 2000 years ago when a husband and his young wife, pregnant with child were looking for accommodation on a cold winter's night. They could not find a room anywhere and the birth of their child was imminent. After some soul searching an Inn Keeper offered the stable and shortly thereafter a babe was born.....we know the rest of the story.

Let's take a think back to that time in history and perhaps we can see something we can do to help someone less fortunate. After all that is what scouting is all about.

Merry Christmas to all and may you have a Most Happy New Year!

Cheers - Mike Maloney, Chief Commissioner BPSA-BC



Registration

Registration is up this year in almost all of our groups – well done! Traditional Scouting is alive and well. Our insurance has been adjusted accordingly for all the new members. Just a reminder to register those late comers as well to make sure that they are covered too!



Scouters Five

WANTED – A MAN TO LEAD

There isn't a lad but wants to grow
Manly and true at heart,
And every lad would like to know
The secret we impart.
He doesn't desire to slack or shirk,
Oh, haven't you heard him plead?
He'll follow a man at play or work
If only the men will lead.
Where are the men to lead to-day?
Sparing an hour or two,
Teaching the lads the game to play
Just as a man should do,
Village and slums are calling "Come!"
Here are the boys, indeed,
Who can tell what they might become
If only the men will lead?
Motor and golf, and winter sport,

Fill up the time a lot.
But wouldn't you like to feel you'd taught
Even a boy a knot?
Country and home depend on you,
Character most we need,
How can a lad know what to do,
If there isn't a man to lead?
Where are the men to lend a hand?
Echo it far and wide,
Men who will rise in every land,
Bridging the "Great Divide,"
Nation and flag and tongue unite
Joining each class and creed,
Here are the boys who would do right,
But where are the men to lead?



The Patrol System

Each Troop is divided into patrols of six to eight boys, and the main object of the Patrol System is to give real responsibility to as many boys as possible with a view to developing their character. If the Scoutmaster gives his Patrol Leader real power, expects a great deal from him and leaves him a free hand in carrying out his work, he will have done more for that boy's character expansion than any amount of school training could ever do.

The Court of Honour is a most valuable aid to this end if fully made use of. A Court of Honour is formed of the Scoutmaster and the Patrol Leaders, or, in the case of a small Troop, of the Patrol Leaders and Seconds. In many Courts the Scoutmaster attends the meetings but does not vote.

The Court of Honour decides rewards, punishments, programmes of work, camps, and other questions affecting Troop management. The members of the Court of Honour are pledged to secrecy; only those decisions which affect the whole Troop, e.g. appointments, competitions, etc., would be made public.

Patrol Leaders have in many cases formed themselves into a Court of Honour and carried on the troop in the absence of the Scoutmaster.

A Word to Patrol Leaders

I want you Patrol Leaders to go on and train your patrols in future entirely yourselves, because it is possible for you to get hold of each boy in your patrol and make a good fellow of him. It is no use having one or two brilliant boys and the rest no good at all. You should try to make them all fairly good. The most important step to this is your own example, because what you do yourselves, your Scouts will do also. Show them that you can obey orders whether they are given by word of mouth or merely rules that are printed or written, and that you carry them out, whether your Scoutmaster is present or not. Show them that you can get badges for proficiency in different handicrafts, and your boys will with very little persuasion follow your lead. But remember that you must give them the *lead* and not the *push*.

Patrol Signs

Each troop is named after the place to which it belongs. Each patrol in that troop is named after an animal. It is a good plan to choose only animals and birds found in the district. Thus the 33rd London Troop may have five patrols which are respectively the Curlews, the Bulldogs, the Owls, the Bats, the Cats.

Each scout in a patrol has his regular number, the patrol leader being No. 1, the second No. 2, and the scouts have the consecutive numbers after these. Scouts usually work in pairs as comrades, Nos. 3 and 4 together, Nos. 5 and 6 together, and Nos. 7 and 8.

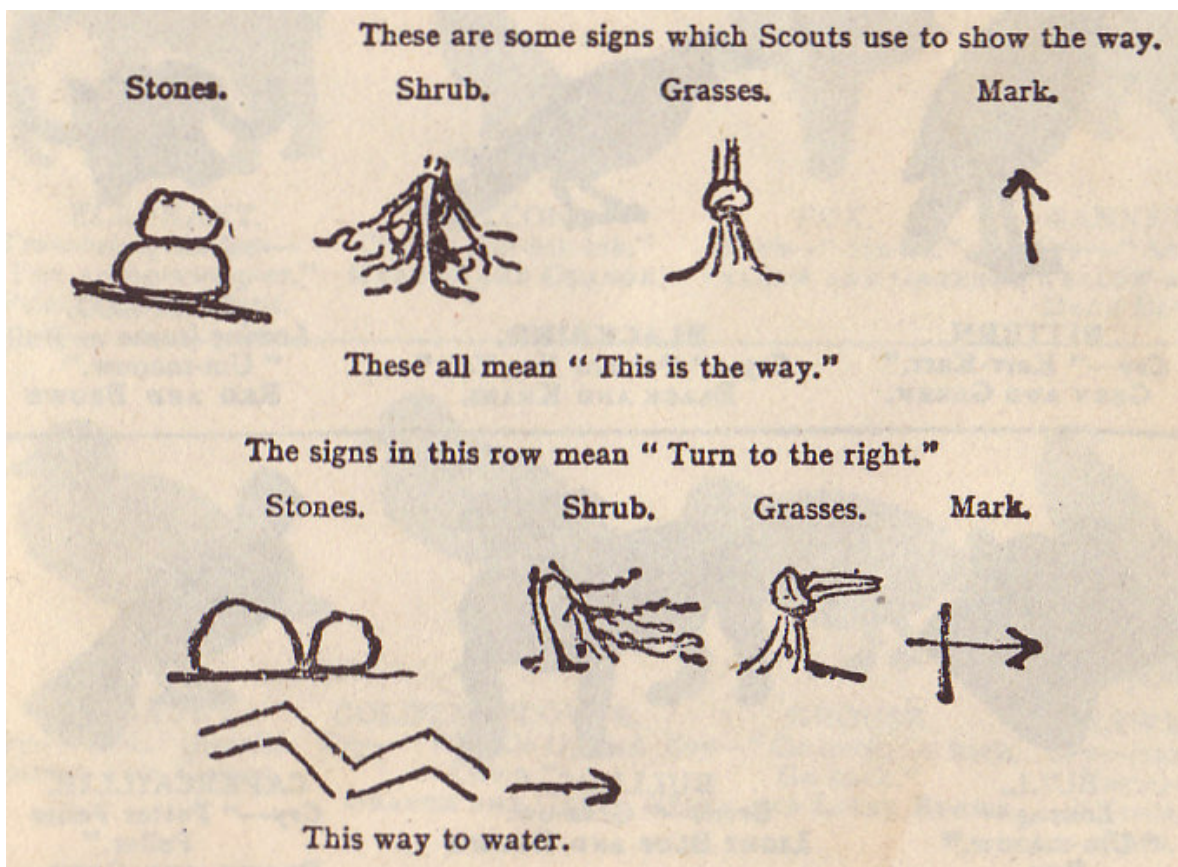
Each patrol chooses its own motto, which generally applies in some way to the patrol-animal. Each scout in the patrol has to be able to make the call of his patrol-animal—thus every scout in the “Bulldogs” must be able to imitate the growl of the bulldog. This is the sign by which scouts of a patrol can communicate with each other when hiding or at night. No scout is allowed to imitate the call of any patrol except his own. The patrol leader calls up the patrol at any time by sounding his whistle and uttering the call of the patrol.

Also when a scout makes signs on the ground for others to read he also draws the head of the patrol-animal. Thus if he wants to show that a certain road should not be followed he draws a sign across it, “Not to be followed,” and adds the head of his patrol animal to show which patrol discovered that the road was no good, and his own number to the left of the head to show which scout discovered it.



Each patrol leader has a small flag on his staff with the head of his patrol animal shown on it on both sides.

All these signs scouts must be able to draw according to the patrol to which they belong.





Scouters Notes

ABOUT THE GROUP SCOUTMASTER:

The Group Scoutmaster is the person having overall managerial responsibility for the Group. It is recognised that the Group Scoutmaster's job is both responsible and demanding. It is also rewarding and enjoyable. It is one that calls for the active and sensitive use of a wide range of management/leadership skills in working with adults and young people enjoying a shared vision.

