

# Highlights

Is Anyone Listening?

Day

BSA Founders

Critter Tales



Today's Schedule

# THE GILWELL GAZETTE

South Texas Council—SR 1004

Volume V, Issue 3

January 18, 2009

## Is Anyone Listening?

America has better means of communication than any nation on earth. We are constantly developing splendid new techniques for the dissemination of sound, pictures and print. The only problem is that on the most basic level of communication—person-to-person, live, mouth-to-ear, low-frequency conversation – we're still in the dark ages; for everyone sends well enough, but very few of us are receiving.

Last week in the elevator of my mother's apartment house, a man asked her, "How are you?"

Since Mother had just spent three hours with a tax collector, she smiled graciously and said, "Lousy, thank you."

The man returned the smile and said, "That's nice."

Mother suspected that he either had misunderstood her or was simply a sadist. However, later the same day, she passed a woman who said, "How are you?"

"Suicidally distraught," said Mother.

"Fine," said the woman. "Hope the family's well too."

This second exchange gave Mother the kind of revelation that only scientists have known when discovering great truths. Because that man and woman weren't people who would have wanted to see Mother out of the way (neither is in her will), she reached a profound conclusion: If you are well enough to be talking, people consider your condition superb, even if you colorfully describe an internal hemorrhage.

Mother's pioneering experimentation in the amenities has so inspired me that I have dedicated myself to continuing her work. Yesterday, I made real progress.

"How are you?" asked a man in front of my house.

"I'll be dead in a week." I said.

"Glad to hear it. Take care now."

There is no known way to shake the composure of the man who makes a perfunctory inquiry about your health; he loves his lines so well that the grimmest truth can't make him revise them. Never is human

*Listening continued p. 2*

## Today's Schedule

MORNING	
7:15	Gilwell Field Assembly
8:00	Breakfast and Patrol Self-Assessment
8:30	Interfaith Worship Service (Instructional)
9:20	Break
9:30	Troop Meeting
10:50	Break
11:00	<i>The Leading Edge™ / The Teaching Edge™</i> (Troop Presentation)
11:50	Break
Noon	Lunch
AFTERNOON	
1:00	Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting
1:30	<i>Conservation Project Planning</i> (Troop Presentation and Activity)
2:20	Break
2:30	<i>October Sky</i> (Troop Activity)
4:30	Closing Gilwell Field Assembly
5:00	Patrol Meeting and Departure

### You know you're a Scouter if—

You raise your hand in the scout sign at a heated business meeting.

### Plan your work-work your plan.

~~Lord Baden-Powell  
*The Wolf Cub's Handbook*

## BSA Founders

### Robert S. S. Baden-Powell

As a youth, Robert Baden-Powell greatly enjoyed the outdoors, learning about nature and how to live in the wilderness. After returning as a military hero from service in Africa, Baden-Powell discovered that English boys were reading the manual on stalking and survival in the wilderness he had written for his military regiment. Gathering ideas from Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and others, he rewrote the manual as a non-military nature skill book and called it *Scouting for Boys*. To test his ideas, Baden-Powell brought together 22 boys to camp at Brownsea Island, off the coast of England. This historic campout was a success and resulted in the advent of Scouting. Thus, the imagination and inspiration of Baden-Powell brought Scouting to youth the world over.



### Ernest Thompson Seton

Born in Scotland, Ernest Thompson Seton immigrated to America as a youth in the 1880s. His fascination with the wilderness led him to become a naturalist, an artist and an author. Through his works he influenced both youth and adults. Seton established a youth organization called the Woodcraft Indians. His background of outdoor skills and interest in youth made him a logical choice for the position of first Chief Scout of the BSA in 1910. His many volumes of Scoutcraft became an integral part of Scouting, and his intelligence and enthusiasm helped turn an idea into reality.

**William D. Boyce** – In 1909, Chicago publisher, William D. Boyce, lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and after guiding the man refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good Turn. This gesture by an unknown Scout inspired a meeting with Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of the Boy Scouts. As a result, William Boyce

incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. He also created the Lone Scouts, which merged with the Boy Scouts of America in 1924.

### Bill Hillcourt

In 1936, William "Bill" Hillcourt participated in the first Wood Badge course held in the United States (which was run by the British). He earned his Wood Badge beads in 1939. Hillcourt became the Scoutmaster of the first two BSA Wood Badge courses, which were held at Philmont Scout Ranch in 1948. As National Director of Training, he was the only American ever to earn the right to wear five Wood Badge beads.



Hillcourt & Baden-Powell

Hillcourt also authored

numerous Boy Scout manuals. After the abysmal failure of the *New Improved Scouting* of the 1970s, Hillcourt came out of retirement to revamp the program with a new *Boy Scout Handbook*, returning the focus of the program to the outdoors.

