



The National *SEA SCOUT* LOG



Volume Vol. IX, No.1

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February 1999

The **Sea Scout Log**

*A newsletter
published by the
Sea Scouting
National Committee
Venturing Division
Boy Scouts of America*

Jimmie S. Homburg
Commodore

Charles Holmes
National Venturing Director

William R. James
Editor-in-Chief



If you have a question or comment about what you read in this newsletter or something related to Sea Scouting, we'd like to hear from you. Please cast us a line at the address listed below.

Deadline

**Spring 1999 issue
March 31, 1999**
*Send news of events,
people, or story ideas to:*

The Sea Scout Log
c/o Bill James
425 Wayne Avenue
Pitman, NJ 08071
Tel. 609-589-3088
wrjames@jersey.net

Venturing Director Appointed

Charles Holmes has accepted the position of director, Venturing Division, Program Group, effective December 1, 1998. In cooperation with the national director of program, Charles will direct the development and administration of the Venturing program, including cooperation with related divisions and services in all program matters involving young adults of the Venture age.

He will support the B.S.A. delivery system by extending and enriching the Venturing program through the Regions, Areas, and on request Councils, keeping the B.S.A.'s objectives foremost in mind.

Charles began his scouting career in 1971, as a district executive in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1975, he was appointed District Executive in Indianapolis. In 1978, he became the District Executive in Cleveland, Ohio. He was promoted the Senior District Executive in 1980 in Cleveland, Ohio and later to Program Director and then Field Director in the same council. In 1986, he was promoted to Field Director in Columbus, Ohio. In 1988, he was promoted to Assistant Scout Executive in Flint, Michigan. Since June 1994, he has been serving successfully as Scout Executive of the Long Beach Area Council in California.



Photo by Roger Crossland

During a break between its three fold Veterans' Day observance is, **S.S. 101 Viking**, sponsored by the Raymond T. Golden VFW Post 9460 fell into a Titanic-like configuration.

Sea Scout Ship 101 Viking at 67 years is the oldest continuously operational Ship in Connecticut. The crew maintains and sails its 38' yawl **Thor's Hammer** on Long Island Sound.



The National SEA SCOUT LOG

Vol. I, No. 1
April, 1936

FLOOD RELIEF

"AT THIS time the two Sea Scouts who were with me exhibited the greatest courage with the full knowledge that the bridge to safety behind them might be swept away at any moment, and having been told that the Dam was supposed to burst at any time releasing a terrific surge, these lads stood waist deep in water preparing the line to be shot across to the people on the other bank."

The letters that reached the National Office during the floods in New England and along the Ohio river examined many paragraphs such as the above.

The experience of the Sea Scout Ship Clarence Knapp of Webster, Mass., of the Worcester Area Council, is astounding. The story is full of incidents of manliness, courage, skill and devotion. It is almost impossible to think that one group of Sea Scouts could have accomplished what these young men have done. Certainly anyone reading the report would be thrilled to the very core.

"At exactly midnight, in a downpour of rain, the entire Sea Scout Ship moved into Webster; with water rising with amazing speed, a street patrol was established, and as the muddy waters swept across the lowest streets were carried free their horses to safety. When it became necessary to blast away the railroad embankment, as two in the morning, the Sea Scouts assisted in moving the people back to a safe distance. At 3:30 in the

morning, after a long, hard, day, and night, all but five of the Sea Scouts were finished. But an hour later at 4:30 A.M. in answer to a call, due to an alarming rise of the flood in an other city, the entire group of Sea Scouts were called out for further duty when they took part in many thrilling rescues."

The Skipper of this Ship, Mr. Richard T. Wales, closes his letter describing the above events with the following words, which are a typical example of the true Scout spirit of modesty and humility.

SCOUT Executive John M. Hewitt of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., telegraphed Sea Scouts there had rescued 300 families in the flood in that city. From all over the flooded areas are coming reports of splendid service on the part of the Sea Scouts.

"It gives us great pleasure to advise you of the splendid assistance rendered by the Sea Scout Ship Silver Star of Blair County, Altoona, Pa." This statement is taken from a letter from the head of the American Red Cross in Altoona, Pa.

"The Sea Scouts not only responded to the emergency call but maintained night duty on eight hour shifts and were in service throughout the entire emergency."

On this page is shown illustration of one of the rescues made by the Sea Scouts of the Sea Scout Ship Gordon Cross of Haverhill, W.Va. Sea Scout Ship Enterprise of Salem, Mass., did a marvelous piece of service by taking their boats from Salem to Lowell, Mass., where they were instrumental in saving many lives.



Sea Scouts of the "Gordon Cross", Haverhill, West Virginia, in active rescue work.

"What these boys have done may be insignificant compared to many other things, but the spirit in which they carried out this manly job is deserving of the highest praise and I respectfully submit this report in the hope it may find a place in the annals of Sea Scouting."

This report written by Skipper Wales is one of the most interest-

SOUTHWESTERN RENDEZVOUS

I am pleased to congratulate Commodore **John Walker**, Chairman of the 1998 Southwestern Rendezvous, his fine staff, the hard-working judges, Ship officers, and most especially the boatswains and crews of the Sea Scout Ships who participated in this past weekend's Southwestern Rendezvous at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado California. I'm sure others will announce the awards and other such statistics, but what I was most pleased to witness was the friendly spirit that prevailed among the crews at the rendezvous. I'm sure all involved came away from the rendezvous knowing something more about leadership, teamwork, and seamanship. I hope to see everyone at the **Ancient Mariner Regatta** in the spring and again at a great rendezvous in '99!

Christopher K. Sokolov, QUARTERMASTER



Editor's Note:

Christopher Sokolov, Quartermaster of San Francisco, has accepted an appointment to serve on the National Sea Scouting Committee as the youth representative. Christopher is a student at the University of California, San Diego, where he has served as Bo's'n of the **Desert Pacific Council**.

★★★★

(From the Bridge . . . Continued from page 4)



of a Sea Scout Ship, Chairman of Regional Rendezvous, a member of numerous Seabadge training staffs, the National Sea Scout Committee, and is currently the National Commodore for Sea Scouting. Because of her background in graphic design, she has helped to improve the Sea Scout literature. Her involvement on the various levels of this organization have afforded her fond memories such as sailing with Sea Scouts on the Texas Coast, around the Florida Keys, Dry Tortuous Abaco Islands, and attending a Sea Scout Sailing Regatta in Warwick, England.

The Editor's Sea Bag

You are looking at Vol. I, No. 1 April 1936 of the first National Sea Scout Newsletter. Thomas J. Keane, who was at that time acting as National Director of Senior Scouting & Sea Scouting, was the editor. Commander Keane remained the editor until called into active duty by the U.S. Navy on November 5, 1941. The publication ended Sept., 1943. There were some efforts to revive a national publication with the introduction of the *Quarterdeck Report* and *The Anchor* but they were sadly short lived. I am pleased to report the National Committee unanimously voted to publish the Sea Scout Log once again after a 55 year hiatus. I was invited to sign aboard as editor and I gratefully accepted.

WRJ



September 24-26, 1999
in beautiful, victorian,
Cape May New Jersey
SB NE-X will get underway!
For more information write
Robin Ouellette, CWO4 USCG
NE Region Information Officer
rouellette@comdt.uscg.mil



SB-C-I



Admiral Stansbury Speaks

By Bill Sills, Course Director

We are pleased to announce that Central Region Seabadge Conference C-I was successfully concluded on 8 November 1998. Northeast Illinois Council, the host council, its Program Director **Tim Dosemagen** and its Council Commodore did an outstanding job of administration. Both Northeast Illinois Council and Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Great Lakes Illinois, our venue, did a splendid job of making our 47 participants comfortable while delivering a sound and meaningful training experience.

National Commodore **Jimmie Homburg** gave the keynote address, describing the accomplishments of the National Sea Scouting Committee and her vision of the future. Jimmie participated, offering her wisdom and enthusiasm, in both the optional Sea Scout Officers Training Seminar and the Seabadge Conference. We were thrilled to have the participation of National Committeeman and Chicago Area Council Commodore **Ed Stein**.

One highlight of the Conference was the attendance of **Admiral Stansbury**, USN (Ret.) a former Commander of Great Lakes NTC as our honored guest. His dinner speech highlighted his experience as a Sea Scout and how that led to his career in the US Navy. The admiral carefully explained how his Sea Scout training led to a series of events that culminated in his attainment of flag rank. His enthusiasm and support of Sea Scouting were contagious. Thanks to the instructor staff, Northeast Illinois Council, Council Commodore Harper, National Commodore Homburg and Admiral Stansbury, all left the meeting charged with energy and enthusiasm.

The next Central Region Seabadge Conference is scheduled for March, 2000 at either Great Lakes Naval Training Center or George Williams Conference Center of Aurora University on the shore of Geneva Lake in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

We are also pleased to announce that "Operation Rising Tide" and the Commander T. J. Keane Rendezvous will return to Great Lakes in 1999.

Our youth and leader training sessions of "Operation Rising Tide" will be opened to Venturing Youth and adult leaders. We are offering Venturing training as a service to Scouting by the Sea Scouts of Central Region.

TOP GUN EXPERIENCE

On 10 December 98, representatives of the **Navy Memorial Foundation** and **Sea Scouts** met to outline the program for the Summer 1999, the "**Top Gun Navy Experience**" in Washington DC to be hosted and sponsored by the Navy Memorial Foundation. Present for the Sea Scouts were **Don Goff** and **John Severino**; for the Navy Memorial, **RADM Jim Miller** and **Suzie Williams**.

RADM Miller and Dr. Goff will co-chair the event. John Severino will be Skipper. Suzie Williams will serve as Program Coordinator for the Memorial.

We will recruit three crews of eight Sea Scouts apiece; each crew will have one adult male and one adult female Mate. We will recruit a youth Bosun.

The event will be held between June 27 and July 5, 1998. Youth will be housed at Andrews AFB, Maryland and will have several day trips. There will be a thematic approach, and Scouts will review and participate in discussions of the Navy Values: Honor, Courage, Commitment. Scouts will earn an award for participation and will have an opportunity to complete a scaled down Seabadge-like rudder for a subsequent award.