The GSM is responsible to the District Commissioner (DC) or the Provincial Commissioner if there is no DC *for the continuity and development of training in Sections of the Group, and for supporting all the adults who work within the Group.* The GSM is also responsible for the smooth functioning of the group.

In very general terms, the job of a GSM entails work in these main areas:

- Ensuring adult training in each section to ensure proper delivery of the program.
- Supporting the adults in the group by providing the resources they need.
- Liaising with external organisations to promote the group and maintain a positive image in the community.
- Reporting to the DC or PC on the activities of the group, submitting forms and registrations as required.

THE CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

Youth are the responsibility of the adult section leaders; the adult section leaders are the responsibility of the GSM; the GSM is the responsibility of the DC or if there is no DC, the PC. The Provincial Commissioner is ultimately responsible, although he uses the DCs and the GSMs to maintain a reasonable span of control.

The unit for your organisation in the District is the Group. The complete Group consists of the Otter Raft, Timber Wolf Pack, Explorer Troop, Senior Explorer Troop, and Rover Crew; but may at any time consist of one or more sections only. Therefore; it should be the aim of the GSM to eventually get the Group complete where this is not already the case.

It should be added that the GSM, in addition to being responsible to the District Commissioner, is also in the case of sponsored Groups, responsible to the sponsoring authority.

The GSM is the channel of communication between Group, District, and Provincial Council. All notices will be sent to the GSM, and it is **VITAL** that such notices should be seen by other Scouters of the Group. The GSM is the official speaker for the Group, therefore the GSM should:-

- Through Group Council, arouse and maintain ACTIVE interest of Scouters, opportunities of training and put interests of the youth first at all times.
- Work as a team of friends with District Councils, Provincial Council, etc.
- When necessary accept District or Provincial Commissioner's decisions, in the spirit of the Scout Law.
- 'LOOK WIDE' - beyond the Group. The Scouting world is part of a world-wide 'brotherhood'.

- From the revised Group Scoutmaster's Handbook



The Backpacker's Corner

Tenacious Attitude:

Ruthless scrutiny of each piece of gear is key. First, evaluate each item of gear for its necessity and functionality -- some pieces of gear can serve multiple purposes, some are along for the ride, just in case. The longer you look at each piece with an attitude -- i.e., is it worthy of being in your pack, **ON YOUR ACHING BACK** -- the more its value will increase or decrease. The only "just-in-case" pieces of gear that I carry fall within the "Fourteen-Essentials" category -- e.g., first aid/last aid kit, emergency fire starter, etc. Everything else is a critical piece of gear that provides at least one function, every day.

Once you've selected the items of gear that are absolutely necessary AND have unduplicated functionality, then start your search for its smallest and lightest manifestation. Here is where complications arise. You may have the attitude, but no bucks in your pocket. Compromise ! Buy (and/or make) the smallest, lightest, highest quality you can afford.

My experience has been that most of the high-end expensive items that I have purchased have endured much better than their low-end counterparts, such that, the expensive stuff is actually cheaper in the long run. Like I say, that's my experience. You'll have to engage in your own mental gymnastics for what you can justify and what you can't.

Look for Multiple Functionality in Gear

Many items of gear can be used for multiple purposes. The practice of using one piece of equipment for more than one purpose will often allow you to leave other equipment items at home. Again, take the time to scrutinize each piece of gear as to the possibilities.

Multiple-Use Gear:

