

TROOP LOG

INVERNESS SUMMER CAMP 1979

Location: Dunaincroy Farm by Inverness

Dates: 28th July – 9th August

Attending

Scouters: Alistair B. Cram; Kenneth W. Paton; David McIlroy; Graham L. Patrick (Glip)

Venture Scouts: Stuart L. Patrick, David Griffin

Ferrets:

PL	Douglas Haldane
APL	Douglas MacEwan
	Alistair McCready
	Kenneth Hyde
	Philip Clark
	(Kenny Blair visiting Cub Scout)

Heidbangers:

PL	William Grant
APL	Robbie Mochrie
	Andrew Wilson (Raljex)
	Graham Bolster (Rivet)
	Kevin Byng
	Robert Wright

Cosmic Cowboys

PL	Guy Grant
APL	Kenneth Kerr
	Sandy Thomson
	Robert Lawrie
	Gordon R. Brabender

Butch

PL	Murray Brabender
APL	Tommy Boag
	Alan Bannister
	Andrew Davies

Stud

PL	Billy Forbes
APL	Brian McCready
	Craig Griffin
	Alan Bowes

Hop Heads

PL	Colin Terris
APL	David Eadie

Malcolm Arnott
Donald Lamond
David McEwing

Report

Saturday 28th July (Author – presumably ABC)

Skipper, Glip, six Patrol Leaders, two minibii, and a canoe trailer with six canoes left headquarters about 7:30 AM and headed for Dunaincroy. Having arrived at about 3 PM, we set up a couple of tents and spent the night in Inverness.

Sunday 29th July (Author – presumably ABC)

“... and we thought here’s one day when it certainly won’t rain, but it poured on Sunday.....”

And it did, solidly, all day. Glip went off to check hike routes and found sunshine! The rest of the tents were, however, pitched and a couple of kitchen shelters appeared. Inverness was again investigated at night.

Monday 30th July (Author – presumably ABC)

Sunshine! All morning– really! Then the troop arrived by train at 4 PM and brought the rain with them. The patrol kitchens were then set up and dinner of soup, hamburger and beans, rice and fruit was enjoyed. Deadie was promptly sick and honked all over the good campsite.

Pit at night after hot chocolate.

Tuesday 31st July (Author – Murray Brabender – PL of Butch patrol)

We awoke to find that it was raining rather heavily. The morning was supposed to be used for continuing work on our kitchen shelters. The meals today consisted of for

Breakfast: Slice and cereal,

Lunch: macaroni and cheese

Tea: gammon steaks and pineapple

Some Scouts were taken away by David Griffin and Stuart Patrick to dig a bog pit it, while the APLs went to help David McIlroy with a tree which had been felled and was needing chopped up for fire wood. In the afternoon, the weather changed and it brightened up. A choice of activities was given including archery and canoeing. At night, the PLs departed for a night in Inverness.

Wednesday 1st August (Author Guy Grant – PL of Cosmic Cowboys)

Today we woke up to find it unusually dry. Because the pony trekers were going away early, everything was an hour earlier than usual. Stores were called at 7:30 AM. For breakfast, we had cereal followed by French toast. The flag was broken by Murray Brabender at 9:30 AM. All the pony trekers went and changed and all those who wanted to go into town changed into their uniforms. A few people stayed at camp. This took care of the morning. For lunch, which was communal, we had cheese, tomatoes, an orange, bread and pickle. In the afternoon, the positions were reversed, pony treker can you call ins went into town and vice

versa. This took us up to the evening meal which was mince, potatoes and mixed vegetables, followed by steam pudding and custard. This took until 8 PM when each person carried on with the badge work they had started the previous night. After that, we had a campfire and everyone was given cocoa. They then all went to Pit and the PLs stayed up for a bit longer.

Additional note (probably added by A.B.Cram)

Our new chaplain, Reverend David Mill, arrived at camp on Wednesday and camped overnight with us.

The last recorded Finnart church minister to camp with the 70th was the Rev A.R. Reid (our chaplain in the '30s who founded the troop in 1932) at Ardrishaig(?) in 1935 (?) + see Troop log for photos of same*.

* Unfortunately the troop logs for the 1930s have gone missing since this log was written

Thursday 2nd August (Author Philip Clark – Last Scout of the Ferrets)

We awoke to get black pudding and fried bread for breakfast. Later, we washed and at 10:30 AM we had an inspection and flag break. After, some of us canoed or did badges.

In the afternoon, we finished the badges we had started in the morning. The PLs went to Inverness. For tea, we had cornbeef hash and potatoes and soup. We had a campfire at night and drank orange and ate jam buttys.

Friday 3rd August (Author - Robbie Mochrie – APL of Heidbanger patrol)

'Stores' were called at 8:30, which meant a late rise. At 10:30 flagbreak was followed by no inspection, instead there was a game, originally football but was turned into rugby during one of Benny's periods of sanity.

Next on the programme was SS/ASS training and testing (Emergency precautions and first aid). ??? was also available. Lunch was comunal and small. An inter-patrol competition based on craftwork (pancake cooking, make plaster cast and sedan chair etc). At the time of writing, no plaster casts had dried. After this the Cubs arrived and dinner was prepared. The Explorer Badge hikers (APL s Boag, McCready, Mochrie and Kerr) arrived back.

A dinner consisting of UHT cream of battery chicken soup, squid globules in blood ??? by white spirits and orange octopus suckers. Camp Olympics started the evening, entertainment, which was followed by a mad sweet scrammy. The PL is give us a show of stunt push-bicycle riding. At the last came 'Ye Grand Tug-of-War' won by the Heidbangers.

Campfire (without wood) ended the evening and the Cubs went to pit for the first night.

Saturday 4th August (Author- David Eadie (Dave the Decent Bloke) – APL of the Hop Heads)

For breakfast we had sausage sandwiches and Weetabix if we wanted it. You were able to do any tests you wanted to in the morning. Lunch was a Ploughman's lunch which was rushed for the people who were going sailing. The sailors set off earlier than the others who were going to Inverness. We all had to meet in Inverness at 6 PM to get 50p for our tea.

Discounts were allowed to stay in Inverness to 8:45 because They had to walk back to the camp. The APL's had to be back in camp by 11 PM and the PLs had to be back by 11:30 PM. When we arrive back there was supper.

Sunday 5th August ([Author – Billy Forbes – PL of Stud Patrol](#))

I was drastically awake – with the thought of church in mind– first by Kenny's singing (awful) and then to my discomfort, Skipper with an archery bowl in a rather uncomfortable place.

The execution of leaving the sleeping bag took place at (well was meant too) half past seven, but I was not wakened until quarter past eight.

I arose and made the breakfast for my patrol which was sausages and Weetabix. Once breakfast was finished and cleared up we changed into full Scout uniform. Skipper broke the news that we would have to walk to church after flagbreak which was at quarter to ten. As usual when we started to walk it poured! By this time we were on a very tight schedule and skipper began encouraging younger Scouts to trot along the long road into Inverness.

The Pls of course were at the front and were just about into the town when the Haldane – mobile drew up and gave us a lift to the church. On arriving at the church, we arrived late and the service had just begun. The colours were paraded in by Shug (Jack) and Pucker (Troop) during the first hymn. The service lasted about 1 ½ hours and we were ferried home in the Haldane-mobile. When we were arriving back at the camp, parents were beginning to arrive because it was visiting day and some of the Scouts were taken out for a meal by their parents. The PLs were setting off on an overnight canoe trip with Ronnie Thomson (account will follow later) which left the APLs to cope with the dinner with their guests– the Cubs. The dinner consisted of porkchops, potatoes and peas followed by apple pies and custard. The Troop played a loony wide game in the evening, followed by a campfire with cakes donated by Mrs Morris and afterwards the troop and cubs went to bed.

Sunday 5th August Canoe Trip ([Author – Billy Forbes – PL of the Stud Patrol](#))

Five PLs (Colin Terris, Billy Forbes, Murray Brabender, Willie Grant and Dougie Haldane) left with Ronnie Thomson at quarter to five. We paddled down the canal and soon came to lock gates. We had to carry our fully laden canoes around the locks and soon we passed the weir beside the road to Fort William. We were now in Loch Dochfour and our canoes began to roll in the waves. We spotted people on the shore waving and when we went over to investigate it was Mr Haldane and friends. We canoed on and soon found a shallow sheltered bay. we investigated and Ronnie suggested that we go on into Loch Ness to look for a better campsite. We found a campsite but there was a house beside it and we decided to go back to the trout-filled bay.

We put up Ronnie's force ten Mark five and began to make the tea of soup, gammon steaks, potatoes and peas, followed by hot rice and pears. We built a massive inferno which singed the leaves above us and we had a massive woodpile of driftwood. We went to bed at about 12 o'clock and soon we were all asleep to be awoken by an old guy banging and shouting outside the tent. He demanded to know who was in charge and was raging about us camping there and was furious about the fire. He threw us off and we canoed up into Loch Ness

and had our breakfast on the beach outside Lochend. I stayed to watch the gear and the rest of them went out on the loch to play on the waves. We had our dinner before the rain began and we had trouble getting into our canoes to come home. We had to get in while the biggest waves were coming in and I nearly capsized twice. We went back around the point into the quiet Loch Dochfour compared with Loch Ness.

We went back into the bay where we had camped and played about on the moored boats for a small rest. We then went down and went alongside the weir. Ronnie had his canoe over the weir and then canoed backwards. Dougie Haldane was going round the weir when he got too near to the weir and he got sucked over. He capsized his canoe and pulled his spray-deck off and began swimming. His canoe started floating away quickly and he began to swim for the bank. His paddle was stuck vertically in the weir and Ronnie had to walk the weir to get his paddle and then go down in his canoe to rescue Mongul Dougie. Dougie had holed his canoe and Ronnie patched it up but it could not carry equipment and his equipment had to be split up amongst the others. We carried down to the locks and had to carry the canoes around the locks again. Shug and myself were carrying my canoe when Pucker fell with his canoe and cut his leg. We put the canoes in the water and set off on the last leg home to the campsite by the two electricity pylons. When we arrived home we were all shattered and used the afternoon to recover.

PS Canoe trip 14 miles

Monday 6th August (Author – Bombadier Boag – APL of Butch patrol)

Stores were called at 8:30 AM. French toast to start the day with what a joyful experience. As we were cooking this five scouts went off on the 12 mile hike (Rivet, Andrex, Davies, Sandy, Banny) ??? all hope they don't come back. The whole morning after breakfast was mostly filled up with passing test seeing as the PLs were still away the APL's took over the work of training the SS people which is they trained like old Masters. Lunch was a more happier event with soup, hamburger Rolls on the menu. The next 1.5 hours was spent holding down kitchen shelters as a terrific breeze got up and was determined to blow down the campsite unluckily Pucker's shelter was just not good enough and collapsed in a heap. As this wild wind raged mini mus tried to fly on this great wind by climbing up a large tree and jumping of unluckily he failed and fell to the ground and hitting his head on the altar fire and causing concussion to himself so an ambulance was called for and he was taken to hospital overnight. Soon after the PLs returned to bring back law and order to camp in their own queer way. After a tea of soup, haggis turnip and tatties the APLs went of to see Moonraker at the cinema and returned to find that the site had been joined by troop from France.

Wednesday 8th August (Author – Kenneth Hyde – 2nd Scout of the Ferrets)

We awoke at 8:30 to find that we were getting fryd eggs and rolls. After breakfast we challanged the French at rugby and it soon became more of war than a civillised schoolboys game. For lunch we had Golden vegetable soup and then we had slice with mashed potatoes. In the afternoon we went into Inverness and did our last-minute shoping. For tea we had spaghetti and mince. After tea we took down our kitchen shelter and loaded the van. After loading the van we had a campfire with the French and played silly games, then everyone went to bed.

Thursday 9th August (Author – Alistair Cram)

Sunshine at last– and luckily a dry stroke. We bid a fond farewell to the camp (and to the district minibus, now finished) and set for Greenock by train and bus. Despite the weather an excellent camp with reasonably high camping standards.

Shield for Best first timer:- David McEwing

GSL's cup for Best camper:- Alistair McCready