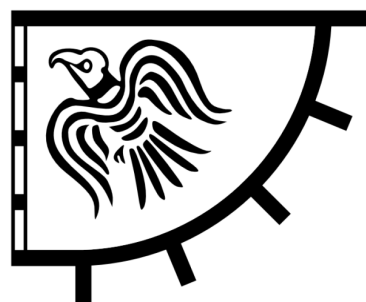


Key 7 Staff Meeting Schedule

7:00pm	Call to Order (ASM Program) Course Overview (Course Director)	8:15pm	15 minutes for staff to covet Mark's organizational skills
7:10pm	Hey, wait ... weren't we supposed to start at 7:15?	8:30pm	Troop Guide Presentations (ASM Troop Guides)
7:15pm	SPL arrives Call to Re-Order (ASM Program)	8:45pm	Overview of commune that Troop Guides will have to live in to get all pre-course work completed
7:20pm	Participant & Staff Update (Course Director)	9:00pm	Scribe Report (Scribe)
7:30pm	Wait ... what? No toys tonight? Huh.	9:05pm	<i>Gilwell Gazette</i> first issue distributed (Scribe)
7:45pm	Program Overview (ASM Program)	9:06pm	Removal of Course Director's hands from Scribe throat
7:50pm	ASM Program hands out world's largest spreadsheet	9:20pm	Quartermaster Report (Quartermaster)
8:00pm	Break (need more Billy Bread & olive oil)	9:45pm	"Parking Lot" issues & Start-Stop-Continue Closing
8:10pm	Scribes blind staff by taking 157 pictures in 5 minutes.	10:00pm	Real meeting takes place in actual parking lot



The Raven Banner

In future editions of the *Gilwell Gazette* you'll see descriptions of different historical American flags that are used in the course. So what early flag are we to use in this pre-pre-course edition?

The Raven Banner shown above was a flag flown by various Viking chieftains and other Scandinavian rulers during the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries. The flag was roughly triangular, with a rounded outside edge on which there hung a series of tabs or tassels. It bore a resemblance to ornately carved "weather-vanes" used aboard Viking longships.

Although disagreement exists, it is frequently assumed that the very first flag to fly in America was the Raven banner of the Vikings, the first Europeans to discover and settle (though not permanently) in North America. It was also used by Leif Ericsson when he discovered America in AD 1000.

Studio Seeks to Block SR966 Use of Harry Potter Sorting Hat

Continued from A1

However not everyone is on board with the new patrol assignment method. Warner Brothers Entertainment, the studio behind the multi-million dollar Harry Potter movie franchise, has been in touch with the Sorting Hat's agent, stating the Hat's contract with the studio for the full run of Potter movies prevents it from helping SR966.

"We have an exclusive contract with the Hat, which prevents it from accepting any outside performance work until the last of the movies is in the can," said a spokesman from the studio's legal department. "Which

should be sometime around summer 2015."

A statement released last week by the Sorting Hat's agent, Dewey, Cheatem and Howe, disputes the studio's claims, saying the "exclusivity clause only applies to other films"

In expectation that the issue will be resolved, the Hat has been practicing calling out the names of the patrols preparation for his new role.

"I'm having trouble with the second one, the, the Bob-Bobwhite Patrol," the Hat stut-teringly confessed. "Worst case scenario, I suppose I could just use Slytherin for them instead."

Are You a Real Scouter?

Here are some signs that you just might be taking Scouting a little too seriously (like that's really possible for a Wood Badger):

- You buy that '89 Chevy Caprice because you really like that fleur-de-lis hood ornament
- You decide to lash together the new deck on the back of your house
- You serve foil pack meals at your dinner party
- Your radio is always tuned to the weather station
- You always have hat hair
- You horde tent stakes
- You carry your own toilet paper wherever you go
- You always have a cup hooked to your belt
- You order pizzas 14 at a time
- All of your shirts have pin holes in them
- Your favorite cologne? Deep Woods Off.
- You have something on your shoe
- You're sure it's only mud
- Everything in your cupboard says "Instant ... Just Add Water"
- You really do use those emergency sewing kits
- You felt you won a moral victory when the BSA brought back knee socks
- The first thing you did with your new knife was cut yourself
- You see a pile of rocks and immediately put them in a circle
- You have a collection of used candles and dryer lint
- Someone asks for a volunteer and you find that your hand is already in the air
- You wear two pairs of socks to bed
- You can stare at a spider web for an hour and not notice the time passing by
- Your backpack weighs more than you do
- You always read by flashlight
- You DO need those stinking badges!
- You have the urge to help little old ladies ... whether they want you to or not
- You manage to find that 8th day in the week
- Singing Scout Vespers makes you cry uncontrollably
- "Scouting is only one hour a week" makes total sense to you now that you understand that there are 1,000 "Scout weeks" in a "Scout Year"

"All the News
That Fits"

SORTING HAT HAS NEW
JOB SELECTING SR966
WOOD BADGE PATROLS

STUDIO SEEKS TO BLOCK

By CATHERINE HARDING

LONDON — The exact method of assigning Wood Badge participants to their patrols has long been a topic of campfire discussion amongst staffers. But while past courses have used such old fashioned methods as dart boards, magic eight balls, drawing straws, or even going so far as to consider the individual scouters and their backgrounds, the leaders of SR966 are looking at an innovative way to make the decision that can make or break a participant's Wood Badge experience.

After recently reviewing the first Harry Potter movie, 'Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone', on cable television, SR966 Course Director Craig Britt made a phone call.

"I ordered a large pepperoni pizza, breadsticks, and a two liter bottle of Diet Coke," Britt said. Then he wrote a letter.

"I figured, if the (Sorting) Hat can already group people so well, why shouldn't we use it? I mean, KISMIF, right?"

Britt sent the letter to the Sorting Hat in the traditional wizard-ly way: by Owl. Conflicting sources name either Rowland Creamer or Felicia Ferrigno as the courier.

"I was surprised when the message arrived," said the Hat in an interview by phone. "But it seems a very natural fit for me. Of course, instead of only four houses to choose from, there are eight patrols. But after 1000 years, I welcome a chance to expand my repertoire, even if it is a Muggle event."

Continued on A8

OPINION A2

Too much fun?

KISMIF is the theme for the course this year but does all the fun take away from the seriousness needed for the course?



JOE PHOTOGRAPHER / GILWELL GAZETTE

**Record SR966 Registrations Merit
Presidential Fact-Finding Visit****Obama to Appoint Britt to Head New Cabinet Post for
"Department of Signing People Up for Things"**

By STEVE HUTCHINSON

RICHMOND — President Barack Obama made a surprise trip to Richmond to meet with key staff from Wood Badge Course SR966 and praise the successful recruiting effort spearheaded by Course Director Craig Britt. Mr. Britt and his staff have just completed a very successful recruiting drive which saw the popular Wood Badge course fill to capacity 165 days before it is scheduled to begin in September. The President was very impressed.

"My aides tell me that Craig here was able to fill the 48 open slots in less than three months. This is a man who truly gets what it means to know hope."

Mr. Britt responded to questions about his recruiting process and shared with the President his governing philosophy of KISMIF: Keep it Simple, Make it Fun. Mr. Britt explained what this meant.

"We try to keep it simple and make it fun."

SCOUTING LORE A6

Patrol Totems

We give them sentimental, nostalgic and imaginary meaning. Wood Badge participants use them to mark their correspondence and notes.

LIFESTYLE A7

What do the stars tell us?

See what the immediate future has in store for you with our Wood Badge horoscopes we call the Critterscopes!

Key Staff Edition

Today, Colder today with clouds rolling in this afternoon, high 62. Tonight, thickening clouds and possible rain, low 41. Tomorrow, sunny and warmer, high 68.

Haikudu Monday
Ignites Statewide
Poetry Craze

Wood Badge Blog Sparks
17 Syllable Renaissance

By STEVE HUTCHINSON

966 blog introduced a new item that is now a hit.

It asked its readers to be very creative and write poetry.

First five syllables, then seven syllables more, then finish with five.

Harder then it sounds to create these small poems and follow the rules.

But many people have written these haikudus, as they are called now.

Some who have written are not those you would think of as being poets.

Ron Alexander, for instance, has written one and so has Craig Britt.

They post on Monday to the 966 blog where they can be read.

It's a lot of fun and you should try it yourself at least just one time.

No need to rhyme them for rhyming's not required just follow the beat.

We'll look for your post The next time we go online. Hope to see yours there!

Email your haikudus to:
haiku@sr966.org

Get social with us online!

