

## Camp Wilderness Alumni Association Newsletter

## A Letter From the President

It seems only yesterday that we were all at Camp Wilderness having our alumni meeting and discussing new ideas and goals for our alumni association. First, I would like to say what an honor it is to be president of our association and I hope for bigger and better things from our association. On that note as I explained in the meeting, I had a local computer person in my town work on creating a logo for our association and asked Justin to put it on the top of this newsletter to see what you members think of it. I used the logo many of us grew up with at the camps we worked at as the foundation of the logo. I think all great alumni associations need a logo for its members and I would like you to e-mail your comments about the logo to me at [montef@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us](mailto:montef@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us). I have also taken the logo to a local shop to have it ready to be put on shirts for us depending on your comments. The circles and lettering all gold color and the deer head, axe, and paddle are in different shades of brown. I think putting this logo on a dark green polo shirt would look very sharp and professional. If we get enough favorable comments and you

as the members would like to have this become our official logo I will bring it to the executive committee for consideration.

The question was brought up at the meeting on how we can get more membership in our association from the camp staff. One idea that came to mind is what we do in a similar alumni association I belong to and that is to reward staff for their years of service to the camp. In order for the staff person to be presented with a token of appreciation for years of service they have to be a fully paid member of the association first. In the other association we offer for two years of service a knife with our logo on it. Four years receives a bent shaft canoe paddle with the logo on it. Six years a back pack with the logo on it. I think we can do something similar for the staff with Brad's help in figuring the different years of service for gifts of appreciation and the actual gifts themselves. I would like the gifts to be something the staff can use in the day-to-day work at camp. These



could be Nalgene bottles, daypacks, crazy creek chairs, shirts, rain jackets, etc. The idea would be that we would present these during alumni week at evening flag and that once the non-member staff see the gifts for years of service given to paid members and they start seeing our logo on these items around camp they will want to become members, too. Again I would like the members feedback on this idea, it works well in the other association I belong to and makes the alumni feel good seeing their logo around camp and in the field.

Finally, as requested, the financial report on where our association stands financially is included in this newsletter for the members to look at and decide how to best use the resources we have.

Yours in Scouting,

Monte S. Fronk

## Inside this issue:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| A Week In the Life of an Alumni | 2   |
| Brick Campaign Update           | 3   |
| Volunteers                      | 4   |
| Letters and Notes               | 5-7 |
| * List of Officers for 2003/4   | (5) |
| * Articles from August 2003     | (6) |
| * Letter from Ranger            | (7) |
| * Fiscal Standings              | (7) |
| * Alumni Association Award Call | (7) |
| Alumni Invasion                 | 8   |

## A Week in the Life of an Alumni At Camp Wilderness 2003

I had an opportunity to meet some of the current staff at Brad Olson's (Camp Director) house the night before camp. Ryan Murphy will be doing the "I Do" thing next summer, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of Murph, he was again the first staff that we (David Solien) saw as we arrived at Wilderness. Ten years on staff for Ryan, Program Director again. Went down to Gitano to get set-up, one tent already set up, guess who? Chris Soper of course. A quick round at the par three, opening campfire and life is good. If you haven't heard a Soper campfire story in a few years, that in itself is a reason to return for Alumni Week. Chad Swenson has return to NoDak land, living in Minot. It is great to have him back. A trip to visit my sick friend George, rounded out a great first day of camp.

Monday morning the plan is to eat breakfast after flag. Chris is eating on Shift AA, because he is up before the A shift and eats with every shift, so he can meet more scouts. New interior in the dinning hall, a little to bright, you can now see the food. Off to the QM to help "The" Justin Fisher to fix cots, then down to the Blackfoot building for some repairs. After lunch, a trip over to the BK ranch, we are now offering the horsemanship merit badge through BK. Then a visit to Ranger Andy's to get the TRUCK for a pickup of crushed concrete (3 tons) from Aggregate. But we needed to visit with Moose and Merlin (Andy and Puddin's dogs). A run into Emmaville for supper.

Tuesday brought us to the Fox building for some destruction, the refrigerator, some cabinets and the sink are now gone. Which means we need more things for the dump run. Another fidge in the Guys and Gals, and one down in the Blackfoot building. Manually moving a fridge from the Blackfoot building to the top of the hill with two people was interesting. The flatbed is now full and ready for the dump run, oh it is dead, won't start. With a little assist the truck is now running, as soon as we hit the pavement the hood flew up, and now it is impossible to see anything. Elizabeth (Challey) Richards and "The Jen" (Jenny Olson) learned about the "vertical smile" from Trading Post Clerk, Anthony

Hensel. Supper at the Silver Pike, just opened may turn into an annual trip. An evening trip to "A Better Place" which wasn't a better place, thanks Waa.

