

# Aurora

A newsletter of the Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association  
September 2005

## A Year in Review

This last year has been an exciting one for the Association as we have accomplished many of the goals that we had for the year. We gave a helping hand in many of our current staff's college education as well as gave them a token of our appreciation. Our efforts have proven fruitful as we have increased our membership and also awarded the current years staff an honorary membership for one year.

We have also had several successful events this year; Fall Fellowship, Staff Week Gathering and of course Alumni Week. Both the Fall Fellowship and Staff Week Gathering have been growing and with the help with the Aurora all the events will become even more successful in the next year.

My thanks to the many Alumni members who have worked behind the scenes on the above events and the many projects that have made this last year a successful year. We have many great things planned for next year and with a lot of hard work and dedication those too will become reality.

Yours in Scouting,  
Steve Lyman  
Past President



## Letter from the President Elect

Greetings,

My name is Bill Beyer and I am a sophomore at Itasca Community College studying in the field of Mechanical Engineering. I have worked on camp staff for the past five years at Camp Wilderness in the Lavold Nature Center. I would like to fill you in on some changes that I have helped bring to our nature area in the past couple of years. Two years ago our nature staff designed a project to be able to create an outdoor classroom from which we can teach our merit badges. In this time we have cleared two areas around the nature lodge. One area has a bog observation deck, and it will soon have a birding area and an amphitheater area for teaching. The second area is going to have a tree interpretive trail and an identical amphitheater area for teaching. We have come along way and have made a lot of progress on this project and I am hoping to see its completion for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I am looking forward to working with the alumni association members and board of directors. I am very interested in working to achieve project goals around camp and to see an ever-increasing membership list, which we can use to keep our history alive. I find the history of camp to be very important and vital for us to hold on to and cherish. We need to build a history with stories from the past and to keep stock of current events that will become history tomorrow. Once again I would like to say that I am happy to

serve you as a member of this association and I look forward to what we, together, can accomplish in the future.

Bill Beyer  
Executive Secretary  
The Association



### **2005 Spring Gathering: A Success**

This past June marked the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Alumni/Staff Spring Gathering. This year's event was held June 3-5 at Camp Wilderness. As in 2004, the format for the weekend has become an event that is meant to welcome new and old staff members prior to the beginning of staff week. During the day on Saturday staff members and alumni worked on projects to help camp get ready for the summer camp season. Upon completion of the projects, attendees played various "lawn games" and enjoyed the early summer peacefulness that camp has to offer. On Saturday evening alumni and staff met at Companero's for a fine Mexican dining experience. Thirty staff members and alumni enjoyed each others company. An added bonus this year was that *The Association* paid a portion of the staff member's meals as a small thank you for their past hard work and the work yet to come during the summer. Saturday night a campfire was hosted by *The Association* as a "mixer" event that allowed people to meet old friends and introduce new members of the staff. Nearly everyone in camp attended, despite the rain and the "campfire" in the Black Building. The s'mores were not quite the same, but what can you ask for on a rainy night? On Sunday many in camp went to Emmaville to enjoy the \$5.95 smorgasbord breakfast

before the beginning of staff week activities. Overall it was a great weekend!

Next year's spring gathering will be held June 2-4 at Camp Wilderness. I hope to see many of you there!

### **Fall Fellowship Weekend At Camp Wilderness**

Crunchy Red from the oaks, scarlet from the maples, gold from the aspen, all accentuated by the softness of the evergreens; you'll have a hard time beating the October colors in the forests at camp.

Such describes the atmosphere at camp in the late fall when scouts from throughout the council gather to cut firewood for the winter camping season and complete their Campmaster Training.

This is the weekend you can sign-up for the Annual Campmaster Training session. As Campmaster, you can be in charge of the winter Camping program for your weekend at camp.

Even though there are many fewer wood heat stoves at camp, the scouts still enjoy their outdoor campfires. Each year there is an ample stack of firewood to be cut. Come and join in with a wood cutting crew.

Along with the traditional yearly wood cutting and campmaster training comes a project or two for those with 'itchy' fingers. This year we are contemplating a little more work on the new stairway to the beach. There are a few more yards of steps to complete and some handrail to install. The improved stairway to the beach ought to enhance the trip to the waterfront winter programs.

