SENIOR PROGRAM

Bufhampton International Associated Ships

BUF (*Buf*falo, New York), Ham (*Ham*ilton, Ontario), Ton (*Ton*awanda, New York). That explains the name and international nature of the association of Sea Scout Ships and Girl Scout Mariner Ships which get together once a month in Buffalo, N. Y. But it doesn't indicate the informal organization by which they have good times and exchange ideas.

According to a recent Bufhampton bulletin, the member groups are the Franklin Mariners, Midway Independent Mariners, Second Hamilton Sea Scouts, Tonawanda Sea Scout Ship 128, and Buffalo Sea Scout Ships 1 and 10. Others have been invited to join.

The informality of their set-up is denoted by the following quotation from the bulletin:

"Bufhampton has no constitution, officers, funds, or dues. The Ships meet together on the fourth Saturday in each month at Ship 10's base. Refreshments are provided by each person bringing something for the buffet — service, cafeteria style. Dancing and games from 8 p.m. to midnight. The object is to cooperate in Scout activities, rank and file to meet in fellowship, officers to discuss Scouting problems. Benefits are a better understanding of each other, and recognition by all that they belong to great organizations."

Sounds delightfully informal, doesn't it? Of course, that does not mean the members don't do plenty of work in arranging the meetings. Good programs don't just happen! They require planning and follow-through on details, solid leadership and hard work. But apparently the Bufhampton association has kept the mechanics of organization at a minimum and the cooperation at a maximum.

Although Scout Sunday is out of season now, let's review how Bufhampton observed it last Scout Anniversary Week, just as an example of the way the group does things. Their program follows:

10:00 a.m. — Assemble at Ship 10 base.
10:15 a.m. — Church parade to two Churches.
1:00 p.m. — Lunch (everyone furnishes his own).
2:00 p.m. — Coming Aboard ceremony on landship.
3:00 p.m. — Group photograph.
3:30 p.m. — Radio shack inspection (demonstration of teaching code and principles of radio construction).
4:00 p.m. — Boat shop inspection (explanation of plans for Ship 10's new sailboat).
4:30 p.m. — Dramatic sketch by Midway Mariners.
5:00 p.m. — Get acquainted time (parents and friends ask questions of members on their activities).
6:00 p.m. — Supper.
7:15 p.m. — Community singing.
8:00 p.m. — Dancing.
11:00 p.m. — Closing.

That gives you an idea of what can be done when several groups of young men and women pool their resources and enthusiasm.

Does your Senior Unit meet occasionally with other groups? If not, why not plan to do so? The membership of your gathering may not cross an international boundry, but it can reach out to other communities, other districts of your Local Council, and other Councils. In the latter case, of course, you will clear plans through the Scout Executives of the Councils. The size of the area you cover, of course, will depend on transportation facilities. The Hamilton Sea Scouts travel about sixty miles to the Bufhampton meetings.

The groups you invite might include others than Senior Scout Units. Choose no more than you can handle conveniently.

Take a tip from Bufhampton and keep the organization machinery at a minimum. The frequency of meeting can be tentatively decided at the first gathering. Let each meeting generate the plans for the next. Spread the responsibilities of planning and executing the programs among all the groups. The pay-as-you-go method, with everyone sharing expenses, is simple and sound.

For your first attempt at this season of the year, try a picnic or similar outdoor affair. Success to you in getting together the young people's groups of your area.

Short Cruises

MEMORIAL DAY opens and Labor Day closes the boating season in many sections of the country. For three months the Sea Scout shore base will be a place to work *from* instead of *in* as plans of long and short cruises become realities.

While a long cruise highlights most Ship's activities for the year, short cruises supplement it. The fellows "unlucky" enough to have good vacation jobs that interfere with the big trip can settle for a series of short ones.

How long is a short cruise? That depends on the spare hours at Sea Scouts' disposal. Members of Ship 501, Madison, Wisconsin, with a lake bounding one side of their city, used to start out after a day's work.

HELPS

Photograph by George Bergstrom

They sailed their 30-foot yawl, the *S.S.S. Wisconsin,* till about 6:00 the next morning and were back on the job on time. These 10-12 hour cruises were taken frequently by groups of three to six men.

If you are not so near the "bounding main," short cruising may be confined to weekends. In that case, plan so you can attend church enroute or otherwise be faithful in religious observances.

What can be done on a cruise of a few hours? The overnighter leaves little time to do more than handle the boat, take a swim, and either aboard or at a shore camp, cook a meal or two and sleep. If you stay aboard and under way constantly, your crew stands watch and watch. But these things never seem to grow stale. Being on the water is a complete change of environment. Hoisting the sails and anchor, or wielding the paddle, gauging the wind, waves and current, exercise the muscles and mind. When you like to do these things, the length of the cruise is unimportant.

The weekend cruise allows a greater variety of action. With a longer course possible, you can explore an island, a cove, a harbor, or a branch of a river where you haven't been before. Along the way you can work out some intricate navigation problems. You have time and maybe the luck to get part of your chow on the end of a fish line.

The two- or three-day cruise generally requires a definite program in addition to the routine that fills the shorter trip. Besides working the boat, going somewhere and coming back, select a new nautical skill to learn or practice on the way. Concentration on loafing and mere amusement often spoils the good time after the first day of a cruise.

A qualified cruise leader, whatever his rank, must be able to handle the kind of boat used on the kind of water covered. But more important, he must be capable of handling other men so they will accept his orders and like it. Leadership responsibility and authority should be definitely understood beforehand by the whole crew. Even when only two men go — and lone cruising is unnecessarily risky — they should agree who is in command. On the water there are situations, such as sudden squalls or rapids, when decisions must be made and orders followed with little or no time for discussion.