- http://sr966.org
- http://twitter.com/sr966
- http://tinyurl.com/fb-sr966
- scribe@sr966.org

The Gilwell Gazette

CRAIG BRITT, SR966 Course Director

Founded in 1976

- BILL HUDSON, (1976)
- KENNY DAVIS, (1978)
- JIM COCHRAN, SE-422 (1986)
- TED MAJEWSKI, SE-499 (1989)
- GEORGE CRUTCHFIELD, SE-547 (1990)
- JIM COCHRAN, SE-594 (1992)
- BETTY COCHRAN, SR058 (1994)
- MIKE OXFORD, SR172 (1996)
- JOE PEACE, SR267 (1998)
- BOB RASMUSSEN, SR373 (2000)
- JOHN TURNER, SR501 (2002)
- STUART DUNN, SR604 (2003)
- RANDY HARRIS, SR677 (2005)
- GARY BRYANT, SR769 (2006)
- KARREN STREAGLE, SR809 (2007)
- CHUCK SMITH, SR917 (2008)

The Scribe Staff

- STEVE HUTCHINSON, Scribe & TechnoGeek
- CATHERINE HARDING, Associate Scribe & Wildlife Photographer
- STEVE BUSIC, Associate Scribe & Chaperone

The Business Management

- MARK LARSON, Asst. Scoutmaster for Program
- BILL EGGLESTON, Asst. Scoutmaster for Support
- CHARLOTTE PEMBERTON, Asst. Scoutmaster for Troop Guides
- CHUCK NORRIS, Asst. Scoutmaster for Awesomeness
- SCOTT STREET, Senior Patrol Leader
- EVERETT WINN, ASPL & Chaplain's Aide
- PHILLIP MUMFORD, Professional Staff Advisor
- KARREN STREAGLE, Course Mentor

The Quartermaster Staff

- HARRY DAVIS, Friendly Quartermaster
- MIKE ANDREW, Quartermaster Staff
- GREG BRESSON, Quartermaster Staff
- REY HALLION, Quartermaster Staff

The Troop Guides

- KEITH DOWLER, Beaver Patrol
- ROBIN CHANDLER, Bobwhite Patrol
- JOHN LONG, Eagle Patrol
- RON ALEXANDER, Fox Patrol
- SHAWN COFFEY, Owl Patrol
- CINDY MORRIS, Bear Patrol
- JEFF DEHOFF, Buffalo Patrol
- LES THORPE, Antelope Patrol

Welcome to the Gazette for the 21st Century

On behalf of the Scribe staff we welcome you to this first edition of the *Gilwell Gazette* for Wood Badge Course SR966. We've made a few changes from the standard Gazette format of the past which we hope are viewed positively and will help to support the two primary goals of any good newspaper: to inform and to entertain.

The SR966 *Gazette* has a modern standard format that will be followed with every issue. It will contain a balanced mix of actual course event reporting and pre-written informational stories with plenty of space for some fun and games.

The front page will be home to three or four reports of the previous day's events. So in Day 2's issue you might find stories on the participants' arrival, the Blue & Gold banquet, and the instructional campfire. Some of these articles may spill on to the back page.

Page A2 that you're on now holds the course staff masthead, letters to the editor from staff or participants, one or two personal "editorial" messages from the staff to the participants, and a guest column on some topic.

Page A3 will be the home for the patrol reports. Each patrol will need to submit an article of 100-125 words at the end of each day for inclusion in the next day's *Gazette*. Patrols not submitting re-

ports risk having the Scribe staff write one for them (be afraid ... very, very afraid).

Pages A4 and A5 will display pictures from the previous day. The Gazette is designed to be a news source during the course but is also a historical record to look back on after the course is over.

Page A6 is titled "Scouting Lore" and will contain articles about the history of the Wood Badge course, inspirational words from Scouting's leaders past and present, little-known information about the Scouting program, and any other articles related to Scouting or Scouters.

Page A7 is called Lifestyles but could just as easily be titled "the KISMIF page" as it contains humor and games to keep the participants from becoming too serious. Everyday we'll have a crossword puzzle that contains some SR966 information and our own brand of horoscope that we call Critterscopes.

The back page, A8, will hold the day's schedule and other important course-related information needed for that day.

