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## Introduction

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Welcome to the first edition of Activities eNews. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest developments and opportunities within Activities. It is replacing Activities News and is planned to go out to ACCs Activities and County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers about four times a year.

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## Scouts On Top

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To help mark our Centenary, 2007 has been a busy year for Scouts on the rooftop of the world, with four Members of The Scout Association successfully scaling the 8848m of Mount Everest. First up was Carrie Gibson from the Scottish Scouts Seven Summits Project who summited via the North Col on 16 May. She was closely followed by Tim Clark, James Fry and David King of Hampshire Scouts' Sky High team who summited via the South Col on 21 May. Many congratulations to all those involved in these successful summit bids.

You can find more on both expeditions on their websites at:

[www.sevensummits.org.uk](http://www.sevensummits.org.uk)

[www.scoutsoneverest.org.uk](http://www.scoutsoneverest.org.uk)

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## Nights Away Permits

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As many will be aware, we have recently been looking at the Nights Away Permit Scheme and how successful it has been now that it has had a chance to bed in. The aim was to look at ways it could be tweaked to improve the way it works and make it easier to use in providing nights away experiences for young people. During September we will be rolling out these updates.

The updates will initially be sent to Commissioners and ACCs Activities to give them a chance to understand any changes before people start asking questions of them. Shortly after this they will be made available to all on

[www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase](http://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase) and promoted through Scouting magazine, *Scouting+* etc. As ever, there will be an extended implementation period (through to spring 2008) so that each County and District can ensure they have everything required in place before implementing the changes.

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## Adventurous Activity Permits

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Following a 20-month implementation period the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme has now gone live in every County and Area in the UK. This is just a quick reminder that all existing authorisations held will continue to be valid until their natural expiration date (a maximum of five years from issue), but all renewals or new applications will now go through the permit process rather than the authorisation process.

Finally, a couple of other reminders. Firstly, that members of the National Activities Team are very happy to visit Counties/Areas and Regions to help, talk with Assessors, answers questions and promote the scheme to Leaders. Secondly, that funding is available to help potential Assessors gain the qualifications they need to carry out their role, further details of which can be found at:

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment.htm)

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## Diary Dates

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Below are listed a number of activity events taking place in 2007 and 2008. Many of these allow novice levels to take part without the need to bring specialist activity equipment. For a full and up to date list of activity events and dates please see:

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm)

National Scout Sailing Regatta

South Shields, Durham

**22 – 23 September 2007**

[www.soshiields-sailing.co.uk](http://www.soshiields-sailing.co.uk)

National Scout Air Rifle Championships

Bisley - Surrey

**19 - 21 October 2007**

[www.dohoo.clara.net/nsarc2k7/index.html](http://www.dohoo.clara.net/nsarc2k7/index.html)

Fusion 2007 (Network Party)

M-Two, Manchester

**18 December 2007**

[www.nanoteam.org.uk/fusion](http://www.nanoteam.org.uk/fusion)

National Scout Pedal Car Olympics 2008

Thriftwood - Essex

**11 - 13 January 2008**

[www.thriftwood.org.uk/events/events\\_pedalcarolympics\\_info\\_2008.htm](http://www.thriftwood.org.uk/events/events_pedalcarolympics_info_2008.htm)

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## Flying Scholarship

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Learning to fly has always been one of the more expensive activities to have a go at, and even more expensive to perfect. We have come across a scholarship programme that can help to reduce the costs of learning to fly. The Gerry Breen Flying Scholarship is open to applications from 14 to 21 year olds wishing to develop their flying skills. If you are interested and want more information go to their website and click on 'scholarship' on the left hand menu:

[www.gerrybreen.com/index1.htm](http://www.gerrybreen.com/index1.htm)

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## Appointment Cards

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Later this year The Scout Association will launch new Appointment Cards for all adults in Scouting. The information on this card will reflect what is recorded on the Membership Database. You can make sure that the information on your card is correct by checking your details online at: [www.scouts.org.uk/membership](http://www.scouts.org.uk/membership). You will require your personal membership number and if you do not know this, please ring the information centre on 0845 300 1818.

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## Adult Training News

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A new webpage linking tools for Adult Training has been launched. This page puts a diverse range of training methods; video, e-learning and workbooks - right at the fingertips of the learner.

From this page the learner can download, watch and interact with the training method of their choice. One of the key principles of the Adult Training Scheme is flexibility and fundamental to this is giving the learner the opportunity to learn at a convenient time and place for them. The page can be found at:

[www.scouts.org.uk/learnersresources](http://www.scouts.org.uk/learnersresources)

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## Factsheet Updates

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Details of new and updated factsheets and assessment checklists in the past few months can be found on their dedicated web page at:

[www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates](http://www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates)

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## Nearly Finally...

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This issue's useful activities gadget is the Shakelight. Based on some clever technology stuff, this torch doesn't require batteries as it produces its power from being shaken, and can hold enough power from a 60 second shake to provide light for around an hour. This could either be the end of the need for batteries, and spare batteries, and more batteries... when going on camp, or just a useful torch to keep handy without worrying about whether the batteries have run down or leaked.

Full details can be found at:

[www.sailgb.com/p/shakelight\\_emergency\\_battery\\_free\\_shake\\_torch/](http://www.sailgb.com/p/shakelight_emergency_battery_free_shake_torch/)

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## Finally...

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Thank you for reading the first edition of Activities eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let me know.

*Andrew*

Andrew Wellbeloved  
UK Commissioner for Programme

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