



Annual General Meeting 2008

SMOKE SIGNALS

The Newsletter of 2nd Farnborough Scout Group



“SKIP’S BITS!”

*Be prepared For the Future
in Scouting with
2nd Farnborough*

Well to start with a welcome to 2nd Farnborough AGM in The Blackwater Valley District. The Census 2008, yes we are a little down in number as of last year but we still have 3 girl Scouts. It was great for me to be at most of the investitures of new Beavers, Cubs, Scouts as well as new Explorer Scouts, it always good to see new faces in scouting so don't forget to tell anyone who might be interested that we are welcoming both boys and girls to our group, and to come along and check out what we have to offer. Unfortunately four scouts left us recently as they are now over 15 and did not want to go in to Explorers. However we will be getting new recruits in to Beavers, and Cubs are also moving up into Scouts.

At this stage I would like to welcome two new leaders: **Colin Spicer** for the scout troop and **Steve Greenwood** as a Beaver leader. Both are going through the CRB approval at this stage. So a very big welcome to you both and thanks for your support to 2nd Farnborough in the future. Well done to **Bernie Peters** Assistant Scout leader for receiving his 25 year service badge. The last couple of years he has spent with us, he has been a great asset and we hope that he will put up with us for years to come.

We started off our very busy year with the Centenary Celebrations which have involved the whole district in organized events. All sections of our group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) and section leaders went camping together at Runways End for three nights. This was the first time that 2nd Farnborough have done this in all the 35 years that I have been with them.



We had a disco that which was run by our Explorers on the site and everyone from the district came down and had a fantastic night. We all had a great time but went home very wet as it rained so much, but you can say that you are good campers if you survived.

Well done to everyone for sticking it out.

We were soon back at Runways End for the district and worldwide scouting Sunrise Ceremony with a TV link up with Brownsea Island and Chief Scout Peter Duncan. He spoke to all scouts around the world and together we renewed our law and promise and then had a breakfast of bacon butties and played games.

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"SKIP'S BITS" Continued

The troop has had a great summer camp last year at the **Tolmers Activity Centre**. I went with 15 Scouts 2 Explorers and two helpers; **Wendy** and my wife **Anne** to cover as female staff for our girl Scouts (Many thanks to them for doing so). Among the activities available were: Abseiling, Canoeing, Hiking, Journalism, Laser clay pigeon shooting, Quad Bikes, Football, Volley ball, Camp fires, sing songs, and the opportunity to meet over 800 scouts from around England. Tolmers has been incredibly popular with everybody and this year we are returning with 12 scouts and we are going to try to have an even better time.



The Scouts have been on many of the district's events such as **The Swimming Gala** and **Sports Day** where we came 1st, well done to all who entered and put so much effort towards our success. We also went to the open day at **DHQ** where we enjoyed such events as the climbing tower, archery, indoor caving, Go-carts, first aid courses and pioneering. As always we ended things with Bar-B-Q and camp fire. Back at the hut we have been having 'sleep over's', games nights, disco parties, as well as the fun of staging the AGM entertainment that you are watching tonight. So yes! We have all been having a fun filled year.



2nd Farnborough received the **Alec Roberts Trophy** at this year's **St George's Day Parade**; the trophy is for the earning the most badges and our participation in events. So you can all pat yourselves on the back and be proud of what you have achieved. We are all looking forward to helping to break a **world record** for the largest 'sleep over' ever on the 14th June, troops around the world will be participating and there will be 30 at our HQ and it should be great fun. My thanks to all the leaders and Explorers for helping and wish us all good luck!