- **Parachute Cord**--clothesline, securing splints, line for traction splint, food bag line,
- **Swiss Army Knife**--knife, scissors, saw, awl.....
- **Candles**--light for reading/writing, wax as fire starter, wax as waterproofing agent
- **Duct Tape**--moleskin substitute, bandage wrap, gear repair (packs, boots, poles...), splint wrap, emergency sunglasses
- **Sleeping Bag**--emergency stretcher or litter
- **Cooking Pot**--bowl for eating, cup for hot drinks
- **Water Bottle**--cup for hot drinks
- **Backpack Metal Stays**--splints
- **Ski / Hiking Poles**--avalanche probe, splints,
- **Snow Shovel**--sled for fun, sled runner for emergency litter,
- **Stuff Sacks**--pillows,
- **Socks**--hand warmers,
- **Safety Pins**--securing bandages and cloth slings, clothespins, fish hook, hook for hanging items,
- **Clothing**--slings, pillow stuffing, adds loft to sleeping system.
- **Stove Aluminum Wind Screen**--candle light reflector, funnel for pouring liquids.
- **Dental Floss**--sewing thread, ties,
- **Zip-Loc Freezer Baggies**--carry items, bowl for preparing & eating food, carry-out container for garbage.
- **Backpack w/weather shroud**--emergency bivy sack (for the lower half of the body).
- **Compass sighting mirror**--personal mirror, emergency signaling device.
- **Tent Pegs**--slender tent pokers with relatively sharp ends (like the titanium pegs sold by Simon Metals Company) can be used as a piercing tool- for instance, to pierce thick fabric or leather in order to run a cord through, to make a repair. Also, for grilling food over a flame.

Next time – looking for ways to reduce weight (in your backpack).



BPSA – British Columbia NEWS

The Germans are coming, the Germans are coming!

Scouts from Germany will be travelling to B.C. in the Summer of 2009 and BPSA-BC is preparing to make their journey one to remember! Plan to join us all for Camporee from July 19 to 25, 2009 in Quesnel.





Upcoming Training Events

The “self-taught” Introduction to Traditional Scouting course is in its final review stage. If you would like a preview copy and be part of the “review team” please contact your Provincial Commissioner.

The Training Team has also reworked the Group Scoutmaster’s Handbook and a copy is available from your Provincial Commissioner.



Camp Recipe Corner

Beans and Kraft dinner may be camp traditions with your bunch, but our kids deserve better! We need to grab every opportunity to help our young members grow.

Take some imagination to the dinner table with you. Camp meals can translate into valuable program time, if you use them creatively. With some guidance and encouragement, your kids can learn to plan, use a food guide, budget shop, and prepare some great meals outdoors.

Camp cookery is not only a great learning experience; a good meal can make the difference between a crummy time and an awesome experience. You can't always guarantee beautiful weather but, after a days slog through rain and mud, it sure feels great to sit down to a hot cup of tea, pork chops with apple sauce, zesty rice with mixed vegetables, and chocolate cake for dessert. The leaders I work with are always surprised to discover that, with a little imagination, you can cook at camp anything you can bake, microwave, or broil at home.

To make sure your camping or hiking trip is a success, plan well. Here are a few tips to help you organize your food.

1. Trip duration and type of camp are your first considerations. If you are on a weekend outing, you can take along fresh fruit and vegetables with little concern for weight or spoilage, but on a 10-day trek, you need to stick to dehydrated or freeze-dried food.
2. Menu planning is essential. When you are exerting yourself, you need a good daily energy intake of 4,000 calories to keep you warm and happy. Since your usual energy needs are 1,500 to 2,000 calories a day, you will need to use a food chart to work out a way to double your normal intake.
3. Variety is the key to enjoyable meals. Never rule out a food idea until you have exhausted the possibilities for making it. For example, if you want chocolate cake in camp, just hollow out an orange, fill the shell half-full of cake batter, wrap in foil, and cook on an open fire for about 10 minutes. Delicious.
4. Weight is extremely important when backpacking. As an alternative to freeze-dried food, try looking for tasty items in your oriental food store, or in the bulk food and boil-in-the-bag sections at your local supermarket.
5. Great chefs use herbs and spices to create culinary delights. You can use them to dress up even boring freeze dried food. Try some celery salt, dried onions, dried peppers, basil, or chili peppers.
6. You don't want to carry unnecessary bulk. Remove the packaging from all your groceries. Measure food in portions needed for each meal and add all of the seasoning and other ingredients at home.
7. Plastic bags are the backpacker's best friend. Bag individual meals and seal with elastics (twist ties will puncture the other bags). It's easy to practise no-trace camping when you don't carry extra packaging, and you can store away your plastic bags for the next trip.
8. A bit of organization helps the cause. Keep the cooking groups small--three people maximum--so that they can prepare all their food on a single-burner stove. This holds down weight and gives Explorers an opportunity to plan menu, budget, shop, pack, and cook their own food on the trip.
9. Fuel and equipment make a heavy load. Consider this when you plan. You may want to choose long grain rice for the great taste, but remember two things: your stove might not simmer, 25 minutes worth of fuel adds a lot of weight. If you use instant rice, couscous, egg noodles, and quick-cooking oatmeal, you can cut both the weight and aggravation appreciably.
10. You need to pack emergency supplies. For a weekend trip, take one extra meal. On a two-week trip, carry enough food for an extra day.

