



Winter 2014

New Camp Trailer

Camp Wilderness has a new trailer thanks to 2 major donations from the Alumni Association and the Dilworth Lions. The trailer is a 16 foot flatbed, has two 6,000 lb axles, electric brakes, and fold down ramps. It was purchased gently used and appears as if new. This has been on Ranger's "wish list" for quite a few years. A hearty thank you goes out to the Dilworth Lions and our own Alumni Association.



Paddleboarding is Coming to Camp Wilderness!



The council Executive Committee has agreed to fund 6 new Paddle Boards to arrive in time for the 2014 camp program. Camp Wilderness will be offering the BSA's new Stand-Up Paddleboarding award.



Looks like a blast! In the Fall Aurora, we will have a picture with our own Paddle Boards, on our own Bad Axe Lake with our own Scouts!

How about: "Deep among the SNOW, pines and birches"?



How Logan's life changed overnight by Cindie Van Tassel

Logan Comeau and his family talked about things before going to bed. His dad was scheduled to have surgery on Oct. 23, 2013. Kay and Al (Logan's parents) were planning to go to the hospital early in the morning and the kids would go to school as usual. Kay had fallen asleep on the couch that night. "I'm not sure if it was the crackling of the fire or perhaps God that woke me up" said Kay. She walked into the kitchen and saw the window by the porch outlined in flames. She then hollered upstairs saying that the house was on fire. That was at 3:30 a.m. on Oct. 23, 2013. Al never had his surgery that day. They stood outside with only the clothes they had worn to bed on, while watching their home burn.

The family had to spend 10 days in a motel. It took a while before they could find a place in Breckenridge to rent for a family of 5 and their pets. It would also need room for when his older brother and sister come home to visit.



The house and the contents were a total loss. "Of course you have the irreplaceable items like pictures and items of sentimental value that were lost and can never be replaced" said Kay. The family had insurance on the house but only for market value, not replacement value. They are hoping to rebuild on the same lot, but only with a 1 story smaller house because of the costs.

The police officer noted how Logan stayed calm and was reassuring to his sisters while they were staying warm sitting in the police officer's car. Logan said "I credited what I had learned in scouting to helping my sister get out of the house safely and trying to calm everyone down".

The family has some advice for everyone to consider in the future. "1. Make sure you have working smoke detectors and change the batteries twice a year. 2. Have a fire escape plan and practice it even when your children are grown up. 3. Make sure everyone knows where the meeting place is during a fire. 4. Keep copies of important papers and pictures in a fire proof safe. 5. Put your pictures on an external hard drive and store it somewhere outside the house. 6. Take pictures of every room in your house and the contents. 7. Making an inventory list would also be very helpful. 8. Check your insurance policy, and find out exactly what is covered in the event of a loss."

Alumni Association President, Jeff Brown had put a request on the Alumni Face Book page asking for donations to help Logan replace some of the items that were lost in the fire.

Financial donations came into the Fargo Scout office. I went shopping at the Fargo Scout Shop and Fleet Farm with Logan and his dad to try to replace items that he lost in the fire.

We did purchase many things with the donations, but did run out of funds before we could purchase all of the items we had on the list. If you are able to make a donation to help us replace Logan's scouting supplies, please send a donation to the NLC – Fargo office. The monetary donations will be put in an account marked with Logan's name.

How Logan's life changed overnight, continued

"For those of you that have made a donation so I could replace some of my scouting items, "THANK YOU!" said Logan. " Many people have stepped up and helped meet needs we didn't even realize that we had for Logan, thank you!" said Kay and Al Comeau.

The fund for Logan is still open. If you would like to contribute to this cause please send your contributions/investments in Logan, to Fargo Scout Center 4200 19th Ave. South in Fargo, ND 58103. Please add a note indicating it's for T-332. Funds will be disbursed to Troop leaders for purchasing those Scout and Scout related items. 🙏🙏

Don't put your dust in my trailer, my trailer, my trailer...