The Scribe staff firmly believes that feedback is a gift so we encourage you to share with us your thoughts on the new *Gazette* by sending an email to scribe@sr966.org

Remember ... keep it simple, make it fun!

Editorial Observer / STEVE HUTCHINSON

Keeping it Simple, Making it Fun

I'm sure by now everyone's heard that Craig has established the motto of "keep it simple, make it fun" as our governing principle for SR966. The key staff has certainly had a lot of fun with it over the past few months and have the slinkys and matchbox cars to prove it. We're even writing weekly haikus.

But why should that be important with an instructional course that's meant to represent the pinnacle of Scout leader training? Do the jokes, humor,

and tomfoolery take away from the seriousness of what should be a "mountaintop experience" for its participants? The answer is a resounding 'no.'

To explain that answer, we can look at own Wood Badge experiences and think about the elements that made them once-in-a-lifetime events.

Without a doubt, the classes, course material, presentations, and staff preparation for SR501 in 2002 was first class and certainly made the training both

pertinent to my position and valuable to my Scouting career.

However, it was the personal connections that made the course an experience that I will never forget. My fellow Antelope patrol members are now lifelong friends who I see all too infrequently. A good part of that camaraderie was forged while we banded together to do silly things during the course.

And who was providing the model for that behavior? It was the staff. As participants, we

Wants to Join the Fun

To the Editor:

I wanted to express my extreme disappointment on discovering that the SR966 course was full and that I would need to wait until 2011 to get in the next course. I blame your recruiting efforts for that.

Why did you guys raise the bar so high? Why did you make it appear to be so much fun? If you had just phoned it in there might still be room for me but, no, you had to go and get an enthusiastic staff that believed in the program and could eloquently describe the benefits. Shame on you!

Oh well, only about 24 more months to wait.

JOE SCOUT

Richmond, Va., April 15, 2009

To the Editor:

I'm one of the ever-growing number of people on the waiting list but far enough down that I probably won't get to attend. However, I thought I might try to think of some other activities I could participate in that would equal the experience I would have received in SR966.

Unfortunately, skydiving provided the thrill but not the camaraderie. A trip to Carnivale in Brazil provided the fun but not the Scouting tradition. A semester at Oxford provided the educational experience but not the outdoor camping.

I guess there's nothing to compare with the experience of a true Wood Badge course. I can't wait for 2011!

IMA SCOUTER

Ashland, Va., April 20, 2009

The 5th Wave



Lifestyles

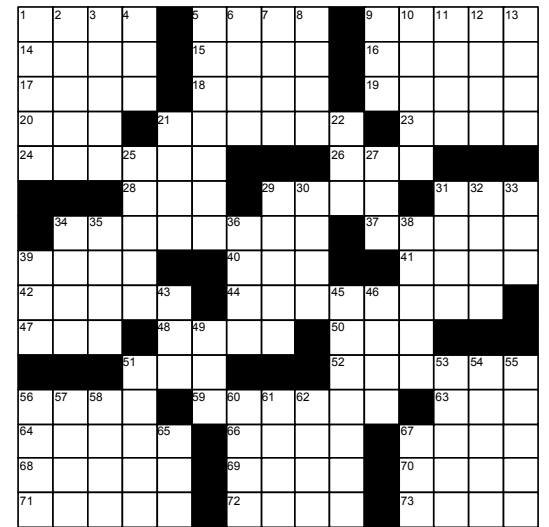
The Gilwell Gazette

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

Today's Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Varsity unit
- 5 Boy Scout rank
- 9 Monastery superior
- 14 Detest
- 15 Volume
- 16 Cover
- 17 Against
- 18 National capital
- 19 Italian city
- 20 Sickly
- 21 Made angry
- 23 Slant
- 24 Bench
- 26 Entrance rug
- 28 BP's Stetson
- 29 Prego's competition
- 31 Doctoral degree
- 34 Horizontal bar
- 37 Sticky
- 39 Open tart-like pastry
- 40 Evening
- 41 Meager
- 42 Relinquish
- 44 Person sensitive to art