Thanks to all my Leaders helpers and parents for there help within the group. In particular **Debbie (Akela)**, **Tracy (Chill)**, **Ray (Bagheera)**, **Bernie, Wendy, Karen (Beach)**, and **Sharon (Conifer)** who has completed 16 years as our Beaver helper and has work very hard keeping the Colony running. All of your efforts make 2nd Farnborough what it is. I have been with the



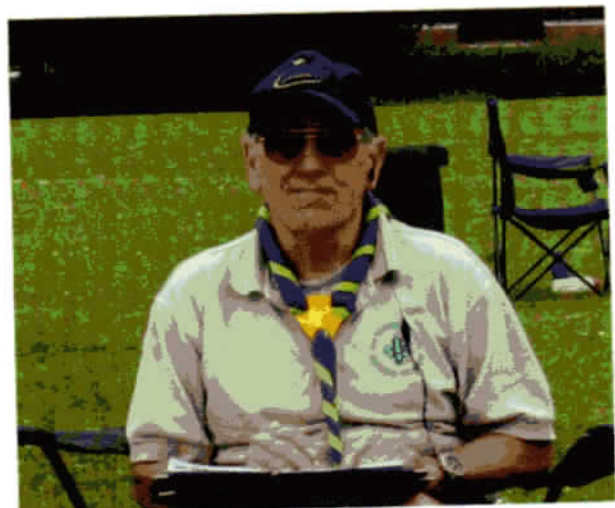
Beavers on Wednesday nights to cover the warranted leadership side. Thanks must also go to Beaver parents **Louise, Emma and Clair** that give us so much help and make Wednesday so much fun for all of us. A big Thanks to Explorer Scouts **Colin, Daniel, Matthew and Thomas** for their help running the Troop. Also thanks to **Wander TerKuile** our Group Secretary for many years and for looking after the minuets. My thanks go to **Sheila Goldie** our Group Treasurer and all on the Group Executive Committee; **Mark, Marianne**. Also a big thanks to the **DC Janet Lister** and all the district team for all their help.

Sadly its goodbye to **Clive Norris** the Chairman 2nd Farnborough's for 25 years. He has looked after the executive and organisational side of for us as well as raising so much money for the group. His contribution has been invaluable to us and he will be deeply missed. He started when his sons were Cubs with us and stayed on for many years after they left scouts. My heart filled thanks go to **Clive** and to his wife **Ann** for all the effort, enthusiasm and time that he has given 2nd Farnborough.

We welcome our new chairman **Paul Spicer** we hope that he will have many happy years with us at 2nd Farnborough and I'm sure that Clive will recommend the experience as a rewarding one. We are still looking for new **Help** on the Executive Committee, **parents** are always welcome and their participation in Scouts is always appreciated where it is in hands on or at committee level. We welcome any talents that can make scouting a richer experience for your children and a enjoyable social experience for us. We need your help with **fund raising** to keep us doing all the things we do. We use 'subs' payments to cover out utility bills and this leaves is in need for other income for our own headquarter repairs. So if you think of any imaginative ways of helping us please come and talk to me.

Finally a **thank you** for coming to our Annual Review so you can see just what your lads and lasses have achieved this year. We hope that you have an entertaining night and as much fun as we have.

Skipper Allan
Group Scout Leader.



SMOKE SIGNALS BEAVERS Annual Review 2008

When I look back over the past year I cannot believe how much we have managed to fit in.

A week after the last Annual Review the Beavers attended the Centenary Camp at Runways End.

The boys were able to take part in climbing, abseiling, lazer quest, aerial runway, obstacle course, woggle making, campfire songs and to end the evening there was a firework display.

Robert and Ryan joined 35 other Beavers for the sleep over in the main building. The following day we had torrential rain but it did not spoil the fun we just moved them inside. It was a brilliant experience for the boys especially those who stayed for the sleep over as this is the first time the Beavers have been allowed to stay overnight at a District Camp and be able to gain their 1st Nights Away Badge.

Throughout this term we continued to follow the Beaver Centenary programme, which involved food and meeting new people. The next District event was Sports Day and yes you've guessed it we had to participate in torrential rain. We fielded a very small team but did come away with a 4th and 2nd place well done Ryan and Nick.

In July I like to get the boys outside as much as possible and this year was no exception and the weather was kind to us. We were able to complete several parts of the Outdoor Challenge Badge such as making and following a trail, and outdoor games.

