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Date: Monday, 16 August 2004

Greenland Expedition force on their way home

This morning the Greenland Expedition Team were met at Glasgow Airport and are, as we write, completing the last leg of their epic adventure by mini-bus back home to Lancashire.

At the press conference to mark their return Young People of Lancashire will be given the opportunity of quizzing them directly - another first for West Lancashire Scouts.

Solar E-mails from Greenland

As there is no mains electricity on glaciers, the team have been using the latest technology and making use of the 24/7 sunlight to collect energy in special solar powered cells. Thanks to which they have been able to transmit and receive e-mails, and charge the satellite mobile phone! If you would like to know more about what the team have been up to check out their web site: www.landactivities.co.uk/greenland.

With 24 hour sunlight the team are finding that they are sleeping when needed and getting on with their adventure when they wake - which could be at any hour of the day or 'night'. The team of 29, aged between 16 and 56, splits into smaller teams to explore which ever rock, mountain or glacier they choose. Here is one of the reports we have received from Greenland:

West End – by Adam

"Another 'Saga tours' excursion set out with 5 young ones to walk down to the other end of the Korridoren Glacier from where the landing site had been. A sea to sea in effect. The 10 of us set out at 1am Saturday with two pulks loaded up. We reached the summit of the glacier 'Shap Summit' as we have named it, after an hour or so. The walk looked easy from there on with flat ice and a heavy pulk to push us along! However, the glacier was quite crevassed, making us stop and carry the pulks over the rivers and ice. The area was full of 'big walls' excellent rock climbing and plenty of small glaciers and cirques. The most interest was on the 'shark fin' for a possible first ascent. After 8km we cleared an area on the moraine and pitched the tents. We slept for a few hours then headed down through a very crevassed area until we could see the water and across to Renland. We stopped here and returned to the tents for another sleep, before heading back. *We may have been the first people ever to walk this area of the glacier.*"

Press Conference Announced:

You are invited to a press conference to welcome them home on Thursday 19th August at 4pm at County Hall, Preston. There will be a short talk on the highlights of the expedition and you will then have the opportunity of asking the team questions and taking photographs. We hope you will bring some young people with you as this trip hopes to inspire others as they were inspired themselves. It will be followed, at a later date, by a full lecture for schools, colleges and mountaineering groups. We hope to have photos, videos and reports available as soon as possible.

To ensure we have enough room, please reply by 12 noon on Thursday 19th August, with numbers of guests to Barbara on 07780 610530, or connexions@scoutmail.org.uk if you would like to attend.

END

Editor's Notes:

- Scouting is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK with a total of 476,992 members (March 2002 figures)
- Worldwide, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 Countries. Two thirds of the membership lives in developing Countries.
- The Aim of the Association is "To promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- Scouting in West Lancashire has a membership of just under 10,000 members in the following 8 Districts: Chorley, Blackpool, Preston, Ormskirk, South Ribble, Fylde, Wyre and Lonsdale.
- The West Lancs Scouts Mountaineering Group was established in 1998 to develop the sport of mountaineering (including rock climbing) to a higher level not ordinarily accessible by the young person and typical leader.

Recent activity includes

Mountaineering expeditions in
the Dauphiné Alps of France (1999)
the Ötztal Alps of Austria (2002)
the Jotunheimen Mountains of Norway (2003)

- Establishment of an annual winter mountaineering programme in the Cairngorms introducing youngsters and novice Leaders into Ice Climbing, Snow Holing, Skiing, etc.
- Operated a Mountain Leader Training Programme to encourage Leaders to get formal national governing body qualifications
- Run National mountaineering conferences for the Scout Association.
- Developed a Ski programme in Scotland and an annual week in the Alps
- Run Spring and Autumn meets in Wales and the Peak
- Membership of the expedition includes:
Four members of the Explorer Scout Section (Aged 15<17)
Thirteen members of the Scout Network (Aged 18<24)
Twelve Mountain Leaders (Over 25)
- Web Site www.landactivities.co.uk/greenland
- The East Greenland expedition 2004 is approved by the Young Explorers Trust

For further information, please contact the County Scout Office below:

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