

# ***THE EAGLE***

**BULLETIN OF THE  
OTSCHODELA  
COUNCIL  
AMATEUR  
RADIO GROUP**



**VOLUME SIX NUMBER 9**

**MAY 2006**

Scouting hams and hamming Scouters --

Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group (OCARG) is dedicated to the enhancement of the Scouting program through amateur radio and to the advancement of amateur radio in Scouting. Membership is open to any and all Scouters, amateur radio operators, Scouting and ham clubs and organizations, and all individuals, each with an interest in the Boy Scouts of America, World Of Scouting Movement, Girl Scouts of the USA, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and other youth organizations as they relate to amateur radio. While originally intended for Otschodela Council, Oneonta, New York, OCARG has expanded into a worldwide organization with members in more than twenty states and provinces, and seven nations. There are no membership dues, no officers, no constitution, no newsletter charges, no commercial advertisements, and no organized meetings. All communications are via email or ham radio. All that's required to join is an interest in ham-Scouting and an email to [k2frd@arrl.net](mailto:k2frd@arrl.net) requesting membership. OCARG is an FCC-licensed Amateur Radio Club Station with the callsign KZ2BSA. The *EAGLE* in PDF format is best read with the latest version of Adobe Reader v.7 (activates hyperlinks) available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Copies of the *OCARG EAGLE* are sent to many interested persons in addition to OCARG members. If you feel that you have received this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, kindly sent a message so stating to the above address.

The online edition of the *OCARG EAGLE* may be found at: <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/ocarg.htm>.

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## **HF NETS - CALLING PLANS ESTABLISHED FOR SCOUT CAMPS THIS SUMMER**

Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF, an active ham-Scouter from Bloomfield, New Jersey and Forestburg Scout Reservation (W2FSR) earlier in April proposed a regularly scheduled Scout Camp HF Net or, more properly a "calling plan" on the ScoutRadio Group. The intent is for ham-Scouts and ham-Scouters to make on-air contacts with other ham-Scouts and Scouters throughout the United States, Canada, and the World. These contacts could be for the purposes of Radio Merit Badge requirements, ham radio demonstrations, emergency preparedness, passing NTS traffic, and otherwise permitting Scouts to get on the air with other Scouts at distant (or not so distant) Scout Camps or with ham-Scouts who might not be at camp. The concept was met with overwhelming encouragement and suggestions and although full details are not yet finalized, enough information is available that leaders may make their own preparations. The American Radio Relay League is on board as is quasi-official representation of the Boy Scouts of America and news releases are under preparation for ARRLWeb, QST, World Radio, CQ, Boys Life, and Scouting Magazines and e-Zines and although their deadlines may make it too late to meet summer 2006 camp schedules.

Again, these are not formal "nets" per se and times and frequencies are broad-based to prevent interference. It is recognized that the many time zones involved and camp schedules will make it difficult for one Scout camp to be able to contact any particular other camp at any given time. Those ham-Scouters and other interested hams not at camps are encouraged to perform the role of "camp support" by providing contacts to Scouts and Scouters at camps in session.

The schedules, frequencies, and protocols as currently proposed are as follows (thanks to Frank Krizan KR1ZAN of the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association for formalizing this information, slightly edited), officially known as the "Scout Camp Calling Protocol":

- 1) Scout camps are encouraged to get on the air at 1 p.m. (1300)., 7 p.m.(1900) and/or 9 p.m. (2100) local time Monday through Thursday during the summer.
- 2) Calling times would be from 5 minutes before the hour to 5 minutes after the hour. Call "CQ SCOUT CAMPS".
- 3) The traditional scout calling freqs, plus or minus 10kHz would be used (please avoid any nets). (see <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html#frequencies>):

80 meters	3.740 / 3.940 MHz	CW 3.590 MHz
40 meters	7.270 MHz*	CW 7.030 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz**	CW 14.070 MHz***

Following good amateur practice, if a frequency is in use, move up or down.