By Joel Hektner

Ever wonder where this line of the "One Bottle of Pop" round song came from, or why it was changed from "my dustpan"? Well, let me tell you what happened on Friday, July 13, 1984 at Camp Wilderness. During that summer, Steve Werpy and Jeff Pastir made a weekly trip to Perkins in Bemidji for a midnight snack, usually accompanied by junior staffers Chris Waller and Jon Hendrickson. On this night they invite me, a 16 year-old commissioner aide. Since I'm a pretty quiet guy, they apparently think I need some excitement. So on the way back to camp, Steve stops the car several times so we could "write on the road" (with our own personal yellow ink), do a Chinese fire drill, and howl at the moon. Note that not only is it Friday, the 13th the moon is also full. Time for things to get even



crazier. When we pulled into the staff parking lot (behind the current health/shower building), the headlights reveal a small group of guys setting up all of the furniture that was in Jeff & John Wright's cabin (the cabins had metal bunk beds then) outside, in exactly the same arrangement as it was inside. The group flees, but we trace them to Gilwell. Hmmm... Neil Litton's troop is camping in Gilwell this week. We couldn't let this stand. We had to take action. John had not

come with us, but is a bit crazy tonight from having been somewhere other than Perkins. He drives the Orange Crush down the Gilwell road to the path to the campsite, where Neil's troop trailer is parked. We hitch it up and drive it to the QM shop (back end of the trading post), where the plan is to back it into the shop and close the door, making it "disappear". But no, it's not going to work. The trailer is just inches too wide to fit through the door. Time

for Plan B. At the COPE site, there is a huge pile of sawdust. We load up the trailer with shovels from the QM and head out to COPE, where we dig into that sawdust pile and start filling up the trailer. John expertly backs the loaded trailer back down the Gilwell road to its precise spot and unhitches. By now it's the wee hours of the morning. At breakfast a bit later, Neil walks over to those of us who have silly grins on our faces and says one of his Scouts came to him that morning saying, "Mr. Litton, there's woodchips in our trailer." So he says to the Scout, "Well go sweep them out!" And the Scout, shaking his head, replies, "Oh, no, Mr. Litton....". 🙏🙏



Jeff Brown



President's Message Winter 2014

“Change is inevitable-progress is optional”

While attending our 2013 Alumni Association-Staff Christmas party I had the good fortune to sit for a time with Phil Schorn. If you have ever spent time with Phil you know it's to your benefit to listen. Phil told me his goal was to leave the camp in better shape than when he found it. He would also like to see each of us with the same goal in mind. When asked what he would like to see done at Camp Wilderness he didn't offer specifics. Phil told me it doesn't matter what you do as long as what you do matters. Phil's thought was to keep what works and to change to meet the needs of Scouts and Scouters into the future. I couldn't help but think what Sir Winston Churchill said, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” What I do know is that change is difficult for a great many of us including me. I would like to see our organization involved in whatever positive change/improvement comes to our Northern Lights Council Camps.

I would like to thank the “Dome Crew”, the Dilworth Lions, and the Alumni Association Board of Directors for coming together to purchase a heavy duty trailer for our NLC Camps. If you have ever been involved in maintenance at Camp Wilderness you know what a valuable item this will be. What I didn't know was that it would be used for a hay ride at Cub Camp this winter. Who among us thought about a hay ride when the purchase was made? This trailer will be used for years to come and will make our volunteers and staff more safe and efficient. Thank you for supporting this purchase.



The heavy duty trailer was a huge purchase for our Association. It was also a big step for our organization on a couple of fronts. We were able to work with another group, determine a priority, set the goal and see it through to fruition. By definition Scouts and Scouters are leaders. We should set the cultural standard of the Alumni Association as being a success oriented organization. We should set short-mid-long term goals and put a plan in motion as we determine our priorities. I think we should look for ways to finance future projects, work with other like-minded organizations and create the change we would like to see. Who better than members of The Association to do just that?

The Alumni Association-Staff Christmas party numbers were up from 45 in 2012 to 65 in 2013. Alumni Association members, staff members and families all coming together made for a great Christmas celebration. Hope to see the numbers increase every year. The more the better!



Please take a look at the work Chad Swenson, Tom Hall, Ron Schneider and Brad Olson are doing to get more people involved and informed. They have put together a series of Update and Gatherings at the FSC starting Jan. 7 with a Scouting memorabilia/patches/Eagle award display/Jamboree display. There are five such sessions (covering a variety of topics) planned as well as a bus trip to Camp Wilderness on July 1st, 2014 as part of Alumni Week. Please check out these events at www.nlcbsa.org or fargo@nlcbsa.org The session on March 4th is Forestry Care and Logging/Forestry Tower Display. This fall I was fortunate to be on site when 24 acres

were logged off near Reed Lake. This spring the stumpage will be buried and the site planted in prairie grasses. This should be fantastic for a variety of wildlife species including ruffed grouse, trumpeter swans that currently nest on Reed, turkey, deer, sharp grouse, and the list goes on. This will take some time-possibly 3-5 years but well worth the time and effort. We also were paid for the timber taken from the site. Sounds like a win-win to me. This is directly north of the shotgun range. Take the trail from shotgun, behind high cope to Reed. Please stop by on March 4th for more information from Ranger Andy. The DNR fire tower display should also prove interesting as should the rest of the scheduled Update and Gatherings. The next time you find yourself at CW check out the Reed Lake site. Good things are happening and this is one of them.

In October we had one of our own lose all of his personal possessions in a house fire in Breckenridge, MN. This Scout is a member of T-332, Cindie Van Tassel's troop. My initial reaction, and request, was for The Association to provide funding to purchase Scout related items for this young man. I was reminded of our bylaws by several of you and it was determined that it would be better to request funding from Association members. I sent out a request for donations and was surprised by the positive response. What I was most impressed with was the honesty of our members who took the time to call, e-mail, Facebook and speak to me in person. Your direct honesty was refreshing. Cindie, our Scout and his father recently made the trip to the FSC and purchased many of the needed Scout and Scout related items needed. Funds are still being accepted at the Fargo Scout Center for items we were not able to purchase.

When discussing this fundraising effort I had one of our members give me something profound to think about. He said, "Doing the right thing is never going above and beyond what is expected." Think about it.

I would like to think that with 100 plus members we should be able to do great things. Things don't have to be big to be great they just have to be great. I keep thinking about what Phil told me. It doesn't matter what you do as long as what you do matters.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of the Alumni Association. 🙏🙏

Achievement Award

The Association has developed the Alumni Achievement Award to recognize those individuals and organizations for outstanding service and contributions to the Northern Lights Council Camps over an extended period of time.

The Alumni Association seeks nominations for candidates to be considered to receive this award. Nominees may be Scouters, professional staff or those that do not have an affiliation with Scouting; or an organization that has provided exemplary monetary and/or physical support. The only stipulation is that awards cannot be considered posthumously.

Nomination application forms are on the Alumni Association page of the Council 'Northern Hi-Lites' at this link:

<http://www.northernlightsalumni.com/Downloads/Alumni%20Achievement%20Award%20Form.pdf>

and also a link on the 'Aurora' news letter of the Alumni Association.

Organizations (VFW, Elks, American Legions, etc) have been the lifeblood to funding programs and equipment for our camps. Scouters are invited to coordinate with their District Executive to submit an organization from your district, for the Alumni Achievement Award.

Each year, nominations are solicited through the 'Aurora' and applications are available from the Alumni Achievement committee chair or other officers of The Association. Anyone can make a nomination by completing the Nomination For Alumni Achievement Award form and sending it to the Alumni Achievement Award Chair by June 1st of each year.

If you would like to nominate an individual or an organization for the Alumni Achievement Award, download the nomination form, fill it out and mail it to the committee chair person:

Mike Melby

1920 27th Ave S

Grand Forks, ND 58201

Email melby@aero.und.edu

Heart Butte Report



Heart Butte's biggest project is the relocation of the chapel, as the current location has been eroding behind the chapel shelter. Lots of progress was made in 2013, including the pouring of the walls, which took place at the Pa-Hin Lodge Fall Conclave in August. Work will commence in the spring.



Monte Fronk Recognized

At the 2013 International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) meeting in October in Reno, NV, Monte received a Certificate of Recognition for his role in the development and creation of Strength and Resiliency: Emergency Preparedness for Tribal Leaders, a 30-minute training video designed to educate elected Tribal leaders about disaster preparedness. Congratulations Monte!



The **AURORA** Interview

Sethery Murray



Did you attend Camp Wilderness as a Scout?

Yes I did. I attend camp as a Webelo, and for 3 years before working on staff.

How many years have you been on staff at Camp Wilderness?

I have been on staff for 3 years now. If you count the year I was a CIT (2010) then it would be 4 years. My first year (2011) I was the Dining Hall Steward. In 2012 I was the Medic Aid over in the Health Lodge. This past summer in 2013 I was the OA Coordinator.

Funniest moment at camp?

My funniest moment at camp. Would be 2010 when I was at camp as a participant. I was the swimmer in the annual Iron Man relay race. For at least 4 years straight we had won Iron Man when we were at camp. So to give us the advantage we decided to cover me in PAM which is a spray they use in pans when you cook so the food doesn't stick. We thought this would make me "glide" across the water. Turns out that it did. I was in first, swimming as fast as I could, all the water splashing in our faces as we swam out farther into the water. I was feeling really good about this and then the worst thing happened. I lost my shorts. Needless to say I had to stop

and put them back on! The troop still came in 2nd place that year. But the standing joke in the troop is that I shouldn't have stopped.

Most moving experience at camp?

My troop always comes up to camp during Alumni Week. During alumni week Chris Soper comes to camp, and he tells the best stories. Most of the time Chris would come to my troops campsite and tell us these stories. This one story I don't fully remember it, but it was about Leadership, Courage, basically about being a good scout. That would probably be one of the biggest reasons why I am still in Scouting, and working at Camp Wilderness.

Favorite campsite and/or location in camp?

- I have two favorite places on camp. Number one will always been Gilwell Campsite. That is the campsite my troop usually stays in and I have tons of memories in that campsite. My second location is the OA Buck Lake Ceremony Site. Being the OA Coordinator I have become very fond of the site. That is where I started my Ordeal, and tons of memories of setting up for ceremonies and after ceremonies.

Favorite Dining Hall meal?

First and foremost I LOVE PEACHES (~ Joe Fetzik). My favorite meal at camp would be chicken nuggets. Not one most people would want at camp, but after doing service projects this last summer, me and chicken nuggets got to know each other fairly well!



Favorite summer camp activity?

My favorite camp activity would be going out to each with the Alumni. When you go each with the Alumni you hear the best stories, and you learn a lot from these guys. It's a very rewarding experience.



What are you doing school/work wise, when not at camp?

Well to start I am a Senior at Wyndmere High School. I am working very hard to graduate and come back to Camp this summer. Currently I don't have a job, but I am keeping very busy with being the Lodge Chief for the Pa-hin Lodge, I am on two Ambulance Squads (Wyndmere-Barney, Kindred Area Ambulance Service), and I am on the Wyndmere Museum Foundation Board of Directors. It's a lot of work but very rewarding and fun to be around so many different people!

What would you tell someone that is considering working on camp staff, but still not sure?

I would say; "It is a once and a life time experience. I would never regret meeting all of the people, and learning how much a difference you can make in a young Scouts life. Working at Camp Wilderness has been a major impact on my life." Always remember "Deep among the pines and birches lies the camp we love hail to the O' Wilderness Hail O' Hail O' Hail." Camp Wilderness will become your second home, and by the time you leave camp for the summer and you get home you'll be itching to come back!

Alumni News.....

Sidler Davis joins The Association as a lifetime member. Sid started work at Wilderness in 2007 and worked through 2012. Sid is currently a Latin and Social Studies teacher at Lyndon Institute in Lyndon Center Vermont. Drop Sid an email at Sidler.Davis@gmail.com or give him a call at 571-480-1020.

Chuck Ensign has upgraded his membership from Annual to Lifetime. Chuck has been a long time supporter of Camp Wilderness and scouting in general. Chuck lives in Duluth and is an active member of the Duluth Alumni Socials. Chuck has a challenge to all Alumni: Build a Pinewood Derby car (such as one of the cars from the Camp Wilderness logging project batch), and bring it to the Alumni meeting this summer. Just an idea of a way for each of us to remember being a kid and designing a memory. Drop Chuck a note at chuck_ensign@wwdb.org.

Samantha Davis joins The Association as a lifetime member. Samantha was the Trading Post Manager in 2012 for Weblows. Samantha recently graduated from the University of NE-Lincoln with a degree in Forensic Science and is currently at UNL working on a Masters in Education. She wants to teach high school science. Drop Samantha a note at Samantha.davis@huskers.unl.edu or 402-770-4327.

Alumni Association Upcoming Events & Dates

- 2/4/14** 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo
- 3/4/14** 5:15-6:00PM: "Forestry Care & Logging"- Andy Kietzman-Center for Scouting-Fargo
- 3/4/14** 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo
- 4/1/14** 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo
- 5/6/14** 5:15-6:00PM: "Our other Camps-Update"- Center for Scouting-Fargo
- 5/6/14** 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo
- 5/17/14** Deadline Spring Aurora - Articles to Steve Shark at: stevesharknd@gmail.com

Camp reflections from the late 50's/early 60's by Bob Pettitt:

Back in the late '50s and early '60s, for five years I attended Camp Wilderness, both for summer and winter camps. In 1962 I was on staff for summer camp.

I remember a timed Scout activity that helped Scouts practice their knot-tying abilities. Many Scouts would practice and practice during every day of summer camp. The apparatus for the activity consisted of two long vertical poles set in the ground about eight feet apart with a third pole attached horizontally across the first two about 10 feet above the ground. These three poles were an "H" frame. Centered in front of the H frame and approximately 15 feet away, was a shorter pole sticking about three feet out of the ground. This pole, leaning slightly away from the H frame, was the "anchor." The remaining items for the activity were a short thick log, about two feet long by a foot and a half across, which was called the "chunk," and a fairly heavy rope, about 5/8" thick, by almost 40 feet long.



At the start of this activity, the chunk was under the H frame and the Scout would hold the rope loosely coiled as he stood next to the anchor. The goal was to throw the end of the rope over the bar of the H frame so that the free end would extend at least low enough to be reached when standing under the H frame. The perfect throw resulted in the free end of the rope going over the H frame and extending so that approximately four feet of the end of the rope was lying on the ground. Once the coil of rope was thrown, the Scout would run to the rope hanging from the H frame and tie a timber hitch around the chunk on the ground. He would then run back to the anchor pulling on the rope as he went so

that the chunk would be pulled off the ground. When the Scout got to the anchor, he tied the rope to the anchor with a clove hitch. For the activity to be a success the knots needed to be properly tied and the chunk needed to be swinging from the rope, totally off the ground. This entire process was timed from the release of the rope coil, when it was thrown, until the release of the rope after the clove hitch was tied.

I recall that some elapsed times which seemed impossible were achieved by Scouts who practiced every spare minute they had. There were troop-to-troop competitions as well as head-to-head competitions. The only reward for winning was bragging rights. The H frame was located about 50 feet directly outside the main doors of the Dining Hall, and the apparatus, as well as the activity, was inappropriately (or maybe appropriately) called the HEAVING BAR!!!!

Robert Pettitt

Wilderness Camp Staff 1962

Personal Information:

Recently retired Environmental Health and Safety Manager for a medical device company

Living in Oakdale, MN with my bride of 45 years

Vice Chairman of Great Rivers District of Northern Star Council

History Adviser for Totanhan Nakaha Lodge #16 (editor's note: Bob is a Minniduta Lodge, Vigil Honor recipient)

Member of Collections Committee for North Star Museum of Boy Scouting & Girl Scouting

Serious OA and National Jamboree Trader

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Alumni Achievement Award is an award presented by the Northern Lights Council Camps Alumni Association.

The award is available to people who render service of an outstanding and considerable nature to the Northern Lights Council camps on all levels over an extended period of time.

The award is made available annually on the basis of 1 award per year. However, the committee can choose to present the award to two or more individuals or a group.

It is not appropriate to nominate an individual who is already received this award.

This award is open to any individual regardless of scouting registration. A nominee is not limited to camp staff alumni.

REQUIREMENTS

A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to all the Northern Lights Council camping properties.

The nominee's attitude toward all camp properties owned by the Northern Lights Council, past and present, shall be taken into consideration.

Consideration must be given to the nominee's service position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that position.

Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

PROCEDURE

Annually, the President of the Northern Lights Council Alumni Association will appoint a chairman to the Alumni Achievement Award committee. The chairman will then solicit no less than five persons to serve on the committee. The committee will consider all candidates and make recommendations of those to receive the award to the Alumni Association Board.

The Alumni Association Board then approves the recommendation of the committee and informs the committee of the approval. In the case where the nominee is not approved by the board, the committee shall present another candidate.

The final recommendation to the board shall be completed no later than July 4th of each year. Recognition shall occur within six months of the final recommendation.

The Alumni Achievement Award committee shall then be responsible for updating the recognition plaques(s) and the creation of the plaque given to the recipient.

The following procedures is suggested for such presentation ceremonies:

- a. Consideration should be given to the location and timing relating to the service of the individual.
- b. Care should be given such that the presenter and presentation of the award will add significant meaning to the recipient.
- c. A suitable plaque for each recipient should be prepared conveying the individuality of the individual and the uniqueness of their service.
- d. A picture shall be included in the association archives. Recognition shall be promulgated thorough the council and alumni association members.

Aurora Winter 2014

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Alumni Achievement Award

"My Trailer, My Trailer"

Much More!



Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps
Northern Lights Council BSA
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www.northernlightsalumni.com

"Staff Today, Alumni Forever"