Wednesday was burgers with Ranger, Nature Director, Commissioner Phil (He's the best in the west, he's Ranger Phil). All the boats and canoes needed a check of serial numbers, license number and new stickers. Damien Lewis is busy working on some project that requires acrylic latex caulk from Ranger Andy. Then the annual outing with the Murphys (Mike and his lovely wife Lynn) for Mexican food in Dorset (Glennie with beans). Ryan's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday and a golf outing to Boogies.

Thursday brings the arrival of the Fisher brothers (Mike and Steve) to work on the AC at the ranger's house. Did a run through the program areas with Murph and Nate Trunell (Assistant Program Director). Time for a traditional Park Rapids run with Byron Clark, to Fleet - for some rope, Bookshelf - for office supplies, J & B - for marshmallow, chocolate and crackers. A return trip to the Brau Hous in Nevis for a Schwein Hac (German for pig foot) with Shelia and the princess Remboldt, nutty was a no show. Ranger Andy and Dannon Kietzman finally made the trip. Then a little Chateau Paulette.

Friday we finally get a chance for the Black Building cleanup, because it is Open House day at camp, Jim and Dodi Olson made their 11<sup>th</sup> appearance. We, Aaron Haas and his mom made a special trip to the barn in order to play "North to Alaska" for Alex Stig. Matti (Saari) says he has found a new shape shifter.

Saturday morning we set another new record. 56 current and former staff member attended breakfast at the Logging Camp. After a hearty round of "Johnny Appleseed", the bananas of the universe united, then the locals gave the staff a round of applause. And speaking of rounds, a new tradition was started, a golf tournament featuring Bumble Bee Tuna.

Ed. Note: Author Not Listed... but you can guess.

## Brick Campaign Update

*by Ranger Andy*

I've had a few people asking how the progress for the brick campaign is coming along, so I figured I would drop a note in this edition about it. For those of you who have not yet heard, the Council is currently running a fundraising campaign to help fund some new additions to Camp Wilderness, centered around a new log pavilion near the Herman Stern Dining Hall. Once funds have been raised for this project, further funds may be put toward a PA system for the dining hall, new tables for the dining hall, improved youth showers, campsite shelters, and many other projects throughout camp.

Those of you who were able to stop by the camp this summer may have noticed that there were large concrete piers set in the ground near the dining hall. Those will be the foundation for the supports on the log pavilion, which is tentatively scheduled to be erected sometime later in September and then roofed over the Fall Fellowship weekend. The pavilion is currently under construction by a local log home builder, and is being constructed out of red pine trees harvested from the camp property last spring.

Once the structure is up, concrete pavers and engraved bricks will be placed in a courtyard outside of the dining hall. This will offer a great place to sit and visit outside of the dining area, rain protection for the picnic style meals on Sunday and Friday during summer camp, and

will be completely handicap accessible for physically impaired users of the camp. I am hopeful that with the structure getting completed later this Fall, we will be able to work on installing the paved section in 2004.

The reason we are calling it the "brick campaign" is because when donations are made to the campaign, the donor will be able to have their name engraved on a brick and placed in the permanent surface of the courtyard. It is a great way to leave a lasting impression on the camp for many years to come.

Bricks are sized in proportion to the size of the donation, and are available in a variety of sizes to fit almost any budget. If you would like more information on the Camp Wilderness Brick Campaign, please feel free to call the Fargo Service Center at (701)293-5011, or give me a call here at camp (218)732-4674 and I will send you some information!

Thanks!

Ranger Andy



## VOLUNTEERS

Who is that person you keep calling a volunteer? Where does he or she come from and just what do they do? Can you place a dollar value on their work?

Just look around, pay attention and you'll find them everywhere, doing just about anything you can imagine. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, church groups, 4-H, the Girl Scouts and in 'OUR' case the Boy Scouts of America.

Next time you are at a scouting event, look around and whom do you see? Who are all the workers that put on the Scout Show; who plans, organizes and coordinates the Camporees; who keeps track of a youth while he advances from a Cub Scout to an Eagle Scout? Den Chiefs, Unit Commissioners, Scoutmasters, OA Lodge Chief, CIT's - the list could go on and on.

Now, wander over to some of those volunteers and ask them, 'Whom do you work for?' Be prepared for a myriad of answers. An advancement chairman and a scoutmaster might both say they work for the troop committee chairman; a visiting parent may say they are working for the scoutmaster; somewhere down the line, they all start saying they are working for the 'boys'. Before long the realization comes that they are working for themselves, - as a team. Each individual volunteer is working for him or herself, but without the other members of the team, their efforts may be in vain.

Try finding a replacement for some of these volunteers! Find a company to take your Venture Crew of ten on a six-day canoe trip. Coordinate a crew to take the troop on a week trip to scout camp. Remind them of the 24-hour per day involvement with the scouts. Have your unit's advancement program managed by an accounting firm; be sure to tell them this is just evening work once a week and you want a quarterly recognition event with it. If they do 'OK' on that program, get them to create and manage a 'scout bucks' spreadsheet for a couple of fund raising events

each year. Don't forget to locate a youth counseling company - set up some weekly evening meetings, coupled with some occasional local touring. Now, head out and find a large group of other professional types. We'll need architects, firemen, judges, botanists, fishermen, policemen, librarians, park rangers, carpenters, weathermen, and radio/TV producers just to name a few. They ought to be able to cover the merit badge program areas. Now, before you get carried away, be sure to calculate all your manpower at 'double' so you comply with the 'two deep leadership' policy requirements.

Volunteers! Yes, they are the 'life blood' of the Boy Scouts of America. Without the volunteer 'core' in our program - the program would not exist. Go to a camporee and count your paid District Executive against the more than a hundred other scouts attending. You should get a rather 'vivid' picture of 'how things are'. Who are these volunteers? For the most part, they are parents of the youth members of the Boy Scouts. They may or may not have been a scout in their youth. Maybe they are an Eagle Scout - maybe not. Some scouting volunteers remain in the program well after their son is no longer a youth member. They must be well paid, or they would not be returning to the program and events of the Boy Scout Program. Don't confuse 'PAID' with receiving 'money', however. The rewards these folks get seems to be far greater than any 'money' you could come up with.

There is a recent survey regarding the 'dollar worth' of a volunteer in a program closely related to many of the Boy Scout programs. Based on research by the Independent Sector\*, a non-profit coalition of charitable groups, the estimated value of volunteer time is \$16.54 per hour in 2002.

**Have you recruited a new volunteer lately?**

\* <http://www.independentsector.org/media/voltime03pr.html>

## Letters and Notes

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## Articles from August 2003

### Where Are they now:

Claire and JoAnn Beach were the ranger staff prior to Phil. They are now living in Lincoln Nebraska. Give them a call or drop them a letter. They would love to hear from you.

4217 Garfield St  
Lincoln, Nebr. 68506  
402-327-0259

Matt Hollifield is living in Salt Lake City going to med-school. Matt worked several years during the 80's and 90's. He has been everything from Quartermaster to Camp Director. Drop him a line. He would love to put you up for a ski weekend.

1127 E Charlton  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106  
(801) 485-4897

Greg Ous is living in Mankato with his wife and child. Greg worked on camp staff during the mid 80's. He lived in Bemidji for a while before moving to Mankato. Give him a call or drop him a letter and let's see if we can get him back to camp.

1220 Carney Ave  
Mankato, MN 56001  
(507) 388-7847

Chris Tveitbakk is living in Minneapolis with his beautiful Swedish wife. Chris is now known to many as, "The Audio Guy."

2124 35th St E  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 729-3772

Phil Bloomquist and his wife Virginia were the camp rangers at Metigoshe Scout Reservation for 18 years. They have moved from Bottineau ND to Grafton.

1145 McHugh  
Grafton, ND 58237

### I spent an Afternoon with Claire and JoAnn Beach.

I first met Claire in the summer of 1988. Claire was the ranger for Camp Wilderness. He was a quiet man who loved Wilderness, the staff, and most of all, the scouts. Claire kept a low presence around camp and did his work behind the scenes. He did always make a point to come to opening and closing campfire. That is where I first met JoAnn. What Claire lacked in conversation, JoAnn made up for it and then some. Although skeptical at first about moving to Minnesota, JoAnn shared the same love for Wilderness.

After retiring, they moved to a small house about two miles from the main camp road on Mantrap Lake. This is where I got to know them. When I would come to camp, I would make sure that I stopped by to visit. If I were lucky, we would spend an afternoon on the pontoon floating around mantrap for hours just talking and enjoying the lake.

Claire and JoAnn moved back to Lincoln Nebraska about five years ago and this summer, while visiting Omaha, I made a point to stop by and see them. Not much has changed, Claire is still quiet and JoAnn is still a ball of spirit. They are a little older now, but still in great health and still possess that love for Wilderness.