- 4) A higher frequency band would be used during the 5 minutes before the hour, followed by 5 minutes on the suggested lower frequency band in order to make best use of propagation conditions.
- 5) The band plan is: Daytime (1 p.m. & 7 p.m.) 20m/40m; Nighttime (9 p.m.) 40m/80m In addition, local repeater frequencies with camp coverage should also be promoted.
- 6) The project will be known as "Scout Camp Calling Protocol" (SCCP, or "S-Double C-P").
- 7) Scout camps, scouts and scouters from throughout the US, Canada, and World are invited and encouraged to monitor according to this plan from 2300Z to 0400Z and from 1700Z to 2000Z in order to provide support to scout camps with traffic handling and talking with scouts.

\*7.270 may be unusable during evening and night hours due to Asian broadcast stations. Tune up or down to find an opening.

\*\*Avoid 14.300 since this is the Maritime Mobile Net which operates 24/7 when propagation permits.

\*\*\*Although 14.070 is listed as the Scout CW calling frequency, do not use this frequency because it is the international PSK-31 frequency. Suggest using 14.065. See <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/JOTA.htm>

From Bob Bruninga WB4APR, developer of APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) and also a ham-Scouter comes this suggestion for those Scout Camps and ham-Scouters equipped for APRS. (See <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html> for details on APRS.)

Add to this protocol for Scouts the following for stations with APRS:

- 1) If your camp has APRS, then send a message to SCOUTS at the beginning and end of all operating periods. An APRS message to "SCOUTS" will be retransmitted everywhere in the USA and world where "SCOUTS" has been added to the automatic "pass-to-RF" at the local IGate.
- 2) Contact the local IGate that serves your camp area and ask the SYSOP to include "SCOUTS" in its automatic pass-to-rf list. This way you can receive any other SCOUTS messages in the world alerting you of other stations on the air in real time.
- 3) also make sure your station is using the APRS symbol for scouts. Then also any other station in the world can check the APRS FINDU web page and see live what other SCOUT stations are on the air:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/symbol.cgi?icon=/,&limit=2000>

This list is sorted by most recent heard, so it will show you who is actually on the air live...

APRS is a global resource (LIVE)... give it a try....

de WB4APR, Bob

The instigator of the Scout Camp Calling Protocol, Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF is a true-blue died-in-the-wool ham-Scouter; from his QRZ.com bio:

During the summer, Nathaniel W2NAF runs the technology program and amateur radio activities at Forestburg Scout Reservation (W2FSR) in Forestburgh, NY. Part of the program includes a technician class and VE sessions held each week during the camp. During the summer of 2005, Nathaniel also served on the K2BSA staff at the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

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## 2006 ABRAHAM LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE SUPPORTED BY ILLINOIS HAM-SCOUTERS

Tim McDonough N9PUZ an active ham-Scouter from Springfield, Illinois is also the father of an Eagle Scout. His report:

The following introduction is taken from Bob Carson KC9HGW's Communications Plan for the 2006 hike...

### History of the Lincoln Trail Hike

In 1831, 22-year old Abraham Lincoln moved to New Salem to work as a store clerk and mill hand. While living in New Salem, Lincoln taught himself grammar, literature, mathematics, surveying and law. Law books were not available in New Salem, so Lincoln borrowed books from John Stuart in Springfield. Because Lincoln could not afford the stagecoach fare to Springfield, he walked to Springfield or borrowed a horse, often hiking to Springfield and back in a single day. In 1837, Lincoln became a law partner to John Stuart in Springfield.

R. Allan Stephens, a former Scout Commissioner of Springfield, Illinois, developed the idea for the Lincoln Trail Hike. In 1926, there were no official Boy Scout trails in the United States. Stephens established this scenic, 19-mile trail, which follows Lincoln's route as closely as possible, along trails and secondary roads. The Lincoln Trail Hike gives Boy Scout hikers a greater appreciation of the obstacles Abraham Lincoln overcame to become President of the United States. Since the first Boy Scouts hiked the trail in 1926, over 75,000 youth from throughout the United States have retraced Lincoln's route. Last year, approximately 1,000 Scouts hiked the trail.

The Lincoln Trail begins near the lodge at Lincoln's New Salem and ends at Robert A. Stuart Park in northwest Springfield. Mr. Stuart was a well-known local Scout and a descendant of Lincoln's law partner.



In 1995, volunteers from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency began providing logistical support to the hike as an Earth Day project. The Boy Scouts remove lots of trash and about 32 pounds of aluminum cans from the trail each year. Springfield area hams began providing communication support for the event in 2005.

The Lincoln Trail Hike is a one-day, 19-mile hike. Scout transportation is by leather SUV only – no bicycles, scooters or skates are allowed.

**LEFT: Station 3 at Salisbury, IL is roughly half way. Each checkpoint station had ham operators and Scout officials to keep track of the young men.**

\*\*\*\*\*

April 29, 2006, 5:30am. It was raining when I woke up. Why do the weather forecasters always seem to be right when it's bad weather? Around 6:00am the first Scouts left Lincoln's New Salem headed for Springfield, Illinois about 19 miles away. We had two kinds of weather this Saturday—damp and raining and damp and raining hard. I'm sure that old Honest Abe made this trek more than once in the rain so it certainly wouldn't hurt the Scouts.

For the past several years members of the Sangamon Valley Radio Club (<http://www.svrc.org>) have assisted with communications support for the hike. The K9KGO UHF repeater provides exceptional coverage across the rural areas the trail traverses. Cellular telephone service is non-existent in many areas of the trail's route. About 25 Amateur Radio operators supported the hike in 2006.

**RIGHT:** My friend Bob K9KGO who runs one of the areas' finest UHF repeaters helped out with net control duties from "Station 3" at Salisbury, Illinois when he wasn't shadowing the BSA leaders. Bob's 444.900 machine has such great coverage even in the trails rural areas that it was possible to run the entire event with hand held radios.

Communications were provided at 7 sites along the trail; 3 campgrounds where visiting Scouts spent the weekend; and, 4 roaming operators who shadowed officials from the BSA and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, an event sponsor. First Aid and Emergency Medical Services were provided by members of the Illinois National Guard from Camp Lincoln.

The radio communications served two purposes. The main goal was to support the hike itself. A secondary goal was to provide



some hands on "net control" experience for operators who do not normally act in that capacity during local emergency work. I'm happy to report that both goals were a success!

**LEFT:** Tim, N9PUZ. Yes, I really was there. This is at the end of the trail.

Unlike many events the nature of the hike is that the event "moves" across a two county area. At 6:00am when the first groups prepare to leave New Salem it's a bee hive of activity while there's little if any action at the trail's end until around 1:00pm in the afternoon. This meshed well with our intention to have several people practice net control duties. As the activity shifted from one area to another we transferred net control duties on down the line as well. Any time a station had net control duties we made certain that there

was a more seasoned operator along with the less experienced net control operator.

**RIGHT:** Jim KB9KZV, Scott AB9KT, and Dennis WD9EEK at the trails end (Station 5.) In addition to VHF/UHF Scott had set up an HF station so they could play during slow periods.

Over the course of the day the Ham operators helped BSA leaders keep an active list of the Scout Troops as they went in and out of check points as well as directing Army and EPA vehicles as needed. There were plenty of tired people to go around by evening but outside of a few blisters and soggy clothes the event went very well for all concerned.





**LEFT:** At the end of it all a short nap was the order of the day.

What's Next?

Well, we've already started planning some additional activities for 2007 to increase the exposure of Amateur Radio to the Scouts. We plan to run an Amateur TV (ATV) station so people waiting at the finish can see their Scouts as they pass through the next to last check point. This was actually planned for 2006 but was scrubbed due to the weather and concern for the TV equipment.

Another activity planned for 2007 is a Special Event Station. The special event call sign N9L has already been reserved. We will operate an HF station to draw outside attention to the hike itself and will operate a secondary VHF/UHF station so that any Scouts or Scout Leaders with Amateur licenses can make contact with N9L to receive a certificate

commemorating the 2007 hike.

Be sure to listen for N9L next year or better yet make 2007 the year that your Troop comes to Springfield to hike the Lincoln Trail, participate in the following days Lincoln Pilgrimage, and spend a few hours visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

de Tim McDonough, N9PUZ

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## **A NEWSLINE EDITORIAL: WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG HAMS OF THE YEAR [YHOTY] GONE?**

The following was shamelessly stolen from the 6 May edition of the Amateur Radio Newsline and Pete's DX-NewsDesk <http://www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk>

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with some editorial commentary that I kind of hate to report. None-the-less, I will.

We are now some 6 weeks into the nominating period for the 2006 Young Ham of the Year Award, and to date we have not received a single, viable nomination. The only one we have gotten so far was disqualified because the nominee was age 19 and that's over the age limit.

We created this award program back in 1986 in association with the old Westlink Report ham radio newsletter. It was to honor the achievements of the kids and teens who not only chose ham radio as a hobby, but who went on to contribute to it or to their community through it.

When Westlink Report went away, we decided that the Young Ham of the Year Award was important enough to keep going. That it filled a void that no other program filled. Yes, there are lots of scholarships available to young hams, but no award program other than ours rewards the achievements of young hams with the fun of ham radio. With a trip to the Huntsville Hamfest and a new rig courtesy of Vertex Standard and a week at Spacecamp from the fine folks at CQ.

Sadly, over the years we have seen the number of nominations dwindle to a trickle. Now, in 2006, not a one. Not one nomination of a young ham age 18 or under who has left his or her positive mark on our wonderful service. And it is hard for us to believe that there is not one or two or more out there deserving of this honor.

If I may venture a guess, likely there are dozens or hundreds of youngsters who are eligible but no older ham has bothered to take the time to nominate them. I won't even try to venture a guess as to why. What I can say is that the closing date for this years Young Ham of the Year Award is May 30th. That date is cast in concrete. And if no nominations arrive by midnight on that date, there will not be an award presented this year.

Here is the bottom line. We can offer the award and administer it. We cannot go out and solicit nominations. Nominating a deserving young ham is your responsibility and there is about 3 1/2 weeks to get those nominations to us.

How? There are two ways. The easy one is to go to our special website -- <http://www.yhoty.org>, click on 2006 Nominations at the top of the page and then either fill out the on-line nominating form or download a printable version to mail in to us. In both cases, all the information is on the website at <http://www.yhoty.org>.

I end this commentary with a short prayer. One that hopes some of you will take the time to nominate a ham age 18 or younger for the Young Ham of the Year Award. If he or she is chose, you can take pride in knowing that you were the one who made it happen. That you were the one who brought a smile to that young hams face. That you may be the person responsible for having Amateur Radio continue with a new, vital and vibrant generation of hams.

Again the website for nominations is <http://www.yhoty.org> and I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

Editor's note: Given that all of us hold a special interest in Scouting, it is only logical that a YHOTY nominee come from this group. - de K2FRD

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## SIDNEY, NY TROOP 99 APRIL HAM CAMPOUT REPORT



**LEFT:** Scout Alex Latta [FCC License KC2NTR], [R] sends a radio message home for new Scout Jameson Daly [L] from their overnight campsite the Sidney Youth Recreation Reservation near Cope's Corners Apr 29 and 30..

In addition to radio telegrams Troop 99, Sidney, NY (Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY) attended a nearby Fishing Derby sponsored by Cub Pack 3 of Morris, NY and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Although fish caught were at a minimum, Scout Phillip McHenry was distinguished by winning a new rod and reel in the raffle. Advancements included a 4 mile pack hike and conservation project for Camping Merit Badge candidates Alex Latta and Andrew Searles plus knots, woods tools safety and Tenderfoot patrol cooking for younger Scouts Jameson Daly, Ethan Green, and Josh Woodyshek. First Class

cooking requirement was completed by Jered Moyer. Thanks to the Trustees of the Sidney Youth property at Cope's Corners as well as "back home" radio operators Al K2EZK, Gus WA2GRS and Judi KC2MYX

Attendees: Carl Ayres, Seth Green, Ryan Keckeisen, Jeremy Maxwell, Phillip McHenry, Jared Moyer, Nate Curtin,

Alex Latta, Andy Searles, Jameson Daly, Ethan Green and Josh Woodyshek. In addition the troop is proud to be able to report 9 adults and leaders in attendance.

Troop 99 members are: Carl Ayres, Shelby Barse, Trey Crawford, Jameson Daily, Jordin Fitzgerald, Andrew Fritzsich, Ethan Green, Seth Green, Tom Haney, Conner Hornbeck, Jesse Hornbeck, Jesse Hornbeck, Ben Howard, Dillon Ives, Ryan Keckiesen, Troy Kiel, Alex Latta, Dan Maddalone, Jeremy Maxwell, Jared Moyer, Derrick McHenry, Phillip McHenry, Chris Omahen, Bryan Price, Skyler Reithoffer, Mike Roberts, Andy Searles and Adam Soroka, Hunter Sowersby, Josh Woodyshek. Our sponsor is the First Congregational Church, Main at Bridge Streets, Sidney. The Troop meets every Wednesday night at the church at 7:15 PM. Scouting is open to all boys, ages 11 through 17 regardless of previous Cub Scout or Boy Scout experience. Interested young men and parents, please give us a visit.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

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## **START PLANNING FOR JOTA EARLY**

The 2006 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will take place the weekend of October 21-22. Officially, JOTA runs from midnight AM Saturday to midnight PM Sunday; however, most scouts and scouters typically operate during daylight hours of Saturday and Sunday. Most operation is typically on Saturday. BUT – don't wait until October to start planning. Scouting units will be planning their next school year's activities during the summer months and unless they have been made aware of JOTA and your willingness to provide radio assistance, then JOTA won't be on their calendar.

Lots more details are available on the ARRL web at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/#scout> The World Scouting Movement has more info at <http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/> The National BSA International Division has info at <http://www.scouting.org/international/22-218.html>

I encourage each of you to check out these sites and the various links provided by each site. Learn as much as you can about JOTA and begin making plans now. Each and everyone of us can contribute to JOTA operation. You can operate as a "contact" for scouts at other Ham stations. You can offer your "shack" for allowing scouts from local units to make contacts during JOTA. You can set up a portable station in a public place, such as a park, or go camping with a local unit. Your club or group of Hams can set up a big scale JOTA operation. Some groups offer Radio Merit Badge classes.

You do not need to have HF privileges to have fun with JOTA. Consider local repeaters or VHF/UHF simplex. Consider IRLP or EchoLink. Consider satellites or the International Space Station.

If JOTA operation seems overwhelming, consider helping with a local JOTA group. As the very minimum, do some listening on whatever bands you have available so you can prepare yourself for the very exciting 50th anniversary of Jamboree on the Air in 2007, which is also the 100th anniversary of world-wide scouting.

And, when it's all over, make your report to the ARRL and the National JOTA coordinator (see the references above).

I'll be operating at K2BSA at Camp Wisdom in Dallas, TX during JOTA and hope to work many of you.

73, Frank KR1ZAN  
frank@krizan.org  
Garland, TX

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## **K2BSA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION IS RESURRECTED**

When the National Boy Scouts of America moved its headquarters from New Jersey to Irving, TX and discovered that antennas were prohibited in the business development they were in, the K2BSA amateur radio call sign was almost lost. A group of interested Hams formed the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association (KARA) primarily to protect the call sign and to promote radio scouting.

KARA has worked in the background for many years through its call sign trustee Ray Moyer, WD8JKV. The Association was instrumental in getting a permanent station for K2BSA at Camp Wisdom, Dallas, TX, and coordinates operations for special events, JOTA and special requests.

At HamCom in Plano, TX Friday and Saturday, June 9th and 10th, KARA will officially kick-off its recruitment of

members and announce plans for its internet presence, newsletter, creation of chapters and other programs. The announcement will also be published in the OCARG Eagle.

The K2BSA Amateur Radio Association is a 501(c) (3) organization and will soon be in a position to accept donations of cash and equipment. KARA plans to offer grants to scout camps and units setting up amateur radio stations or providing amateur radio activities, training, etc.

Look for more information soon about KARA and find out how you can help with the RadioScouting movement in the USA.

73, Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN  
President, K2BSA Amateur Radio Association  
frank@krizan.org  
Garland, TX

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## **SHORT: BEN DELATOUR SCOUT RANCH, CO REPEATER**

Just a short announcement that the UHF repeater at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch (near Red Feather Lakes, Colorado) is now operational. W0BSA/R receives on 442.025, transmits on 447.025 and uses 167.9 PL. It's a Motorola Micor repeater running about 30 watts.

It's fairly local coverage (15 miles or so) in mountainous terrain, but it covers the 3700 acres of the ranch fairly well. If you're in the area this summer, or planning to visit BDSR, give it a try.

73,  
Chris Kelly, K0PF  
W0BSA trustee

From the ScoutRadio Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/>

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## **EAGLE CLOSES DOWN FOR THE SUMMER**

And so we close out the OCARG EAGLE's sixth year of publication. It has been my pleasure to serve you all in the worthy cause of amateur radio in Scouting, but I could not have done it without you, the ham-Scout and ham-Scouters of the World. As the Bette Midler song goes, "You are the wind beneath my wings".

We will recommence publication with the September edition, as always. And as always, I hope you all have a great time and good ham-Scouting at Scout Camp, Dayton Hamvention, on campouts, summer barbeques, Cub Family Camp, Cub Day Camp, Webelos Camp, or whatever you do and wherever you go. And please take lots of notes and pictures: we can use them all!

And, as a teaser, look for some possible major changes here at the EAGLE come September!

73 and Yours In Scouting de Fred K2FRD  
OCARG EAGLE Editor-Publisher

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## **WATCHING FOR A NEW LICENSE? HERE'S THE BEST WAY**

The following URL takes one directly to the FCC's license lists. If one knows a new or upgraded license is due to be issued, one may check in frequently at this site and beat the standard license databases by anywhere from eight to 24 hours: <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/genmen/licensee.hts>

Enter: last name; Scroll down to `HA` (Amateur Radio); NO `Wildcard`

Then (next page): click on ULS Database. Look for name(s), new callsign.

Canadian new licenses are searched in a different manner since specific callsigns may be requested upon examination. Use the Royal Amateurs of Canada homepage <http://www.rac.ca/> and <http://www.rac.ca/acl/> (search by Province).

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## **UPCOMING VE SESSIONS**

Knowledge of dates and locations of VE sessions is important to those ham-Scouts and Scouters who wish to earn their amateur radio license or upgrade their present license. For persons in the United States, this information is available at <http://www2.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> or at the W5YI site (often not listed in ARRL Exam Search): [http://www.w5yi.org/exam\\_locations\\_ama.php](http://www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php).

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## **SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE**

"If a man cannot make his point to keen boys in ten minutes, he ought to be shot !"

*- Lord Robert Baden-Powell*

Editor's note: These Baden-Powell quotes are available from the following sites:

<http://twc-woodbadge.freesevers.com/bpsays.htm>

[http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/sir\\_robert\\_baden-powell/](http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/sir_robert_baden-powell/)

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