



## The Wee Moot at Rotary Scout Reservation



In 1953 there was a camp-out held in the lower cabin at Rotary Scout Reservation attended by some of the Rover Scouts from Troop 214 of Glasgow KY. That was the first to be of many Wee Moots hosted by the B-P Rover Crew at the small private Scout camp near the sleepy little town of Temple Hill KY.

Most of these Scouts had previously been to the National Boy Scout Jamboree held at Valley Forge Pa. in June of 1950. While there they had camped beside a group of Rover Scouts from Pennsylvania and struck up a kinship. Those PA Rovers in turn introduced Jim Simmons and the Glasgow Troop to some Canadian Rovers. An instant bond was formed and the Kentucky boys quickly decided to form their own Rover Crew upon returning home. Jimmy Simmons was well aware of Rovers from his studies of the Boy Scout program in both the United States and throughout the world, especially in Great Britain where the Rover Scout program originated.

Simmons loved to tell the story of the 1949 World Jamboree in Maison France where a great many Rover Scouts had spent countless hours preparing the site, building structures, restoring a small war surplus ammunition train complete with locomotive, and even laying of the rails that circled the camp to serve as a continuous shuttle, themselves forfeiting the opportunity to actually attend the Jamboree just so others could benefit. That dedication of helping others before self really struck a cord with him and he used it many times to illustrate the true meaning of the Rover Scout motto, **Service**.

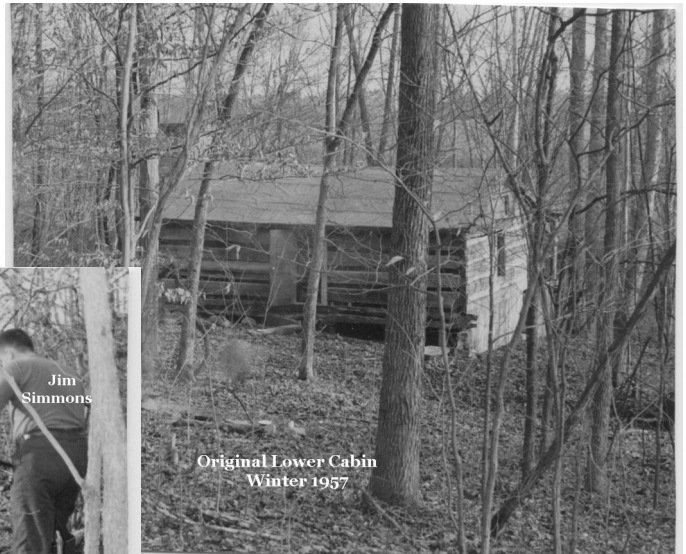


The Rover Crew was formed in late 1950 and chartered in 1951, though not yet specifically named, at that time they called themselves Rover Crew #1. The Rovers were still a part of the original BSA Troop 214 with Jimmy Simmons being the Scoutmaster and chartered by the Glasgow Lions Club. The Rovers, consisting of older scouts and young adults helped with the Scout Troop and many building projects around the Rotary Scout Reservation.

In 1953 they decided to hold the **First Wee Rover Moot**. Moot being a term being utilized worldwide to designate a gathering of Rover Scouts. Held in June 1953. Although only attended by locals it was the first of what was to become a long tradition at Rotary Scout Reservation. Attendees included: Jim Simmons, Stan Jones, H. Campbell, Ted Simmons, Billy Bethel and Dave Boden.



The **Second Wee Moot** was held four years later on Dec. 30 & 31, 1957. This was the only time to hold a Wee Moot in the winter months. The theme was to celebrate the Centenary of Baden-Powell's birth in 1957.



The camp-out occurred during the winter school break between Christmas and New Year. It was a work camp to improve the facilities for other Scouts using Rotary Scout Camp. A major project was chinking between the logs of the original lower cabin.



By this time the Rover Crew had officially voted to name themselves the **B-P Rover Crew**. There are some pictures surviving of this event.

Attendees: Jim Simmons, Ted Simmons, Ray Smith, Bill Poteet, Wilbur Settle, Rueben Garnett, Fred Ganter, Charlie Dickinson, Robert Dickinson, Benny Dickinson, Larry Cook, Carrol Hatcher and Barty Dickinson.



Another Rover specific camp or moot at Rotary was held Sept 7 & 8, 1958 Attendees: Jim Simmons, Terry Davis, Jerry Davis, Ronnie Parker, Charlie Dickinson, Joe Dickinson, Fred Ganter. No badge was issued for this local Rover camp-out and it was never really considered an actual Wee Moot.



The **Third Wee Moot** occurred in Sept. 1960 with the theme of commemorating the Golden Anniversary of the Founding of the Boy Scouts of America fifty years earlier in 1910. The B-P Crew decided to move the Moot to the summer months to better accommodate everyone's school schedule. Although this also happened to be the same week-end crew member Sam Norris got married. It also allowed the use of the waterfront on Skaggs Creek for swimming, canoeing and wet games. Its badge is the first to use a white background with the red cross of St George surrounded by a golden border. An iconic design that would carry forth for the remainder of the Wee Moot badges. This particular design of the badge incorporated a golden Fleur-dis-lis symbol with the number "50" to represent the anniversary of the BSA.

Attendees: Jim Simmons, Joe Dickinson, Charlie Dickinson, Ralph Huffman, Rueben Garnett, Wilbur Settle among others.

The **Fourth Wee Moot** occurred in 1962 with the theme to coincide with the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian National Rover Moot held in Quebec. Some members of the B-P Rover Crew made the long journey to St. Roch de Mekinac to attend that Moot in Aug. 28 - Sept. 4 1962 in addition to participating in Wee Moot. The design of this badge shared the image of a rooster weather vane native to Quebec.



Crew member attending the Canadian Moot were Jim Simmons, Jerry Froedge, Pat Lakin, Rueben Garnett, and Reggie Sadler, Wilbur Settle, Charlie Dickinson and John White.







The **Fifth Wee Moot** was held in 1963. The badge contains the image of a standing knight. Knighthood was major theme used in Rover Scouting in England and throughout the world. It was notable for being the first Wee Moot with some out-of-Council attendees. In addition to the local attendees.

There were Rover/Explorer crews from the Old Kentucky Home Crew, Louisville and Four Rivers Council Crew, Mayfield KY, both members of the old Region Four of the BSA.

Attendees: Jim Simmons, Eddie Atnip, Jerry Froedge, Charlie Goodman and Joe Dickinson.

The **Sixth Wee Moot** was held in 1964. This was the first Moot that had significant international attendance. A large contingent of Canadian Rovers made the journey in no small part due to the B-P Crews exposure at several recent Canadian Moots.

The badge design consisted of a kneeling knight receiving his sword. With this Moot began the tradition of awarding a metal thumbstick plaque with the same image as the badge.



Crew Attendees: Jim Simmons, Wayne Calvert, John Barrick, Jim Redford, Johnny Nelson, Jerry Froedge, Phillip Buckner, Kelly St Charles, Bob Burdette, Jimmy Nelson.

Service Patrol Leader was Ken Winniger, assisted by Mike Shirley at the canteen. Jigger Aspley, Bill Rodgers of Glasgow, a Troop from Bowling Green (Doc Evans) visited the Moot also. Other Kentucky Crews attending were the Four Rivers Crew of Fulton, and the Old Ky Home Crew of Louisville.

Some Canadian Crews attending : 6<sup>th</sup> Toronto, 26<sup>th</sup> Hamilton, 20<sup>th</sup> Toronto, 165<sup>th</sup> Toronto, 7<sup>th</sup> Agincourt, 5<sup>th</sup> Brantsford, 3<sup>rd</sup> Newtonbrook, 21<sup>st</sup> Hamilton, 1<sup>st</sup> Willowdale, Adanac Creek Bramlea, Trillium Crew, Ashanti Rover Crew and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dixie all on Ontario. Sitting up and playing guitar while singing with the Canadians for most of the night before a trip to Holmes Restaurant in town for a late night/early morning breakfast are some of the fondest memories of those who attended. Sherman Lee cooked fish over an open fire near the Upper Cabin for the supper. Trillium Crew won the inaugural Hill Climb Event.



The **Seventh Wee Moot** was held in 1965. At this point the crew decided that the trend of having a Moot every year was becoming a bit overwhelming and voted to have Wee Moots every two years from this point forward. The badge design was of a world map super-imposed over the cross of St George. The thumbstick plaque was simplified to the St George Cross on a Knight's Shield.



Attendees: Jim Simmons, Ted Simmons, Jimmy Redford, Charlie Dickinson, Jerry Froedge, Johnny Nelson, Jimmy Nelson, Mike Shirley, Bob Burdette and Ken Winniger. Price Lee cooked fish for the Rovers. US Crews attending were: Four Rivers Fulton Ky, Old Ky Home Crew Louisville Ky, Thunderbird Rovers, Dayton Oh.