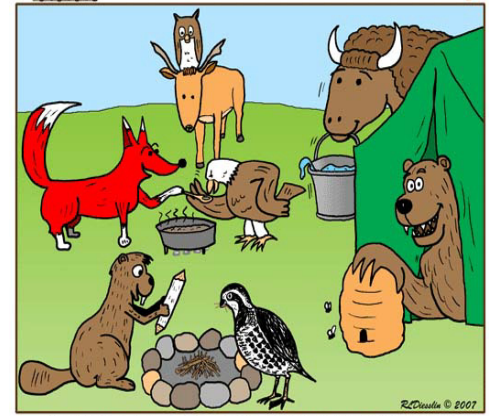
(Hillcourt information taken from *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_%22Green\\_Bar\\_Bill%22\\_Hillcourt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_%22Green_Bar_Bill%22_Hillcourt))

**James E. West** – James E. West was appointed the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America in 1911. Although orphaned and physically handicapped, he had the perseverance to graduate from law school and become a successful attorney. This same determination provided the impetus to help build Scouting into the largest and most effective youth organization in the world. When he retired in 1943, Dr. West was recognized throughout the country as the true architect of the Boy Scouts of America.



## KNOTS

Wood Badge



CRITTERS TO WATCH FOR IN THE WOODS

### Listening continued—

communication so defeated as when someone asks casually about your condition.

Some day, perhaps, when I'm under a bus getting the last rites, I expect such a man to throw me a breezy, "How are you?"

"As well as can be expected," I'll say.

"Good and the kids?"

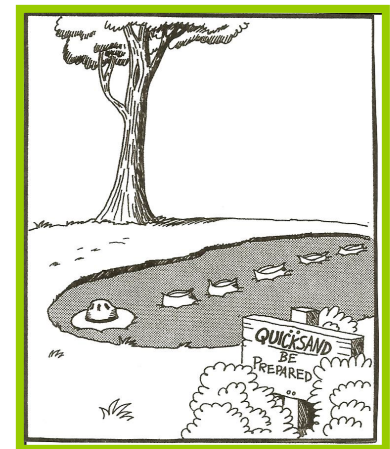
"The older one goes to the chair tomorrow. The little one was lost on a Scout hike."

"Swell. The wife okay?"

"She just ran off with the milkman."

"Glad to hear it. You'll have to bring the whole family over one night soon.

~~~Ralph Schoenstein  
*Time Lurches On*



From *The Far Side* by Gary Larson; 1982,

by the Chronicle Publishing Company

### The "Guess Who Staffer Is" Game

Drum Roll please... and the Winner is... the Big-Eyed Owl Patrol!!! They correctly identified the mystery Staffer wearing the floppy hat and cop-shades as Lt. Col. Roy Griffin. Uh... Hello!!! He's their Troop Guide!!! Duh!!! Anyway, Roy claims that he didn't tell them, though. Good job!

Some interesting but incorrect guesses were:  
Gunny Soliz , Lloyd Towers and Meredith Jordan (what the?) Guess they were fooled by the mustache.

## CRITTER TALES



Day for us, the flag to do it are the proud caretakers of the program beads, and we are being very careful to pass them back in perfect but altered condition.

### Bionic Beaver News



The Bionic Beavers made it through Day One of Wood Badge. Two started off at dawn so we had to practice ceremony before we had this morning. Today, we

**Yell**—We are the beavers, the great Bionic Leaders!

**Song**—Bionic Beavers were here today.  
We fear no task that's in our way.  
No stream to wide, no tree to tall  
We take them on one and all.



### High Flying Eagle News

Our first night we were visited by ghost of scouting past, present and Scouting yet to come. We heard an inspirational talk by the Ghost of Baden Powell. The songs, stories and skits enthused us in our program. We went to bed with thoughts and schemes for future Scouting activities.



Day two of our training we found we could quickly master keeping several objects in the air. A bad omen befell our morning when our camp stove would not turn off. We also discovered we were not NBA material. We are learning about each other as a team and

appreciating our diversity.



### Bear Abby's Advice Column

Bear Abby,  
I'm sleeping in a dormitory for a Boy Scout training weekend. I'm enjoying myself, but there are a lot of snorers in the dormitory, and I'm loosing a lot of sleep. I want to tell them to stifle it; however, that's not very Scout-like. What should I do?

*Sleepless in Camp Zephyr*

Dear Sleepless,  
Earplugs might work, or you could just bear with it.



### Fire Fox News

Fire Fox Patrol is developing TEAM work! Their individual skills are standing out and each person's strength is helping to accomplish

the project goal.

We would like to thank all of the staff here for helping us broaden our leadership skills. The food is good and the staff is great~~all this adds up to an excellent training experience!

We would also like to thank the staff for ordering the warmer weather for Saturday. The Friday weather was too cold. Please keep this in mind for the next training weekend~~get your order in early.



### Big-Eyed Hoot Owl News

#### Owl Joke of the Day:

"What type of books do Owls like to read?"

"Hoot-dunnits!" *Uh-yuck-yuck-yuck!*



Big Eyed Hoot Owl

Well, we are happy to report that we "winged" it through another day. Our nest awoke this morning to find that the weather today was more conducive for flying than it was yesterday. We launched early, ready to fill our "Bird Brains" with all of the knowledge that our Bovine friends wished to teach us.

We formed, stormed, normed and performed our way through our patrol song and yell and are very happy with the outcome. We are also very thankful to the "Queen Owl", Jennifer Molina, for leading us through this day and not "flapping" us on the head when we didn't do what she said.

All in all, we are really starting to flock together and look forward to the day when we can leave the nest and soar on our own, content in our ability to pass our knowledge on o our own nestlings.



### Thundering Buffalo News

As the great herd of bison sleepily acknowledged the dawning of yet another winter day and as the few rays of hopeful sunshine crept slowly over the horizon, the buffalo could sense something new on the prairie.

Five of the thunderous beasts stood alone on the rise, silhouetted against the bleakness of the dawn. But something was different. The five no longer huddled together warding off the chill but stood tall and proud as leadership beckoned.

With frosty vaporious bellows, they summoned the herd. But would the herd follow?

**Patrol Song**—to the tune of "The Yellow Rose of Texas"

You can tell a buffalo from Texas  
You can tell him from his stomp.  
You can tell a buffalo from Texas,  
You can tell him by his chomp.  
You can tell him from his power  
His strength and such.  
You can tell a buffalo from Texas,  
But you sure can't tell him much.





## Antelope News Scandal at Gilwell Field



not  
with age comes wisdom (well- we are still waiting for that). And no, it is not because our animal at our table is not whole like everyone else's ... I guess someone could not afford the taxidermy so we have horns on our table without a head.

Oh, they say "They were there..." but no one we have asked wants to take responsibility that the Antelope are not treated the same as their brother patrols.

After the campfire we wondered if "something is missing" was just part of the theme. Our great leader gave us a clue when he said "*For tenscore years, Old Glory has been*" and that was where he ended. Yes, he tried to come back and add to it...which is what they are desperately trying to do for us...so that Antelope do not feel jilted and file a complaint with the Antelope Wood Badge patrols around the world.

Is this unfair treatment still a mystery? Look at our uniform sleeves....you are represented, we are bare.

We will overcome this injustice even if we have to visit the scout shop ourselves. Antelope are proud animals, we will UNITE.



## Bellowing Bovine—Staff News

### The Facts on the Bovine Population



**Dan Lindley** just took a position at Del Mar College teaching Chemistry—just call him "Dr. Dan" from now on. Dan and **Charlet** also traveled to Utah with their step-son, Isaac at Christmas time to visit Dan's parents. They played in the snow, which Isaac had never seen.

**Ronnie and Evelyn Williams** just returned from Washington state, where they meant to attend the Wedding of their granddaughter, but Ronnie contracted a nasty stomach virus. Ronnie didn't go to wedding because he was otherwise occupied. Evelyn caught the bug a little later.

**Roy and Glenda Griffin** drove to Minnesota last September to experience the marriage of Roy's nephew. While in Minnesota they visited Ely, the home of the Northern Tier Canoe Base and the International Wolf Center.

**Ron Molina** headed up Webolos Winter Camp during Christmas break at Camp Mauritz. He was recently appointed Council Cub Scout Outreach Advisor for the Order of the Arrow. Ron says that Scouting is about all he does now-a-days.

**Vivian Armstrong** "very"recently moo-tated into the wishy-washy dic-tator-ship of Food Quartermasters. On top of being a recovering chocoholic, she and her family traveled to see her uncle in North Carolina. Vivian is a roller coaster enthusiast, which fits her up and down moo-ds.

**K.B. and Janet Hallmark** visited the San Jacinto Monument and Battleground and NASA with their grandson, K.B.-the fifth. They are impatiently waiting for the installation of their one-half-meter observatory-grade telescope in the Canary Islands. It's a BIG `un

**Tracy Williams** flew to Wyoming during Christmas break to visit her parents and her son, who attends college there. While there she stopped over at Grand Teton National Park, but the clouds were covering the tops of the mountains.

**Meredith Jordan** was elected president of the Christian Motorcycle Association for the fifth consecutive year. His son, James Meredith, just made Sergeant (E-5).

**Lloyd Towers** says that he is still alive, and that's pretty exciting. Along with the birth of his fourth grandchild, a girl, Lloyd is taking pleasure in drilling new oil wells in the down-trodden economy.

**Gary Ford** and his immediate family met other family members in Jackson, Mississippi and had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**Donnie Tegeler** traveled to Banff, Canada with on of his former Scouts. They were on the ice fields on Donnie's birthday (June 26), and it snowed. Donnie said they had a great adventure.

**John Beauregard's** church recruited him to the finance committee to raise funds to build a new building.

In the past, John and five friends, when they were in the eighth grade, broke into the Ag Barn took a cow and put it in the principal's office. The boys thought the cow would just poop everywhere, but---- it destroyed the office. They turned themselves in. Their punishment? They had to do whatever labor was needed around the school until the semester ended, i.e., cleaning for the janitor, picking up trash, any dirty job.

**Gilbert Soliz** was extremely embarrassed recently when he took his Scouts canoeing on the Guadalupe. The boys and the adults were "treated" to a display of nudity by some inebriated young women. Gilbert says he's still embarrassed.

**Janice Ard Maley**

The beautiful and talented Janice has seven children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was considered front runner for the Miss Universe contest until she dropped out to attend her own Wood Badge Course. She also won the Nobel Prize for Etiquette, and she exhibits expertise in tatting, taxidermy, trap shooting.

Q: What do you call a grumpy cow?  
 A: Moo-dy  
 Q: Where do cows go for entertainment?  
 A: The Moo-vies

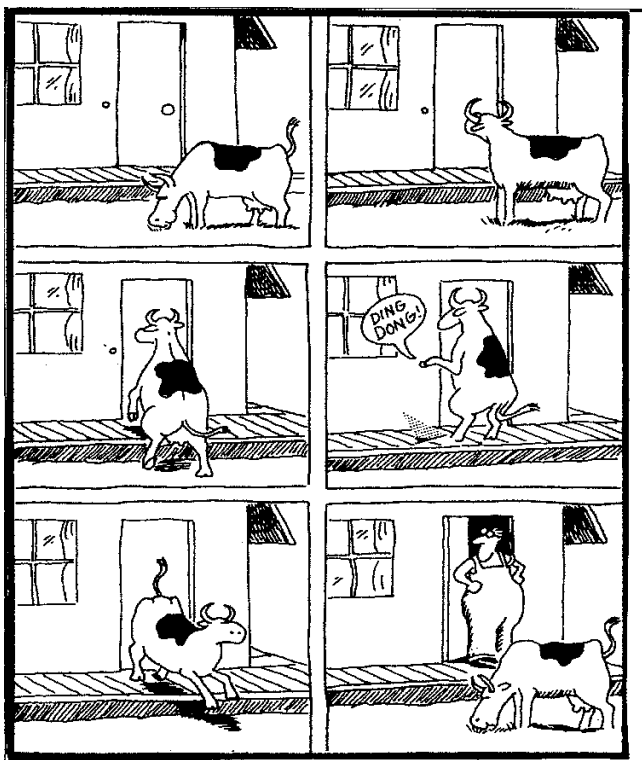
Missing Bio

We are including Meredith Jordan's bio, which was missing from *Gilwell Gazette*, Issue 1. Welcome, Meredith!

**Meredith Jordan—Photographer**



Meredith has been in scouting for 17 years. He has served as the Venado Public Relations Chairman, District Commissioner for three years and has held the position of District Training Chairman. He has worked as a troop committee member, Assistant Scoutmaster, Explorer Advisor, and Scoutmaster of Troops 144 and 168 in Corpus Christi. He has earned the Scouter's Key Award and Extra Miler Award, twice. Meredith has attended national jamborees and in 1997 was the Assistant Range Manager for trap shoot. In 2001 he was the second Assistant Scoutmaster at Fort AP Hill, Va., and Scoutmaster at the 2005 national jamboree. He also attended his first NOAC convention in 2002 and attended NOAC again in 2004, 2006 and he will be attending the 2009 NOAC. He has served on several Cub Adventure weekends, seven winter camps at Camp Karankawa as a staff member and merit badge counselor. Meredith served on the Trainer Development Conference in 2003. He is a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow. Meredith completed his Wood Badge training in SR-297 and has served on two previous Wood Badge Staffs. Meredith's children are Tiffany, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and James, a Life Scout, who is a United States Marine. Meredith is a cancer survivor, and gives all the glory to God. "Always Allow The Lord To Bless You."



The Gilwell Gazette is published daily by your staff.



*The Gilwell Gazette* is published daily by your staff.