



Scouting Around the World

APRIL 2013

National Capital Area Council International Committee

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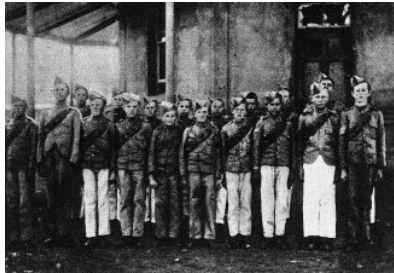
http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988

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 date: May 16, 2013

Newsletter editor: John Scheirer, Scouter8@verizon.net

BP Bits:



The Mafeking Cadet Corps was a group of boy cadets during the Siege of Mafeking in South Africa. They are sometimes seen as forerunners of the Scouts, because they were one of Robert Baden-Powell's inspirations in creating of the Scout movement in 1907. The siege of Mafeking took place over 217 days during the Second Boer War in 1899-1900. Robert Baden-Powell was the British colonel charged with defending the town. Because of the shortage of manpower in the town, boys were used to support the troops, carry messages, and help in the hospital. This freed up men for military duties, and kept the boys occupied. The cadets consisted of volunteer white boys below fighting age. Their leader was the 13 year old Warner Goodyear, who became their Sergeant-Major.

Collectors' Corner: Thanks again to Alan Shrives in the UK for this information.

The King's/Queen's Scout Award is the highest award available in the UK Scout Association's training scheme. It came about after B-P spent a weekend at Balmoral Castle in Scotland with the Royal Family in October 1910. B-P took the opportunity to explain more about Scouting. King Edward VII agreed to a special King's Scout award. Since 1934 there has been an annual parade and Royal Review of award holders at Windsor Castle. In 1967, the green badge was redesigned to be a brown diamond shaped badge. In 2003, the badge became blue.



KANDERSTEG 90th ANNIVERSARY - 2013 is the 90th Anniversary of Kandersteg International Scout Centre. They have special 90th Anniversary items on sale now! The special edition neckerchief is limited to 3000, so don't wait. <http://www.kisc.ch/shop/90-years-limited-edition/>

MORE ON SCOUTING IN AFGHANISTAN

Keith Blackey, a member of the Pacific Skyline Council International Committee, is on special assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan to help reestablish Scouting on a more strong footing in the country. He is working with a non-governmental organization called PARSA under grant funding from the US Department of State and private donors to help coordinate local, international, and US military support for Afghan Scouting, develop a financially sustainable and scalable infrastructure, develop Scout leader training, and cultivate a lasting foundation for the ongoing growth and success of the Scouting program in Afghanistan.



Scouting in Afghanistan falls under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, and PARSA was one of two NGOs tasked with restarting the Scouting movement. It currently has about 2000 Scouts - both boys and girls - organized in troops in ten provinces, plus 108 adult leaders. Many of the Scouts come from orphanages where the dire situation makes the Taliban an attractive alternative.

Founded in 1931 by King Mohammed Nader Khan, Afghan Scouting has a long history. By 1977, there were 36,000 Afghan Scouts participating in programs all over the country. However, Scouting was disbanded by the communist government in 1978 and the subsequent years of warfare and political upheaval have decimated the program.



Since his arrival, Keith has met with top officials from the Afghanistan Scout Association, the Ministry of Education, US Embassy, Coalition Forces, Afghan National Police Academy, Afghan Business Partnership, and the General Director of Orphanages for Afghanistan. In addition to organizing activities for the Scouts with potential sponsors such as the Police Academy, orphanages, and local business, Keith interfaces with the Scouts for Afghan Scouts, a community composed of US Embassy and multinational servicemen and women stationed in Afghanistan.