All activities to be subject to high standards of military appearance and grooming, proper uniforms, and Scouts will follow a military-type routine for P.T., meals, and sleeping; genders will be in separate rooms for sleeping. Sea Scouts will pay transportation; a benefactor is expected to donate the cost of meals, ground transportation, etc.

Highlights tentatively include:

Reception at the Navy Memorial upon arrival and viewing of the film "At Sea."

Day trips to the Congress of the United States and meetings with members of the Senate and House.

Day trip to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. Conduct experiments on the nuclear reactor; sail with the Academy sailing team; conn a YP.

Conduct training aboard ship handling simulator at Master's, Mates, and Pilot's School

Visit USCG Boat Station, St. Inigoes, MD, with stop at Naval Air Test Flight Center Patuxent River en route

Visit USMC Base Quantico — complete confidence course, "fly" a simulator

Participate with Naval Academy Plebes at Navy Memorial Fourth of July ceremony; view fireworks on the National Mall from afloat on the Potomac River, potentially aboard a historic vessel.

Participate in a closing ceremony with SecNav and/or the CNO.

— Don Goff



Jimmie Homburg Appointed National Commodore

JIMMIE SMITH HOMBURG

was raised in south Texas. This fifth generation Texan graduated with a B.A. in Art Education from Texas A&M at Kingsville. After marrying Norman Homburg in 1969, they spent the early years of their marriage on the Coast and in rural ranching communities in South Texas. During these years she worked as a high school art teacher, jewelry designer, and professional parade-float designer and builder. In 1980 along with son, Dale and daughter, Camerin, the Homburgs moved to Bryan, Texas. With her son, they formed Electric Paintbrush, Inc., a graphic arts company. The company's current projects include the development of a children's educational game on nutrition, sponsored by The MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. Some of their many accomplishments are the award winning games of Harpoon, a modern naval simulation, and Air Warrior, an on-line World War II flight simulation; the 1998 Jamboree brochure for Sea Scouts; and the cover of the current Sea Scout Manual. Since 1985 she has been involved in the Sea Scout program on many levels including Skipper

(Continued on page 2)



FROM THE BRIDGE Commodore's Report

In the new Venturing division of BSA the Sea Scout program is experiencing a period of remarkable growth and renewal.

In October the National Committee met at the Naval Sub Base in Groton, Connecticut. The committee welcomed newly appointed members **Bill James** and **Bill Koch** to their first National Committee meeting. National Commodore Jim Umberger updated the committee on a number of ongoing endeavors including literature development, Venturing reorganization, and insignia changes. He also challenged the committee to look for opportunities for increasing the growth and promotion of the program in 1999. I commend **Commodore Umberger** for his five years of outstanding service as National Commodore and, most of all, for his willingness to continue serving as a National Committee member.

The National SEAL Advisory Committee met following the National Committee meeting. National SEAL Training Director, **Jim Elroy** reviewed the SEAL classes held during the summer of 1998 and deemed them a success. The SEAL Advisory Committee members each agreed to write a part of the

SEAL training manual. **Bruce Johnson** volunteered to compile and edit the results.

My first official function as your new National Commodore was to serve on the staff of the Central Region Seabadge course. Seabadge was held at the Great Lakes Navy Training Center, Chicago, Illinois. **Bill Sills** and **Jim Harper** put in many hours to arrange great facilities and an outstanding staff. A special guest at Seabadge was long time National Committee member **Ed Stein**. Mr. Stein shared a letter he received from Commander T. J. Keane shortly before Commander Keane's death in 1984. Rear Admiral Thomas Stansbury, United States Navy, Retired, shared the story of his Sea Scouting days in Chicago and the positive way in which the program shaped his entire adult life. Forty seven participants and staff attended Seabadge exhibiting a commitment to advancing Sea Scouting in the Central Region.

In November we began converting the Sea Exploring Manual into the Sea Scout Manual. Jim Umberger and Jim Elroy checked the text to update all the technical information. Bruce Johnson performed his wordsmithing wizardry and sent the whole package on to me to begin the new layout. At this time we are updating some of the outdated graphics in the manual. A big thank you to all the Sea Scouts and Sea Scouters who took time to send in suggestions for improving the manual.

In December I met with **Charles Holmes**,

the new National Director of Venturing. Mr. Holmes comes to the National office from Long Beach, California. Thanks to our Sea Scouts in Long Beach, Mr. Holmes is very familiar with Sea Scouting. In December I also had the opportunity to meet with **Tim Daly**, the new training director for the U.S. Sailing Association. Mr. Daly and I looked into ways that our organizations might work more closely with each other. In January several members of the National Committee, Venturing Director, Charles Holmes, and a group of Skippers from across the country will meet with the U.S. Sailing Training Team at the U.S. Sailing Sail Training Symposium in San Diego.

Many exciting Sea Scout events are in the works for 1999. Please make Bill James and/or Bruce Johnson aware of any Sea Scout activities planned in your area so that they can announce them through the newsletter and the web site.

Feel free to copy & distribute this newsletter to anyone in your Squadron, Task Force or Flotilla.