

Scouts hike 20 miles through rain, fog, mud



ANTONY SAXON, left, and Greg Cowan were just one of 33 teams competing in the annual Scout Explorers hike. Out of the 33 teams that started only 11 finished. Rain storms made weekend conditions bad for the hikers.

Rain may have dampened the ground for the annual Scout Explorers hike, however the spirits of the 73 enthusiastic boys and 38 leaders were not dampened by weather.

The boys left the starting point, sixth line at the Limehouse church, Friday evening and hiked north on the Bruce trail before reaching the Brooks farm machinery lot on the Guelph radial line where they spent the night.

Saturday and Sunday the boys hiked through rainy wet weather over rough rocky terrain before reaching the finish line Sunday afternoon. The hike ended in the Copping shed at Bell school line and Steeles Avenue making a total of 20 miles covered on the weekend.

A great deal of planning as well as physical energy went into the Explorers' hike on both the part of organizers and participants. The boys work throughout the hike to earn points and win the coveted trophies and awards which are presented each year by the district.

Points are awarded at the four general inspections before, during and after the hike, and for tidy campsites. Menus and equipment lists are made up and marked before the hike and included in the boys' log books which are also handed in for marking after the hike.

Homemade items such as stoves, map cases, backpacks and other useful items are also made before the hike and marked by leaders.

During the hike the boys are tested and marked on map and compass, tree, leaf and shrub identification, campsite cleanliness and team cooperation. Optional bonus points are awarded for the team who makes the best Bannock, a pancake type dough, eaten on Scout outdoor activities.

The weather for the hike caused problems for many of the hikers and caused some to drop out during the weekend. The hike started out with 33 teams registered with four dropping out on Saturday and 18 at the second checkpoint.

Eleven teams finished the course and two boys whose teams quit during the hike finished on their own.

First Acton Scouts, First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Georgetown Scouts, First Glen Williams and First Norval troops all took part in the weekend event.

and Timothy Hancock who finished with 197.75 points. Third place went to Acton first Acton Scout troop boys George Garton, David Fuller, and Yves Savard with 196.5 points.

The Excelsior award given to the highest team average at all district events was won by the First Georgetown troop as well.

Organizer George Henderson said he felt the hike went off very well this year and was especially challenging because of the weather. Mr. Henderson said he couldn't blame any of the Scouts for dropping out under the conditions they had.

Organizer Henderson expressed thanks to all the people who helped to make this year's hike a success. Venturers from the First and Fifth Georgetown troop and the First Norval troop were on hand all weekend helping with the officiating and other jobs that needed to be done. Leaders from the troops who took part in the hike were also thanked for their help in testing and marking boys on the various stages of the hike.



TIM GARTON



JIM BOYLE doesn't look too thrilled about the wet conditions for the Cub camp at Camp of the Woodland Trails on the weekend. Mr. Boyle was the cook on the weekend and relied on a Coleman stove rather than a campfire under these soggy conditions.



ACTON CUBS braved the rainy weekend for their cub camp Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14. Waiting in line for some nice warm lunch are left to right Mike Kenny, Duff McGillivray, Ricky Smith and Mathew Marsh. The camp took the theme of battleships and the high seas; the weather added to this idea.

Rainy setting for seafaring Cubs

Aboard high seas sixteen Cubs and their leaders set out for a weekend of camping with the weather adding to their camping theme of battleships and the high seas.

The boys arrived at Camp of the Woodland Trails Saturday morning May 13, and were divided into tent groups which represented four famous battleships, the Hood, the Bismark, the Haida, and the Carolina. The leaders tents were the patrol ships known as the Titanic.

Although the rainy weekend dampened the atmosphere for some of the planned activities the boys were still able to take three short hikes around the area surrounding the camp.

On Saturday evening parents visited the campsite for campfire. The boys presented skits and songs for their parents before serving hot chocolate to end the evening's activities. After settling in Saturday evening the boys used flashlights to communicate between the battleship tents.

Leaders spending the night at the camp were Mike Walton, Andrea Sharples and Pat Garton. Other day members of the patrol ship Titanic were Jim Boyle, Jim Phillips, Rick Gibson and Calvin Robinson.



