



WFIS EUROLETTER

January 2003, number 1

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Happy new Year!

[Http://www.wfis-europe.org](http://www.wfis-europe.org)

Send your E-mails to:
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WFIS and the Peace Light



In the WFIS main aims or guide lines there is also the one of promoting the development of the peace by participating to the international activity called " the Peace Light".

That's why it could be interesting to know more about for making something concrete in the next year: unfortunately new wars are breaking out and we need more and more to stand up for Peace.

Don't forget the message that Baden-Powell gave us: he said that the scouts are the " Ambassadors of Peace and Fellowship among the Nations of the World."

I am sure that many associations already took part to this great event and I invite them to write to the Euroletter for telling their experiences and to explain how to participate

in. But now let's see what the Peace light is.

In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is an oil lamp that has been burning continuously for centuries. All the Christian nations in the world take turns contributing oil for this lamp. The tradition started with the Christmas collection for the poor called the "Lichts in Dunkel" or "light in the dark" sponsored by the Austrian radio and television corporation, ORF-Landestudio Oberoesterreich, in Linz, Austria. More than 60-70 Austrian schillings were collected for helping disabled children, the homeless and needy foreigners, especially refugees. In 1986, to thank the Austrians for their generosity, and in the spirit of the Christmas season, the ORF created the Peace light of Bethlehem movement. In December that year the Austrian Airlines flew an Austrian child to Bethlehem to light a lantern from the flame burning in the Grotto of Bethlehem. The flame then returned by plane to Linz from where it was distributed throughout Austria by the Austrian Railways with the help of the Austrian Scouts in Vienna, thus putting into practice the Scouting motto that demonstrates love for one's neighbour, do a good turn daily. Each year among the Scout groups the number of participants and their enthusiasm for distributing the flame has increased, and each year since 1986 a new European country has joined the Peace light of Bethlehem movement.

Come and get the flame and become bearers of the "light"! Spread the news to as many people as possible!

Spread it first of all your brothers in Scouting. Sometimes we worry about our distant neighbours and don't realise that among our own Scouts there may be those whose diversity we find hard to accept. If there are other Scouting organisations in your area, contact them and take advantage of the Peace light movement to get to know them better. This contact is particularly important since the experience of the "light" was and still is an occasion to further develop co-operation among the different Scout groups: peace must be considered a way of life that begins inside each of us. The Peace light of Bethlehem should be brought to as many people as possible, to the rich and poor, to the educated and illiterate, to black and white, to believers and atheists as well. Peace belongs to us all and its light must be brought to all. We particularly hope the Peace light will be brought to places of suffering, to the outcasts, to those who see no hope nor future in their lives. The distribution of the light can be the occasion to do a good turn, to visit those who are alone, or ill, to feed the starving...because even a prison is a place where the light should be brought.

The word "peace" brings to mind images of serenity, tranquillity: it is not a dynamic concept. Instead peace requires commitment and perseverance. What better occasion than the Peace light to become builders of peace.

No one has exclusive rights to the Peace light of Bethlehem. Whoever organises its distribution cannot consider himself to be sole owner of the flame.

Each one of us can give a different meaning to the Peace light of Bethlehem, as long as its value remains the same.

The Peace light of Bethlehem has not only a religious meaning but inherent in it are civil, ethic and moral values shared by those who believe in the values of Peace and Brotherhood inherent in the Peace light.

For further information: <http://www.retecivica.trieste.it/luce/> e <http://linz.orf.at/friedenslicht/>



DE GULE SPEJDERE
I DANMARK



Let me introduce you the " Gule Spejdere I Danmark".

The "Gule Spejdere" means "The Yellow Scouts" and it refers to the colour of the uniforms.

The association has been founded in 1984 by leaders who left other scout organisations. The leaders wanted to get back to the original way of scouting and one of the ways was to start an organisation who was build on the way Lord Baden-Powell wants to do scouting. At present, there are more than 500 members divided in 10 groups all over Denmark. In our association we have cubs, pathfinders, scouts, pioneers and rovers.



Cubs 7 - 10 years old boys and girls. They live the adventure of Mowgli in "The Jungle book".

The wolf head badge is used by the cubs and the cubs' leaders.



Pathfinders 10 - 12 years old boys and girls. The work in this age is based upon native Indians.

The Indian head badge is used by the pathfinders and the pathfinders' leaders.



Scouts 12 - 17 years old boys and girls. The scouts are working very close to "Scouting for boys". The St. George badge is used by scouts and scout leaders



Pioneers 18 - 21 years old

Rovers 21 - 100 years old

The special thing about our organisation is that all the groups are totally independent. There is not any committee to tell the groups and the leaders how to do scouting, how to make camps, how to run their economic and so on.

For any further information: <http://www.gulspejder.dk/>

To know more about our dear Chairmen Klaus Tegeder and Jan Eriksen, the euroletter has asked some questions about their scout life. Here



EuroLetter: Hello Klaus, hallo Jan! Thank you for making this interview! Let's start then with the first question:--at what age did you become a scout?

Klaus: when I was 14 years old.

Jan: I started as a cubs' assistant in 1992.

EL: -why did you decide to join the scouts? tell us a story...

K : I had a friend and we both started to go on hike - he was in scouting since he was 8 - so we walked a little and he showed me a lot of things - after the walk I visited the group and stayed inside for a long time -- :-))

J: I am a member of The St. Georges Guild. One of the other members was asking for help with the cubs for a summer camp -

I said yes - and since then I am a scout.

EL: tell us the most important steps in your scout "career".

K: in 1980 I became Petrolleader of the Bearpatrol

- 1984 Junior Group Leader
- 1986 Senior Group Leader
- 1990 Troop Leader
- 1992 Assistant Group Scout Master
- 1995 Group Scout Master
- 1996 Member of Steering Commission WFI S
- 1999 Woodbeads - Kangaroo Patrol
- 1999 2. Chairman WFI S - Europe
- 2000 1. Chairman WFI S - Europe
- 2000 National Trainer Woodbeads
- 2001 Coordinator Woodbeads Training for Germany

J: I think that a scout has not a "career". What I have done is just say yes when someone asked for help.

EL: what is your best scout souvenir?

K: A Baden Powell Medall from the Scoutjamboree in Vogelzaang.

J: Smiling and happy children.

EL: Would you like to give a special message to our readers?

K: Yes sure! Please take care of the scout fellows in your groups and make sure that the spirit of Baden Powell will live in the hearts of everyone.

J: Please remember what scouting is!

I t's a brotherhood where there is room for everybody. I t's a brotherhood where nobody is right and where nobody is wrong. I t's a brotherhood of respect. Respect for all other scouts, countries and what they stand for.

If you respect others - they will respect you.



TELL A STORY!

Something new in your Euroletter! A brand new column dedicated to the readers! Do you want to tell us a story or propose an edifying tale? Do you want to share a little or great adventure you lived with the scouts?

Avail yourselves of this opportunity and write us!

The tale of Davide Grisafi, an Italian scout from ASSISCOUT, opens the column. He went as volunteer to the south of Italy for helping the victims of the last earthquake.



Davide, wearing the scout necker on his Civil Protection uniform and 2 American firemen.

Here it is his story.

"Hello, I am Davide and am a member of ASSISCOUT, Abano Terme, Italy. I am also a volunteer in the local group of the Civil Protection. The activities we make are different and the main aim is to be ready in case of natural disasters or any other emergency: the volunteers must be able to support the firemen and to help the victims.

After some exercises and real interventions (above all in case of floodings) I had the occasion to practise really what I learned during the training period.

The **31st of October 2002** a violent earthquake struck the central-south of Italy, damaging the buildings, above all the public ones (schools, hospitals...) but also the private houses. The people could not stay in their homes, because of the damages to the structures and so it was necessary to pitch up a camp for them.

After a 14 hours travel (by the fully equipped but slow trucks of the Civil Protection) I arrived in one of the most stricken area: Monacilioni and Toro, two villages lost in the Campobasso district. In Monacilioni we made a "full optional" camp ready with tents, toilets, kitchen, a camp hospital, a school. In the camp around 200 people were living.

The Red Cross volunteers, some officers and me were charged to make the "Head Quarter" work and we had to co-ordinate all the operations in the camp and in the villages. I had a very special and important task: I managed the communications and all the administration things at the camp.

I must confess that it was really a very good experience for me. I could do my job without any problems above all because I am a scout and during the time I spent there I could practise all the things I learned during many years of scouting: to use a radio, to pitch up tents, to manage a camp and all its facilities, to do my best even in the most difficult situations, to share the room with other people.

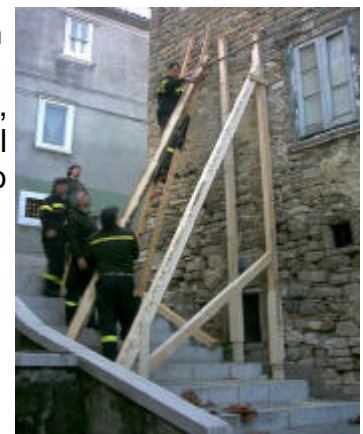
I think that all the scouts, above all the rovers and the leaders, should live such an experience: don't forget that Baden-Powell thought of the rovers as groups of young people always ready to help in case of emergencies in the country".

If you want to write me:

davide.grisafi@scoutlink.it

And for further information about the earthquake:

www.monacilioni.org



Some Italian firemen at work

WFIS - NEWS

The "**Förderwerk St. Georg e.V. für Pfadfinder-Zeltlagerplatz Brexbachtal**" from Germany has invited the WFIS—Europe members to take part to their 50th anniversary camp, on **6th-9th of June 2003 in Brexbachtal** (Germany).

It could be a great occasion to discover one of the most famous scout base in Germany and in Europe!

If you want to participate or to have further information, please contact:

Stefan Brog
Flurstrasse 8
56566 Neuwied (Germany)
Tel. +49 (0)2622 82 658
Fax +49 (0)2622 83 620
E-mail: info@brex.de



You can also see the camp site and have further information on it taking a look at the web site: www.brex.de (in german)



Scoutlink — News from the net

The weekend of **February 22, 2003** Scouts and Guides from all over the world have activities around Founders Day or Thinking Day. This day is also used to make friends all around the world, show the world what Scouting and Guiding is all about.

Scoutlink has chosen to support the weekend of February 22 to let Scouts and Guides from all over the world meet each other online. Like during the Jamboree On The Internet Scouts and Guides are invited to join us, chat and make friends.

Please spread the word and invite your Scouting and Guiding friends to join us in what might become the second largest event for Scouts and Guides on the Internet where Scoutlink provides the save place for people to chat.

For further information: www.scoutlink.net

or contact directly Elena by e-mail (elena.grisafi@inwind.it)

WFIS - NEWS

Here they are some news about our scout fellows from WFIS -WW. This time let me introduce you the:

BADEN POWELL SCOUTS ARGENTINA



Dear Scout Brothers from Traditional Scouting Worldwide:

Below you will find an account of the activities of the southernmost group of our young Association. It is located in Rio Gallegos, Santa Cruz, Argentine Patagonia.

Its Group Scoutmaster is called Sergio Gesto "Guide Wolf" (Lobo Guia) who is an enthusiastic leader. The group participates in many community activities, putting in practice the Scout Law and Promise. We want to share with you some of their last achievements that made us very proud.

We think that it will be very important that these activities were published in the links of your WebPages. You will find pictures attached and the Group links below. They will be very happy to be in touch with scout brothers and sisters from all the world.

Here is the Group Report in Mr. Gesto's own words:

Dear all!

Be prepared!

We will like to tell you about our current projects. We will very much like to welcome you here. Our main projects are three:

- a) Explorer Raft "Vito Dumas"
- b) Touristic Train
- c) Camp of social touristc and training activities.

A) Explorer Raft.

We have finished with the design and submitted it to the Navy Authorities for approval.

We will sail across the Gallegos River, from its source in Puente Blanco to its end. This expedition will take two days, or three (it depends on the winds).

The raft will have a sail of 5 sq. m, a metallic structure mounted on six barrels that will serve as floaters. The deck will be made in wood and may transport 9 members of the Crew and sailing equipment, communications, GPS, etc.

The Project was approved by the Naval authorities, who will provide us with the necessary security equipment (lifesaver vests) and we are working in the construction, the Army has given us a warehouse where we will build the raft. These news will be published in the local newspapers soon.

B) Touristic train.

After a lot of hard work, mainly of one of our leaders, we finally achieved our project of the Explorer Train



WFIS - NEWS

The Scout group is the owner of the train...a couple of passenger wagons and a tourist wagon... and probably a locomotive.... this little train belonged to the Industrial Railway of Rio Turbio, former National Coal Mines...

With this train we will resume passenger transport with this railway that has only been used for cargo transport for fifteen years. We are going to Our Summer Camp on December 13 in OUR own train!!!!
You can visit this link with the photos of the wagons and the railways:

http://ar.geocities.com/scout_patagonia/Trencito

The repair of the wagons will be done with the scouts of the group.

This has a social impact for our community... many people who greeted in tears us were former miners and employees from the old railway!!! ... one of them was the train guard from the golden age of the little train -more than 20 years ago- and the other one was the motorman.!!!

We are very proud and happy to recover this part of Patagonia history that was almost lost.

By the way...you will probably know of many scout groups that have cars, boats, even trucks....but a train on their own????!!! Just for fun!

C) Activity Camp.

The company YCRT has proposed us to manage the Station "Gov. Mayer" (Estancia Bella Vista, a 105 Km from Gallegos), about 8 hectares and approximately 13 buildings (see picture). The idea is to take care of this place for the Scout Group. We have already submitted a project and touristic development to set up a Camping, houses for the fishers, school groups, trekkers, fishing area (there is a river at 200 m). We have already refurbished one of the houses.

For any further information:

Scout Group "Mons. M. A. Aleman"

Scout_patagonia@hotmail.com

http://ar.geocities.com/scout_patagonia/frame.html

Río Gallegos

Santa Cruz

Argentina

Member of the "Asociación Scouts de Baden Powell - Argentina" Baden Powell Scouts Argentina.

http://ar.geocities.com/bpsa_ar/

Visit our Picture Gallery from the Annual Camp 2001 !!

http://ar.geocities.com/scout_patagonia/camp2001/



Here are some pictures of the sta
(Scout Camp)
and of the station
A handshake brothers!!
if you can travel
to Rio Gallegos, we will take you
to a nice trip by train.!

