

FALL 2006 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Founded in 2000 to provide Spirit, Service and Support!



Meyering Rifle Range Dedication Ceremony

by Peter Collinge

The new Ray & Addy Meyering Rifle Range at Camp Pioneer was dedicated on the afternoon of Saturday, July 15, 2006. The range sported a beautiful new log slab sign, completed by Jeff Emerling and the Camp Cutler ranger staff. The dedication ceremony featured several speakers and a good crowd including current camp staff along with staff alumni and friends.

Dave Lippitt spoke of the benefits that the new rifle range brings to the Camp Pioneer program, allowing more Scouts to learn safe shooting at a more convenient location. Dave also thanked all who assisted with building the rifle range, either

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Executive Committee

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Saturday November 25!

MSAA ChiliFest, Version 1.0.0

by Mark Pulvino

MSAA will host this new event at the Oatka Lodge in Oatka Creek Park, southeast of Scottsville. The event will run from noon to 6:00 – plenty of time to enjoy some great food and some great memories and camaraderie!

We picked the date because many people are home over the Thanksgiving holiday to spend time with family. So bring the family along! This will also be a good chance for some more recent (younger) staff members to join our crew, bridging the generations of Massawepie! If you have a staff friend who isn't a member of MSAA, invite them to join you. Bring your camp photo's, patches and other mementos. These are great conversation starters and an excellent way to share memories. Mike Knittel will have MSAA tee shirts there, so if you don't have yours yet, bring your checkbook.

Oatka Lodge has been renovated and includes indoor picnic tables, a kitchen area with an oven, sink and refrigerator, electrical outlets, in-

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1952 pennant from Massawepie, signed by six staff members (from our web site)

Massawepie 55th Anniversary Reunion

by David Lippitt

To celebrate Massawepie's 55th anniversary in 2007, the Alumni Association is organizing a reunion. It will be held on either Friday, December 29, or Saturday, December 30, 2007, at a location in Rochester. We decided the event should be open to *all* Massawepie friends, including staff, leaders, volunteers and scouts. So mark your calendars and spread the word! Send an e-mail (MasawepieAlumni@yahoo.com) telling us if you can attend, and include good ideas for the program. In addition, please provide us with the names and addresses (street and e-mail) of people you know who might attend, so we can start developing a mailing list for the event.

ChiliFest, from Page 1

door restrooms and a fireplace with woodstove. If anyone can bring some firewood, please do – there's nothing like a fire for that camp atmosphere!

We're asking everyone to bring something for the food table, with the emphasis on CHILI obviously. Dig out and prepare your favorite recipe – mild, medium or hot; beans or no-beans – we want a variety! Other choices are: munchies; salads (tossed, slaw, etc.); chili "go-withs" (shredded cheese, hot sauces, good bread, crackers, etc.); and desserts. Please also bring a serving utensil for your dish. And of course, **Bring Your Own Beverage!** Reservations by e-mail are strongly encouraged to be sure we have enough food service supplies. Send them to mknittel@bergmannpc.com **NO LATER THAN Monday November 20th.** Include: your name, numbers of adults and kids attending, and what y'all are bringing for the food table (see above). Voluntary donations will be accepted at the event to help offset the cost of the lodge and food service supplies.

Go to www.monroecounty.gov/parks-oatka.php for a map and more park information.



Camp Operations Director/MSAA Staff Advisor Don DeClerck really got down and dirty working under the new porch for the Trading Post.



by Peter Collinge

The 2006 MSAA Annual Meeting was held in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Camp Pioneer on June 3 during Beaver Weekend. Over 45 members present heard successes of the past year, and plans for the future.

MSAA Chair Brad VanAuken announced that the kayak fund drive was a big success, furnishing 12 kayaks to start the Camp Pioneer kayak program. A donor also gave \$50 per kayak to endow the future of the kayak program, which MSAA will match. Treasurer Mike Knittel gave the Treasurer's Report. Since the 2005 annual meeting, income totaled \$1747; and expenses totaled \$1522. Our current account balance as of 5/31/06 was \$1882.

Otetiana Camping VP Dave Lippitt announced that Alumni would help with the camp picnic on July 14 to allow staff time to socialize after the camp inspection "visitation." Dave also announced plans for the Meyering Rifle Range dedication on July 15 and a Massawepie 55th anniversary get-together in December 2007.

In the annual elections, Association officers and Executive Committee members were unanimously chosen for 2006-07 as listed on Page 1. In other business: two minor revisions of the MSAA Rules of Operation were approved as printed in the Spring newsletter; a survey was conducted on possible newsletter names, with the overwhelming favorite being "Beaver Tales;" several suggestions were made, including the possibility of supporting geocaching, as future camp program activities.

After the meeting, many of the MSAA members participated in BarkEater ceremonies: both the first year ceremony used in 2005 and the premiere of the new second year ceremony.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The MSAA Executive Committee met September 12 at Shannon Davis' house. Present were Brad VanAuken, Shannon Davis, Peter Collinge, Mike Knittel, Mark Pulvino, Dave Lippitt, George Varga, and John Zaffino. Minutes of the March 30 Executive Committee meeting and June 3 annual meeting were distributed and approved.

Kayak Program: the new MSAA-supplied kayaks were a bit hit at camp; we raised \$2915 to date in 2006 for kayaks, plus \$855 in 2005, so there is about \$500 remaining after buying 12 kayaks; the waterfront staff would like about 4-5 more kayaks, including new types such as 2-person or sea kayaks; estimating 5 at \$700 each, we'd need to raise another \$3000; we will solicit for kayaks again on the 2007 membership applications; we still need to give the Council \$600 to meet the Association's \$50 per kayak commitment to the Massawepie Square Foot En-

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Beaver Weekend

by Mark Pulvino

Wow! Massawepie got a great dose of Alumni Spirit this past June! MSAA members started showing up early in the week and the ranks kept growing. They came from Texas, Ohio, Maryland, and all over New York State to help. Some brought relatives and friends along, too! From the fantastic kitchen crew, to the waterfront volunteers, to the tent crews, to the team that worked on the campfire circle, to the cabin makeover crews, to those at the trading post rebuilding the porch/ramp and adding a storage room, and everyone else who did their part, a heartfelt THANK YOU! We were all over the camp helping out, giving our blood, sweat, and tears! I've got the scars to prove it. Special thanks to Troop 110 for having their other volunteers cover the kitchen so the Kitchen Alumni could make the annual meeting!

Your dedication is appreciated. Scouts had a great summer, so our work paid off! We hope you had fun and that you'll return.

Looking forward to 2007 - please tell me if there is any way we can make the weekend better for you! Thanks again! (mpulvino@rochester.rr.com)

Member Notes...

MSAA members Gael & Phil Roberts and George Varga each received the Silver Beaver Award at the Otetiana Council Annual Dinner in May. This is a BSA national award and is the highest award a council can give to a volunteer. The awards were given in recognition of their outstanding commitment and service to Scouting. Our congratulations to all three veteran volunteers and 2006 camp staffers!

Dedication, from Page 1

financially or with volunteer labor. In particular, Camp Operations Director Don DeClerck had coordinated the actual "range raising" days (and everything else), Properties Chairman Ray LeChase handled the hired contractors (including the bedrock blasting), and Massawepie Ranger Jay Bailey managed the finishing touches and drainage work.

Continuing the ceremony, Peter Collinge recognized the Meyerings for their approximately 50 combined years of Massawepie staff service, and pointed out that Ray Meyerings was the only member of the original 1952 Massawepie staff (and the earlier Webster Camp Cutler staff) present. The Meyerings started working at Camp Forester in 1980, then moved to Mountaineer, and now Pioneer. Of the four original Massawepie camps, they only missed Voyager. But since the current Camp Pioneer includes much of old Voyager (which had no rifle range), perhaps they should get credit for Voyager also! At the end of the ceremony, metal plaques were unveiled listing the rifle range donors. Then Addy & Ray surprised the group by offering the chance to shoot at special "range dedication" targets. The open shoot lasted until the rain began falling again in earnest.

After directing the Rifle Range again in 2006 (Ray's 27th year directing a Massawepie rifle range), the Meyerings have decided to take the 2007 season off. Instead of spending the summer at Massawepie, they plan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary!

Minutes, from Page 2

dowment, to match Peter Collinge's \$50 per kayak; we need to find a more permanent way to put the names on the kayaks. **Treasurer's Report:** we have \$1937.12 on hand. **Chili Cookout:** see article on Page 1. **Winter/Spring Event:** we agreed to hold a beer-tasting event through a contact of Shannon Davis; tentative date is March 24; Dave will check on using Irondequoit Country Club. **55th Anniversary Event:** Shannon will check on venues and costs; John will create a "MySpace" page to start getting the word out and collecting names, and let Peter know the address to be linked to the website; see article on Page 1. **Fall Newsletter:** articles were assigned; plan for mailing a month in advance of the ChiliFest.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Collinge, Secretary

Massawepie Summer Camp Wrap-Up

by David W. Lippitt

Like a fine wine (and a warm beer put on ice) camp director Steve Weisenreder and his staff just keep on getting better every year. 130 units, with a total of 2077 Scouts and 651 adults, enjoyed another outstanding experience at Massawepie last summer. The Trek Program, under the continuing leadership of Doug Turner, had another good year with 191 participants in 23 treks. I had the opportunity to talk to Scouts and leaders from a number of units last summer at the annual camp visitation ("inspection"). The responses were unanimous: Camp Pioneer staff, programs and facilities were the best. One unit from Michigan told me they had a real problem because they tried to go to a different camp every two years, but after going to Massawepie the Scouts no longer wanted to go to other camps.

