



2nd Nene Scout Group - Apollo Scout Troop NEWS LETTER 19 JULY 2010

APOLLO

Issue 19 July 2010

The term is drawing to a close and we are sure all the Scouts are looking forward their summer holidays. Since Easter we have had an action packed programme that has included the events described below. During this time we have had the benefit of mutual help, cooperation and joint activities with Challenger Troop, the Orton Explorer Scouts and Longthorpe Troop.

- **SWAN 60 Sailing Expedition**

From Apollo Troop: Scouts Jonathan, Tom, Becky and Paul plus Phil and Greg joined the 25 strong Peterborough contingent of Scouts, Explorers and Leaders to the 60th annual SWAN Norfolk Broads Sailing Expedition joining an expedition of 73 on 19 yachts for a week of sailing training adventure and exploration of The Broads. Jonathan gained his RYA Keelboat Start Sailing certificate with the others making progress towards the higher certificates. As with many Scouting activities the most benefit is gained from SWAN by participating over several years and progressing to take a position of responsibility. There were Explorer Scouts and Leaders on this year's expedition who as Scouts from Apollo troop started off as galley boys and now take responsibility as senior galley boys, mates, skippers and staff. It will be nice to see this year's Apollo contingent make the same progress. SWAN 61 is being arranged for 15th – 23rd April 2011, application forms will be out soon.

- **St Georges Day Parade**

A very smartly turned out contingent from Apollo Troop paraded in the city's annual St. George's Day Parade. A comment was received from an old ex Scout that Apollo Troop were showing others how Scouts should parade – well done. We were proud of our representatives carrying flags and those in the choir organised for the day by Gill Mason director of the Peterborough Gang Show. As always it would have been nice to have a lot more of the troop on parade.

- **Peterborough Scout and Guide Canoe Club**

As for many years Scouts from Apollo Troop have taken advantage of the Peterborough Scout and Guide Canoe club that meets at Milton Ferry Bridge from May through to the autumn to enjoy canoeing and progress through the BCU training scheme.

- **Cambridgeshire County Competition – Mepal**

Apollo and Challenger Troops joined forces with Scouts from Longthorpe and some of the Orton Explorers who had just gone to the unit from the troop to take part in the 2 days of competitions (including Canoeing, Boules, Catapulting, Archery, Climbing and “Blood and Gore”) organised by Cambridgeshire County at the Mepal Outdoor Centre with the joint Apollo Explorer team coming away with 4 trophies.

- **Cardington White Water Canoeing**

Scouts from Apollo Troop joined in with Challenger Troop to participate in the annual white water canoeing day on the man made course in a bend of the River Great Ouse in Priory Park Cardington. (Thanks to Graham and Dean from Challenger troop for taking them). As always everyone got soaking wet but had a good time.

- **Ferry Meadows Orienteering**

On a sunny Monday evening all the teams from the troop managed to find all the bases that they were challenged to find from the Ferry Meadows Orienteering course and win a sickly combination of sweets and chocolate.

- **Scouting Skill Weekend**

Scouts from Apollo Troop enjoyed the warm weekend of Scouting Skills organised by Challenger Troop.

- **Rowing Course Event**

On another fine Monday evening, six groups of Scouts went all the way round the Rowing Lake to find 4 bases. These included mini croquet and compass bearings. In addition they were provided with a doctored Ordnance Survey map. Could the Scouts find the differences between the map and reality? - not easily! Penalty points were deducted for every minute of a late return, resulting in one group having a negative score. We think everyone enjoyed the walk, on a warm summer evening.

- **Gang Show 2010**

Following a visit to a troop meeting by members of the production team, several members of Apollo Troop have passed the auditions to be in this year's show at The Key Theatre and are rehearsing for the performances (8th -13th November).

- **Sumer Hike and Lightweight Camp**

Over a very warm weekend in July, three groups of Explorers and Scouts hiked from Barnwell to the camp site at Wadenhoe. The ten Scouts with the help of 6 Explorers overseen by 6 Leaders and helpers navigated their way over 2 routes of about 14km. One group got slightly lost but not enough to miss the shop in Titchmarsh selling ice creams. The Scouts pitched their own tents and cooked their own meals before joining the Explorers again at the camp fire. After cooking their own breakfast and breaking camp on Sunday it was off for a short walk to Fermyn Woods near Brigstock for an exhausting time on the adventure play ground and climbing wall before being picked up to be taken home.

- **End of Term Wide Game and Barbecue**

We hope you enjoyed this evening’s wide game that has been put on for us by the Orton Explorer Unit.

These activities have taken a lot of organising and preparation by a committed team of leaders and helpers, thank you very much to all of those who have made the weekly meetings and extra activities happen.

Apollo Troop Membership

Since Easter the Troop has said “goodbye” to Nathan, Chris, Paul and Becky who have moved up to the Explorer Unit. We wish them all the best for the future and will continue to keep in contact with them through our joint meetings with the Orton Explorer Unit. Daniel, Tom and Hannah have all either just attained the age of 14 or are about to and will be moving on to Explorers in the near future. The Troop has welcomed Sam, who moved up from Cubs and Ben, who is joining Scouts for the first time. We hope they enjoy their time with Apollo Troop. Apollo Troop currently has 30 members.