October 7 – 9

Friday evening crackerbarrel; Special feast on Saturday evening; Continental breakfast Sunday morning or join some scouts at the Emmaville breakfast buffet. To sign up for the Fall Fellowship Weekend, call Brad at the Fargo office(877) 293-5011 or RSVP to Mike Melby melby@aero.und.edu.

### **Association Caught In a Web.**

The Northern Lights Camps Alumni Association is now on the web. The world wide web that is. We have recently purchased a domain and web space. The new URL is <http://northernlightsalumni.com>. The web page is set to grow dramatically over the next few months. We hope it will provide a better tool to keep members and staff up to date on news and events. Members can keep in touch and discuss, business or pleasure on the online discussion forum. Anything you need related to the alumni association will soon be found on the internet including digital copies of the aurora newsletter, membership forms, contact information, and much more. Please take advantage of this great resource and check back often for updates and changes. Spread the word and the web address to other alumni, staff or scouts. If there is anything you would like to see on the web page that does not exist, let us know by e-mailing the webmaster at [nialumni@northernlightsalumni.com](mailto:nialumni@northernlightsalumni.com). See you on the web!  
Webmasters – Scott Ralston & Shawn Johnston



### **Message (of thanks) in a Bottle** by Monte Fronk, Board member

Camp staff this summer received a token of appreciation from the alumni association for their dedication in making Camp Wilderness the best summer camp experience for the scouts and their leaders who attended this summer. The alumni association presented each staff member

with a nalgene bottle with the alumni association logo on the front of it for use around camp or back at home. This is something the association has looked forward to providing staff for a while and we hope, as an association, that we can provide other tokens of appreciation for different years of service in the future.



### **A New Addition To The Ranger Household**

Ranger Andy and Dannon are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Autumn Renae. Autumn was born at 5 PM on Saturday, April the 16<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, MN. She was 8 lb, 10 oz, and 22 inches long at birth.

Autumn and mom are both doing well and she spent a lot of her first summer down in camp watching leaders and kids do scouting activities. Hopefully it will be the first of many summers spent doing those things! Be sure and stop by the ranger house and say hi the next time you are at Camp!

### **Alumni Achievement Award Presented At Camp**

A surprise weekend visit to camp by Steve Shark made the perfect setting for the presentation of the Alumni Achievement Award. Steve has been active in scouting and promotion of the outdoor program for many years. Even when he was living half of the country away, he always set his focus on improving the Northern Lights Council camps.



### **Klamath Campsite Returns**

The groundwork has been set for the new Klamath campsite to be located down from the Nature lodge overlooking the bog area. The trees have been cut and the ground leveled. Pictured are Chad Swenson and Neil Litton admiring the new campsite.

Steve has served scouting for more than 36 years in several councils. His responsibilities have ranged from Vice District Chairman-Camping to Scoutmaster, to Scouting for Food Chair. Over his scouting career, Steve served as an advocate for the Northern Lights Camps by providing equipment essential for a summer camp. Steve solicited funding from many companies as an active fundraiser for the supplies. When funding was not available, Steve found a way – sometimes funding the equipment himself. Steve continues to serve the youth of today.



We congratulate and thank Steve for all that he does for Wilderness and Scouting.

### **Fifty Six Staff, Alumni, Family and Friends enjoy Logging Camp**

The logging camp tradition was carried on again the Saturday following Alumni Reunion Week. Fifty Six alumni, staff, family, and friends took to the grounds of the logging camp. Again, the timing was perfect. We arrived at 10:30 and sat down to eat around 10:50. It was just enough time to pick up the one-ton chain, throw some horse shoes and feed the birds. The food was great and there was much singing and socializing. If you can't make the full week next year, try to make it up for the weekend and enjoy The Logging Camp with us.

### **Alumni Receive Mail at Camp**

Every year, the staff look forward to the invasion of alumni that takes place over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week. The staff has even allowed us to have our own mail box. Pictured is the Gitano campsite mail box with "Alumni" indicated as the troop in camp.





### **Alumni Build Shelter in Mataga Campsite**

When one takes an initial look at the campsite shelters, one might think, “how hard could that be to build,” Well, several alumni found out just how hard it could be. As many of you know, there has been a drive to place permanent shelters in campsites. With the exception of the metal roof, all of the materials and tools were in place when we started. No sooner had the pole dimensions been measured and the flags put in place, Ranger Andy arrived with the post hole digger and in short order, the poles were in place. Much work went into leveling, stamping and measuring. When we stepped back to marvel at our accomplishment, we have build a trapezoid. Fortunately for us, two Scoutmasters from Two Harbors were able to rescue us and return it to a rectangle. From that point on, the rafters went up without a hitch and the purlings set the foundation for the roof. The project was finished with the exception of the metal roof, which was not available until late Friday afternoon.



### **New Nature Overlook**

A new nature overlook and outdoor classroom area has been further progressed this summer at camp. Next year the staff should start using the outdoor facility for classroom space and other presentations. The new overlook has a great view of the bog.



### **Alumni Socials**

Alumni socials are a new tradition being rolled out this year through *The Association*. Several gatherings are going to take place in major cities round the upper mid-west. So you are now asking yourself, “What are alumni socials?” Alumni socials are gatherings of camp staff alumni and current staff during the year for the sole purpose of socialization. Area coordinators will be selecting a date, time, and location for the gatherings. The venue will most likely be a restaurant back room or other facility where people can come together, eat, and socialize for a few hours. So grab your old photos, shirts, and memorabilia and get ready for a good time. If you would be interested in being an area coordinator, please let us know and we will give you all the information. Dates and times will be announced in the near future.

Current Area Social Coordinators:

Grand Forks

Kristen and Chuck Votava  
3298 Sheena Court  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-787-6802  
Chuxvot@aol.com

Minneapolis

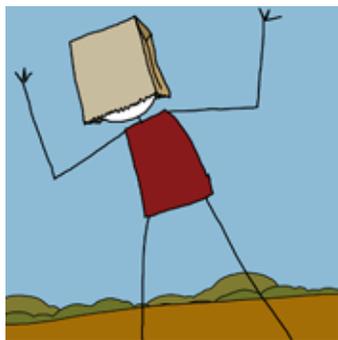
Jeff Pastir  
1735 Merrimac Lane N  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
(763) 404-1737  
Jeffrey.A.Pastir@HealthPartners.Com

Fargo

Chad Swenson  
1988 52nd Street SW  
Fargo, ND 58103  
701-340-7590  
ChadSwen@aol.com

Minneapolis

Matt Saari  
6880 135th Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
952-432-8591  
misaari@charter.net



**Where's old what's her / his name**

**Matt Morohl**

Matt and his wife were living in Scotland for a number of years. They have recently returned and are moving to Chicago. Byron Clark ran into Matt at Pizza Hut in Rochester Minnesota recently.

**Bricker Ware**

Bricker Ware was a CIT and Intern in 93 and 94. He has an address in Frazee Minnesota. Drop him an Email atorbyware@yahoo.com.

**Val Higgins**

Val Higgins worked on staff in 46 and was at camp for the dedication ceremony. He has great stories to tell and can be reached at: (612) 377-7550; 825 Summit Apt 605 Minneapolis, MN 55403.

**Matt Hollifield**

Matt Hollifield has finished his medical schooling and has been placed in Long Beach California for his Residency program. He and his wife Camile have recently relocated from Salt Lake City.

**Charles Challey**

Charles Challey has recently wed and he and his wife are living in the San Francisco Bay area. Charles can be reached at chuckcj@aol.com.

**Elisabeth Richard (Challey)**

Elisabeth Richard is living in Phoenix Arizona with her husband. She is working on her Doctorate Degree. Drop her a note at:2313 W Summit Pl, Chandler AZ 85224-1147.

**Chuck and Kristen Votava**

Chuck is currently working for the army, instructing combat engineers out of Camp Grafton, which he loves. Kristen is working as a speech-language pathologist for the medical school and supervising at the university. They are taking care of James and Beau who will be most excellent scouts one day.

**Ben Overman**

Ben and his wife Claire are living near the nations capital. Ben and Claire are expecting their first child this winter. Ben, Mark Larson, Jon Hendrickson, and Chris Soper recently conquered the Kekacabic trail through the southern Boundary Waters. Drop ben an Email at: ben.k.overmann@lmco.com.

