

Gordanoos February 2009

Welcome to the February edition of Gordanoos. As I sure you are all aware at the end of January the "census" was due. Thank you to all those who submitted details to their GSLs or to me. This year the census overall showed a reduction in numbers by **35**, which is disappointing considering all the hard work everyone puts in around Gordano. As ever the numbers mask a number of factors and movement. In headline terms we saw Beaver numbers go up by 26, very worryingly Cub numbers reduced by **53**, Scouts down by **13** and Explorers encouragingly up by 8. Leader numbers stayed consistent. Currently the GSL's, ADC's and myself are looking at the opportunities the census presents, and there looks to be room for waiting lists to be reduced and direct recruitment into some sections, especially Cub Packs and some Scout Troops. It would be good to see all sections running at 24 as a minimum and preferably many more, so offering Scouting to more young people in our area. As a section leader, and I still do run a section, I always believe that planning for 30 young people is as easy / the same as planning for 24, so lets look at what can be done. If you have ideas on how we can look to redress the fall in members and work to our target of 20% growth over the next 3 years please discuss this with your GSL, ADC or contact me. Further details will be provided over the coming months of the ideas and actions to be taken, so we can see Gordano's growth of over 150 in the last 5 years continue.

District Orienteering

On Saturday 31st January the 39th District Orienteering event went ahead. Numbers were up this year overall with over 120 participants. Many congratulations to all those taking part and completing the course. Triple X Explorer Scouts Gavin Oliver and Chris John won the overall event with 320 points, closely followed by MELONS Explorer Scout Stephen Grigg with 280 points.

A full list of entrants, scores and positions can be found at
<http://www.freewebs.com/gordanoscouting/orienteering2009.htm>

Many thanks to all leaders and Fellowship who helped on a very cold Saturday and especially to Sue and Richard Ivens for arranging the events, setting out the control cards and making it happen.

District Skills Development events – FINAL REMINDER

I hope that you have all received information regarding this forthcoming Skills Development weekend. Although only a small number attended the previous events feedback was very positive and all felt that they had gained new skills and information. Please find attached a booking form for the weekend – the closing date is this weekend, and I would be grateful if you would return your form to me by then.

Sat 14th & Sun 15th March Adults in Scouting Skills weekend - Glenny Wood - 10:00 onwards

In order to finalise arrangements we need to know numbers attending, therefore can you please look at what sessions you would like to attend so that the planning can take into account when to put sessions on. The attached booking form should be returned to me with your name, times you can attend and sessions you are interested in attending.

People can camp at Glenny Wood if they wish on the Saturday evening – depending on numbers some sessions may run in the evening. Refreshments will be available during both days, as well as lunch. Please return the booking form to me by 1st March (St David's Day!!). (The form is attached).

Again we have listed a range of development opportunities, depending on the take up will depend if they will run.

This event is being arranged at the request of the Adults in the District, and the dates have already been published, for quite sometime.

Kath Woolcock – 14 Worcester Gardens NAILSEA BS48 4RJ – Telephone 851734 or E Mail
philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk

St Georges Day

Dragon Slayers big day out at Woodlands Adventure Park.

Saturday 25th April 2009

The great news is we have had over 500 people respond to this event, so we are all looking forward to a great day at Woodlands. The coaches have been booked and the grant application has been submitted. We still have more room if you wish to come along, we have extra coaches still provisionally booked. Please let your GSL / DESC know

Your GSL/DESC will have / has received a letter to send, via section leaders, to all those wishing to attend to confirm their intention to go and pay a £10 deposit, by the 13th March.

Angela Andrews has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the event and more specific details will be provided shortly.

Glenny Wood Development – update

Progress is good and positive; with a few more hands it certainly would be quicker.

The showers are on target for completion by the start of the camping season and the lodge certainly is refurbished and ready.

The sports ground will be worked on and finished over the summer months and grass seeded in the autumn.

The permanent Monkey Bridge and Runway is on target for the end of May completion and we are looking at ideas to extend and further develop the confidence course. Any ideas very welcome please.

The campsite is getting well booked up, so if you intend to use Glenny, and especially if you wish to use the lodge during the week, get your bookings in. The Lodge for the weekends from May to July are fully booked, which is great from a usage and revenue generation view point. To book please contact Ruth Ham on 858552 or srijham@blueyonder.co.uk. Don't forget you must book via Ruth to use Glenny Wood at all times.

Please remember when at Glenny we now have an extensive range of equipment for you to use. This includes

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| ❖ Grass Sledges (£5 per sledge per session) | ❖ Pioneering equipments, large and small poles, ropes, pullies etc. £10 donation per usage would be appreciated | ❖ Games <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chess○ Draughts○ Jenga○ Knubb○ Connect Four |
| ❖ Axes & Saws | ❖ Confidence Course | ❖ Runway and Monkey Bridge (June onwards) |
| ❖ Felling Axe | ❖ Fire lighting flints | ❖ Conservation around the site |
| ❖ Wetlands area inc. Pond dipping | ❖ Backwoods Cooking | ❖ Kwik cricket |
| ❖ Target Frisbee | | |
| ❖ Extreme Frisbee | | |

Clearly the above is a great range of activities now available on site, access will be via coded padlocks and we expect all the equipment to be looked after, and returned to the store as it was found. Please report any damage to Ruth.

Attached to this note is the Glenny Wood brochure and guidelines. Please familiarise yourself with these prior to using the site, and also please remind your parents to lift share if possible and take care when dropping off and picking up from the site. The access road and car park does become very congested at times.

We would also welcome ideas for other Scouting skills equipment and games you would like to see being made available at Glenny, so we can increase the opportunities when you come out and use the site.

I look forward to your support and seeing you at Glenny, both Scouting on site and helping with the ongoing developments and site maintenance.

Tomorrow Saturday 28th Feb is our next working day, with further opportunities to get involved on Saturday and Sunday 21st & 22nd March.

Camp Fire Songs

Attached is a list of camp fire songs recently provided by David Sleight GSL CCY. This is in "word" format and handy to use.

Opportunities in Scouting

Within the District team we still have two key roles to fill. These are

- ❖ ADC Beavers – provide support, advice and activities to this section
- ❖ ADC Development – Events. To lead on key events in the District and provide support and advice to Sectional / Groups events as necessary.

The District Executive would also welcome new members. This is an important group providing support to the District, managing the appointments process and to the Explorer section. We also need the Executive to expand its support by taking a stronger and proactive role with recruitment of adult support into the movement and in obtaining funding for the major projects above and supporting Groups with their major funding projects.

Therefore volunteers are needed to specifically focus on

- ❖ District Funding – To seek out funding through grant submission, local contacts and fund raising. To help co-ordinate grant applications to maximise the opportunities available.

If you are interested in being involved with any of the above roles please give me a call on 851734 or E Mail philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk

Kayaking level 1 course

There will be a course running designed to take leaders with little canoeing or kayaking background and turn them into canoeing coaches. In total there will be 10 days on the water training resulting in the following National governing body qualifications:

- ❖ British Canoe Union 2 New 2 star award.
- ❖ British Canoe Union Foundation Safety and Rescue Award.
- ❖ UK Coaching committee Level 1 Canoe sport award.

The awards are recognised by Scouting and guiding as well as commercial outdoor centres. The prerequisites will be first aid and CRB. If you are lacking first aid that can be arranged for an additional £40.

By the end of the course leaders should be qualified to take canoes or kayaks with a group of up to 8 on flat water.

The course is heavily subsidised. In most cases 10 days of training with all the above would cost £700 + because the majority of instructors are giving their time for free we just have to hire in coaches for the bits that we cant do. The total cost of this course will be about £210, less if you have the new 2 star (or old 2 star in Kayak and Canoe), FSRT or are a member of the BCU.

I have 10 places to fill and this will be opened up to Scouting and Guiding in the Avon area followed by the canoe clubs, so I expect places to go fast.

All equipment will be provided.

There is the possibility of getting help with the cost of the course, however this will take some effort writing to people and normally there would be an expected commitment of you using the qualification.

Course dates - Level 1 coach

- ❖ 21st & 22nd March - skills at BP Centre
- ❖ 5th April BP center open day, Try a boat session.
- ❖ 11th & 12th April UKCC Level 1 at BP Centre
- ❖ 26th April Wye Simmons Yat trip.
- ❖ 2nd May 2 star Skills Assessment day BP centre
- ❖ 3rd May – foundation Safety and rescue training.
- ❖ 23rd & 24th May UKCC Level 1 course Final Assessment weekend.

If you're interested please contact Rob Evered, at - rob_evered@hotmail.com.

Rob Evered - County Canoeing assessor

Next Edition

The next edition of Gordanoos news will be issued in mid March. I would welcome any articles, pictures or contributions. Please E mail them through to me on philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk

Phil Woolcock - District Commissioner

Home – 01275 851734 Mobile 07762 022225 or E Mail philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk