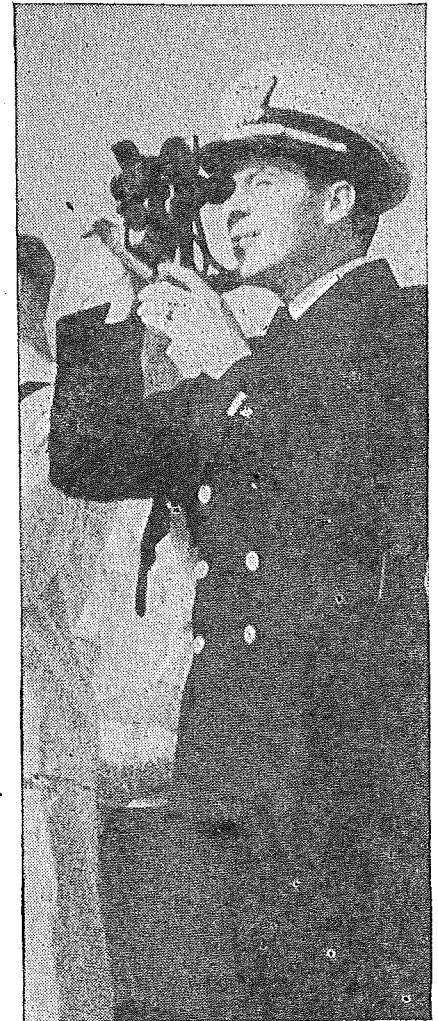




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SEPTEMBER is a practical time for launching a new Sea Scout Ship or a class of recruits in an old Ship because it is the month when young men are charting their plans for the school year.

There are many things a Sea Scout can learn ashore and on short training trips before he is ready for cruising. Starting with the winter months ahead, the new man can train and be ready to take to the boats when the weather opens up in the spring.

A recruit may have to be taught many things about boats, boat handling, and safety precautions before he knows enough to go out, even in a row boat. If he claims or appears to know these things, test him to prove it; his skill may be needed to keep himself and his mates out of danger.

With a physical examination required from everyone for reregistration, we save time by having the Ship's Surgeon attend one meeting in September. Assisted by the other Ship's officers, he gives each Sea Scout a complete check-up. Our Surgeon is chosen from the members of the sponsoring organization who belong to the medical profession.

There are many things a Sea Scout can learn ashore and on short training cruises.

We build our September program around the re-registration of old members and the indoctrination of the new. This gives the veterans a review. In fact they learn things most thoroughly when they train their new Crew members.

During the first meetings the candidate attends, he should have a chance to find out what Sea Scouting is all about, and what his Ship and its traditions stand for. He should learn what is expected of him and acquire respect for sea traditions, his superiors, and the Ship.

As an introduction to seamanship, we train our

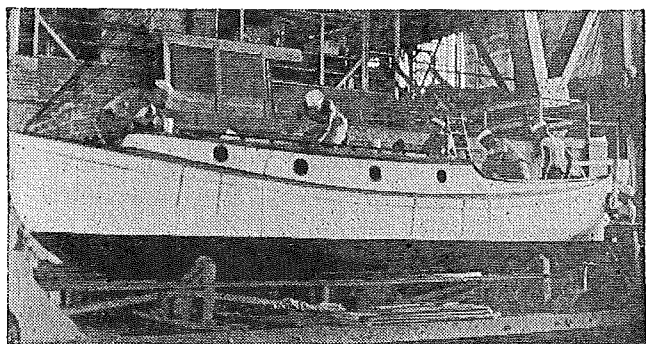
Ship Gets Under Way

by Wilbur R. Riley,

Former Sea Scout Skipper, Seattle, Wash.



The first month of the Ship's calendar needs outdoor events to fix young men's interest on their ship.



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Apprentice Sea Scouts to take their places in a rowing crew. This gives us trained boatmen, even among our Apprentices, in case we are called on to man the boats in an emergency.

The Apprentice Candidates are taken to the water edge for a week-end meeting, and there learn by doing all the Apprentice requirements. Also right there we think, before another step is taken in Scouting, the Apprentice should earn the Rowing Merit Badge which ties in with the Apprentice work.

Thus the September meetings not only make a good many loose ends shipshape, but the Ship sets off on

another annual course with all hands — old and new — on deck. The weekend on the water front gives everybody a taste of the kind of action that attracted them to Sea Scouting. The first month of the Ship's annual calendar needs just such an outdoor event to fix young men's interest on their Ship. Good programs this month will pay dividends later from the interest created at the start of the year.

Often we see in Scouting literature week-by-week programs for Ship meetings. Although these may not suit your needs, they are suggestions which may be adapted to your local conditions or stimulate plans along similar lines. What is important is that the Skipper understand the principles of programming, so he may pass them on to his Quarterdeck and get their cooperation in charting a successful program.

The annual program should be made up as an outline of desirable accomplishments for the Ship during the year. This is broken down into quarterly programs containing definite events and dates.

During October, November and December there are many things to learn, such as Emergency Relief Corps, and general Sea Scout conduct and service. All Ordinary Requirements can be covered in these three months.

January, February and March are good months to over-haul all equipment, including the boat, if you have one, or to build equipment which you do not have, including small boats, canoes, or kayaks.

Plans should be made and carried out during the winter months for the raising of money to buy and repair equipment and meet other necessary expenses in running a Sea Scout ship.

In April, May and June — prepare for the cruising and camping season. The men who started in during the winter and have not been out in Sea Scout boats yet should be taught to row before they go on other types of boats. The more advanced Sea Scouts should be taught to sail. As the weather opens up and becomes more favorable for over-night camping and training cruises, get out on the water!

In July and August — cruise. Every time you can get away from other duties, cruise; day cruises, over-night cruises, week-end cruises, and long cruises. Good weather was made to be enjoyed.

September — catch up; gather loose ends. Especially advancement. Prepare for next year.

To the above plans should be added, such things as Regional Cruises, Council Cruises, rallies, anniversaries, and any other local activities in which your ship should participate.

A simple method of program-making is to adopt a meeting outline. Each quarter of a year that you have indoor meetings, outline the work to be covered each meeting and fit it into the outline.