We also completed the Explore Badge by exploring Cove Brook, where the boys had to collect items and complete a questionnaire about what they had seen on our walk. On the last day of term we had a water activities evening where we made balloon bombs, fired water pistols at targets, did a water relay with holey buckets and threw sponges. We ended the evening with a massive water fight and guess who got the wettest well it was a bit one sided 15 to 1.

On August 1st our Beavers **George** and **Callum** joined the other sections of our group and 100 others at the **Sunrise Ceremony** at Runways End the official date for the first Camp 100 years ago. There we were linked by television to the International Camp in London and all renewed our promise at the same time after an inspiring speech by **Peter Duncan** The Chief Scout. Our group had a photo taken with the Governor of Hong Kong in his scout uniform and afterwards we exchanged badges and tucked into bacon rolls and hot chocolate. No rain today.



In September we continued with the centenary Programme by making and painting wooden totem poles, which are now varnished and displayed in the garden. Our pole has a Beaver amongst some trees, which represent the trees that the lodges are named after. October's theme was music and dance so the boys and a few parents learnt some line dances, which was great

fun. The following week **Skip** taught the boys some First Aid, I think the parents were a bit worried when they came to collect as everyone was wearing either in a bandage sling or plaster.

Halloween actually fell on a Beaver night this year so we had a party. The hut was decorated and we played games such as bobbing marshmallows and spotlight, we decorated biscuits to look like spiders and listened to ghostly stories.



For **Bonfire night** we made fake fireworks, played games and had a competition to see who could fire a party popper the furthest (under strict supervision), this was also our bring a friend to Beavers night and 2 boys went on to earn their Scoutmate Badge.

The programme for this month was outdoor cooking over an open fire. **Akela** was very kind and brought hers down for us to use. Firstly we had to make something to cook so the boys made bread. We also cooked sausages and for pudding we did fruit in chocolate sauce. We put a canopy outside as we were expecting rain but for a change the weather was kind to us and with the fire the boys got too hot and took their coats off. Also in November we entered a team in the District Swimming Gala on a very wet and windy night just for a change. All the boys swam well and we finished with 2 x 4th and the relay team came 3rd. For a small young colony we did really well. Well done **Ryan, George, Alex** and **Robert**.



In December there was a special Centenary Certificate presentation held at Oak farm School for all Scouts who had gained their Chief Scouts Awards in the Centenary Year. From our group 3 Beavers and 6 Cubs qualified but unfortunately only 1 Beaver was able to attend.

December is traditionally our craft month where we make things to sell at the Christmas Fayre. This year we made scented candles in their holders which smelt amazing. They all sold at the fayre and with the profits we made from them, our hoopla stall and the raffle we were able to take the Beavers to Lazer run for their Christmas party. We had 2 games and the boys got really



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BEAVERS Review Continued...

involved I thought the boys were loud in the hut you should have heard them there. We were split into 2 teams, Skip's and mine and I was happy that in the end the honours were even. We finished the evening with some nibbles and an ice cream. Skip and I had a great time and I know the Boys did as well.

During the holidays we joined the Cubs and some parents for a family hike along the yellow route of **Fleet Pond**. We had to find several items on route but the worm was very elusive and my granddaughter Emily would not let me go home until we had found one. Luckily we did so were able to join the others for hot soup and home made bread. The Beavers (and some of the Cubs) gained their 1st Hikes Away Badges. Great Day already decided to do another one at Easter



January brought a revamping of the Challenge Badges. Now there was a badge for each of the programme zones we needed to cover which made the programme planning a lot easier than before. All of January was spent on the Imagination Badge which Jetix the children's TV channel was sponsoring. The boys had to create a superhero and their futuristic vehicle then make them and finally had to act out a short play featuring the hero and vehicle. Although this took us 4 weeks to complete the boys really seemed to enjoy it and the some of the heros and vehicles were amazing.

