

AIR TRAILS

Return of the Air Trails Scouters Names

Finally, the Air Trails is starting to make a comeback.

Those of you who have no idea what the Air Trails is, then read on:

The Air Trails is simply put, 9th Irene's quarterly newsletter/magazine. The way it used to be is that scouts would give their articles to the editor (Who would happen to be me this time round) and he/she would compile them all into a magazine and distribute them at the beginning of each term. There was also important announcements, and things like that.

Well, this time round it will be different, I will be taking the best 4-5 articles from the website each term and use those in the magazine, I will also place some interesting tidbits from the forum in the mag as well.

Why? Cause I miss the old days that's why.

Your new Editor

Dakota.

We have a bit of a dilemma at the moment in the troop, and that is that nobody knows the Scouters "real" names, well I've decided to place them here.

Owen Williams is to be called "Phantom"

Paul Ross is to be called "Hawk"

Walther Lalk is to be called "Dakota"

And Crane is to be called "Crane" (Or as the scouts like it "Craaaaaaannne")

9th Irene Air Scouts
www.9thirene.za.org

Special points of interest:

- *Return of the Air Trails*
- *Sleep over on the 20th of May*
- *Hobby evening on the 27th of May*
- *Duty Patrols*
- *Troop Rules*

06/05/2005
Volume 1, Issue 1

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of

topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

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This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.

9TH IRENE AIR SCOUTS
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E-mail: webmaster@9thirene.za.org
OR
Dakota@9thirene.za.org
Cnr Bruce and King
Irene
Your business tag line here.

Well done Irene!!

We walked away with 4 1st places at Kontiki they were:

-STA (Thanks to the Scouters)

-Raft Model

-Dress Up

-Safety (Thanks to Carl for this one)

Many thanks to all parents that were involved.

And a VERY special thanks must go out to Carl Lotter for being kind enough to kick the battery overboard.

To read more go visit the website.

Kontiki 2005

Contact Details

Email Address for Scouters:

Crane: msfoster@lantic.net

Dakota: dakota@9thirene.za.org

Phantom: okwilliams@webmail.co.za

Hawk: N/A

You can also contact us via the forum: forums.9thirene.za.org

General Troop Rules Continued...

Sentinel Hike

The sentinel hike was one of the coldest hike that 9th Irene has ever been on. We left our warm homes on 30 of July at 12:30 after missing 2 hours of school (that was fun). We had two cars, a Cheve and the new Land Rover.

Day 1

We were very warm until we got to base camp. In 20 seconds the first snow ball was thrown and the snow was lovely. Daniel got his ass kicked and we had a cool braai.

We were very enthusiastic at first and loved the all the snow. Our guide (CT) had chronic bronchitis and was told by his doctor to get fresh air but took him to seriously.

We went to bed early but the wind was *howling* and we got hardly any sleep.

Day 2

We got an early start and had a relaxed hike up the trail observing the view with regular breaks. Everyone got excited when they saw the snow and had snow fights. We didn't see any dead bleeding beavers on Daniel.

We went up the mountain and then around to the South where there was a hole in the path which was covered in snow. Soon after that we arrived at the first climb.

The climb was up a crack and about 20 meters high. We had to climb with our rucksacks on which was a new experience to us all, except for our fearless leader, Spider (CT).

While we were climbing the mist rolled in and we couldn't see anything. We made some instant water by just adding snow to a very violent benzene cooker. What fun. We had still not seen any dead bleeding beavers or snow piranhas.

The climb took a long time because we could only climb one person at a time and each person took about 15 minutes to climb. While we were climbing, Jeremy chased his helmet down the mountain. The Helmet won 6-love.

After the first climb there was lots of snow and everyone hated it. It was knee-deep most of the way to the next climb.

Suddenly the mist thickened and so did the guide. We could only see 4 meters and the path was covered in snow, so we couldn't see where we were going. When we asked the guide for directions, he just said "UP".

We stopped many times on the way up to admire the mist, and the snow. We were slightly disorientated (pronounced "hopelessly lost") when Jack wandered off for a leak and accidentally found the climb.

By this time, it was getting cold and windy and Robbie was shrinking. This time we didn't have to climb with our packs. We climbed up a crack while the energetic parents pulled the packs up.

It got dark while we were climbing so our fingers started freezing. We had to ask the guide for advice because we couldn't feel anything. Robbie had to be pulled up because his clothes were frozen solid.

When we got to the top, we pitched the tents. Unfortunately, we had 4 tents but only 3 sets of poles because someone left the 4th set at the bottom. (don't worry Daniel, your secret is safe with us!)

CT and Mr Pitman slept outside in the snow, even though it was -10 degrees. The scouts slept with their tent doors open because they were too stupid to close them. Mr Blackbeard saved the day by spoon feeding the scouts burned macaroni. The gas stoves were useless.

Robbie dreamt about a terrible war between badgers and wombats.

Day 3

Some of us woke up to the best sunrise ever. Our tents were still in the same place as when we went to bed. The sunrise was spectacular. The bleeding beavers were blamed for opening the tent doors while we were sleeping.

We found Sue Blakes Bra in the Geocaching container. We filled in the visitors book.

Stuart had a hangover (he blamed the altitude). Robbie had frozen toes. Those bloody beavers! CT cracked Keiths jeans (before he put them on).

We packed up and started abseiling. Stuart slipped and ended up upside-down half-way down the rock face. It was very cold with the wind blowing. Fortunately, gravity was on our side, so we got down much faster than we got up.

After abseiling down both sections, we played in the snow again, and went sliding down the snow-filled slopes. Keith baled head first.

When we got to the contour path, it was an easy hike back to the car park. We were thrilled to be back down alive and sad that we didn't see any bleeding beavers or snow piranhas.

We went straight to the Harrismith Spur and had some real food.

We arrived back at the Blackbeards house at about 21h30 and all the parents came to fetch their brats.

Day 4

No-one got to school on time!

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Pitching a Tent in the dark

"We didn't see any dead bleeding beavers on Daniel."

The guys who went on the hike.

Hobby evening on the 27th of May

Sleep over on the 20th of May

We will be having a sleep over at the scout hall on the 20th of May. We will be having a formal (FULL scout uniform) scout meeting first, and after that the scouts will be allowed to change into casual clothes.

Food will not be provided (IE. It's self catering), but we ask you to bring the following for supper on Friday night:

- Boerwors (As much as you need)
- 1 egg
- 1 Large Potato
- Anything else

For breakfast bring anything that you want, but preferably something that doesn't need to be cooked.

We will be ending at 11h00 on Saturday morning.

We will be having a "Hobby" evening on the 27th of May. All scouts to please bring along examples of their hobbies to show of to the rest of the troop and any parents that may decide to join.

Scout will start at normal time, and we ask that all scouts come in Full Uniform. The hobby exhibition will start at 19h40 and end at 21h20. We ask that ALL parents come and support your children as they show off their hobbies.

Look at the badge book (Available on the website) for ideas of what to bring, we will be passing off badges if appropriate.

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Certificates from 2002 Kontiki

“Scouts who are unable to attend a meeting must contact their Patrol Leader “

The ever wonderful Hawk

As of next week the duty patrol of each week will be asked to be at the scout hall 15 minutes before scouts (18h45) and will finish 15 minutes after scouts (21h45).

The duty patrols for the rest of the term are as follows:

13/05: Mirage

27/05: Sabre

20/05: Spitfire

03/06: Impala

Duty Patrols

Meetings

Troop meetings are held during school terms, on Friday evenings from 19h00 to 21h30. Scouts should arrive 10 minutes before the starting time to prepare for flag break. Unless they are part of the duty patrol in which case they need to arrive 15 minutes before starting time.

Attendance

Although membership in itself is voluntary, once invested, a Scout is expected to attend Troop meetings on a regular basis.

i. As a guide, no Scout should miss more than 3 or 4 meetings a year, illness excluded

ii. Scouts who are absent for 3 consecutive meetings without valid excuse, or who attend irregularly will be asked to resign.

iii. Attendance at the annual BP Sunday memorial service (each February) is obligatory for all Scouts and Scouters. Where circumstances prevent a Scout from attending, a written apology from his parent/guardian is required.

iv. Scouts are also expected to participate fully in Area and District events attended by the Troop. Failure to do so, especially when chosen to represent the Troop will be seen as an infringement of the Troop Rules

Apologies

Scouts who are unable to attend a meeting must contact their Patrol Leader or Second and ask to be excused. Scouts are expected to observe this common courtesy. Troop Leaders and Patrol Leaders convey their apologies to the Troop Scouter

Uniform

Unless advised otherwise, dress is as follows:

Friday evening: Full Uniform. Uniform must be clean and freshly pressed, shoes polished, belt buckle shining, scarf correctly rolled, beret free of dust, and badges sewn on correctly. Shorts must not be hang down below the knee and must have belt loops.

Troop events: A camp uniform is also available consisting of plain navy blue golf shirt with Troop Badge (Available from Troop Scouter), black PT Shorts or jeans, socks, shoes or sandals, and blue cap.

Scout Law and Promise

The Scout Law and Promise should not be taken lightly. Scouts are expected to live by the Law and Promise and to uphold the honour and good name of the Troop, both in and out of uniform. Serious infringement of the Scout Law, Promise and these Troop Rules may result in forfeiture of membership.

The Court of Honour

The Court of Honour consisting of the Patrol Leaders under the guidance of the Troop Scouter is responsible amongst other duties, for the maintenance of good order and discipline of the Troop. A Scout who fails to observe Troop Rules or who acts in a manner unbecoming to a Scout, shall be required to come before a disciplinary session of the Court of Honour whose decision will be binding on the Scout

A online copy of the troop rules is available on the website.

General Troop Rules

Sentinel Hike continued...

Kontiki visits Russia

I arrived on the Saturday Morning to a sunny Kontiki (I was rather surprised). When I arrived the first place that I went to was the raft, and again I was surprised, the raft looked completely different from previous years, and it was half the size (Well, almost). I then went to look at all the other rafts and saw some nifty designs.

After I had walked around a bit I went back to help build our raft (I tied the grand total of 1 lashing because it was a bit loose, the raft team did a excellent job getting the raft as far as they did by that time).

Then came the time for the dress up competition, our troop did a rendition of swan lake. Seeing 16 young boys dancing around in tutus was one of the funniest sights that I have ever seen. After our performance on stage the two pipers (Hawk and Blackbird) started piping and I thought that it was amazing!

Then came lunch, yummy sandwiches! After lunch we started to work frantically to finish the raft before 12. At 12 we finished building the raft, and pushed it into the water, we then loaded everything up (Almost dropping Pattison's park a few times). Then the raft was off. As soon as they left I knew that this was a fast raft! They ploughed through the thick reeds and were almost to the middle of the lake in no time.

After the raft launch we started to do the STA's. The STA's for this year involved making postcards or other photographic "Evidence" of us visiting the places that Kontiki had been to over the years, we had to make at least 5 "postcards". We decided to make up a scrapbook with 10 different locations. I was tasked with creating the page for Australia (Kontiki goes Down Under). I had great fun creating this page, I even had a picture of the Guy from Toy Story and called him "Bruce" and I also made a sheep for him called "Sheila". After I finished with my Australia page, I made a "Zen" garden for Japan (What a messy business). We also needed to make a badge and theme for Kontiki 2007.

Our third and final task for the STA was to dress a scout/Scouter with as many layers of clothing as possible. We volunteered Phantom. We started by placing 3 or four pairs of jeans on him, this was followed by 2 or 3 tracksuit pants and 3 overalls. We then put 7 pairs of socks on him, 5 pairs of jocks, close to 15 t-shirts, 7 or 8 shorts, 4 hats, 2 pairs of shoes, 3 vests, 4 dry macs, 3 trench coats, 2 scarves, and 16 tutus from the dress up competition. This gave a total of 92 layers of clothing!! The most layers of clothing was 105 by a group of girls with something like 100 panties (Who brings 100 panties to Kontiki??)

After the STA we went to sing to our Raft. Then came supper, mmmm, yummy supper. It was a potjie and rice meal and was absolutely delicious. After supper we went of to the Campfire, only to be told when we arrived there that our singing had ruined their campfire (Isn't the point of a campfire to sing??), and so we left. We decided to play "stalk the camp" with the scouts, we took them to the other side of murry park and told them to get back to the camp site with out us seeing them. This was cut short by two guys from another troop giving Devon a bloody nose (We sorted it all out with camp security). So, instead we went back to camp and gave the guys hot chocolate and told them to go to bed, since it was already 22h00 and this was the curfew time.

After everyone was asleep, Hawk, Phantom and me decided to see if we could get onto the Dip-Dips (The gigs that patrol the lake). So we headed out to the water control center. We asked them and they said that we could go on as long as one of us had a oars charge, lucky Hawk had one (That expired about 6 years ago). All we had to wait for then was a "Hammy". A Hammy is the name given to those guys who are licensed to use the radios, and they are required on each gig between 22h00 and 02h00. Of we went, this was the first time that any of us 3 had ever been on a dip-dip, and something all three of us have always wanted to do.

During the launch of the raft we joked with the raft crew that we were going to come aboard the raft during the night, and since we were now on the water, we went to visit our guys. They were fast asleep!! We couldn't believe it. So, we did what any 9th Irenian would of done, we woke them up! The only one to really wake up was Chris, but he woke up with a start when he realized that we

were on the raft. He offered to make hot chocolate but we had to go and shout at some rafts for not having any lights. After shouting at them, we went back to shore.

When we arrived at shore the first thing that we asked was "When is the next gig going out?" They told us and we climbed onto it. Now, this second time was much more eventful, we smelled some scouts smoking weed (But when we arrived at them they were fast asleep). We then received a call of somebody having an asthma attack on one raft, and so headed towards them. The one girl on that raft was having a very bad asthma attack and her hands were even turning blue!! The motor boat arrived to whisk her away to the first aid tent. We then headed back to shore and I headed to bed. Hawk and Phantom went out again after that and received hot chocolate from our troop.

The next morning I was woken by our troop going out on a morning run at 05h30. Hawk had booked us a gig at 07h30 and so at 07h30 we went out on the water, this time Blackbird, Chris and Trevor was with us. We visited our troop and woke them up. While we were going around we noticed a Red flag and so we "ran" off to the raft with the red flag, one of their guys had been stung by a bee and needed an injection. So we threw him aboard and sprinted back to land. After this we took Gavin on a trip and found some people stuck among the reeds on the far side of the lake, we laughed at them and told them to take their tents down and start paddling.

We went back to land and crawled back to camp with very sore stomachs. After breakfast we felt better. We then decided to go back out on the water. They told us that we will need to tow some rafts out. So we went to go find some rafts. The first raft that we tried to tow was the raft that we first laughed at the previous time, the wind was so strong that we ended up further away than they had originally started. We also tried to tow two rafts and we didn't go anywhere. We eventually after 2 hours went back to land.

At 12 the raft came back to land we started to take it apart. Once the raft was apart and the truck was packed we headed to prize giving (As usual we were 10mins late, and as soon as we had arrived they started).

We won 1st place for:

- Model Raft (First time ever)
- Safety (This was funny, 9th Irene winning safety)
- Dress up
- STA's (Thanks a lot to Phantom's 92 layers of clothing)

We didn't get any 2nd or 3rd places. We also got into Chairman's Challenge and are really hoping to go.

When we got back to the hall CT had a party prepared for us (As usual) and we had lots of fun.

I'd just like to thank all parents who helped in organizing and running Kontiki!

By Dakota

P.S Well Done to Carl for kicking the battery overboard

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Sentinel Peak

"Who brings 100 panties to Kontiki?"

Hi Chris!

Kontiki visits Russia Continued...

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Volume 1, Issue 1

The hall (Yes, I was running out of pictures)

"..we did what any 9th Irenian would of done..."

Kontiki 2003.

Time for me to start my Ranting about the website. I have spent hours of my time, and hundreds of my Rands on the website. It is one of the nicest and easiest to use scout troop website in the world, and yet almost none of our scouts ever visit it.

Sure, there are a few of them that are registered on the site, but nobody has ever posted a article, or a photo album on the site. And there is only one scout who actively participates on the forum (Thanks Carl). I want to know why?

It is for this reason that I have placed a feedback form on this issue of Air Trails, to find out exactly how many people have actually visited the website, and why nobody uses it.

Now, on to the next topic. Uniform, our Scouts look **disgusting** to put it bluntly. First, their shorts are too long, they are meant to be above the knees, not halfway down their shins. Next, nobody ever polishes their shoes or belt buckles (That is if they are wearing them). And then there is the thing of warm clothes. Yes, we understand that it is cold, but during flag ceremonies, scouts should be wearing their full scout uniform, and nothing else. After the ceremony Scouts are given a chance to get changed into more comfortable clothing.

And lastly, late coming. Scouts regularly arrive at scouts 10-15 minutes late, when they are meant to be there 10-15 minutes early. From now on, the doors close at 19h00 and open after flag break and roll call. If your late, you get to salute the flag, and apologize to the troop.

And that's all for now. Hopefully I won't need to rant about the same things next term.

Cnr Bruce and King
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9TH IRENE AIR SCOUTS
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9th Irene Air Scout Group

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Rants and Raves

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Comments:

Website Response Form

How often to you visit the website

I would just like to find out how often the website is visited by troop members

Every Day

Once a Week

Once a Month

Have you ever posted anything on the website (Tick were applicable)

Yes, a article

Yes, a photo album

Yes, on the forum

Only been there once

What website?

Are you registered on the website

No, never

No

Yes

9th Irene Air Scout Group

Website Funnies—Posts take from the forum (Not that there are many)

Fool

Who remembers the Hike at Rietvlei with Rudi?

I do as i remember a new scout ended up on a rooftop

Fool
that was me

Dakota
Wasn't that the hike where they burned down the sleeping hut?

Fool
no that was a different hike

Lorry
I Definitely remember that hike, as far as I remember that certain person who was on the roof had gathered all the cell phones and knives of all members and was speaking to mother, am I not correct???

Fool
yea but the only phone he had was CT's and most of the knives belonged 2 him

Lorry
As I recall some people were making some animal noises in the bushes and that's what got him up on the roof in the first place, fool who you??
Does anyone remember the time that Gus got left on the ugly chicks raft on Kontiki?? Serves him right for pushing me off the raft tho Ha Ha

Dakota
Ah yes, that one.

Lorry
Oh yeah just remembered HEY BILLY !!!!!!!

Dakota
He still doesn't like that

Lorry
I know I saw him last night at Rag, he doesn't you right!! lol Dak who is fool??

Fool
take I guess who i am

Lorry
The Easter Bunny I duno

Tiny Tidbits
Normally something would go in here, but I have nothing to put here.
So instead, I'm just telling you that there is noting to put here. So there!