

Edited by Ewen McAlpine

Rover Patrol completes Cederberg 2008



Summit of Sneeuberg—highest point in the Cederberg. Alex, Carlos, Robert, Sean M, Sean B and Ewen.

The National Senior Scout Adventure is an event that runs in the wilderness areas of the Cederberg Mountains in the Western Cape every 2 years. A patrol of 8 Scouters and “Rovers” took part in the challenge which ran from 9th to 20th December, 6 of them successfully summiting Sneeuberg (the highest mountain in the Cederberg). The Patrol took the infamous South Peaks route which saw them hiking well over 130km over rugged, rocky terrain with temperatures in excess of 40°C and little shade to be had.

As well as hiking, the Patrol participated in a number of bases including Dutch-oven cooking, rock climbing, a 4x4 trail in a 1966 Land Rover, pizza making, electronics, mountaineering, astronomy, marksmanship and diving. Their trail took

them past important Cederberg landmarks such as the Wolfberg Cracks and Arch, Gabriel’s Pass, Tafelberg, Welbedacht Cave, Crystal Pool, Sneeuberg and the Maltese Cross.



This event is open to all Senior Scouts (14 and over) who have achieved their Adventurer. It is a unique experience that will enrich the career of any Scout. The next adventure will be in 2010 so if you think that 11 days of hiking in some of the most spectacular wilderness areas of our country and completing a wide variety of bases is your idea of fun, then plan ahead and start saving now. The adventure is not cheap and neither is the trip to Cape Town but it is worth every cent!

Well done to Alex Pope, Carlos de Spinola, Ewen McAlpine, Melanie Diessel, Paul Diessel, Robert Faltermeier, Sean Borralho and Sean Morrow.



Have a look at <http://www.scouting.org.za/adventure> for more details.



See more photos at <http://www.firstkengraybk.org.za>.

Important Upcoming Events

- 16TH JANUARY: FIRST MEETING OF 2009 FOR CUBS & SCOUTS
- 31ST JANUARY: BRING-AND-BRAAI KONTIKI PLANNING
- 14TH FEBRUARY: TROOP DAY HIKE
- 22ND FEBRUARY: BP SUNDAY AND DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA
- 6TH—8TH MARCH: KONTIKI
- 2ND-11TH APRIL: PATROL LEADERS TRAINING UNIT (PLTU)
- 16TH-17TH MAY: KIM’S SHIELD
- 22ND MAY: CUB NIGHT HIKE

THE 2009 YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE IS AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE.

Kontiki 2009: ‘The Pirates of the Caribbean’



Gauteng’s annual rafting event will take place from 6th to 8th March 2009. Traditionally our Group puts a lot of effort into this event and almost always feature highly in the final scores.

Put Saturday 31st January in your diary now as we will be having a bring-and-braai for all the parents to come along and meet each other as well as see what happens behind the scenes of Kontiki planning.

Parents are welcome to come along and support the Group. Cubs are allowed to camp but must be accompanied by their parents. If camping is not for you, come and spend a day with us.

Visit the Kontiki website for more information: <http://kontiki.scouting.org.za>

Plans for First Kengray BK in 2009

Last year saw our group turn 100 years old and we hope to carry the flame of scouting on well into the future. To ensure that our group moves forward in 2009 the Scouters have planned a dynamic program that returns to core ideals of Scouting. The emphasis being on getting the Cubs and Scouts OUTDOORS to experience the great natural environment our country has to offer.

We are hoping to have a lot more camps and hikes in 2009 as well as attempting to ensure that our Cubs and Scouts progress along the advancement program towards their Leaping Wolf and Springbok Scouts respectively.

For those who don't know, Ewen McAlpine has recently become Group Scouter and will be overseeing the Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Rover Crew (otherwise know as the "Old Boys Club"). Robert Faltermeier will continue to run the Scout Troop and Andrew Marsh the Cub Pack. Paul Diessel (a Troop Scouter from the recent past) has returned as an Assistant Troop Scouter to help Robert. Alex Pope will be completing his Adult Leader training on 2009 to become an Assistant Troop Scouter.

Sean Morrow will hopefully be completing his Springbok Scout in March and has also indicated that he would like to help out as a Adult Leader in the Troop.

Kerry McFarlane will be joining the Pack to help Andrew as a Assistant Pack Scouter and she, too, will be attending Adult Leader training courses in 2009.

Our "Rovers" successful completion of the National Senior Scout Adventure in the Cederberg, coupled with the fact that we will have a number of Scouts turn 18 in 2009, might see the rebirth of the 1st St Francis Rover Crew. Rovers are men and women between 18 and 35 whose primary role in Scouting is service and reopening of this third branch of our Group can only benefit us into the future.

We will be updating our Troop and Pack records in the new year to ensure that we have all the necessary paperwork in place to run the various branches of the Group. Please assist us in this and return any forms that may be sent to you—in our modern times of email this is even easier than in the past.

If you need to contact any of the Scouters, please don't

hesitate to do so:

Ewen McAlpine (Group Scouter) - 082 588 9160, ewen@scouts.co.za

Andrew Marsh (Pack Scouter) - 072 463 2816

Robert Faltermeier (Troop Scouter) - 073 185 4849

Finally, the Scouters and Committee would like to thank all Cubs, Scouts and parents for their support in 2008. We look forward to seeing you in 2009 for another great year of Scouting.



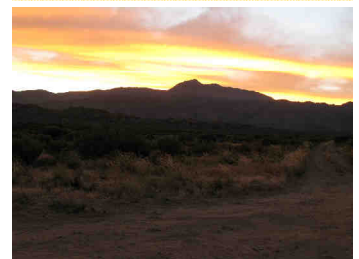
"No one can pass through life, any more than he can pass through a bit of country, without leaving tracks behind, and those tracks may often be helpful to those coming after him in finding their way."

Lord Robert Baden-Powell



"There's a high country that awaits your coming; There's awesome beauty to fill you with bliss; There's a golden chance in the offering; Go, or these wonders of God you will miss."

Bruce Brady



"Sometimes it takes looking through the haze of campfire smoke to see the world clearly."

Author Unknown

Visit us on the web

<http://www.firstkengraybk.org.za>