

West Lancashire County Scout Council
MOUNTAINEERING GROUP

REGISTERED CHARITY Number 521712

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

MEMBER OF THE **YOUNG EXPLORERS TRUST**



EAST GREENLAND EXPEDITION 2007

<http://greenland.westlancashirescouts.org.uk>

*"But who are ye in rags and rotten shoes
You dirty bearded, blocking up the way?"*

*"We are the Pilgrims, master; we shall go always a little further;
It may be beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow,
Across that angry or that glimmering sea"*

The Golden Journey to Samarkand - James Elroy Flecker 1884-1915)

SYNOPSIS

During four weeks of the summer of 2007 (July/August), 52 members of West Lancashire County Scouts will be undertaking an expedition to Ren Land in East Greenland.

The objectives of the Expedition are:-



- To offer developmental opportunities for approximately 27 young people from the Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections of West Lancashire Scout County, and to develop the leadership and organisational skills of the Leaders.
- To experience and explore the Arctic Wilderness – on land and on water by sea kayak.
- To climb remote mountains – many previously unclimbed.
- To undertake a degree of scientific research and exploration
- To promote Scouting

BACKGROUND TO WEST LANCASHIRE SCOUTS MOUNTAINEERING

The West Lancashire County Scouts Mountaineering Group was formed in the autumn of 1998 in order to bring together a team of experienced leaders to promote and deliver mountaineering in all its forms, at the highest possible level, to the Scout Movement in West Lancashire. Every year since then, the Group has provided half yearly meets in North Wales and the Peak of Derbyshire, ski trips and, significantly, an annual ten day "Snow & Ice" winter mountaineering programme in the Cairngorms that provides the opportunity for over 100 members of the Scout County each year to develop their mountaineering in winter conditions.

Every two years the Group has organised an Alpine trip. In 1999 the Group took 36 members of the County to the Dauphiné Alps in France. In 2001, 54 members experienced the Austrian mountain hut hospitality in the Ötztal Alps, in 2003 44 members of the County visited the trolls and the giants in the Jotunheimen of Norway, and in 2005 28 members explored and climbed the mountains around Arolla in Switzerland.

It should be noted that West Lancashire County Scouts are a charity and the Leadership and Instruction on all these events remains on the voluntary basis that is the backbone of Scouting.

The Group actively promotes the professionalisation of mountaineering skills within Scouting and organises a comprehensive Mountain Leader training programme delivering awards of the Mountain Leader Training Board primarily to Scout and Other Youth Leaders, although the courses are open to all. The personal qualification levels within the Group are high, with an MIC, several Scottish Winter MLAs, and most gaining/working towards higher national and international mountain training awards.



*View across Milne Land and Scoresbysund with
Knud Rasmussen Land in the far distance*

In the summer of 2004, all this development culminated in an outstandingly successful four week expedition on which 29 members of West Lancashire Scouts explored an area called Milne Land within the innermost reaches of Scoresbysund.

During their time in the field they:-

- Explored some 1,000 sqr miles of glaciated mountainous terrain and prepared detailed, professional, 1:50,000 maps of the area covered.
- Climbed over 20 separate mountains, of which 17 were first ascents, with several serious gully and mixed route climbs completed towards the higher end of the grading system.
- Completed various scientific projects, including collecting specimens of the rare, minute, willow tree, *salix herbaceae*, and assessing the rate of glacial recession in the area.
- Grew as valued members of society from the developmental and leadership experiences gained.
- Were a credit to modern Scouting: demonstrating just what the Scout movement in the 21st Century is capable of achieving.

Copies of the Abridged Report of the 2004 Expedition may be obtained from the Expedition Leader noted at the end of this Prospectus.

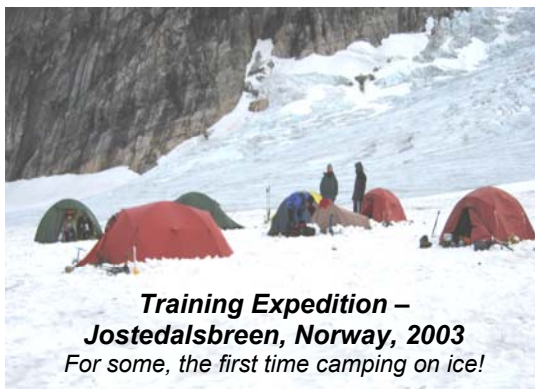
PROPOSED AREA OF THE 2007 EXPEDITION – REN LAND

Ren Land (25°49'W 71°15'N) is part of the main Greenland land mass, separated only by a deep vegetated valley, and lies at the head of Scoresbysund, about 300miles north of the Arctic circle. It consists of a major icesheet, with smaller subsidiary icecaps, slashed east/west in the south by a deep glaciated valley, and surrounded by a wealth of summits, spires and walls of over 2000m. Current research suggests that whilst there have been a few geological visits, predominantly to the coastal areas, there has been little significant activity by way of mountaineering and exploration. Other than the remoteness and obvious physical attraction of the area, the ability to site a base camp low down, with deep valley access to the hinterland, improves the Risk Management of the expedition and ability to evacuate in the event of an accident.



THE TEAM (See separate supplement)

The Team has been selected from interested members of West Lancashire Scout County who have the necessary existing skills and abilities to contribute as Leaders, or the background, interest and determination to contribute and develop as participants. It has a good mix of backgrounds and gender, and with a large age span (with the oldest being 60 and the youngest 15), it is considered to be exceptionally strong.



All Leaders are well qualified by relevant experience and qualification, and it is expected that all participants over the age of 18 will have at least undergone UK Mountain Leader Training, with those intending participating in a Sea Kayaking expedition qualified with the relevant BCU training. Whilst we are fortunate to have a Doctor as a member of the Team, all members will have a standard first aid qualification and several members are first aid qualified to a very high level (REC 5 Wilderness/Expedition First Aid).

Whilst all members, even the younger ones, are already well experienced, with Alpine and Scottish Winter training under their belts, a comprehensive training programme is in place for both mountaineering and sea kayaking skills. In particular, the full team will have a week's intensive training on the Jostedalsbreen of Norway in July 2006.

LOGISTICS

By the middle of May 2007, all equipment and rations will need to be packaged for outward freight by sea, via Newcastle, to Iceland and onward airfreight to Constable Point in Scoresbysund. The Expedition itself will fly to Iceland in mid-July for an overnight stay in an Icelandic Scout Hostel, before flying the following day by Fokker 50 of Flugfelag Islands to meet up with the freight in Scoresbysund.

Ren Land is particularly difficult for access. Several trips in a balloon tyred Twin Otter of Flugfelag Islands, with helicopter support, will place the Expedition at its Coastal and Glacier Base Camps on Ren Land. However it may be necessary to fly the Otter into another area and undertake the final leg by sea in an Inuit motor launch. A final plan will be confirmed during 2006.



Over the following four weeks, elements of the Expedition will fan out from its Glacier Base along the glaciers and into the mountains, and from its Coastal Base along the coastlines of Scoresbysund, in order to fulfil the objectives of the Expedition.

There will be 24-hour daylight for all the time in the field.

At the end of the Expedition, it is hoped that some members will have the opportunity of visiting the Inuit settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit at the entrance of Scoresbysund, before everybody flies back to Iceland where a final couple of nights at the Icelandic Scout Hostel will allow several of the geothermal wonders of that island to be visited, before finally returning to the UK.



EXPEDITION KAYAKING

Over the past three years, West Lancashire Scouts has developed an active Expedition Kayaking Group. Scoresbysund is an amazing place to undertake exploration by sea kayak and this has been inbuilt into the Expedition under the guidance of our Leaders with BCU sea kayak coaching qualifications. Current plans are to paddle in single and double kayaks the 210kms along the coast of Jamesonland into Ren Land, followed by exploratory forays over the following two weeks into the Bjørneøer (Bear Islands) and across to the northern shores of Nordvestfjord.

OBJECTIVES

The Expedition has 5 main objectives:-

Developmental As well as preparing themselves, by the time the Expedition departs, the Explorer Scouts and Network members will have taken a full role in the sub-groups that are planning and organising of the Expedition. These groups have been formed ranging from Catering & Rations to Gismos (technical aspects such as solar charging and satellite uplinks), to Field Objectives, to Medical and the rest. Before departure all those over 18 will have at least completed MLA training most will have gone through assessment.

In the field, all members will be seen as equals as far as possible – and opportunities will be made for those under 25 to complete elements of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and Queens Scout Award.

For the adult members of the party, the Expedition is in the nature of "capacity building": to continue to build and develop the team of adults in the Scout County of West Lancashire with the experience and ability to organise future schemes – especially involving young people.

Experience and Explore The vastness and isolation of the Arctic is something that is never forgotten. It touches the very heart – for life. To tread lands previously untrdden is sobering. To have the opportunity of doing this as part of a homogeneous team, where your well-being is dependent upon your fellow traveller, is something very special.



Second Ascent of The Guardian, Milne Land, July 2004

“E” grades. It is expected that the final report of the Expedition will include a digest of worthwhile objectives for future expeditions.

Undertake a Scientific programme This will be developed over the coming months with support and steers from learned institutions. Already at the time of publication of this Prospectus, sponsors of projects completed in 2004 are interested in further work being undertaken. In particular, current thoughts are orientating around an ecological/environmental programme, a glaciological programme looking at ablation, and a human physiology programme, possibly in connection with circadian rhythms. This would take advantage of the wide age range within Expedition members, from age 15 to age 60 at the time of the expedition, with differing work patterns..... working in the day-time or night-time period within the 24hr daylight.

In addition, the Expedition is happy to undertake further testing or research as may be requested by its sponsors.



Salix Herbacea - Herblike Willow

To Promote Scouting 2007 is the centennial year since the foundation of the Scout movement. The Expedition anticipates being able to participate in the celebrations at the 21st World Scout Jamboree being held in the UK at the same time via satellite and amateur radio – Scouting has come a long way since Brownsea Island in 1907!

POST EXPEDITION

Upon return, a quality Abridged Report will be produced in quantity for distribution to all benefactors and supporters of the Expedition as an acknowledgement for all their help. A Full Report will be produced for learned institutions and major sponsors..... And as a souvenir for participants.

Some 10 hours of video footage was taken in 2004 on the personal initiative of one of the members.... from which, after editing, actually produced an excellent entertaining and informative 1½hr DVD. In 2007 it is actually planned to produce a professional DVD covering all aspects of the Expedition, and we are looking for specific support in connection with this.



Full acknowledgment of all support will be given, and any support commitments fulfilled.



COSTS

The Expedition is organised on an “equals” basis, with leaders as well as younger members contributing equally. In other words, the final overall net cost will be divided equally by the number of participants. The more that can be raised from grant funding or by donations in kind, or discounts, the less the final personal costs.

The following is a realistic assessment, based upon experience in 2004, and allowing for price inflation to 2007 as costs cannot be finalised until close to departure:

PROJECTED COSTS

		TOTAL BUDGET (52 Members)
Travel	Training Expedition – Norway 2006	4,200
	To UK Airports	300
	Commercial Airflight to Iceland	13,000
	Internal within Iceland	1,500
	Iceland to Greenland & Field Operations	100,000
		£119,000
Accommodation in Iceland - say 3 nights		2,750
Food	£5.00/day x 30 days	7,500
Equipment	Communications	1,200
	Expedition	2,500
	Personal Cost	
Training		1,700
Insurance		13,000
Preliminaries - Preparation & Planning		250
Prospectus & Reports		4,250
		152,150
Contingencies		2,850
<u>TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS</u>		£155,000

Thus the gross cost per Expedition Member is £2,980 before patronage and sponsorship.

The finances of the Expedition are subject to the procedures and controls of West Lancashire County Scout Council and will form part of the annual audit of the Scout Council.

SUPPORT

The British public have a long history of supporting exploration and expeditions, from the early days of Ross and Franklin, of Scott and Shackleton, of Hunt on Everest..... and into modern times.

Any level of support will be gratefully received, whether it be financial, in kind, by discount or in thought. We thank you in anticipation.

Please respond to the member who handed you this Prospectus, or to