The reasons for the success: first and foremost, five-year camp director Steve Weisenreder. Steve assembled a fantastic staff that was always thinking of new ways to make the experience better and improving the old ways. Rick Byers did another outstanding job in his second year as program director, and Devin Bedard had a great debut as assistant camp director.

The staff developed tons of innovative programs, such as Home Run Derby, Toad Races, Indian Games, Kayak Slalom, and much more. Thanks to an outstanding group of area directors for those and other initiatives. Sports Director Steve Schmidt also developed a Siesta Football League that provided a much-needed outlet for staff. Speaking of Kayak Slalom, the kayaks purchased by the Alumni Association and its individual members were a tremendous success. They were used so much that the names on each kayak were worn off by the end of summer. Another initiative with significant Alumni Association member support was the BarkEater program. Matt Janes' at-camp leadership of the program made year two run smoothly. In his second year as Trading Post Manager George Varga again increased sales over 30%, with the support of Gael Roberts and Don DeClerck. Bottom line: another fantastic year at Massawepie.

BarkEater Program by Brad VanAuken

This honor camper program, created to increase summer-to-summer retention at Massawepie, had a great second year. It concluded with 668 new first year BarkEaters and 822 new second year BarkEaters. This was nearly 55% of all scouts and leaders at camp.

Soon, the BarkEater program development committee will begin work on year three of the five-year program. If you're interested in helping, please contact me at vanauken@brandforward.com or 585-624-2043 (home and home office). And don't forget: you can be one of the first to be in the third year ceremony at Beaver Weekend next spring.

Fifth Year BarkEater Recognition

**Kayak Program**

by Brad VanAuken

After its first season, the Massawepie Kayak program was a huge success, thanks to all of the MSAA members who generously donated toward the program. We were able to purchase twelve kayaks. People who donated \$300 or more had the option of naming a kayak. Kayak names ranged from "BarkEater I," "Trustworthy," "Some People Call Me Maurice," and "Birch Cove" to "Waterman," "Forester" and "Tay House Troop 19."

The kayaks were well used and many leaders with whom I spoke had very positive things to say about the program. In fact, based upon the program's success and requests from the camp staff, we intend to purchase additional kayaks for the summer of 2007, including some larger, more expensive ones.

Thank you again for making this program possible. Please consider making a donation again this year. Anyone donating \$300 or more still has the option to name a kayak.

Alumni Serve Picnic

by Peter Collinge

On Friday, July 14, a Camp Visitation team of regional and local volunteers visited Massawepie for the annual BSA inspection. As usual, the visitors were very impressed with the Massawepie programs and facilities. (There was haggling over a surprise reinterpretation of an inspection standard, which unfortunately seems common in recent years, but in the end the camp was accredited unconditionally.)

To allow staff to celebrate the successful visitation, a group of alumni and friends offered to serve the Friday night picnic to troops in camp. Some volunteers were in camp for the next day's Meyerings Rifle Range dedication. With the assistance of the food service staff, the MSAA group served hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, and side dishes efficiently to over 400 people. Meanwhile, the camp staff enjoyed a separate party, with pizza from Tupper Lake courtesy of the MSAA. A good time was had by all — let's do it again some year!

Welcome!

Welcome to our new members who have joined since the last listing:

Donald Bennett
 Brian Duff
 Robert Maurice
 Michael Scheetz
 Joseph Tiffany
 Paul Tiffany
 Victoria Wilcox

Membership Renewal

Is your membership current? Annual memberships expire on May 31. If yours has expired you should find a renewal form enclosed. Send \$10 (or \$20 for 2 years) to the address shown on the form. Or, you can receive a complimentary one-year membership (or extension) by returning the form with \$50 or more of donations (total) to the Massawepie kayak program and/or to the "Square Foot" Endowment (which will support Massawepie equipment and maintenance in perpetuity).

Upcoming Events

November 2006

8 MSAA Executive Committee Meeting
 20 MSAA ChiliFest e-mail reservations due
 25 MSAA ChiliFest (see article in this issue)

March 2007

24?..... MSAA Beer Tasting (details to come)

May 2007

18-20 .. Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie
 All Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

June 2007

1-3 Beaver Weekend at Massawepie
 ALL Alumni encouraged to attend!
 2 MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend
 dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

Each year our membership ranks decline in May, pending renewals and new members. As of the end of September, we are back up to 85 members. This is a good start toward our goal of having 100 members this year.

If you know a Massawepie staff alumni or friend of Massawepie who's not a member, please encourage them to join or renew. Membership forms are available in the "About Us" section of MassStaffAlumni.org – download all you need.

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation
 7131 Gulick Road
 Naples, NY 14512

INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- NEW Event: MSAA ChiliFest!
- Massawepie 55th Anniversary Reunion Plans
- Meyering Rifle Range Dedication Coverage
- Updates Galore!
- And more!

TO: