

WINTER 2005

NEWSLETTER of the

MASSAWEPIE

STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Providing Spirit, Service and Support

Founded 2000

MSAA

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BarkEater Honor Camper Program by Brad VanAuken

Massawepie Scout Camps will achieve another milestone this summer. It will introduce **BarkEater**, a new honor camper program that is unique to Massawepie. We designed the program to encourage camp attendance and year-to-year camp retention (anticipating the future drop in available Boy Scout aged boys). It includes the following key components:

- 5 years of participation
- Special unique recognition
- Mystique/lore
- Impressive, memorable ceremonies
- Progressive levels of advancement/responsibility in the program
- Experiences not available to a typical Scout at a typical Scout Camp
- A required increase in Scouting rank from year to year.

The BarkEater program is based upon Massawepie and Adirondack history and lore. While the program is not a Native American based program, elements of this program were adopted from the Pipestone program of Seven Ranges Scout Reservation of the Buckeye Council, BSA, and the Mic-O-Say program of the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation of the Heart of America

Council, BSA. This program will further differentiate the Massawepie summer camp experience from that of any other Scout Camp in New York.

The following team spent several months defining and outlining the program: Peter Collinge, Mark Ferraro, Doug Schmidt, Brad VanAuken and Steve Weisenreder.

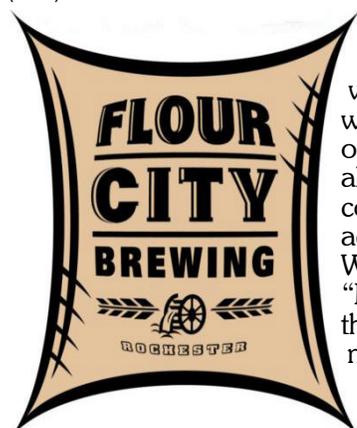
We are seeking people interested in: (a) helping us finalize development of the program and (b) providing us with feedback on the program in anticipation of its launch in July. Please contact Brad VanAuken at 585-624-2043 or vanauken@brandforward.com if you are interested in helping us.

Stay tuned for additional information on the program as the 2005 camping season draws closer. Those units that attend camp in 2005 will have the unique opportunity to participate in the BarkEater program during its very first year. Their boys (and adult leaders) will then be eligible to be the first to earn the highest BarkEater recognition -- as early as 2009.

Annual Winter Rendezvous by Mike Knittel, Treasurer

Mark Saturday March 5th on your calendar for the MSAA winter get-together at Flour City Brewing, located at 869 East Henrietta Road across from MCC in the former Jack Astor's building. Open less than a year, this establishment has already developed a reputation for good food and fine brews. They feature over a dozen of their own brews. We'll meet from 2:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. The agenda includes time for members to arrive and chat in our own section of the restaurant, a tour of the micro-brewing process

by the Flour City Brew-Master, time to taste some of the microbrews and a presentation on the new BarkEater Program to be started at Massawepie this summer. There will be a \$2 discount on pitchers of their microbrews for everyone in our group. MSAA will provide appetizers throughout the afternoon. We hope the change in time and day of the week, and the opportunity to learn about the BarkEater Program will encourage all of our members and friends to attend. We will collect a \$5.00 fee to help offset the cost of the 2005 Staff Picnic at Massawepie this summer. We encourage you to pay in advance by sending your check (payable to Otetiana Council, BSA) to Don DeClerck, J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation, 7131 Gulick Road, Naples, NY 14512 and note "MSAA winter event" on the memo line. Or, you can pay at the Scout Servicer using the form on Page 3 with payment. We will accept payment at the door but please e-mail me at MKnittel@BERGMANNPC.com with your name, phone number and number of adults attending. The deadline for reservations (and payment preferably) is Tuesday March 1, so that we can order enough appetizers. We hope to see you there!



Fun Weekends & 2005 Annual Meeting

by Mark Pulvino, Chair

There are many opportunities to give back to Scouting, with some sweat equity! Experiencing the Adirondacks, improving Massawepie, and sharing great times with friends we haven't seen in so long, makes life great.

Two opportunities to continue the tradition are coming up soon. Skills Weekend is May 20-22. Beaver Weekend is June 3-5. We have made a difference in the past and can impact the success of summer camp by planning to attend one or both. We are all excited that the Ray and Addy Meyering Rifle Range is under construction. It's great to see fellow Alumni recognized for their service and dedication. This and many other projects will be available for us to get our hands dirty.

Our annual meeting, which will include elections and a photo shoot, will be Beaver Weekend after Saturday dinner. Last year we had close to 32 involved, with many new faces. It would be nice to see better attendance, especially with election of officers and decisions being made about the Alumni organization. With the addition of "Friends of Alumni" to our group, we should see even more at our annual meeting this year. Plus it's the first and maybe the only chance you'll have to purchase the 2005 version of the official "MSAA" shirt.

E-mail me at mpulvino@rochester.rr.com or call me at 585-872-1507 if you're interested. As we get closer to the dates, we will have an idea which projects we can work on as a group.

Official MSAA Shirts

Back by popular demand! We heard your requests at the Annual Meeting and at the Clambake, and it is time for some new Alumni threads.

We are in the process of introducing a new shirt for the Alumni Association. There have been two and a half versions, and some of us may be outgrowing or wearing out the older ones, so it is time for a new one. There have been many requests for a new version, and different ideas, so we thought we'd ask you.

Send your ideas and thoughts on colors and designs to Mark at mpulvino@rochester.rr.com. (ex. Do we keep the Tie-Dye style, or do we change to a kelty plaid? Do we want collars?)

Some samples will be presented at the Winter Rendezvous (see article on Page 1), so make sure you attend or get your ideas in. The costs will be tabulated after a final design decision is made.

Meyering Rifle Range Construction News

Construction started again in November for the new Camp Pioneer Rifle Range, to be named in honor of long-time staffers Ray and Addy Meyering. The new range will be just north of the Mountaineer Road, about halfway between Central and Mountaineer at the intersection of the road up the hill from Pioneer. Initial excavation began last year, but halted when workers hit a large outcropping of bedrock.

In mid-November, large portions of the bedrock outcropping were removed by blasting. (Souvenir rock remnants are available, but require a crane and flat-bed trailer to remove.) Next, excavation of the range area was completed, and a large safety berm was constructed at the northern edge toward which the Scouts will shoot. Finally, concrete foundation piers for the range building were poured. Construction of the wooden firing line and storage room will happen in the spring, and the range will be ready for use during 2005 summer camp.

Considerable progress has also been made on raising funds for the new range. Over \$75,000 has now been paid or pledged toward the \$90,000 cost.

Executive Committee Notes by Peter Collinge, Secretary

The Alumni Association Executive Committee spent much of its **October meeting** talking about last August's Staff Beach Barbecue at camp. The Beach Barbecue was designed as a "thank you" event for the camp staff, and also to introduce the staff to the Alumni Association. Those staff (about 40, mostly junior staff) who attended the party seemed to really enjoy it, but attendance was lower than expected from both the 2004 camp staff and from alumni volunteers. Ideas for improvement for 2005 included: • Promote this event earlier among Alumni members, in order to get more volunteers to do the work. Also, even very reasonable fees paid by those Alumni members for the weekend will help offset the food costs. • Get a better pre-event count of how many 2005 camp staff will participate, to help with food ordering. • Schedule the event between camp weeks 5 and 6, rather than between weeks 6 and 7, so that fewer camp staff will be gone on "last weekend of the season road trips." (We've scheduled the 2005 Beach Barbecue for July 30.)

The Fall Family Picnic was successful, and basically broke even financially. After paying the Beach Barbecue and Picnic costs, the Alumni Association has approximately \$1000 in its account.

At its **November meeting**, the Executive Committee talked primarily about our winter event, which in past years has been a Happy Hour. Attendance has been fairly small the past two years. Possible reasons include: winter weather, weekday evening scheduling, and lack of interest in the Happy Hour format. We discussed possible alternative events, including an outdoor event at a park, though that seemed too similar to the Fall Picnic. We decided to try a Saturday afternoon gathering that would include a program. See details on Page 1.

Over \$25,000 of that has been raised in the past 6 months, including a \$10,000 grant from New York State secured by Senator Jim Alesi. Much of the total raised so far has come from Massawepie staff alumni. But we still

need \$15,000 to complete the construction, and time is getting short. Additional donations, or leads on groups or persons to contact, will be appreciated! Please send them c/o Don DeClerck via the contact information on Page 1.

Historical Stuff!

The following e-mail arrived at the Association mail box in late October.

On the Web...

The Adirondack Museum of Blue Mountain Lake has a three year exhibit entitled **Paradise for Boys and Girls: Children's Camps in the Adirondacks**. In it, they feature over a hundred camps including Massawepie Scout Camps and over 30 other Boy Scout Camps. Web pages associated with the exhibit can be found at www.adirondackmuseum.org/paradise/index.html. In those pages, you are invited to share your memories of the camp. To share your memories of Massawepie and to read about other's memories of the camp, go to www.adirondackmuseum.org/paradise/memories.asp.