Breakfast is the stage you play the day on. Include something hot such as the instant oatmeal that comes in individual flavoured packages (two per person) and a hot drink. You can also have fresh fruit if the trip is short enough. A nice alternative for lightweight backpacking is dried fruit heated with water, sugar, and spices of your choice.

On a short trip, you might try the old bacon-and-eggs standby. Pre-mix eggs at home with milk and seasonings. If you are going lightweight, Harvest Food Works powdered eggs are almost indistinguishable from the real thing. (www.harvestfoodworks.com)

If granola is on the menu, mix in powdered milk at home so that you can just add water for a good nutritious meal. Lunch is often a hassle to cook and, when you're on the move, likely just isn't worth it. Peanut butter, jam, salami, dense bread like rye or multi-grain, crackers, cheese, trail mix, and lots of water or juice make for an excellent mid-day meal.

Dinner is when you can be creative with your cookery. Turn supper into an evening activity. And don't forget dessert: the kids won't!

Spring Programs

Have you planned out your activities for next Spring for your Timberwolves and Otters yet? If not, maybe these schedules may give you some ideas:


Sample Timberwolf Program

- Jan 8: Tied up in knots – reef knots, sheet bends, bowlines and hitches
- Jan 15: Good Posture – walk like an Egyptian!
- Jan 22: Camp planning
- Jan 29: Winter Safety – hypothermia, frostbite, etc.
- Jan 31/Feb 1: Camp
- Feb 5: Keep it Clean – discussions on cleanliness
- Feb 12: Won't you be my Valentine? – Craft Night
- Feb 19: Heritage Day – Learning about Flags
- Feb 22: B-P's birthday - **Torch Light Parade**
- Feb 26: Star requirement review
- Mar 5: Telling time and other crafts
- Mar 12: Night hike
- Mar 19: **Spring Break – no meeting**
- Mar 26: Camp planning
- Apr 2: Identification Night - Trees, plants, birds, etc.
- Apr 4/5: Camp
- Apr 9: First Nations Night
- Apr 16: St. George's Day (Apr. 23) – learning about our Patron Saint.
- Apr 23: Pitch-in week – cleaning up the **boat launch** (Meet at the boat launch)
- Apr 30: Camp Planning
- May 7: Highway Code and Bicycle Safety Week. – Bicycle Rodeo!
- May 8-10: Two night Camp
- May 14: Spring has sprung – time to start growing
- May 21: Hike
- May 28: Review Star Requirements
- Jun 4: Camp planning
- Jun 11: Award Night
- Jun 18: Canoeing
- Jun 20/21: Camp
- Jun 25: Canoeing and so on every Thursday Night throughout the summer

Spring Programs



Sample Otter Program (Mondays)

- Jan 5: Welcome back – fun night - games
 - Jan 12: Snow Sliding – dress warmly!
 - Jan 19: Wood crafts – make a hobby horse
 - Jan 26: Kim's Game
 - Feb 2: Night Hike
 - Feb 9: Valentine's activities
 - Feb 16: Heritage Day – what's it all about
 - Feb 22: B-P's birthday - **Torch Light Parade**
 - Feb 23: Slash time at the pool
 - Mar 2: Assembling a bird house
 - Mar 9: Playhouse Theatre
 - Mar 16: **Spring Break – no meeting**
 - Mar 23: Working on the Helping Badge – Red Paw
 - Mar 30: More work on the Red Paw
 - Apr 6: Easter activities – egg hunt
 - Apr 13: Easter Monday – night off
 - Apr 23:**Thurs.** Pitch-in week – cleaning up the **boat launch** (Meet at the boat launch)
 - Apr 27: Basic ropes and knots
 - May 3: **Sunday** Hike at Provincial Park from 1pm to 3 pm
 - May 4: Get ready for camping! Gear review
 - May 11: Mother's Day – something for Mom
 - May 18: Victoria Day – night off
 - May 25: Playing the Message Game – passing messages
 - Jun 1: Visit Seniors Housing – serve tea and cookies
 - Jun 8: Setting up a meeting room – meet at the firehall
 - Jun 15: Hike to the lake – creek access, salmon hatching
 - Jun 20/21: Camp with your parents
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The Quartermaster's Stores