DOWN

- 1 Thailand dwellers
- 2 Catherine Harding's patrol
- 3 Tipped
- 4 Women's partners
- 5 More than one Scott
- 6 Blow the kudu horn
- 7 Ammunition
- 8 Shallow area
- 9 Admiral (abbr.)
- 10 Course Director
- 11 Indonesian island
- 12 Opaque gem
- 13 Home for 2nd WB weekend
- 21 Salty water masses
- 22 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 25 Bead hanger
- 27 August (abbr.)
- 29 Nevermore WB patrol
- 30 Greek god of war
- 31 Haikudo writer
- 32 Not there
- 33 Change color
- 34 Disgust with excess
- 35 Seldom
- 36 Charlotte
- 38 Alpha Phi
- 45 Hunters
- 46 Huckleberry Finn's nickname
- 49 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 51 _____ Phi
- 53 Peculiarity
- 54 Humor
- 55 What you raise in poker
- 56 U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 57 Klondike derby vehicle
- 58 Crimp
- 60 Leer at
- 61 BP's war
- 62 Domain
- 65 Number of beads worn by BP
- 67 Explosive



Ask Chuck Norris

Our ASM for Awesomeness answers your questions about life, the universe, and everything

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could Chuck Norris?

All of it.

What's one fact that people would be surprised to know about you?

I have the greatest poker face of all time. I won the 1983 World Series of Poker, despite holding only a Joker, a Get Out of Jail Free Monopoly card, the 2 of clubs, the 7 of spades and a green #4 UNO card.

What is your drink of choice on a campout?

Definitely coffee. I grind the beans with my teeth and boil the water with my own rage.

What about camping food? Do you catch your own game?

Yes. Some people like frog legs but I prefer lizard legs. That's why we have snakes now.

Scouting Lore

The Gilwell Gazette

WOOD BADGE ELEMENTS

Patrol Totems Forge Patrol Spirit

What is a totem? The dictionary says it is an animal, plant, or natural object that is associated with a clan or smaller group of a tribe, and is regarded by the members of the group as a protector or sacred ancestor.

A well executed Wood Badge totem may include but is not limited to the following elements: patrol animal, course date, course number, location of the course, easily drawn by hand, simplicity, unifying symbol of something all patrol members shared in or remember, some indicator of individual patrol members.



The First Scoutmasters' Course at Gilwell Park, September, 1919 Baden-Powell is seated center in the front row. Stuart Dunn is sitting on the ground far right.

The History of Wood Badge

On the morning of September 8, 1919, nineteen men dressed in short pants and knee socks, their shirt-sleeves rolled up, assembled by patrols for the first Scoutmasters' training camp held at Gilwell Park in Epping Forest, outside London, England. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a 61 year-old retired general of the British Army and the founder of the World Scouting Movement.

When they had finished their training together, Baden-Powell gave each man a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a Zulu chieftain's deserted hut when on campaign in South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continued to be held year-after-year. At the end of each course the wooden beads were used to recognize the completion of training. When the original beads ran out, new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge Course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as the advanced training course for leaders in Scouting.

At the time of the first course, Baden-Powell presented a Kudu Horn he captured during the Matabele War of 1896 to Gilwell Park. Its deep booming sound (when played with skill and no small amount of courage) would summon course members to assemblies and activities and was used in courses there for many years.

Baden-Powell would use this same horn to open the 3rd

World Jamboree held at Arrows Park, Birkenhead, England in 1929. The Jamboree was known as the "Coming of Age" Jamboree as it celebrated 21 years since the foundation of the Scouting Movement. A Kudu Horn is used today by many advanced leadership courses in Scouting down to the current day.

Although an experimental course was conducted in 1936, Wood Badge training was officially inaugurated in the United States in 1948. Since that time it has grown and developed and become a key motivating force in the training of volunteer leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

For 10 years, Wood Badge courses were conducted by the Boy Scouts of America exclusively for the purpose of training representatives from councils in methods of training and how to help with the leadership training programs of their own councils. Participants were required to subscribe to an agreement of service to this effect.

Since 1958, qualified local councils have been authorized to conduct their own Wood Badge courses to provide advanced leadership training for Scoutmasters and those Scouters who support troop operations. With regional approval, two or more local councils may also cooperate in conducting this training experience in a cluster-council Wood Badge course.

A new version of advanced leadership training, 21st Century Wood Badge, was introduced in 2003. Wood Badge continues to provide advanced training in the most current methods of the Boy Scouts of America.

DID YOU KNOW?