In February the Beavers gained their Hobbies Badge most of which were on sports like skiing, football and rugby. Also in February we celebrated Chinese New Year by learning the Dragon Dance and how to use chopsticks. We also made money envelopes and tasted traditional foods and as I had recently been to Hong Kong I was able to show some money and good luck charms.

For mothers day we made woven paper hearts with chocolates in. As Easter did not fall in the holidays this year we decided to go Donutting at the **Alpine Ski Centre** instead of making eggs. Some of the boys were a bit apprehensive at first but that soon went and they soon roped in the adults so they could team up and go down even faster. We ended the evening with an Easter Egg Hunt.



In April we visited the FAST museum in Farnborough as part of our air activities badge. Firstly we had a talk about all the aircraft outside and as some of the boys had not been in a plane before we were allowed inside the cockpit of the "Trident". We were also told about the history RAE, Cody flights, the Balloon factory and the RAF. After squash and biscuits the Beavers had a questionnaire to complete about the museum. Also in April we attended the District Beaver Fun Day at Runways End this time we just managed to miss the rain, which started just as we were leaving. There were lots of activities some inside and some out like an obstacle course, treasure hunt, open fire cooking, hat making, egg pictures, messy painting and garden games. The day ended with campfire songs.

During the Easter holidays we joined the Cubs and some parents for a hike around Rowhill Nature Reserve in Aldershot. We had a guide who showed us around and taught us facts about trees, rivers, soils and animal habitats. I expect the boys will remember putting their heads down holes to smell if they belonged to foxes or badgers, holding giant mushrooms and the muddy game of football we ended the day on.



During the past year the colony has had a healthy waiting list and we have been able to take new boys in soon after their 6th birthday. At the moment we have a small young colony, which we will add to in the coming months. Again over the past year we have had a constant stream of boys who have moved on to join our Cub Pack. The whole colony works hard to earn their badges and have been very successful with 4 boys earning the highest Award - The Chief Scouts Bronze Award - and we have more who hope to complete very soon. Every Beaver in our colony has gained at least 1 Challenge Award and 4 proficiency badges and tonight after our show some of the boys will be presented with the Creative Proficiency badge. Two boys George and Nick have gained all 12 single stage proficiency Badges and are amongst the first in the District to do so. Well done boys.



At last I have some good news over the past few weeks we have been joined by **Steve**, (Beaver name **Sycamore**) who is going to be trained as a Beaver Leader. The events of the past few weeks, visits, fun days etc. have been a good initiation for him. Over the next few months I will be getting him more involved and next term I will gradually be taking off my involvement in the weekly meetings but will still be assisting in my other role as an instructor.

Finally I would like to thank my very willing band of **helpers** and **parents** who have supported me over the past year. Without your help the colony would not have been able to function so smoothly. Big Thank you's to **Skip**, **Beech** and **Emer** for their tireless efforts and not forgetting **Claire**.

Cowifer

cubs NEWS

May thru to August

We start in May because of the Centenary Celebrations up and down the Country. Ours was at Runway's End and on the Friday, when we set up camp, it looked like a cracking weekend. Lot's of excitement and commotion going on! What happened over the weekend would deter any would be camper because it started to rain on the Saturday and didn't stop till the Monday, after everyone had gone home however, did it stop us enjoying ourselves? Did it heck! Even Bagheera became serious about wanting to be a Assistant Cub Leader! If that wouldn't dampen our spirits, nothing would.

We entered a team for the Mayne Trophy, mainly for the participation and to learn new skills. Our Cubs learned how to build a fire, how to track in the dark, to look for objects and to build constructions. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Maybe next time we will have a larger team!

July also saw us have a camp out at Curly Bridge HQ plus Akela's new birthday present, a Fire pit, where we cooked Sausages and Bananas with Chocolate.

September

After a brief holiday away from scouting activities September weighs in with a hype of activity. First up was our "Big Hike" With a few new faces to boost our numbers we took the cubs to Runways End and, with the aid of some of the Parents, we were going to walk a hundred Miles for One hundred years of scouting. Each of the Cubs were to walk from Runways End to Frimley Lodge Park. Each cub would have walked Seven Miles and with the aid of leaders and parents, we managed to walk 98 miles. Bagheera walked the extra two miles, looking for the scarf he didn't wear in the first place! He said that he enjoyed looking at the fishing venues. Between us we managed the 100 miles which was a tremendous effort.



October

This must have been the busiest month of the year for us with so much activity happening. As previous years, we were invited along to help with the Night Ramble at Hannams Copse , near Crondall. This was for the over 9 1/2 year old Cubs. For the first time we ventured quite a way out



of the District. We were planting trees Near Swindon, in Wiltshire. This was again to celebrate the hundred years of scouting by planting 100,000 trees for the Woodland Trust. We managed to plant over 500 trees in just under a two hours. We joined Cub packs from around the South to do this. Hopefully some of us will go back this year and see how our "wood is coming along"

From Swindon, we had to rush back and prepare our "MasterChef" masterpiece, a meal for the Cubs' Parents before we gave them a night off. The Menu comprised of Beef Wellington, Cracked New Potatoes and Green Bean Salad.

It wasn't quite up to Gordon Ramsey's F Word but I believe he would have been encouraged by our efforts. The evening was the cubs big camp overnight stay where sleep didn't seem to fit the Agenda, never mind!

November and December

We had the Swimming Gala and we had a winner in Connor Ramsden finishing first in the Free style race, well done Connor:

December saw Akela organising a Hike around Fleet pond, inviting Family and friends to tag along with us and raise funds for our Cub Camp in the coming May. Apart from the Christmas Fayres and parties, not a lot happened!

February

was the month where we practiced for up and coming competitions. First up was the Chess competition. Our "Grand Master" was missing so Joseph Middleton stepped up to the plate. He hadn't been playing all that long however the enthusiasm was there. After his initial round his nerves faded he started to play really well, remembering that to Check mate your opponent was far more rewarding than trying to take your best pieces. His semi final round saw him defeat his opponent in six moves!

Unfortunately, his nerves got the better of him and he ran out of time in the final with fewer pieces than his opponent. Well done Joseph: Also in February, we took the Cubs to Lightwater Country Park where the cubs learnt about survival skills. They learnt how to build a shelter from using materiel gathered in the woodland and build a fire using bark and dried grass. They also learnt how to put it out again afterwards.



March

March was George Duvall time and this year we entered the competition, well done boys. Our Saturday performances were very good, seeing us sing the Classic "We Will Rock You" by Queen and the Baja Boys "Who Let the Dogs Out"? Both nights were rewarding but because of commitments else where our numbers were fewer than we would have liked. Never Mind, there is always next year!

April

April saw a two week break that normally came after the Easter Festival. We took this opportunity to visit Rowhill Nature Reserve in Aldershot, the beginnings of the Blackwater Valley river. The Guided walk was about an hour long, teaching us about the different terrains and why some areas had trees and others didn't. It's all in the history books you know and, as Aldershot being a military town, you couldn't ask for a better training ground for horses. I am not sure I will be rushing to put my head down a hole to find out if it is a Badger or foxes home!

The latest event was the Cub's MasterChef competition, which took place at 1st Aldershot's HQ. The event was organised by Julie (Akela) and Steve (Baloo) from 1st Aldershot. The event was a roaring success partly thanks to the parents that put them selves out to get the cubs over and back to Aldershot for 2 weeks at short notice but mainly to the Cubs and Beavers that were well behaved and represented 2nd Farnborough eceptionaly. They all deserved their badges and I hope they have all started cooking your tea for you ate home? The quality of the cooking was superb and with only one point separating the winners from second place (all the other teams) it was a tremendous effort by all. We are hoping to be invited again next year.

May

We are preparing for the AGM and Cub camp, Phew where has the year gone?



Debbie Middleton

AKELA