

Summer Camp 1983 – Parton

Saturday 23rd July 1983

Author KWP

Lack of organization and a few gremlins delayed the start of our advance party, but eventually we were away in convoy – GSL Peter driving the van with canoe trailer, Glip with the expensive hired minibus and skipper Kenny in his car. After stops at the Royal West and Inverkip, we set out with hopes high for Castle Douglas. The journey was uneventful and after a lunch stop on the Ayrshire moors, we arrived at Parton shortly after 3 PM.

The next four hours were spent setting up camp – hectic hours indeed. Eventually, we were organized and Castle Douglas was visited. The standard of fish and chips and the Chinese restaurant were found to be high indeed.

Back to campsite and pit.

Sunday 24th July 1983

Author KWP

After an uncomfortably hot night, we rose to a breakfast of

Cereal and fruit juice,
Sausage and tomato roll,
Coffee etc

The usual tidy up panic ensued before we headed to Parton Kirk to worship the Lord. The Rev. R Hamill bade us welcome, as did many of the congregation. The weather was still beautiful and we enjoyed a Ploughman's lunch with suitable refreshment in the sun.

What an afternoon!!! – digging a large bog pit – blood, toil, tears and sweat – however it was eventually done, as was the pitching of kitchen shelters.

The standard of Loch Ken water was tested and found to be reasonable.

Dinner Sweet and sour chicken with rice
 Meringue nest with fruit and cream

A games evening was held and then bed. It rained heavily.

Monday 25th July 1983

Author KWP

We had a long lie, excepting Glip who was up at the crack of dawn as usual. Conditions were damp after the heavy rain but blue skies showed above.

After a breakfast of cereal, fruit and bacon rolls, we spent most of the morning tidying up the campsite. Lunch was Skipper's treat out in Dalbeattie, which was very pleasant if somewhat expensive. No sooner had we finished lunch but the rain descended – thunder rumbling, lightning flashing etc. It lasted for three hours (great wailings).

The intrepid PLs went canoeing and fishing – some not returning until very late on. A super meal of roast loin of pork with apple sauce and noodles, then Fruit flan and whipped cream was spoiled (for them anyway).

A reasonably early night was had – anything but peaceful – a combination of Glip and John Yarr reduced Kenny to a state of fury and exhaustion – aided (in spirit) by the rest of the inhabitants of the Bell - as attack after attack on Kenny's air bed was launched – unfortunately for him very successfully. May the fleas of a thousand camels!!!

Tuesday 26th July 1983

Author KWP

The last long lie of camp (excepting guess who?). Kenny made a retaliatory attack on JY?? which was a big, big mistake as the former came off much the worse for wear. Stew T. slept through the whole sufmozzle (?).

A peaceful breakfast was had after which Kenny and JY went into Castle Douglas for stores while the rest mucked about back at camp.

Meanwhile back at the ranch*

The minions arrived in dribs and drabs as did the CC** bus. With the DSL Chris Timmon's help, the bus was soon loaded and the merry throng led by Messrs. Boag and Grant set off. An uneventful journey!

The advanced party enjoyed their last moments of tranquility and a reasonable lunch of soup, beefburgers and crisps and fruit.

The Troop arrived at 2:30 PM and quickly disgorged both themselves and the vast amount of gear from the bus. The rest of the afternoon was spent on site development in patrols.

Evening meal- Braised sausages, beans and smash
 Evaporated milk and fruit

In the evening, we raised the flag pole and notice board, and other important general camp things (eg bogs).

A lovely peaceful night was had by one and all.

* Scout HQ in Greenock

** Clyde Coast

Wednesday 27th July

Author – Frodo

Today, the Curlews were duty patrol and they were all up very early to complete their duties. Messrs. Aviss and Simpson elected to go for le lait and watched the pretty bunnys in a field near Parton. “CG” and Frodo did the bogs and Mussy and Stuart the flag. The weather was dry and quite sunny but not roasting. We got off to a brisk start at 8:15 followed by a breakfast of cereal and poached eggs.

The game that morning was football. The football was a great success apart from a few thistle bushes getting in the way which Toad found out very early on in the game. After that, we went and did various tests in the SS and ASS. For lunch, there was*

It was delicious. After we had our lunch, we went swimming and the canoeing enthusiasts did their 50 m swim to prove they would not drown. Then we had a fantastic meal of gammon steaks and potatoes. In the evening, we “did” boring old Skilorama. A subtle form of training and testing but most people went for wood. While we were doing Skilorama, Kenny Mcrae Esq arrived at camp and joined a mob of older Scouts who were going to a dance in the village. We saw our first glance of Toad’s new sports jacket and it wasn’t even crushed. We had a super supper then went pit for our second night at camp.

* Not specified in the report

Thursday 28th July 1983

Author – Disaster/Booboo

Today, it was the Eagle patrol’s turn to be duty patrol. We managed to sleep in until 8 AM when Glip came to wake us. As a result of this, the milk was collected after flagbreak at 8.15.

After breakfast and inspection, there was a very controversial game of non-stop cricket after G² had “mistakenly” added ten to his team’s total of runs, people kicking the ball and generally cheating. Next, we started planning SS and ASS hikes – the PLs (Glen and I) doing Scout Standard hikes and Glip doing the ASS hikes.

After having a Ploughman’s lunch, the minions went into town while the PLs went canoeing or hung around camp.

For tea, there was soup, mince, potatoes and carrots and cake.