Original 1919 Wood Badge Course Taught in Latin

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec semper, ligula 1919 ut condimentum sagittis, massa lectus dignissim ipsum, Robert Baden-Powell a adipiscing nibh dolor sit amet justo. Pelentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Ut a enim. Suspendisse gravida 1927 sodales eros. Donec iaculis. Nunc urna nisi, congue sed, imperdiet adipiscing, egestas nec, augue.

Aenean sit amet nisi. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Vivamus ut magna ut ligula egestas ultrices. Sed in turpis in lectus dignissim sollicitudin. Quisque turpis. Donec luctus placerat quam. Suspendisse justo. Integer vel massa. Proin in lacus. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Proin nulla odio, facilisis non, pelentesque eget, sodales a, nibh. Maecenas eget diam.

Wood Badge Was Almost "Jaunty Tassel Course"

When Gilwell Park was purchased for the Scout Movement in 1919 and formal Leader Training introduced, Baden-Powell felt that 'Scout Officers' (as they were then called) who completed a training course, should receive some form of recognition. Originally he envisaged that those who passed through Gilwell should wear an ornamental tassel on their Scout hats but instead the alternative of two small beads attached to lacing on the hat or to a coat button-hole was instituted and designated the Wood Badge.

Very soon the wearing of beads on the hat was discontinued and instead they were strung on a leather thong or bootlace around the neck, a tradition that continues to this day.

Patrol Reports

The Gilwell Gazette



BEAVER PATROL

Beavers are two primarily nocturnal, semi-aquatic species of rodent, one native to North America and one to Eurasia. They are known for building dams, canals, and lodges (homes). They are the second-largest rodent in the world (after the capybara). Their colonies create one or more dams to provide still, deep water to protect against predators, and to float food and building material. The North American beaver population was once more than 60 million, but as of 1988 was 6-12 million. This population decline is due to extensive hunting for fur, for glands used as medicine and perfume, and because their harvesting of trees and flooding of waterways may interfere with other land uses.



BOBWHITE PATROL

The Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Quail or (in its home range) Bobwhite Quail (Colinus virginianus) is a ground-dwelling bird native to North America and northern Central America and the Caribbean. It is a member of the group of species known as New World quails (Odontophoridae). They were initially placed with the Old World quails in the pheasant family (Phasianidae), but are not particularly closely related. The name "bobwhite" derives from its characteristic whistling call. The Northern Bobwhite's song is a rising, clear whistle, *bob-White!* or *bob-bob-White!* The call is most often given by males in spring and summertime. Other vocalizations include a range of squeaky whistles.



EAGLE PATROL

Eagles are large birds of prey which are members of the bird family Accipitridae, and belong to several genera which are not necessarily closely related to each other. Most of the more than 60 species occur in Eurasia and Africa. Outside this area, just two species (the Bald and Golden Eagles) can be found in the USA and Canada, nine more in Central and South America, and three in Australia.

Eagles are differentiated from other birds of prey mainly by their larger size, more powerful build, and heavier head and bill. Most eagles are larger than any other raptors apart from the vultures.

Eagles build their nests, called eyries, in tall trees or on high cliffs.



FOX PATROL

A fox is an animal belonging to any one of about 27 species (of which only 12 actually belong to the *Vulpes* genus, or 'true foxes') of small to medium-sized canids, characterized by possessing a long, narrow snout, and a bushy tail, or brush. By far the most common and widespread species of fox is the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), although various species are found on almost every continent. The presence of fox-like carnivores all over the globe has led to their appearance in both popular culture and folklore.

The Modern English "fox" is Old English, and comes from the Proto-Germanic word *fukh* which means "tail of it" and refers to the up and down "bounce" or flickering of its tail.



OWL PATROL

The Strigiformes (Owls) are an order of birds of prey, comprising 200 extant species. Most are solitary, and nocturnal, with some exceptions (e.g. the Burrowing Owl). Owls mostly hunt small mammals, insects, and other birds, though a few species specialize in hunting fish. They are found in all regions of the Earth except Antarctica, most of Greenland, and some remote islands. Though owls are typically solitary, the literary collective noun for a group of owls is a parliament.

Owls have large forward-facing eyes and ear-holes, a hawk-like beak, a flat face, and usually a conspicuous circle of feathers around each eye called a facial disc. Their large eyes are fixed in their sockets.



BEAR PATROL

Bears are mammals of the family Ursidae. Bears are classified as caniforms, or doglike carnivores. Although there are only eight living species of bear, they are widespread, appearing in a wide variety of habitats throughout the Northern Hemisphere and partially in the Southern Hemisphere. That which pertains to bears is called ursine. Bears are found in the continents of North America, South America, Europe, and Asia.

Common characteristics of modern bears include a large body with stocky legs, a long snout, shaggy hair, paws with five claws, and a short tail.

Most bears are omnivorous, with largely varied diets including both plants and animals.



BUFFALO PATROL

The buffalo (actually American Bison) once inhabited the grasslands of North America and Asia in massive herds, ranging from the Great Slave Lake in Canada's far north, through the United States to Mexico in the south, and from eastern Oregon almost to the Atlantic Ocean. American Bison are one of the largest species of cattle in the world, surpassed in size only by the massive Asian gaur and Wild Asian Water Buffalo, both of which are found mainly in India and Southeast Asia. It is also the largest extant land animal in North America.

A bison has a shaggy, dark brown winter coat, and a lighter weight, lighter brown summer coat. Bison can reach up to 6.6 ft tall, and weigh up to 2,000 lbs.



ANTELOPE PATROL

The species depicted on the BSA Antelope patch, native to western and central North America, is known as the pronghorn antelope but is not officially in the same family as the true antelope shown above. It is the only surviving member of the family Antilocapridae.

Each "horn" of the pronghorn is composed of a slender, laterally flattened blade of bone that grows from the frontal bones of the skull. Skin covers the bony cores, but in the pronghorn it develops into a sheath which is shed and regrown on an annual basis. These sheaths are branched, each possessing a tine, hence the name pronghorn.

Generally accepted to be the fastest land mammal in the New World (top speed 86 km/h).



Today's Photos

The Gilwell Gazette



What could be more fun than a Slinky?



Why is this man smiling?



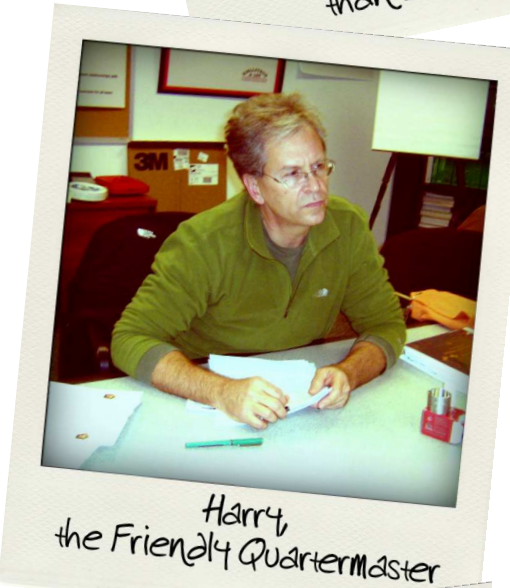
Our Course Mentor (is it the Beaver or Karren?)



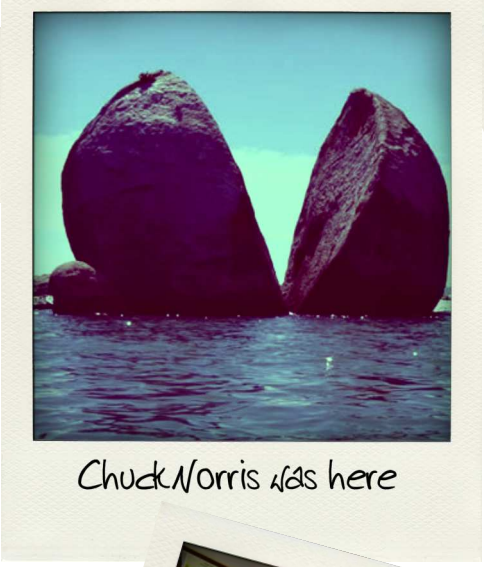
Phillip is our Professional Staff Advisor



Our Scribe needs a haircut



Harry, the Friendly Quartermaster



Chuck Norris was here



Charlotte is AS4 for Troop Guides



Ferris Wheel



Catherine... Wildlife Photographer



Meeting of the Brain Trust



Bill's looking good in that mango shirt



I can kill you with this Slinky!



It's Flava Street!!!



The man with the plan



Mark's got the program covered



Bringing the Gazette to life