Wee Moot Opening 1965



Canadian Crews: 5<sup>th</sup> Bransford, St Croix, 1<sup>st</sup> Elmira, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dixie (flying in a private plane), Hamilton Composite, Trillium, 7<sup>th</sup> Agincourt, and Ashanti all of Ontario Canada. We also welcomed a Swedish Rover, Hans Carlheim, to the Moot. The Trillium crew won the Hill Climb Event for the second year.

The **Eighth Wee Moot** occurred in 1967. It's badge incorporated B-P's image of St George slaying the dragon as drawn for his *Rovering To Success* book.



The Diamond Willow Crew, (Ted Simmons, Skipper) begins attending.  
Canadian crews: 7<sup>th</sup> Agincourt, Hamilton Composite, 20<sup>th</sup> Calgary Crew, Alberta, Vancouver BC, Centennial, 6<sup>th</sup> Toronto.

Fee was \$8 for Fish Fry, Bar-B-Que, badge, thumbstick plaque and fees





The **Ninth Wee Moot** was held in 1969. The badge utilized the image of a Zulu warrior that B-P had drawn during his travels in Africa. Attendees: Jim Simmons, Ted Simmons, Randy Ream, Prentiss Harvey, Ken Winniger



The **Tenth Wee Moot** was held in 1971. The badge design featured a line drawing of Lord Baden-Powell imposed over the Cross of St George with the dates "1951-1971" to acknowledge the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary founding date of the B-P Crew.







The **Eleventh Wee Moot** was held in 1973. The badge designed and drawn by Rover Bruce Simmons consisted of a standing knight in armor. It was the first year to offer a ceramic drinking mug with the current Moot badge design.



The **Twelfth Wee Moot** was held in 1975 and featured a Hiking Scout images based on another of Baden-Powell's drawings for the badge, thumbstick and mug.







The younger Scouts were responsible for the cooking during the Wee Moot. From left to right, Tom Holmes, Barry Isenberg and Don Simmons prepare food in one of the tents.

Most notable of this event was the large contingent of Rovers from Chihuahua Mexico.



Wee Moot 1975 Opening

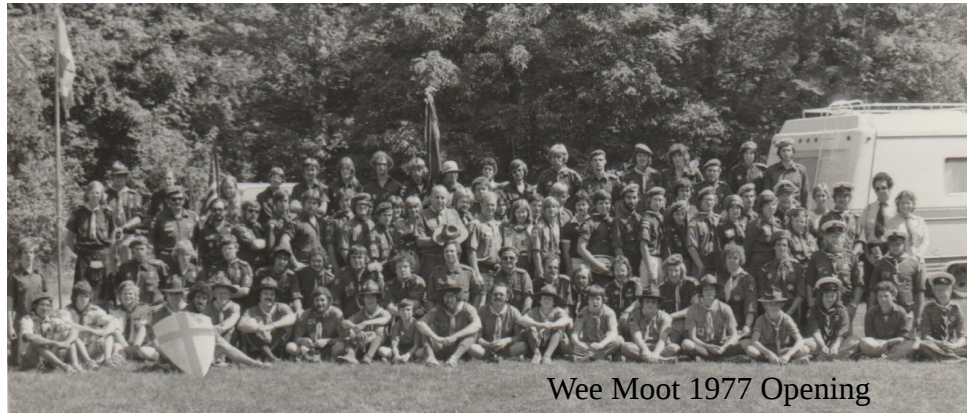
Attending: Jim Simmons, Ted Simmons, Randy Ream, Joe Austin, Paul Moloko, Jerry Strange, Huggs McShane, Prentiss Harvey and Bob Burdette, Don Simmons, Tom Holmes.



Canadian Crews: 1<sup>st</sup> Elmira, 11<sup>th</sup> Cambridge, Ashanti, Galt, Sir Issac Brock Pickering, 1<sup>st</sup> Transconga, Hamilton Composit, Canadian Forces, Buffalo City Crew, Duke of Edinburgh, and a large Crew from Chihuahua Mexico.



The **Thirteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1977. The badge



Wee Moot 1977 Opening

design consisted of an image of the North and South American hemispheres over the background of the Red Cross of St. George. This was the last year that a drinking mug was offered.



Skaggs Creek 1977



The **Fourteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1979. The badge design was of an image of the slaying of a Dragon similar to the previous (1967) badge but with the exception of it being a Rover Scout on horseback instead of St George.



Caber Toss 1979







The **Fifteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1981.