Since a happy cruise must be a safe cruise, make sure your craft is in good condition and carrying all emergency equipment. Review the chapters on Cruising in the *Sea Scout Manual* and *Handbook For Skippers.* Learn and follow the Coast Guard regulations or local ordinances applying to your area.

Let the folks at home know when you expect to return. If you are delayed, notify them, if possible, so they can enjoy the cruise, too.

Although this Program Help refers to short cruising as a Sea Scout activity, other Seniors can and do enjoy it. In fact, water trips are included under Air Scout Outdoorsman's Specialist ratings and Explorer Scout Expeditions requirements. So come aboard often, Seniors; it's a long summer ahead.

Explorers Fight Fire

Six Explorer Scouts of Post 19, Troy, New York, prevented what might have been a serious forest fire, reports the Post Program Chairman Paul R. Fowler. This happened while they were on a week-long canoe trip in the Saranac Lake region last August. Arriving at a campsite, they discovered an underground fire. It had penetrated so far into the tree roots and other vegetable matter beneath the surface that the Explorers poured water into the ground for three hours before extinguishing it.

The district forest ranger later said, the fire was caused by some careless camper who left his fire going. If it had not been discovered, it would have done serious damage to timber and wild life. Underground fires are especially dangerous because they may smoulder for days before breaking into the open. If you have no shovel to uncover it, pour on water long after you think it is out.

Changes in Uniform and Insignia

THE changes below have been authorized by the National Executive Board, and the new items listed are available.

Cub Scout Trousers

Long trousers are now optional for Cub Scouts, replacing the knickers. While knickers now in use can, of course, be worn, they will no longer be manufactured. There will be two choices in the future, long trousers and shorts.

The new trousers are made of dark blue cotton; of modified western design, with button-down pocket flaps piped in gold, and with an embroidered Cub insignia on the right pocket flap.

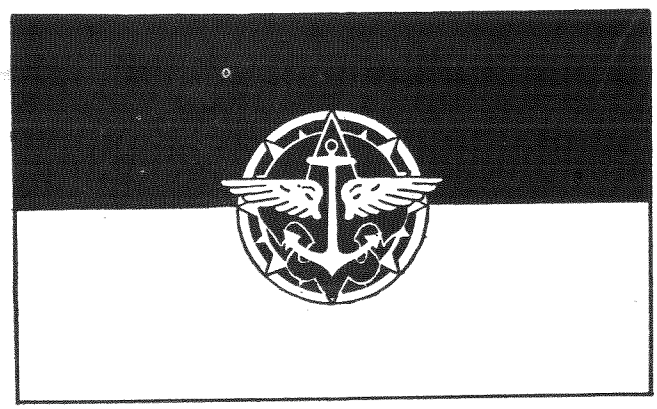
Senior Scout Flags

In the future all Senior Scout flags will consist of red and blue similar to the present Sea Scout flag, with the upper half of the flag in red and the lower half in blue, and with a circular medallion representing the program involved placed in the center.

These flags are now available in the 4½' x 5 1/3' size, and may be secured by any Senior Scout Outfit, Sea Scout Ship, Explorer Post or Air Scout Squadron.

Flags now in use by Senior Units may be continued, but from now on only the new flags can be secured from the Supply Service.

Regulations for lettering on these flags continue as before.



Senior Unit Outfit Flag

New Service Stars

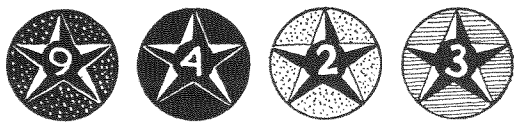
A new service star plan was announced in the March, 1946 issue of SCOUTING, with the statement that the stars would not be available for some months.

They are now available. Here, in brief, is the new plan:

A Cub Scout wears a star with yellow background for each completed year of service. When he goes from Cub Scouting into a Troop he replaces these stars with a single yellow-backgrounded star bearing a numeral designating his total years of Cub Scouting service.

The same plan is followed throughout, — Boy Scout service being designated by stars with green background, Senior Scouting with red background, and Scouter service (of all types) with blue background.

A Scouter may use one star with numeral indicating his entire Scout and Scouter service, or he may designate Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Senior Scout service with the proper stars.



The Uniform Lives On

IT IS AN old Army saying that "Men die, but the regiment lives on."

So it is with a distinctive uniform — the Scout Uniform, for instance. Insignia changes; the cut of the lapel may be modernized; breeches may give way to longs; a boy grows to manhood, perhaps dons a leader's uniform; but through all these changes it remains *the Scout Uniform*, an unmistakable badge of service and citizenship.

A boy not in a Scout Uniform may be just a boy headed for any of a multitude of pastimes, innocent or perhaps not so innocent. But there is no doubt about the boy in the familiar khaki with the fleur-de-lis on his buttons. You know his energies are being channelled wisely.

With his uniform, the Scout carries a guarantee of worth to his community. He shoulders a tradition of nearly forty years of character development, of unselfish service by man and boy alike to his town, his country, his world.

In the practical vein, the uniform also has some sound values to the Troop. It breaks down invisible barriers among boys, knits them into one gang with high morale. For a stirring report of what the Scout Uniform did for one Troop, pick up your March SCOUTING and read "Motely Mixture to Snappy Troop" on page 13.

Yes, insignia changes, but the uniform lives on.