

network RUSSIA

(Revival) Issue 9

Post Jamboree 2000

3rd Time Lucky!

a consensus of opinion was that the 3rd Russian Jamboree of scouts and guides was the best yet! 3500 Scouts descended on a riverside camp in the Saratov region for 10 days of fun (both at work and play), frolics (wet and dry) and friendship (new and old).

Dmitri Ajatskov, the Governor of the region, which is twice the size of France and has a population of 5.5 million, opened the jamboree in front of the Russian media at a formal ceremony. Everyone else christened the event with an evening of celebration and entertainment around the main stage.

Right from the beginning it was clear to everyone that this was a superbly well organised and executed Jamboree, thanks to a lot of hard work and support from local government, which included transport, environmental and refuse management (a considerable improvement on previous Russian Jamborees), water and electrical supplies, site hospital (staffed with a medical team of high calibre) and security (including on-site police).

The Scouts themselves had everything they would need to make this a week and a half they would never forget

The camp was split into seven Subcamps who's names celebrated Russian fairytales. Cooking was over fire with more wood provided than you could strike a match at (which was just as well as petrol and gas supplies on site were limited). There was no shortage of food to put over your flames with an onsite market to provide a range of fresh food, confection, drinks, ice creams, general supplies and even a film developing

service (the only thing not available was fresh meat). If you were a lazy foreigner, you also had the option of two cafes.

Whatever you ate, you were going to need the energy with a programme of over 200 activities that included not just scouting skills and games, but also skill crafts, creative crafts, theatre, dance and circus skills, climbing and paintball, concerts and plays. If that and the plus 30°C heat did not exhaust you, the wide Volga river was only a couple of visits walk away, where a sandy beach and warm water (including pedlos at 10 roubles per hour) provided afternoon entertainment for many.

Evening entertainment was laid on every night, allowing a theatrical race of people to get everyone laughing and singing, plus concerts and Discos (including booze cruises on the Volga for leaders) to dance the night away to.



The media profile of the event was high; Mr Sergei Kirenko, a former prime minister and now president of a federal region, flew in by helicopter to give the event the seal of government approval. Reporters & cameras were often around including those from a Russian programme "Above 16" who were making a special one hour edition that is viewed by 150 million people.

As well as young members of the movement, a several hundred students were on site who were working voluntarily to help with the day-to-day running of the camp.

They and the leaders and organisers worked enthusiastically and very hard so that by the



closing ceremony everyone had had such a good time they did not want to leave.

Many lifelong friendships were made and strengthened. The energy and commitment shown by the Russian Scouts inspired conviction

in all to make our organisation work for young people at home and abroad.

If the forth Jamboree goes ahead in 2003 we look forward to seeing you again or welcoming you to the ultimate Russian Scouting experience!

Emma Roberts, aged 13 (3rd Torbay) Recounts the experience of her trip to Russia...

Our trek across Russia covered over 2,500 mile. 22 days well spent! We did a lot of famous site seeing and visited such places as the Hermitage, and Aurora in St. Petersburg. The Trans Siberian railway for 36 hours at a time. Experiencing the metro system. Perms' open air museum. Saratov's hot weather. Moscow's Mac Donald's, Red Square inc.(St. Bazil's Cathedral, The Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb The Russian Circus and Gum, the local shopping centre.)

We spent 10 days of our voyage in Saratov, at the 3rd Russian Jamboree. The campsite was in better condition than we expected, the ground was tough and the grass hoppers and mosquitoes became too much for some who went to check out the Russian Hospital. And crickets were an un-expected visitor, along with plenty of dragonflies. The toilets had improved, they were still only a hole in the ground, but at least they had a fence! They showers were cold, but that's what you expected, although you had to get into a routine if you wanted to get any water, i.e. get up before anyone else does!

The days were long and filled with lots of activities. If you didn't like potato, tomato or cucumber, you did by the end of the Jamboree. I think we had it every way possible. It didn't take me long to learn that a Russian woman's place is in the kitchen, and it didn't take the Russians to learn that I was not their everyday woman!

Russian people were friendly, and it was hard to fight off the swarm of street vendors at every corner. The art of Bartering was quickly to be learnt! Food and gifts was



surprisingly cheap. In the end we ended up paying 48p for a large packet of Russian Walkers crisps. The Mc Donald's was bigger and with armed guards at the gate, It was certainly a place you didn't want any trouble. The metro system, which we used a lot, was fast and cheap. It cost 6p to go anywhere and with trains coming every 2 minutes (literally!) being in a hurry wasn't that much of a problem.

Just when we thought we had seen it all, the last night in Russia was still a shock, we went to see The Russian Circus. Although the acrobats was impressive, most of our group walked out when the animals were brought on stage. They have good potential in their acrobats, and I will say no



more. Back to the hotel for a last night social drink, before everyone packed up. A good nights sleep was needed before a long days travel home. (Not before a browse round the local market first though.) A relatively

good flight home, and it was nice to see smiling faces at the airport when arrived on home ground.!



