



The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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Norway Boy Scout Christmas Postcard

Karen E. Johansen

In the 1920s-30s, the Norwegian Boy Scout Council printed a special Christmas card projecting Scouting as being the better and Christian way for young boys to learn lessons on becoming men. In a world that was about to be once again torn apart by war, it was the right message. When the Nazis invaded Norway, Scouting was banned, and all references to it, such as the card were burned. The Nazis had a passion for burning anything that did not agree with their message of the master race.

The reason for the survival of this card was my father. As his family fled Norway with the German Army close behind, he grabbed the few personal items he could fit into a small case. He must have thought this single card of some value. Possibly, it was his way of remembering better times, or a hope for a better future as he joined others from his homeland in a battle for a better life.

I thought I would place a copy on the internet at <http://www.nightwolf.net/scout/scout.htm> so others might remember two very important lessons.

1. The truth can never be destroyed by flame or hate. It lives on in the hearts of man.

2. No matter how hard someone try's to destroy the truth, is always has a way of surfacing.

Collector's Comments Hallvard Slettebø

The first/oldest advertisement of this card is from December 1926 in the *Speideren*, journal of the Norwegian Boy Scout Association. The postcard was sold by the publishers Windju Simonsen in Oslo for a price of NOK 0.15 (about 2 cents) per card. Windju Simonsen issued many books for boys and girls, where Scouts were the principal characters.

Scouting in Norway, together with several other organizations, was banned on September 11, 1941, by a decree from the German occupiers. The Association's assets were confiscated and all files destroyed. Scout units were ordered to hand in all equipment and uniforms. However, quite a lot of equipment and uniforms were saved from destruction and hidden until 1945.

Norwegian Scout postcards from before WWII generally are not very scarce, and fetch prices in the range of \$10-\$30. Postcards sent from Scout camps are worth more, especially those canceled with a special Scout camp postmark.

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Council Roundtable Report

Instruction at November's roundtable centered around winter camping. Presentations under the direction of District 2 were made by Carl Page (sleeping), Bill Roseqvist (shelters), and Ray Dahl (climbing). Brian Bone is the vice chairman of District 2.

Council Roundtable Schedule

District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council roundtable at Camp Tracy. Members will receive training which they can then pass on to the coaches and other leaders at the district roundtable the following month.

Dates and themes for upcoming council roundtables follows:

- December 19, 2001: Junior Leader Training, Training in general
- January 16, 2002: Scouting for Food, Dutch Oven cooking, Utensiless cooking, Backpacking
- February 20, 2002: Sports and tournaments
- March 20, 2002: Scout-O-Rama
- April 17, 2002: Big Event, On Target
- May 15, 2002: Best Campsites in the Council, Model Campsite

On Belay Mission Statement

The mission of "On Belay" is to use the aims and ideals of Scouting to provide challenging experiences and fun activities to young men and their adult leaders that will instill strong values and build leadership ... to infinity and beyond.

This new mission statement reflects the overall content of the course. We are now in the process of looking for young men to participate as staff members. If you are aware of a young man that has served as a Powderhorn staff member or attended On Belay last year and would like to be a staff member, have them contact Bryce Swanson via e-mail swany@swanson.net.

Turkey Shoot Results Online

This year's Turkey Shoot took place October 27 at the Lee Kay Center in West Valley City.

The competition attracted 358 participants from 78 teams, which completely filled the number of available shooting stations.

For the first time overall shooting results are available via the council web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/turkeyshoot/results.htm>. Team 6613 from District 12 captured top team and individual honors with a team average of 19.9 and the top shooter hitting 23 pigeons, including 20 in a row.

Volunteers Needed

Varsity Promotions Committee - For those who love to talk on the phone, this is just for you. We need volunteers who can dedicate two hours a month to calling Varsity coaches about program details, roundtable reminders, and data updates. This will primarily be done at the Council office and we would be grateful to those who could lend a hand in making these calls.

The Varsity Letter

"The Varsity Letter" is a source of information for and about Varsity Scouting for Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Charter Organizational Representatives, unit Committee members, and District Staff members in the Great Salt Lake Council.

Content is selected as a resource to volunteers for upcoming programs, training, camping programs, major Council events, and to help strengthen our local Varsity Scouting program.

Your suggestions are welcome.