

Issue 66, March 2005

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Editorial

Firstly, many apologies for missing an issue in November but the August one went missing for a while and by the time we found it, it would have been too close to do another issue. We have also changed the publication dates to try and alternate with Scouting magazine.

I recently did a mini survey to see who actually receives *Far and Wide* and quite a few of those who replied do not get to see it. All copies are sent to Group Contacts to pass on to the Leaders. *Far and Wide* is a crucial tool in the way the County team supports the Leaders so I ask that Group Contacts please pass it on.

#### **Julia Westall – International Office**

Julia has now moved from her part-time job in International Office at Gilwell Park to a full-time job in another part of Headquarters. We'd like to thank Julia for her super-

support to BGA and the BGA team, and wish her well in her new role.

We'd like to take this opportunity of welcoming Pat Cracknell to replace Julia; Pat will be supporting both International Office and the Programme Office at Gilwell Park.

#### **BGA Essentials**

By the time this issue of *Far And Wide* reaches you the new, revised – and 'slimmed down' version 2 of BGA Essentials will be on our BGA website (follow the link from our web-page at [www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps.inter/uk/bga/index.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps.inter/uk/bga/index.htm) )

You will be able to download each section of BGA Essentials and its appendices as separate PDF files. As with Version 1, paper copies will be sent to each Group's GSL or Group Contact for local reference by adults, and as before, a copy of the complete document will be sent to every newly appointed Leader when their full Warrant is issued (i.e. on 'conversion' from the Provisional appointment).

#### **Nights Away Permits**

We have received a number of NA *Workbooks* and *Fast Track* applications for assessment. These are/have been assessed by a panel of assessors to ensure that we follow a consistent approach in assessment (although the Core Skills and its Elements are clear).

Although not currently a stated requirement in the Core Skill Elements, the assessors feel that applications would be enhanced by including an evaluation of the event referred to in the application – a ‘post-event’ reflection on *“what went well? what problems occurred?; what would I do differently next time?”* Perhaps evidence of “doing it differently based on previous experience” would also show that you’ve learned new approaches?

Once a Nights Away Permit has been issued, you would only need to send in a Nights Away Notification (NAN) form (the BGA version please) fourteen days before the planned event. Holding a NA Permit means that you’ve demonstrated that you have competently planned and held a NA event in the past, it doesn’t mean that you don’t have to plan future events!

If you’re sending in a workbook or fast-track application, please send it by mail and not as an email attachment; the County Secretary doesn’t have broadband!

It’s important to remember that it does take time to send workbooks out to assessors, chase them for their assessments, consolidate these and arrive at the final recommendation for the County Commissioner (who decides whether a Permit should be issued, at what level, and with what restrictions).

So – please don’t send in your workbook with a note attached saying “we’re going to camp in three weeks, can you get this assessed and issue a Permit please” – it’s not possible! If you haven’t got a Permit (very few issued so far!), please apply for permission for an individual camp, and include full details of the camp (dates, location, transport, programme, activities, accommodation, menus, expected numbers of youngsters and their ages (and Sections), list of key staff and roles, and names of any other adults attending, name and address of home contact.)

You’ll need to get this information to the County Secretary at least three weeks before the planned date, significantly longer if you’re planning to include any ‘adventurous activities’ in the programme, and particularly so if you plan to make use of

a commercial activity centre in which case specific permission has to be given.

### **Visits abroad**

If you take your Group/Section on a ‘visit abroad’ you must have specific approval beforehand. Please contact International Office at Headquarters and ask for a *Visits Abroad* pack – International Office will deal with and advise you on details of your visit.

A ‘visit abroad’ would include your Group or Section ‘popping over the border to a neighbouring country for a weekend camp’. It also includes a Group or Section visit to the UK!

When travelling abroad you must also ensure that you have adequate travel insurance for all members of the party. Scout Insurance Services have confirmed that they can now provide this for BGAs; this travel insurance would cover, where appropriate, repatriation to either the UK or to the BGA member’s country of residence.

### **“Coming home”**

When a BGA member returns to the UK, we hope they will want to continue their Scouting with a local Group. If they contact the Information Centre at HQ (0845 300 1818, a UK ‘local all’, or email to [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) and quote their new UK postcode, the Information Centre will be able to give details of the District Commissioner in their new home District. They can then contact the DC to arrange a transfer to a local Group.

### **News from the Groups**

Ist. Doha

The Group has now started a Cub Pack in September and seems to be going well , they now have eight adults and are going from strength to strength.

Well, we’ve just arrived back from a wonderful first trip. As part of our theme of ‘transport’ we took the Beavers (plus 2 of the Cubs & a Brownie - children of other Leaders / helpers) on board HMS Somerset. No school trips were being organised for this

ship, so we were very fortunate to be allowed on. We were made very welcome and were shown the flight deck before being provided with drinks. We then split into 2 groups and were shown the guns and helicopter. The Beavers made us very proud by being on their best behaviour and asking lots of questions. They were all given posters to take away as souvenirs.



Sam Gribble

3<sup>rd</sup>. Dubai

Hatta Fort Camp November 2004

Last weekend we set out from the English College, Dubai and made our way by bus to Hatta on the Oman border. The journey took about an hour and a half through a seemingly never-ending desert landscape.

We drove into the Hatta Fort Hotel and then settled ourselves into the two chalets that we had rented. We organised ourselves into groups for sleeping, half in one chalet and half in the other. We claimed our sleeping area by a first come basis.

After we had set the camp up, the hotel provided us with a nice buffet, which was an unexpected surprise. They also provided waiters, have you ever heard of this at a Scout camp? We all enjoyed the food and wolfed it down. Afterwards we played a game using Morse Code to give us time for the food to settle. After that we played some wide games then some of us went down into the Wadi, (a dry river bed), and made a small fire with the Leaders. When we began to get tired we headed back to camp. Before bed we were allowed some hot cocoa and biscuits.

We rose at 6 o'clock and were split into groups, one group went swimming and the other went jogging then joined the rest for swimming later. After breakfast, various groups set off to do archery, orienteering in the Wadi, putting and crazy golf. This kept us busy until lunchtime. When lunch was cleared away, we repaired our patrol carts for another race. We built the carts at our last camp and this is the second time we have raced them. Two carts raced against each other to be the first back to the start. We had to go through a slalom knocking down bottles on the way, and obtain a flag from the Wadi. The others two teams were soaking us with wet sponges and water guns to make it harder and also more fun. Then we switched places so that we could soak them. After dinner we went to the Wadi and re-lit the campfire and sang some songs whilst toasting marshmallows.

Before bed some of the boys told us about the Diwali which means the festival of lights and is celebrated by Indians all over the world.

9 o'clock next day after swimming and breakfast, we started a series of team building activities with a company that usually works with adults. They had all of us working together doing various tasks that required everyone to work together. They taught us to pick leaders, come up with ideas and discuss them. They also made us realise the importance of testing ideas before trying them on the real thing. We had to climb a pole that was 40ft high, stand on top of it then jump off allowing the instructor to lower us on the safety line. This was quite scary and took courage to do but it took more courage not to do. After lunch and the

closing ceremony, we then packed up camp and started to go home. We were all tired but very happy at having had such a great weekend.

Written by Drew MacPherson

This picture was obviously taken when our theme was a musical enlightenment.



The brilliant instructor, Julie Ann, was an absolute professional and obviously loves Africa and its haunting sounds. She managed to get the boys to produce the most mystical of sounds, telling them about how the Africans 'talked' to each other via the drums, she showed them how to send a message and how easy it was to send the 'wrong' one, which brought loads of laughter. We ALL played, yes us leaders too! For over an hour and nobody noticed the time. Though I have to say I had a couple of bruises on my thumbs which it seems she had warned the Scouts not to have your thumbs actually on the drums. Unfortunately I was at the other end of the hall organising the Investiture when she said it and so paid the price! It was great though and Tea Tree oil sorted me out!!!

Gil Salway

1<sup>st</sup>. Ascension

25 went down into Packers Fumarole at the back of Sisters Volcano, after walking up to the top of Sisters and sledding down the steep klinka backside - great fun.

Scouts all kitted up and roped up to go down aluminium ladder into Fumarole and then explore down through a tunnel and rope into next chamber - very hot and steamy.



Scouts overnighted 2500` up Green Mountain on Friday Night building and sleeping in Bivouacs made from Wild Ginger and Flax.

Johnny Hobson



Tsunami fund-raising

Two Groups have sent in reports of their efforts for the tsunami relief, firstly 1<sup>st</sup>. Ascension:

The Scouts were asked to bring along a contribution on Friday night for Tsunami Fund from their pocket money - they raised over £70.

They did a car wash on Sat morning in Georgetown that raised £342.

Total sent to the fund from the Scouts £500.



Secondly, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dubai

Gil Salway, the Scout Leader, organised a huge collection of goods for shipping to the affected areas. It was collected at her home and packed into boxes. Through contacts she was able to get a truck that was going to Shri Lanka and it was loaded up and sent on its' way. A terrific effort by all.



I look forward in the future to doing similar training sessions for other BGAs

Heather Elliott

**BGA Gathering**

Although it seems a very long time ago we did hold a gathering in August at Gilwell. As in the previous year it was more of a gathering of the County team as only one person was able to attend. However, the opportunity was taken to invest Jayne Needham of 1<sup>st</sup>. Manama.



**Training**

I have just returned from a very pleasant week in Dubai where I was running some of the training modules. It was so nice to put faces to names and get to know a bit more about how different things are in BGA. I visited an environment camp site where the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dubai is holding a camp this week and I look forward to hearing a full report about it ready for the next issue.

Thank you to all who came for the training, also big thanks to Gil for her hospitality and David for all the chauffering.



The team was nearly all there so Jayne had undivided attention. We are now looking at what we do in the future so any suggestions as to what you might like would be considered.



Back row left to right. Tony Dunn, David Bull, Bob Spargo, Sandy Young, Paul Janvier  
Front row, Jayne Needham, Astrid Roberts, Sarah Hobbs.  
Picture taken by Heather Elliott

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST:**

*The following is a report of a 1995 visit of 1<sup>st</sup> Isa Town Scout Group in Bahrain to 1<sup>st</sup> Abu Dhabi Scout Group in the United Arab Emirates. Eliz Clark, then GSL of Abu Dhabi was a nurse working at the Tawam Hospital. It is instructive as it describes how she overcame some of the problems peculiar to the region. This is also a good example of co-operation between BGAs and the local host-nation's Scout and Guide Associations.*

*Please remember that procedures have changed in the intervening 10 years. Any proposed 'visit abroad' by a BGA Group must go through the current 'Nights Away' procedure, and must also get specific approval from the County Commissioner – see BGA Essentials Section 6 for details of 'Visits Abroad.'*

Gordon Bailey of 1<sup>st</sup> Isa Town, Bahrain first contacted the Abu Dhabi Beaver Scout Leader, Geoff Bell, who used to be Cub Scout Leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Isa Town before he was transferred to Abu Dhabi. Geoff passed the information along to Eliz, GSL of 1<sup>st</sup> Abu Dhabi.

After many weeks of faxes and telephone calls, a date was set for the visit, 29 Nov-1 Dec 1995. These dates were reliant on British Airways who were offering a free return flight from Bahrain (hand luggage only), and the visas that were required for all the non-UK passport holders in the Troop. Unfortunately final notifications only came through two weeks before the supposed visit!

Eliz, GSL of the 1<sup>st</sup> Abu Dhabi Scout Group, had been trying to organise a camp venue in the Hajar Mountains, but contacts were not forthcoming. They had hoped to have a joint camp, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, but at such short notice this proved impossible. The final dates set were on the occasion of the United Arab Emirates National Day weekend which meant that most of the Abu Dhabi Scouts were on outings with their families.

From Bahrain, 24 Scouts were arriving on 29 November and they had no accommodation or transport sorted out two weeks before! Using all the methods and "Enshallah", Eliz contacted her friend in the Emirates Boy Scouts Association. Could we please use your villa HQ at Al Ain? "Yes" was the reply, but you will have to see the boss there personally. After a few phone calls she arranged to meet the Emirates Leaders to discuss the arrangements. Not an easy task being a woman and having to meet the local male Leaders. But Eliz had met them before and the power of a Scout uniform with Wood Badge attached, albeit on the female form, seemed to get the result required! Borrowing a male interpreter from Tawam Hospital, Eliz ventured forth to Al Ain Emirates Scout HQ. Negotiations did not seem to be going well but Eliz must have misread the messages as the end result was superb, the answer was "Yes". Only one problem was put forward, that was if there were girls in the Troop they could not sleep at the HQ. Eliz had visions of her Cabin at Tawam being overrun by female Scouts - but on consultation with Gordon no girls were in the Scout Troop. A female Leader was coming but as she was married to another Leader, she was allowed to stay. Eliz did not count as she was on night duty at Tawam anyway.

That sorted out, the next problem was transport. Tawam Hospital's six buses may have been available but it was National Day Holiday and drivers were not available. Back to the Emirates Scouting friend, Rabie. He tried the Dubai Emirates Scouts but they were using their bus over the holiday. He then pulled out all the stops and contacted the Dubai Emirates Girl Guide Association who he knew had a 32-seater minibus. With the assistance of the President of the Emirates Girl Guide Association, non less than Shaika Fatima, who is the wife of the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Royal Highness, Sheik Zayed, Rabie obtained for us the full use of the bus along with a driver for the whole of the Bahrain visit.

Next thought was food. Cooking facilities were not so good so Eliz arranged with the Revels Restaurant, the Revels Recreation Manager and Security for breakfast to be taken to the family compound at Tawam. The Recreation Manager also allowed the use of the swimming pool at Tawam if required. Thanks! Now all we needed were the Bahrain Scouts! Most of this organisation took place during the week prior to their visit.

Would it all work out? There was a small problem in that the bus driver only spoke Arabic and an Indian dialect. This was resolved by recruiting the two Abu Dhabi Venture Scouts, one of whom could speak Arabic and English, at the last minute to spend the weekend in Al Ain. This was one hour before Eliz set off to the airport to start the visit rolling!

Arriving at the airport there was no sign of the bus. After a wait it arrived. What a relief! We are used to time lapses in this country but the whole weekend depended on the transport as Al Ain is two hours drive from Abu Dhabi and Eliz cannot get 24 Scouts plus two Venture Scouts in her Jeep! The driver was a lovely man, who had a great deal of patience. He must have, as he is used to driving a bus of Girl Guides around!

The Bahrainis arrived off the plane at 2330hrs. Off to Al Ain. On arriving at Al Ain HQ at 0200hrs, there was a full party of

Emirates Scouts to meet us. They were very friendly and hospitable the whole weekend. The Scouts settled down for the night and Eliz returned to Tawam at 0400hrs, taking all the passports for safekeeping (more mention of them later).

Breakfast and a swim at Tawam the next morning set the Scouts off on their travels. Next stop was the Museum and then to Ain Al Fayda, a park at the foot of the United Arab Emirates highest mountain, Jebel Hafit, for a picnic lunch and wide games. Towards sunset the Scouts then tried to ascend the mountain on foot, but the story goes that the bus went up the road picking up the Scouts on the way. A barbecue was held on the mountain top. On return to the HQ, the Scouts went out for a night wide game and more to eat. Eliz by then was on duty so all this is only hearsay!

Another night's sleep, breakfast at Tawam and Eliz then said "goodbye" as the Scouts had another full day ahead, going down to Abu Dhabi in the afternoon. Eliz then made her weary way to bed having been awake for more hours than a day when she suddenly realised that the passports were still in her possession! The Scouts were off to the Hot Springs for a bathe and were due back at HQ for lunch at 1300hrs. Eliz stayed awake, meaning to get in the Jeep at 1245hrs to take the passports to the Scouts. At 1230hrs there was a rapping on the door - there stood Said, the Emirates Leader, and the Venture Scouts, come to get the passports. Thank goodness!

According to reports the Scouts left Al Ain at 1400hrs and went back to Abu Dhabi Scouts for a beach barbecue. A good time was had by all and the Isa Town Scouts flew out at 2230hrs. A fax sent from Bahrain said that they had a wonderful time but were very, very tired when they arrived home!

Thanks must be given to the Emirates Boy Scout Association, Al Ain, The Emirates Girl Guide Association, Dubai and Rabi Keir without whom all this would not have been possible.

*Eliz Clark GSL 1<sup>st</sup> Abu Dhabi.*

## **Cub Scout Corner**

### **Cub Scouts – February 2005**

In January I sent by e-mail a programme idea using mirrors and the year number 2005. If you have not used any of the suggestions yet, there is a good opportunity coming up in May. Why not have a try of some of the ideas on 05 05 05.

Today, I am sitting at my computer looking out at a cold, blustery day with sunshine and snow flurries. This is just the time to start planning for Pack Camp (under canvas) or Pack Holiday (under a roof)!

A Pack Holiday or Camp is a good opportunity for pack cohesion and team building. Both the Leaders and the Cubs get to know one another much better. I often think a camp / holiday should happen at the beginning of a term rather than at the end of one because the benefits are so great.

The first decision about Pack camp / holiday is where to go. Many Packs already know this as they go to the same place every year. This is great as many Cubs enjoy going back to places they know.

The next decision is what theme to base the camp / holiday on. This could be something very vague like Vikings, Conservation or Space or much more specific like Robinson Crusoe, Alice in Wonderland or 007. Then comes the question of an Activity Badge. Will the pack camp / holiday cover the requirements of any of the activity badges or will the activities go towards a challenge badge? Often this decision helps plan the camp / holiday.

I have including a camp programme from a camp I ran some time ago. This was for the Cub section of a District Camp. There were 118 Cubs attending divided into teams of ten Cubs. The most difficult base / activity was the friendship bracelets. The Cubs found the knotting difficult and slow. The activity that was best liked was the snapper fishing, which oddly enough, was knotting again. For snapper fishing Cubs each got two short bamboo poles to lash together to make a fishing rod. Thus learning lashing. They then had to tie a line and a washer for a weight at the end of the pole. Thus learning

a clove hitch. Only when the rod was finished could they go fishing. The fish they were after was a snapper. This was an open mousetrap. For safety only the leaders set the mousetraps and they were set far enough away so the weights only just reached.

I hope this inspires or helps you with your pack camp / holiday. As always, drop me a line if you find this useful or if you need more information.

**Astrid Roberts ACC (Cubs)**

[astridroberts@aol.com](mailto:astridroberts@aol.com)

**BGA CUB SCOUTS**  
**Pack Camp /Holiday \_\_\_\_\_ 2005**  
**THEME – Vikings**

**Friday** 19.00 Cubs arrive, make beds, house rules. \* Wet Weather  
 20.00 Explore site, find loos etc. \* comics, games etc  
 21.30 Hot chocolate & biscuit.  
 21.45 Wash  
 22.00 Lights out! ( 23.00 all quiet )

**Saturday**

6.30 Leaders rise  
 7.00 Cubs rise & wash  
 7.45 Jogging / Keep fit  
 8.00 Breakfast / wash-up, Tidy Tents, Inspection beds / tents.  
 9.00 Grand howl and Setting the scene!  
 9.15 Bases (30 minutes each base)  
     1) Snapper Fishing (*Knotting. Fishing for mouse traps*) \* Same  
     2) Viking Ships (*compass work*) \* Same under shelter  
     3) Viking Shelter (*bivouac building*) \* Matchstick challenges  
 10.45 Refreshments  
 11.00 Collect wood for cooking fires \* Practice campfire songs / skits  
 12.00 Cubs Cook lunch over fires  
 13.30 Free time  
 14.00 Bases (30 minutes each base)  
 14.00 1) Follow a string trail \* Make map trails under shelter.  
     2) All about trees (*tree identification*) \* Make helicopters  
     3) Viking Ships (*build a junk model of straws and corks*)\* Same  
     4) Nature in a matchbox \* Nature Kim's Game  
 16.00 Refreshments  
 16.15 Collect wood for campfire \* Practice campfire songs / skits  
 17.00 Free time / complete any work  
 18.00 Dinner / wash-up  
 19.00 Wide game – Viking Gold  
 20.00 Camp fire  
 20.45 Hot drink / wash / lights out!

**Sunday**

7.00 Leaders rise  
 7.30 Cubs rise / wash, Jogging / Keep fit  
 8.00 Breakfast / wash-up, Tidy tents, inspect beds.  
 9.30 Cubs Own  
 9.45 Bases / Hike  
 10.00 1) All the Viking / Nordic flags \* Same under shelter  
 11.00 Refreshments  
 11.15 2) Friendship bands (*knotting*) \* Same under shelter  
 12.15 Lunch  
 13.00 Free time  
 13.30 Camp Game Float the boat \* Drainpipe boat race  
 14.30 Change into uniform - collect litter  
 15.00 Closing ceremony

***The Chief Scout has made the following awards for Good Service – we join him in sending our congratulations to the recipients:***

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service – "in recognition of good service to Scouting"

Tim Christian	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Tim Miller	Pack Assistant & Group President	1 <sup>st</sup> Falkland Islands, Falkland Islands

***Welcome, Farewell – and Congratulations***

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency Michael Clancy, Governor, St Helena and its Dependencies, has accepted the appointment of President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown Scout Group. We welcome Mr Clancy and wish him an enjoyable and valuable association with the Group.

We welcome the following Leaders and Section Assistants who have joined us in BGA since 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

Tone-Lill Angelskar	ACSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Stavanger, Norway
Louise Chandler	BSL (Provisional)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Christopher Doick	CSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Falkland Islands, Falkland Islands
Cath Etchells	ACSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Doha, Qatar
Joanne Harmsworth	BSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Doha, Qatar
Marie Lyons	Colony Ass't (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Doha, Qatar
Jane Jones	Colony Ass't (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Doha, Qatar
Siobhan Scott	BSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Mallorca, Spain
Nadene Shameem	CSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Doha, Qatar
Louise Toft	SL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Falkland Islands, Falkland Islands
Lesley Walker	ABSL (Provisional)	1 <sup>st</sup> Stavanger, Norway
Lorraine Woods	CSL (Provisional)	Tanglin Trust School, Singapore

Farewell, and many thanks to the following Leaders who have left BGA:

Jane Allison	ABSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Stavanger, Norway
Helena Brown	CSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Sue Brown	BSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Judith Gibson	ABSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Zoe Hier	BSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Fuengirola (The Ark), Spain
Ray Jary	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)
Karen King	Colony Assistant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Alexandra Miller	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)
Richard Perry	ESL	Abu Dhabi ESU, United Arab Emirates
Diane Smart	ABSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)
Elke Woll	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)

***Service Awards:***

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have received Service Awards:

Service Certificate 5 Years

Kay Dymock	CSL & Group Contact	1 <sup>st</sup> Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Jackie Hendry	CSL & Group Contact	1 <sup>st</sup> Mallorca, Spain
Tim Miller	Pack Assistant & Group President	1 <sup>st</sup> Falkland Islands, Falkland Islands
June Richards	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Jamestown, St Helena

Service Certificate 10 Years

Tim Christian	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
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Best wishes to you all  
Bob Spargo,  
County Secretary