After this, various proficiency badges were started– Observer, Camper, Camp Cook, Pioneer, Hiker etc. Later, we had supper and then PLC.

Note: We entertained the English PLs to supper – rather a harrowing experience.

Friday 29th July

Author - possibly KWP

The morning was 'An Old-Fashioned Morning at Camp'. Starting with a Communal Grand Wash taken by Kenny followed by a Keep Fit session led by Glip.

After breakfast, a semi-uniform inspection ensued which lasted a solid hour – the Scouts did not enjoy it. The rest of the morning was taken up with old-style activities– estimation, tracking etc

After lunch, Kenny departed to Dumfries to collect Akela and the Cubs - the Troop spent the afternoon on activities. Unfortunately, a strong wind got up and caused havoc in the more exposed / less battened down kitchen shelters, particularly the Fox patrol which was torn badly and had to be re-pitched.

The train at Dumfries inevitably was late but Akela and eight of the dreaded arrived accompanied by Gillian and Yvonne and Kenny Kerr.

Back at camp, preparations began for the Grand BBQ which the leaders prepared. We were visited by the Minister who made himself at home –unfortunately he was unable to wait for the BBQ which was uproarious in the extreme.

Eventually, pit ensued, while the leaders enjoyed a relaxed Cheese and Wine Supper.

Saturday 30th July

Author – possibly KWP

A late start to the day– everyone was tired. After breakfast, flag and a general inspection followed. The morning was spent in the usual way. Peter and Ruth arrived just after lunch and at the same time John Y had an accident, following and cutting his hand badly necessitating a rush into Castle Douglas to have it stitched. Glip, as usual, did the needful and organized the Camp Sports which was enjoyed by all and sundry.

Ian and Anne Linklater arrived to pay us a visit.

The minions headed into Castle Douglas for the rest of the day and sampled the fish suppers etc. The leaders had an enjoyable visit to the lake (showers!) and Kenny amazed everyone with his prowess at rowing. A high-class meal in a local restaurant was similarly enjoyed. All too soon back to camp with the minions – a centralized supper.

The PLs slightly let themselves down by involving themselves in slightly nefarious activities with the Castle Douglas talent. Such is life.

And so to a very crowded Bell indeed.

Sunday 31st July

Author - presumably KWP

The inevitable happened and it couldn't have happened on a worse day.

IT RAINED HEAVILY

Unfortunately, this meant that we were unable to parade to church which was a great pity. Being the holiday period, Parton Kirk was closed and so we had to convoy to Crossmichael. The reception we received was tremendous from Minister and Congregation. The Area Commissioner was in attendance too - adding a touch of class. The organist was Bill Little, known to some of us as the Country Dance adjudicator at the festival. At the end of an excellent Church Service, we formed a Guard of Honour for the congregation.

Back at camp, the rains had eased and many parents arrived to remove their offspring for the rest of the day. The afternoon was spent peacefully believe it or not in camp. Some people went sailboarding.

Dinner was prepared communally but eaten in patrols.

In the evening, some camp activities took place. Peter and Ruth departed for Greenock.

Yet another attack on Kenny's airbed- needless to say successfully.

Additional comment

Author Glip

Campfire at night with Glip, David Gordon, Big Stu, Kevin Byng, Kenny Kerr and Kenny MacCrae spending the night under the stars round the campfire.

Monday 1st August

Author – possibly KWP

Rather disorganized a day. The ASS hikers departed after breakfast in the (sunrise?), split into two groups all (oldies and youngies). Glip and Tommy had done a good job organizing the suitable hikes. The PLs took the SS Scouts away to plan their hike, while Douglas and John departed on a canoe trip on their own.

The Cubs departed after lunch with Glip and Eric who wanted to bid a fond farewell.

Programme - The usual (unexciting? mixture)
Badges, Games, Activities

The hikers were checked in the evening and found to be comfortably ensconced in their tents – one group actually managed to lose their way but by retracing their steps (and a longer walk to boot).

Tuesday 2nd August

No entry

Wednesday 3rd August

Author - unknown

This morning stores were available from 8.30, saw the choice was yours as to how long a lie in you wanted, but everybody had to be ready for flag at 10:30 AM. After this, we had a game of Ringo in which K. Kerr tried to referee. Then in the late morning, we went into Castle Douglas for lunch, people to buy presents and the PLs to buy the food of their patrol's choice for dinner at night.

The PLs then had their night out in Dumfries, while the APLs cooked the meal in camp. On return to the campsite, it was discovered that Eric had joined the ranks of the sick squad –Kenny McCrae soon joined them in the 'Isolation unit'.

A wet night

The camp inspection took place.

Thursday 4th August

Author -KWP

After breakfast, the morning was spent tidying up on loose ends for training and testing. More work was probably done than the rest of the camp put together. After a snack lunch, the afternoon was spent on a multitude of activities – let it be recorded that Clyde managed to wreck two sailboards (typical).

And to the evening tidy up – ghastly thought. The day finished in fine style with a super campfire. The flames, I am sure, could be seen for miles around. Even the singing was reasonable (for once). Some people slept round the embers which burned all night long.

Friday 5th August

Ta Ta Parton. The usual last day in camp – hectic mass tidying everything up. At the last, we presented Mr and Mrs Peak with a piece of crystal glassware as a thank you token for all their help (see letter).*

And so back to grotty Greenock from pleasant Parton. A super camp.

*Unfortunately, the letter has parted company from the Troop Log, but there is a chance that it may be amongst a pile of troop records