The badge design featured a world globe with a Scout style hat. There was the name of the B-P Crew and the dates “1951-1981” to commemorate the 30 year anniversary of the founding of the Rover Crew.

This was the first year of the Kudu Crew of Bardstown, Ky to attend.



The **Sixteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1983. The badge design featured the purple international Scout symbol recognizing all of the different Rovers from various countries who have attended the Wee Moot.

Attending: James Simmons, Ted Simmons, Ken Winniger, Jerry Froedge, Eugene Houchens, Wayne Mater Honeycutt, Greg Strange, Tom Holmes, Brian Shields, Shaun Marsh, Stacy Marsh, Jeff Thomas, Joesph Austin, John Austin, Tommy Watkins, Paul Moloko.



Canadian Crews attending:

1<sup>st</sup> Niagara, 11<sup>th</sup> Cambridge, 75<sup>th</sup> Windsor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Newtonbrook, 7<sup>th</sup> Downsview, and USA Crews Kudu and Diamond Willow. W.K Afriti of Ghana.



The **Seventeenth Wee Moot** was held in 1985. The badge featured a diamond design to acknowledge the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the BSA in 1910. Attending: Jim Simmons,

Ted Simmons, Ken Winniger, Jerry Froedge, Paul Moloko, Brian Shields, Greg Strange, Tom Holmes, Stacy Marsh, Shawn Marsh, Jeff Thomas.

Canadian Crews: 1<sup>st</sup> Niagara, 3<sup>rd</sup> Newtonbrook, 11<sup>th</sup> Cambridge, 75<sup>th</sup> Windsor, 36<sup>th</sup> Hamilton, Scarborough, Queen City (Buffalo NY), Kudu (Bardstown KY), Aram Joukadjian of Ettamogah (Australia)

The **Eighteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1987. The badge design returned to the knighthood theme with a drawing of a Knight's armor helmet with a sword in a raised hand above.







The **Nineteenth Wee Moot** was held in 1989. The badge design featured a hand raised in the three-fingered Scout Sign with the motto of Rover Scouts, "Service" in a scroll above.



Attending: Jim Simmons, Ted Simmons, Tom Holmes, Jeff Thomas, Brian Shields, Ken Winniger, Jerry Froedge, Stacy Marsh, Gilman Peterson, Paul Moloko



Canadian Crews: 1<sup>st</sup> Niagara, 75<sup>th</sup> Windsor, 11<sup>th</sup> Cambridge, 7<sup>th</sup> Downsview, 1<sup>st</sup> Elmira, 3<sup>rd</sup> Newtonbrook, Queen City Rovers (Buffalo NY), Kudu Rovers (Bardstown KY), 3<sup>rd</sup> Cliffcrest, 1<sup>st</sup> Yukon Puffs, Tecumseh, Kamloops, Ettamagoh (Aus.)

The **Twentieth Wee Moot** was held in 1991. The badge design featured the Boy Scouts of America Rover Scout badge upon the cross of St George.







The **Twenty-First Wee Moot** badge was held in 1993. It would prove to be the last Wee Moot attended by Jim Simmons and fittingly, the final Wee Moot. The badge design featured the Crew Crest of the B-P Rover Crew with the dates “1953-1993”

to honor the 40 years of Wee Moot.



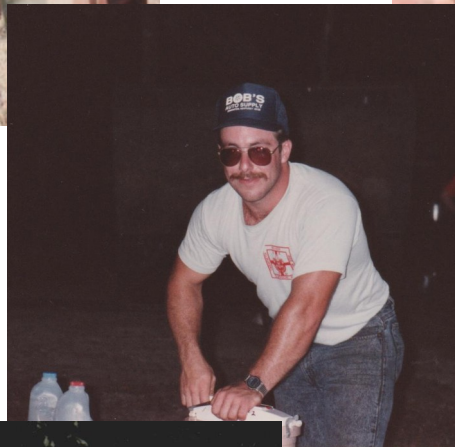
Australian Contingent 1993



Waterfront 1993











In 1999 there was a **Wee Moot Memorial** instead of a Moot. This camp was held to honor the memory and dedication of Jim Simmons who had passed away on March 28, 1998. The badge design featured a gray profile of Simmons in his Rover uniform. One of the most significant aspects of this reunion was the celebration of his life service. The previous year, in his honor the B-P Crew had erected a Rover picnic shelter at Rotary Scout Reservation and it was here that a great many Rover Scouts shared their fond memories, stories and respect for Jim Simmons and his legacy of the Wee Moots.