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THIRD PLACE team in the annual Scout Explorers hike are Acton Scouts left to right, George Garton Jr., David Fuller and Yves Savard. The boys took third place with 196.5 points earned over the weekend.



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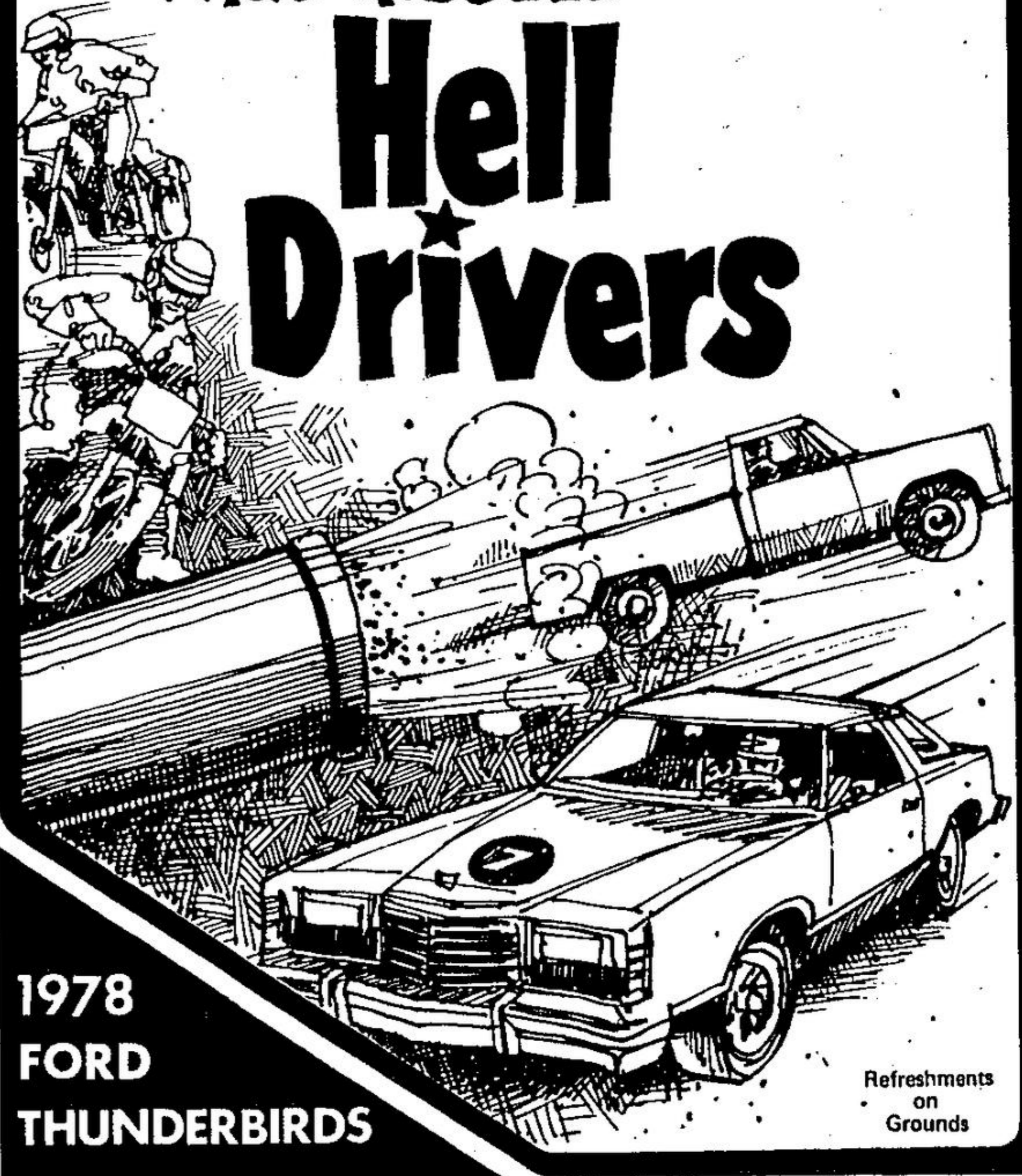
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