



Scouting Around the World

MARCH 2013

National Capital Area Council International Committee

Committee Chairman: Chuck Davidson
703-339-5349 chuck.nita@cox.net

Staff Advisor: Don Durbin
301-214-9188 don.durbin@scouting.org

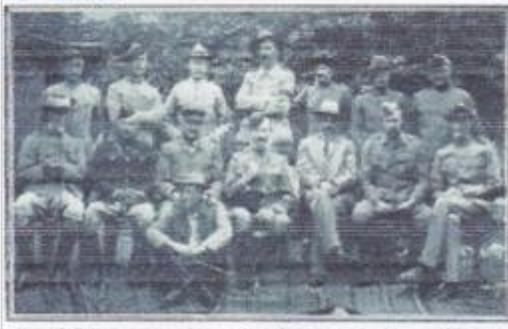
http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKeys=17085&orgkey=1988

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: March 21, 2013

Newsletter editor: John Scheirer, Scouter8@verizon.net

BP Bits:



Baden-Powell and staff at Mafeking

The Mafeking forces comprised the Protectorate Regiment of around 500 men, around 300 from the Bechuanaland Rifles and the Cape Police, and a further 300 men from the town. A cadet corps of boys aged 12 to 15, later to be one of the inspirations for the Scouting Movement, was also formed to react as messengers and orderlies. The recruitment of these cadets released men to fight, bringing the total engaged in the military effort to around 2000. Even though it was supposed to be a "white man's war" Baden-Powell also armed 300 African natives with rifles. They were nicknamed the "Black Watch" and used to guard the perimeter. Although outnumbered by over 8,000 Boer troops, the garrison withstood the siege for 217 days, defying the predictions of the politicians on both sides.

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

Since 1989, the UK Scout Association has allowed interested companies and organizations to sponsor an activity (merit) badge. For an undisclosed sum, the sponsor can have their logo added to the badge for a fixed period (from 6 months to several years). There have been over 100 different sponsors making them an interesting challenge to collect. The policy remains controversial, with many complaining that the logos compromise the badge design.



Check out the new Official World Scout Store run by the UK Scout organization. The website is www.worldscoutships.com

Afghan Scouts engage in community work



It was a good surprise for more than 150 families living in caves in Bamyan Province, eastern Afghanistan when a group of young Afghan Scouts distributed winter clothes on 29th January 2013. The months of December to March are the winter months in Afghanistan and the clothes given to them was such a warm relief. Approximately, there are 400 families living in the caves of Bamyan from its 400,000 total population who are mostly refugees. PARSA was grateful to the Boy Scouts of America (Troop 463) for collecting and shipping clothes to Afghanistan which was about 1200 kilos, from five schools and other institutions in the United States. Presently, PARSA has 1,063 active boys and girls from six provinces around the country who are actively participating in regular Scout activities. Since 2009, PARSA has been in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and WOSM/Asia-Pacific Region in providing Scouting to children and young people in orphanages mainly in Kabul and in other provinces of Afghanistan.

Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip Introduced



The National Radio Scouting Committee is pleased to announce that the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee has approved the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for wear on youth and adult uniforms. This rating strip recognizes the member's availability as an amateur radio operator for communication services for events and activities as well as for emergencies.

All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid amateur radio license, of any class, issued by the Federal Communications Commission are eligible to wear the rating strip. The Supply order number is 617431.

The rating strip is worn on the right sleeve, in position 3 or 4, under the U.S. flag (position 1), patrol emblem or den emblem (position 2). If a unit award is present in position 3, the rating strip is worn in position 4.

This rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator Badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the recently introduced badge by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by BSA in the 1940s.