Badges and Awards

During the term Camp Cook was awarded to Matthew, Andrew R, Jack, Andrew Z and Norman; Emergency Aid II to Matthew and Emergency Aid I and II to Andrew R, Jack, Andrew Z and Norman and Fire Safety to Matthew. These badges were achieved when they attended the Scouting Skills Weekend in May along with their Nights Away badges. Ben, Stephen, Andy, Norman and Jake have achieved their Athletics badges, which will be awarded shortly.

A big thank you is due to Glynis for keeping the records and chasing the Scouts to get their record books signed up.

Scouts: don’t forget to go through your Scout Record Book and Scout Badge Book to find skills and achievements (attained with Scouts or elsewhere) that you can get signed towards Badges and Awards. If you have another hobby, sport or activity find the most relevant badge in your book and ask a friendly expert (teacher, sports coach etc.) to sign it off and send a note with you to Glynis.

PLs and APLs

Due to vacancies created when some of our PLs moved up to Explorers, the patrols were re-shuffled after Easter and the following PLs and APLs renewed their Scout Promise and were awarded badges as follows:

- Eagles – Jack (PL), Emily (APL)
- Hawks – Ryan (PL), Jason (APL)
- Falcons – Hannah (PL), Andrew (APL)
- Kestrels – Jonathan (PL), Amara (APL)
- Owls – Daniel (PL), Matthew (APL)
- Ravens – Ben (PL), Thomas (APL)

Tesco and Sainsburys vouchers

Thanks to all who collected Tesco and Sainsburys vouchers this year and to Jack for counting them all. The orders have been sent away and include things like balls of various sizes and shapes (for indoor and outside use) and a couple of sets of rounders posts which will have several uses.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 21 st – Sun 22 nd August 2010.	GLIDING **** A few spaces may still be available
Monday 6 th September 2010.	First APOLLO meeting of the autumn term.
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 October 2010.	Half Term. <i>Note - OL School also closed Mon 1st Nov due to training day.</i>
Fri 29 th – Sun 31 st October 2010.	APOLLO/CHALLENGER Weekend Camp GRADBACH near Buxton
Mon 8 th - Sat 13 th November 2010.	Peterborough GANG SHOW 2010 http://www.peterboroughscouts.purplecloud.net/nene_scouts/?page_id=3
Monday 13 th December 2010.	Last APOLLO meeting of autumn term.
Fri 15 th – Sat 23 rd April 2011.	SWAN 61 – Sailing on Norfolk Broads

**** Details have already been issued about this Event.

Leadership, Parents and Supporters

We have appreciated the additional help from Emily & Stu Henderson and will be sad to see them move on at the end of term. We have been pleased to welcome back former Apollo Scout James who is now an Explorer and helping the troop as a young leader.

Help from parents and other adult supporters is always very much appreciated. If you would like to help with any future events please see one of the leaders. Please note that all over 18's taking part in Scout activities involving under 18's more than once every 28 days (currently under review) or overnight, must be CRB cleared by the Scout Association prior to helping regularly with activities. ***This is at no cost to you.*** Parents and supporters who would like to be CRB cleared for future activities please speak to one of the leaders or contact the Assistant Group Scout Leader Tim Burgess

tim.burgess100@ntlworld.com

NEW WEBSITE

We are please to announce the completion of our new website <http://www.2ndnenescouts.org.uk/>

If you have any comments please send them to 2ndnene@googlemail.com

The Nene District website address is <http://www.nenescouts.org.uk/>

Further information can also be obtained by contacting one of the leaders shown below.

Troop Meetings - Just as a reminder - We try to have the HQ open by 6:55pm

Scouts are asked to:

- Arrive for troop meeting in time to register and pay subscriptions before opening parade, inspection and flag break at 7:15pm.
- Notify their Patrol Leader if they will not be attending (Only Patrol Leaders should contact leaders directly).
- Be on parade (standing quietly at their place in "the horseshoe" at 7:15pm wearing full smart uniform (or dressed appropriately for a special activity when notified). **Some Scouts keep their Scout Uniform and neckerchief smart from one week to the next and always look well turned out while disappointingly there are others who's neckerchief appears never to have been ironed.**
- Bring along a change of clothes for inside and outside activities (including coat and footwear). We will try to give notice of outside activities but sometimes we have to take advantage of favourable conditions at short notice. (There are still Scouts who come to troop meetings without a sweater and coat and are surprised if part of the meeting may be out of doors). **There are several Scouts who consistently do not bring a change of clothes, sweater and coat which at certain times of the year means that they are cold and or wet if we decide to go outside on troop night.**
- Get changed after Flag Break (Girls in the ladies toilets, Boys in their Patrol Corner), pack uniform away tidily into a bag and store it in the fixtures provided for each patrol.
- Get changed back into uniform for flag down and prayers at the end of the meeting.
- Take note of notices and pass on notices to the appropriate person at home.

Leaders should be available to talk to parents and welcome new members from approximately 7:45pm once registration and opening ceremonies are out of the way and the main activities are under way or after flag down.

Parent / Carer Emergency Contacts

We have emergency contact details for all members. If your contact details change or if they will be different during a troop meeting please can you send along a note with any changes (indicating if permanent or for how long they apply) so that the records can be updated or the temporary details held on file.

Happy Summer Holidays
Greg & Phil

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