Another tradition of the Wee Moot was the activities agenda.

The typical schedule for a Moot began on Wednesday when Rotary Scout Reservation opened to allow for the International traveling Rovers to begin arriving and set up camp.

Thursday would be a day set aside for more arrivals and off site activities such as a trip to Mammoth Cave, Opryland Amusement Park, Nashville and Bowling Green.

On Friday, there was an Official Opening Ceremony with some activities to follow. Later that afternoon a supplied meal of catfish, hush puppies and assorted sides followed by fresh cut watermelon welcomed everybody back to camp in the early evening. Afterwards a night ramble hike was offered to the Rovers to explore the surrounding country-side outside of Rotary. As the Crews trekked back into camp there was always some cheese, salami and cracker snack trays to reward their efforts. Only occasionally did members of the B-P Crew had to go out and find some lost crews who had missed a turn on their hike.

Saturday began again with early opening ceremonies. All Rover crews were expected to attend in full dress uniform.

**Dry Games** in the Upper Field were held afterwards. Highland Games style events such as caber toss, relays, hatchet toss, scout skills and wheelbarrow races were typical activities enjoyed by the Rovers.

A brief recess for Crew lunch and change into swimming outfits.

Events then moved down the hill to the waterfront for the **Wet Games**. Canoe races, swimming and various activities on Skagg's Creek help to alleviate the usual August sweltering heat.

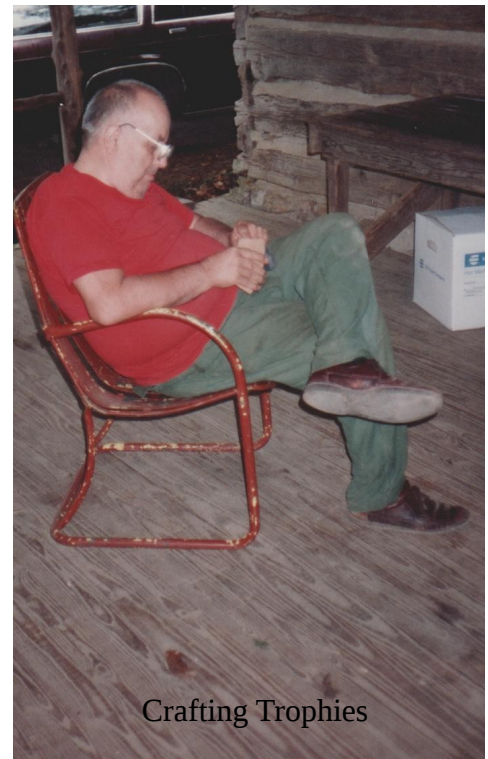
The final challenge was an epic endurance Hill Run race. Rovers would typically race from the crest of the bluff near the Upper Cabin, down the steep hill, across the creek and back up the hill again.

Another supplied meal, this time of BBQ chicken, fresh vegetables, dutch oven baked beans was offered just before dark. Desert was usually hand-cranked ice cream.

An evening campfire was always a high point with plenty of singing, skits and fellowship between all the Rovers and guests.



Sunday morning began with a another full dress opening and church service and followed by the closing ceremonies. One highlight of the closing was the awarding of the handmade trophies to the winners of the Moots events. The trophies were always crafted by Jim Simmons and usually featured the Moot thumbstick plaque, with a figurine mounted on a small pedestal base. The belt buckle award for the Night Ramble hike was one of the most highly prized by all the Rovers.



Crafting Trophies

At the conclusion of Wee Moot we traditionally all gathered around the Upper Field joined hands in a circle and sang Auld Lang Syne before Jim Simmons would offer a small prayer asking to keep us all safe on our journey home. He would then officially declare the Wee Moot closed and express his wishes for us to meet together one more time.

## **Misc Notes:**

### Founding Members

- Jimmy Simmons
- W.S. Everret
- Jerry Houchens
- Eugene Houchens
- Bill Hoop Smith (...is this Ray Smith?)

## **Misc Memories:**

- Canoe trips to Green River
- Corvette, Kentucky Museum in BG
- Saltpeter Cave
- Mountain Men with their Muzzle Loaders
- Bluegrass Band with supper one night
- Late nights sitting on the porch
- Latrines before flush toilets
- Water from spring, then tank, then city water
- Mowing the field with small push mower
- Trimming the road into camp
- Canteen/Trading Post
- Cokes out of the old Coke coolers
- The cicadas incessant noise