Email the Quartermaster at qmstore.bpsa@gmail.com

Place your uniform order at <http://www.bpsa-bc.org/qm.htm>

Or for BPSA-Ontario <http://www.bpsa-on.org/qm.htm>

Email the Badge Secretary at badges.bpsa@gmail.com

Place your badge order at <http://www.bpsa-bc.org/b-order.htm>

or for BPSA-Ontario <http://www.bpsa-on.org/b-order.htm>

Technology is probably an oxymoron for Traditional Scouting, but there are ways to make your “job” easier without costing an arm and a leg. Microsoft has a software donation program through a non-profit organization called Tech Soup and through them we can obtain very reasonably priced Microsoft products. Visit <http://www.techsoup.org/stock/> or <http://www.techsoupcanada.ca/> and see if there is anything you are interested in. If so, let the Quartermaster know and we can gather an order together. We haven't placed an order with them yet, so the prices listed may not include shipping and handling.

On another note, we do have some spreadsheets that have been created to track your enrolment, revenue and expenses and are working on some to track the progress of Otters, Timberwolves and Explorers. Let us know if you are interested or if you have something you would like to share.



Editorial

Send us news from your Group. We would like to tell everyone what your members have achieved and what interesting things you have done lately.

Let us know what you would like to see in the Gazette – you could even write a story for us!

gazette.bpsa@gmail.com

Don't be shy – drop us a line!

Websites

<http://www.bpsa-on.ca> – BPSA Ontario

<http://www.bpsa-bc.ca> – BPSA BC

http://www.geocities.com/bpsa_nb/ - BPSA New Brunswick

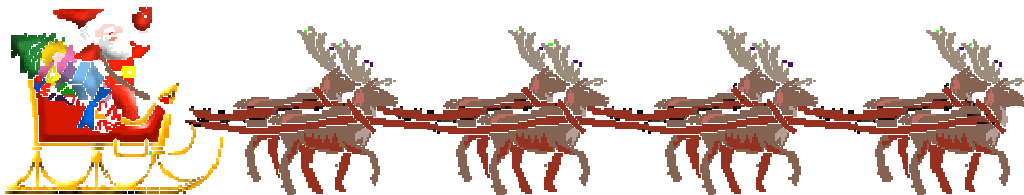
http://www.geocities.com/bpsa_manitoba/ - BPSA Manitoba

http://www.geocities.com/bpsa_canada/ - BPSA Federation

" Pay attention to the ounces & the pounds will follow "

The Lightweight Backpacker

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



World Federation of Independent Scouts



WFIS Angelstr.15, 65558 Heistenbach / Germany

To
All WFIS Member Associations

16. Dezember 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Scouting,

A long year with a lot of scouting activities has almost passed.

We all did a lot to make our children's camping, training and workshops happy, and everywhere our Scout Associations work with a lot of enthusiasm, following the traditional way of Scouting, given by our founder Lord Baden-Powell.

The WFIS itself, stands for traditional Scouting and tolerance, while working with all other Scouting organisations.

We can look back proudly on 2008: We helped Scouts in different countries with their Scout Associations; we took care of our Scout members, who have to live with wars and economical risks; we reached Scout brothers in difficulties and tried to fulfil the Scout law.

New associations from Curacao, Belgium, Germany, India, Italy and Russia join in our Federation and we welcome them all in to our World Scouting Family.

Finally we set up the WFIS Africa Region, the WFIS Asia Region and the WFIS Caribbean Region.

All these new regions are willing to follow the true spirit of the World Federation of Independent Scouts and we are sure that they will soon feel part of our family.

It is time now to take care of our families and to concentrate our focus on the coming year.

Thank you for being part of our Scouting family.

In the name of the WFIS Council, we wish you and also your members

A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Yours in Scouting

Klaus Tegeder – President WFIS World Council

World Federation of Independent Scouts

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