Lynne Wordingham (East Sussex support Group)

Jamboree activity

I had volunteered to work on the craft activity team along with Dianne, Sarah, Kathryn and Dianne. Every morning we received around 300 Scouts from a subcamp and our brief was that each Scout should leave with five items that could be used as presents.

Between the Russians and ourselves we offered 30 crafts. It was had work; the heat was tiring. I had been learning Russian for a number of years and by the end of the camp I was able to run my craft session in Russian.

East Sussex and Yaroslavl Sea Scouts

Prior to travelling to the Jamboree in Saratov, I was invited to Rybinsk for three days home hospitality. The time was so busy that three days felt like three weeks! I behaved like a tourist and visited the surrounding countryside and three towns belonging to the Golden Ring



The remainder of the time was spent meeting old friends and talking.

During the summer it is usual for the people of the towns to move to their "dachas" or, if teachers, to find summer work on children's camps. So it's not a convenient time to met leaders. It was only possible to meet with one Scout leader, Yulia and all the news is through her. All the Yaroslavl groups have registered with ARNSO, though most of them had not previously been connected to that organisation.

George and Marsha (two Yaroslavl leaders) took their two groups to the jamboree in Moscow. Marsha and her Scouts sailed on the waterways to Moscow; she also meet some of the British



service crew in Moscow. Dora's group came to Exeter on their bi-annual visit. Yulia's group had a local camp.

In Rybinsk, Anya and John will withdraw from leadership of their group due to family and work commitments. I do not know who will take on the responsibility of the group. Rita, in the first week of July, had organised a district summer camp. The children's centre has closed and I don't know where the group will be meeting. A church, not orthodox, has offered a room.



At our last meeting in ??? we discussed our plans for the Jamboree (the outcome you have already read about) and the future of NORS within the WOSM (see statements from NORS members ahead)

The next meeting is on the 21st October (details opposite) to discuss experiences of Volga 2000 and of hosting Russian Scouts in this country

The Network meeting in 2001 is at Hesley Wood, White Lane, Chaple Town, south Yorkshire on 3-4th March. For further details contact Paul Finlay on (01302) 857242.

Next Network Russia meeting

Saturday 21st October 2000, 10:30 to 17:00

at

The Training Centre, Chalfont Heights Scout Camp,
Denham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0QJ.

cost

Saturday only: £7

Friday night & Saturday breakfast: £4

Saturday night, dinner & Sunday breakfast: £7

*Further information & booking form
call 01753 882640*

Network Contacts:

*Bill Turnball ("Daddy Bill") - convenor
01707 264401*

*David Bull- international commissioner
01244 676059*

db@davidbull.co.uk

*David McKee ("Farther David"?) - unofficial UK Scouts
international dept.*

020 8498 5363

david.mckee@scout.org.uk

*Eric Chapman - treasurer
01274 543154*

*Steph Roberts ("Auntie Steph") - communications
01803 406169*

steph@thirdtorbay.freereserve.co.uk

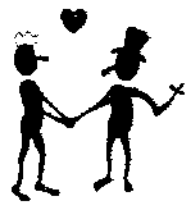
*Rachel Strong - secretary
01279 725362*



NOTICEBOARD

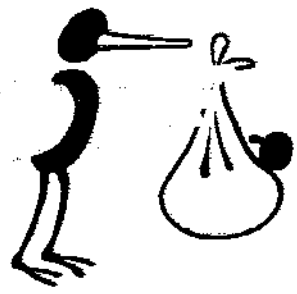


If you have an interesting Russian Scouting tale could you sew a square of 6' by 6' in 14 holes per inch to represent your story? For further details contact Jo Finlay (01302) 857242.



Bill Pearson from the 1st Jamboree service crew will be getting married on the 5th December – congratulations!

Julia Edwards (also from the 1st service crew, but in a completely un-related incident!... well only slightly because Bill should be warned that this is the result of wedlock) announced the birth of Samuel Taylor on the 1st July 2000.



Murray Hollis, who survived the fatal coach crash in St Petersburg 1994, has this year remarried and is now happily living in Australia. We would like to wish him every happiness for the future.

Need a fund-raising idea or just a momento?

	3" Network Russia cloth badges (in colour!) £1 each (or 10+ 75p)	
	Network Russia logo-ed pens. £1 each	
	Network Russia and Jamboree polo shirts and fleeces...	
Style (colour)	Sizes	Cost
Network or Volga 2000 Polo (black/white/red/navy/royal/green/burgundy)	S – XXL	£12.50
	Child (various 3-14 years)	£9.50
Network or Volga 2000 sweatshirt (red/black/white/navy/royal/green/burgundy)	S – XXL	£12.50
	Child (various 7-13 years)	£9.50
Network Fleece (navy/black/crimson/green/purple/dark grey)	45" – 58"	£25.00

Enquires

Phone/fax: 01274 543154

Orders (stating requirements clearly & delivery address and contact number)

Eric Chapman, 16 Syringa Ave. Allerton, Bradford BD15 9LB

Cheques payable to

Network Russia Scouts"



RECOGNITION OF RUSSIAN SCOUTING BY THE WORLD ORGANISATION

The past ten years have seen huge changes in many countries as Scouting has stretched its boundaries to encompass many areas in which it had not been previously permitted.

The Russia Network here in the United Kingdom has worked with the World Scout Bureau and others to see a Russian Scout organisation recognised as a full member of World Scouting. Over the past couple of years two organisations have presented their constitutions to the World Scout Committee who have decided that the structure presented by the All-Russia National Scout Organisation (ARNSO) is the best way forward for Scouting in Russia. The process of recognition is that the recommendation of the World Scout Committee is sent to all members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the proposal comes into effect three months later, unless a more than five per cent of associations do not support the recommendation (in which case the proposal is referred to the next World Scout Conference for final decision). For Russia the three months ended on 1 October 2000, following which ARNSO joined WOSM, with all the benefits – and burdens – of membership.

There are countless examples of good Scouting taking place all over the Russian Federation. The influence that the friendship of UK Scouts has had on these developments is enormous and we in our Association can take justifiable pride in this. But we all realise that many of our friendships are with people who are in one or other of the groups in the National Organisation of Russian Scouts (NORS). What will happen there?

The Chief Scout's Committee of our Association has received detailed reports (including following the Volga 2000 Jamboree). It commends the structure of ARNSO and hopes that we in UK Scouting will be able to support its continued and rapid development in Russia. All those Russian Scouts who wish to be considered as Scouts should be able to join the recognised association, to enable it to grow and reach an increasing number of young people. We all recognise that Scouting has much to offer Russian society. The Scout Association will be looking at ways of helping ARNSO and the Russia Network is clearly a key group in all this.

There is no question of anyone being asked to break off contact with their partners in NORS but we urge everyone to encourage those of their Russian friends who do not belong to ARNSO to give serious consideration to joining it. They will enrich and enhance Scouting, bringing their experience and commitment to help others in one united family promoting the ideals of Scouting. No one should feel that they are not welcome. It is never easy to accept change but if the end goal is better Scouting for more young people, then it is surely worth it.

We are fortunate that we have in the United Kingdom a single Scout organisation which has a powerful position in providing youth activities. Together, UK Scouts, the World Organisation and others, working with ARNSO, can help Russian Scouting to achieve a similar position of real influence in Russia.

Thank you once again for all that the Russia Network has done in the past and will do in the future to strengthen Scouting in Russia.



Picture Corner... well page





Statements resulting from the meeting with NORS members at Volga 2000 (in particular Alexander Karasev)

- ❖ The priority of NORS is to develop Scouting in Russia for the young people of Russia with the support of local and national governments
- ❖ NORS have fostered close links with the Government and media
- ❖ NORS would like to be recognised by a world organisation, WOSM or WAGGS
- ❖ Under the present conditions of membership of ARNSO (NORS becomes a sixth partner in the federation; one voice amongst six). There appears to be no circumstance where NORS would join ARNSO.
- ❖ Infiltration into the organisation comprising of ARNSO is not an option
- ❖ AK would like the chance to put the NORS case to the Scout Association, the Boy Scouts of America and the Finnish Scout Association before a vote is taken on the acceptance of ARNSO as a member of WOSM
- ❖ Decisions are made democratically at the conference (the next is April/May 2001) and not by the inner circle. Discussion will take place on ARNSO/WOSM & RADS/WAGGS. The Scout/Guide Association, Boy Scouts of America and the Finnish Scout Association will be invited to send an observer.

Overall, they gave the impression that members of NORS felt that WOSM did not want to listen let alone support them. However, membership of WOSM was not the priority.



www.magazine

The Network Russia magazine and soon, we hope, website are being rejuvenated under the management of Auntie Steph and the editorial and computing skills of Chris Grant (VSL 3rd Torbay).

- ◆ News generally that would interest the Network

...in one of the following ways.

Post: 24 Exe Hill, Torquay, TQ2 7RB

Fax: (01803) 406169

Email: chris.grant@torbay.gov.uk

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please submit any ideas including:

- ◆ Your contacts with Russian Scouts
- ◆ Visits to/from Russia
- ◆ Events planned/support needed
- ◆ Pictures (Russia(n(s)) related!)
- ◆ Websites about Russia

**DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 9:
10th January 2001**

Concept: Steph Roberts

Editor: Chris Grant

Printer: Mike Stanley