### New Members

New members to The Association are coming from all areas. Please pass the information on to others that you know

Kyle Becker  
443 Piccadilly Circle  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
701-471-9456  
kbecker\_87@juno.com

Jenny Olson  
3421 32nd St S #307  
Fargo, ND 58104  
701-200-2908  
jl.olson@ndsu.nodak.edu

Justin Fisher  
3421 32nd St S #307  
Fargo, ND 58104  
701-200-2908  
Justin.Fisher2@us.army.mil

Herbert Seaver

Box 265  
Larimore, ND 58251  
701-343-2966  
hseaver@polarcomm.com

Joseph I. Dillenburg  
RR3 Box 3116A  
Moscow, PA 18444  
750-650-6571  
joedinpa@msn.com

Margaret Dillenburg  
RR3 Box 3116A  
Moscow, PA 18444  
750-650-6571  
joedinpa@msn.com

### Note Card Orders

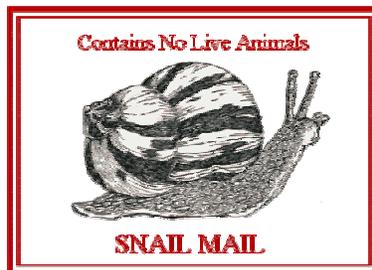
Don't forget that The Association is still selling note cards and post cards. Two styles are available in not cards and post cards. To order, contact the Fargo Scout office at 1-877-293-5011 or complete the attached order form.

### Check Your Mailing Labels

Take a look at your mailing labels. We have added information to them that will indicate your current membership status. If you have any questions or if our information is not correct, please contact Shawn Johnston at 1410 9th St N, Fargo, ND 58102, 701-200-1121, shawn.johnston@gmail.com.

The code is as follows:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
L	Lifetime Member Paid in Full
L-50	Lifetime Member with \$50 Remaining to Pay
L-100	Lifetime Member with \$100 Remaining to Pay
A-07/XX	Annual Member Expires in July of XX
CS-07/XX	Camp Staff Member Expires in July of XX



## Ways to Get Involved

Involvement in the Alumni Association can take on many forms depending upon your time availability. Some members simply join and read the newsletter. Others join a committee, participate in the events, or become elected officials and serve for several years. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

Write an article for The Aurora: Pick a topic, a memory, a story, or any interesting topic and send it to the Publications Committee Chair.

Join a Committee: Serve as a member of a committee by contacting the committee chair or any officer of The Association.

Nominate Someone for The Alumni Achievement Award: Complete the nomination form and send it to the Alumni Achievement Committee Chair.

Participate in one of The Association events: Attend or help with the Staff Week, Open House, or Fall Fellowship events. Look for information in The Aurora or contact the respective committee chair.

Send Birthday Cards to staff members: We are looking for someone who will get a list of birthdays for each year's staff and send him or her a birthday card. Contact The Association President if you are interested.

Help update the Alumni Roster: We are in the process of assembling a roster of all the people who have worked at one of the Northern Lights Council Camps. If you would like a copy of the lists that we have for the years that you worked, please contact Chris Soper at (913) 221-7252 or Email him at levelboy@hotmail.com.

Help put mailing labels on The Aurora: We always need help putting mailing labels on the newsletter. Contact the Publications Committee Chair for details.

Become an officer of The Association: If you would like to become heavily involved in the business of The Association, consider running for election. Contact any of the officers for information.

Vote on one of The Association projects: Help select projects, execute, and generate funds for Alumni Association projects. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Memories from Camp: Jot down your fondest memories from camp in story or in letter form so that we can compile a book at some point.

Start a Local Chapter: Locate other alum in your area and host a social event. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Insert Your Idea Here: The sky is the limit; we welcome all ideas, projects and services. Contact any of The Association officers for information. Articles for upcoming publications can be sent to:

Scott Ralston  
714 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Scott@SKRalston.com

Electronic submissions are preferred.

**Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps**  
**Membership Application**

The purpose of The Association: to preserve and promote the camping opportunities at our council camps; to inform the membership of the camps current progress; to provide support for the current operations with our time; talents and assets; and to organize gatherings of the association. Membership is open to all past camp staff members, campers or anyone with an interest in the camps.

