



Pioneer Troop, Camp Ewok, Out of Africa, May 2004 .

The objective of the camp was to build a bivvi over the period of the weekend to house 4 scouts, 3 cubs, and 5 adults, we found several designs from a Ray Mears book and after careful planning we found a communal design which was built in a circle around some 20 trees. Axes and saws were swiftly bought into use and the occasion used for the cubs present to pass their Scout hand axe and knife badge.

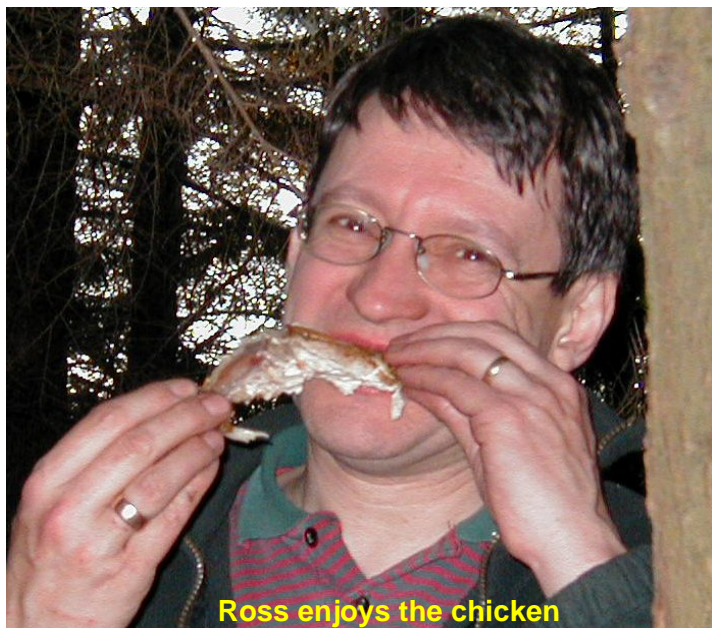
Leaders provided brute force. Johnny Walter built the campfire in the centre of the circle and home was quickly established. The large bivvi was swiftly named the Ewok village. Sleeping bags and bed rolls were distributed about the cosy camp.

District commissioner Peter Johnson and his wife Jean visited the camp Saturday night and stayed for dinner. As the night drew in the sparks from the fire, the stars and the moon made it a strange but attractive sight

Food was cooked on the central campfire and included mackerel, chicken and broth. The scouts and cubs had to follow a navigation course about the ranges to collect the food that was to be cooked.



Gareth removes a tree



Ross enjoys the chicken

Scouts own on the Sunday morning was held under the trees with a guest from the Baptist church. Ken Frost, the MOD Warden, inspected the camp shortly afterwards. Always a welcome figure, Ken provides a friendly liaison with the MOD.

The Cubs and Scouts were ready to go home in the afternoon, but little did they know, the construction that we put all our hard work and effort into had to be taken down and left neat and tidy and the fire had to be put out and soaked. Only then we could home. An excellent camp and an exceptional bivouac construction.

THE COOT



HASTINGS WOLF CUB PACK, CAMP OWL June 2004-07-10

Eight Cubs from Hastings Pack enjoyed a weekend camp at Bentley Copse Scout Campsite near Shere in Surrey. The site is home to several owls and in the early days of the site, during the 1920s, a Scout carved numerous wooden owls that can be seen about the site today: hence the name of this camp.



Minibus major, "Cubette", and minibus minor, the latter now nicknamed "Matt" after certain paintwork, carried the intrepid Cubs and their leaders to "The Barn" where they stayed for the weekend. Toilets, showers, kitchen and mattresses were all provided so the going was not too rough.

Leaders and Cubs enjoyed good weather over the weekend. A nature hike was conducted, pedal go-karts were raced and the tuck shop was raided.

THE COOT



The Cubs were well behaved throughout, smartly turned out in uniform and a credit to their Group, Pack and parents.

PIONEER TROOP SLEEPOVER



Scouts from Pioneer Troop indulged hot soup, camp cake, toast and jam for supper and a full English breakfast this weekend at the Hut.

As a diversion to the culinary delights at hand, the road signs at the entrance to the recreation ground were cleaned, some grass was strimmed, Minibus minor had a lick of paint and this new edition of the Coot was mastered by Johnny Walter and Gareth Llewellyn with assistance from all present at some time or another, if only by way of providing more

biscuits and some lovely hot tea.

The second toilet now in place really makes the difference and makes the Hut like home from home with all modcons (well almost). Well, it certainly reduces the queue anyway.

Oh yes, the lawn mower died spectacularly with sparks and smoke much to the consternation of many spectating frogs. **Does anyone have an old lawn mower that they would like to donate?**

THE COOT

SAMUEL CODY COLONY GETS NEW LEADER



**Diane
Blanchard**

Diane Blanchard has applied for a warrant as Assistant Beaver Mistress with Samuel Cody Colony. Dianne was eight years in the Army Medical Corps and has a son in Hastings Wolf Cub Pack. Lack of leaders has recently made things difficult for the Colony and Phil. West, their Beaver Master, is exceptionally pleased.

Colony activities for next term are being enthusiastically planned and already involve a series of sorties in the Army training areas (Out of Africa) that the Group holds annual licence for.

TANNERS MARATHON 2004-07-09

Our Group successfully regained the Scout Trophy this year with two Scouts, Gareth Llewellyn and Stuart Playle completing the 30 mile cross country course in eight hours and two minutes; a record time for our Scouts. Christopher McGeehan successfully completed the twenty-mile course and made up the vital points for the team. As soon as it is engraved the Trophy will return to its rightful place on the wall in the Scout Hut.



Some of the Group entries before the start of this years Tanners Marathon events in Leatherhead

We were well represented in this year's event with three completions in the thirty miles, two completions in the twenty miles and seven completions in the ten-mile. We manned checkpoint number three and provided our minibus for the organisers during the event.

Weather was just right for the day with cool temperatures, some lovely sunny interludes and only a couple of spots of rain briefly. The ground was excellent; not dusty but not wet and slippery.

Congratulations to all who took part and as always, thanks to the members of the Tanners Association who have organised this event for the last forty five years.

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Editorial Team