### Alumni Roster - Check your data!

If you haven't already, stop by the Scout office in Fargo, or by the Winter Trading post at Camp Wilderness and update your information in the Alumni Roster. We have over 1400 past camp staff members listed in the roster from all Northern Lights Council Camps. Complete records are listed alphabetical by last name. We also have a staff list for each year starting in 1946 through 2002. So whether you were a CIT, or a Camp Director stop by and update your records, update any other information that you can, and just page through and enjoy.

If you have any information that can help me update the database, or would like to try to get in touch with what's his/her face, please let me know. I can be reached at:

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15406 W 88th Terr  
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[levelboy@hotmail.com](mailto:levelboy@hotmail.com)

### Looking for Projects

We are looking for ideas for the next Alumni Association sponsored project. Past projects include the volleyball court, the basketball court, and the central air unit for the Ranger's house. The Association takes on projects that other organizations can't or won't head up. The project focus is on items that will directly impact the staff and scouts. If you have ideas, please pass them along to one of The Association officers.

### Bylaws Updated

During the Annual Meeting of The Association held July 4, 2003, The Association bylaws were updated to give The Association the option to make the lifetime membership payable over a greater period of time. At this point, current year staff are given the option of paying the lifetime membership over five years. We are always looking to make improvements in our organization so feel free to contact any of The Association officers regarding the bylaws.

## Letter From the Ranger

THANK YOU ALUMNIII

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Alumni Association for their generous donation of a Central Air Conditioning Unit to the Ranger's Residence at Camp Wilderness this past summer. As I sit here today and write this note the thermometer on my deck reads 97 degrees, and most of the grass in my yard is brown due to the high temperatures of the past few weeks. The central air unit has been a lifesaver for Dannon and I this summer. We are so thankful to the Alumni Association for all of the help and support that has been shown to the camp, and to us personally, in the past few years that we have been here at Wilderness. It has been our privilege to be a part of the camp "family", and we are excited about the future of the camp in the years to come. Every Camp Ranger should be so lucky as to have a group like you supporting their camp. I hope to see you all here again soon.

### THANK YOU

Ranger Andy & Dannon

## Association Fiscal Standings

Here's the associations current fiscal standings, courtesy of Monte. The current balance is \$4,084.50. The only recent expense was Range Andy's cabin AC unit. The final cost for that was \$1,528.00.

## Call for Alumni Association Achievement

It is time once again to start thinking about nominating a well deserving person for the Alumni Association Achievement Award, Selections committee will meet during the week of July 2004 at Camp Wilderness, during the week known as Alumni week, normally the week of July 4th.

Submit all applications and supporting data to :

Phil Schorn

27561 Witter Ave

Park Rapids, MN 56470

or call

218 573 2283

## Alumni Invasion

As I sit here thinking about my past three years on staff, I realize that I'm part of a tradition of exceptional staff that has served thousands of boys since it opened over 50 years ago. Every summer we get the pleasure of experiencing "Alumni Week" at Camp Wilderness. Alumni from all over travel great distances to the camp they love to see what is new every year. This experience from a staff perspective can be positive and at the same time it can be terrifying. I have always loved to see the alumni show up because I enjoy the fellowship associated with their arrival. The alumni are a very extensive, untapped resource of knowledge that can help us as a staff learn more about teaching and dealing with young scouts. The staff also loves to hear the stories told by past staff members from when they used to teach boys on their path to eagle. I can also say that I have been very humbled by the presence of past staff that have a long tradition with the camp. I can recall one situation in which I met Matt Saari. As many of you know, Matt was a big part of the nature program at camp. When I first met him I was very nervous because I saw myself standing before the "god of nature". I soon realized that Matt was very happy with what he had done in the nature area and this put my mind at ease. My experiences with the alumni have always been good even in those times when I'm nervous and don't know what to say to those people that have impacted the camp in previous years. During the summer of 2002, I got the chance to help the alumni clean up the toy box and I got to know a lot about those I worked with and I thought it was great to create new friendships with those past staff. In closing, I want to say that the alumni are a necessary part of the camp experience so be sure to let them know that they do impact our lives. I would like to share a poem with you that I dedicate to the alumni.

"A hundred years from now  
it will not matter what my bank  
account was, the sort of house  
I lived in, or the kind of car I drove.  
But the world may be different, because  
I was important in the life of a boy."

-Forrest Whitcraft

Thank you, alumni for coming year in and year out to help both staff and scouts on their journey through scouting.

"Nature Bill" Beyer

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