Association dues are \$ 15.00 per year for Annual Membership, \$ 25.00 or more annually for Sustaining memberships or \$ 150.00 (one time) Life Memberships (payable in three installments). The Association's annual dues begin July 4 and expire July 4 of the following year. Annual memberships starting after January 4 will not expire on July 4 of that year, but the following year on July 4.

Please complete the information requested below and mail to:

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps  
301 South 7th Street  
Fargo, ND 58103  
PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s) at camp: Camper \_\_\_\_\_

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Staff position(s) and year(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Count on me to help with the association.

I'll help with: Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Whatever \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us something about yourself (this may get printed in a future issue of the newsletter.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are my membership dues and/or contribution: \$15 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

Lifetime Membership: Lifetime payment of \$150: Paid in full \_\_\_  
Three payments of \$50: First \_\_\_ Second \_\_\_ Third \_\_\_

Address Change: \_\_\_ Make checks payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA

## 2005-2006 Officer List

### **Board of Director**

Chris Soper  
15406 W 88<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
(M) 913-221-7252  
(H) 913-438-5528  
(W) 913-458-8888  
Email (H) levelboy@hotmail.com

### **Board of Director**

Byron Clark  
6963 Cottonwood CT NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
(H) (507) 536-0476  
(M) (507) 208-0179  
(W) (507) 285-3026

### **Board of Director**

Monte Fronk  
1025 Superior St  
Isle, MN 56342  
(H) (320) 676-8783  
Email (W) montef@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us

### **Past President**

Steve Lyman  
332 Pine B  
2005 Brichmont Dr NE  
Bemidji MN, 56601-2655  
(H) 218-333-7521  
Email (H) dexterminn@aol.com

### **President**

Adam Jones  
3 Cortland Dr  
Minot, ND 58701  
(H) (701) 852-2417  
(M) (701) 340-4395  
Email (H) ajones\_83@hotmail.com

### **Executive Secretary/President Elect**

Bill Beyer  
School  
Wenger Hall, Room #311  
1851 East Highway #169  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Home  
57857 State Highway 38  
Bigfork, MN 56628  
(H) 218-743-3327  
Email (H) beyer\_william@hotmail.com

### **Council Liaison**

Brad Olson  
301 S 7th St  
Fargo, ND 58103  
(W) 701 293-5011  
Email (W) bolson@nlcbsa.org

### **Publications Committee Chair**

Scott Ralston  
714 5th Ave. NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
(M) (701) 351-8839  
Email (H) Scott@skralston.com

### **Alumni Achievement Committee Chair**

Phil Schorn  
27561 Witter Ave  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
(H) 218-573-2283  
Email (1) dolly3@arvig.net  
Email (2) pschorn@wcta.net

### **Fall Fellowship Committee Chair**

Mike Melby  
1920 27th Ave S  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(H) 701-775-9905  
Email melby@aero.und.edu

### **Staff Week Committee Chair**

Matt Saari  
6880 135th Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
(H) 952-432-8591  
(M) 612-325-3779  
Email (H) misaari@charter.net

### **Open House Committee Chair**

Neil Litton  
3009 38th Ave S  
Fargo, ND 58104  
(H) 701-280-1058  
(W) 701-347-5923  
Email (W) neil.litton@sendit.nodak.edu

### **Membership Committee Chair**

Shawn Johnston  
1410 9th St N  
Fargo, ND 58102  
(H) 701-235-2233  
(W) 701-235-5767  
Email (W) shawn.johnston@gmail.com



### Staff Scholarship Fund Endowment Accepting Donations

With the successful formation of the staff scholarship endowment and the first scholarships awarded, a tremendous benefit for the staff and the camp has been established. If you are interested in helping to build the endowment, please complete the following form and mail it to the Fargo Scout office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to contribute the following amount to the camp staff scholarship endowment fund:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ \$175 \_\_\_\_\_

\$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Checks and Money orders are welcome. Please do not send cash.

Payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA

301 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Fargo, ND 58103

Thank you for your support!

**Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps**  
**Note Card Order**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity		Item	Price	Sub-Total
Dining Hall	Black Building			
		Postcards	\$0.50	
		5 Note Cards	\$5.00	
		12 Note Cards	\$10.00	
		Shipping & Handling	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>Grand Total =</b>				

Checks and Money orders are welcome. Please do not send cash.  
 Payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA  
 301 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Fargo, ND 58103