On a related note, on July 11, 2004, ground was broken for The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake, NY, just a few miles away from Massawepie Scout Camps. For more information, go to www.adknature.org.

For those of you interested in the building of Massawepie, I have just posted additional excerpts from the diaries of the late Harley Burgdorf, Massawepie's first property superintendent on the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association website www.MassStaffAlumni.org (under History>Historical Documents>1950's). Last summer I had posted excerpts relating to the building of Camp Pioneer in 1951-52. The new excerpts cover the building of Camp Mountaineer (1952-53), Camp Voyageur (1956), and the Central areas (1952-57). You'll see that some things have changed (we do less work by hand and by horse now) while others remain the same (snow in April still slows down getting camp ready for summer). Thanks again to Harley's son Chuck for making these available.

*Peter Collinge, Secretary/Webmaster
Massawepie Staff Alumni Association*

What a wonderful Web page and Alumni association you folks have created! I had found the Otetiana Council web page a couple of years ago, but saw nothing about an Alumni association! What a great idea.

My name is Dick Betz, and I served on the Massawepie Scout Camps Staff from the summer of 1953 through, I believe, the summer of 1964. It was truly a trip back into time reading through the various documents and looking at the pictures you have been able to acquire. Sorry that I have no pictures that I can contribute. All of my prior Boy Scout stuff has been "lost or misplaced" over the many years of moving, travel, etc.

I do believe however that the Pioneer Staff photo that you show under the date of 1952 is really the 1953 Pioneer Camp Staff. That was my first year on the staff, and was the year Tom Rowe, the Mountaineer Director was killed in a car accident. I am in what looks like to be the third row from the top, the first person on the right as you look at the picture. I recognized several of the people in the picture. In the very top row I find: Bob Thomas (Kitchen Steward); Bob Johnson (Waterfront Dir. - I received my Swimming and Life Saving Merit badges from him when he worked at Eagle Island); Dick Cappon (Program Director) and an Unknown. On the third row down is Robert Maurice (former Longhorn Dist. Executive), Ed Van Horn, unknown, then myself (former Arrowhead District Executive.) In the next row down and slightly to the left of myself is Paul Von Bonhe whose father was Council Commissioner for a time. Second row from the bottom, second person in is Glen Whittenburg, also a District Executive I understand.

At that point in time I worked for Dewey Sawyer (Northstar District Executive); I was his "Commissary Clerk". Dewey took care of all the food buying for the kitchens and I maintained all the food cost records. Bob Maurice was the clerk for Elgin Deering, the Business Manager, and took care of all the daily rosters of scouts, leaders and staff in camp for each day for the Rochester office, along with daily medical logs and "any and all other duties assigned by the camp director." That phase was actually in our Camp Staff Contract!

The pictures of all the camp staffs, Pioneer, Mountaineer, Voyageur, and Central Office, for those early years used to hang on the walls of the Roy Warren Memorial Camp Office. I would like to hope that they are still there. Elgin Deering, Bob Maurice and myself spent several years in that building, playing postmaster, managing the kitchens, trading posts & general paper work for the Rochester office.

I have of course downloaded the membership application and will be sending it in shortly with my dues. [Ed. Note: he did, see Page 4] Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely, Dick Betz

The photo at right is the one referred to in the e-mail. It was downloaded for reproduction here. To see the larger and clearer version, go to www.massstaffalumni.org/photo50s.htm and click on "1952 Pioneer Staff. While you're there, spend a few minutes (or hours) getting lost in the history of our camp.



MSAA Winter Rendezvous RESERVATION/PAYMENT FORM
Saturday March 5th, 2005 2:30-4:30 Flour City Brewing

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Number of Adults attending _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____ **(Due BY 3-1-05)**

CASH _____ Council Account Number

Check to: Otetiana Council, BSA **1-2306-760-00**

OTETIANA COUNCIL SERVICENTER—474 EAST AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14607

Membership News

These new members have joined the MSAA since the last newsletter:

Dick Betz (Staff 1953-64)

Gael Roberts (Staff 2004)

Phil Roberts (Staff 2004)

The Association currently has 89 paid members. Please help recruit other Massawepie staffers or friends, or send us their addresses and we'll send them an invitation. Membership in the Association is also open to those who love Massawepie, but never served as a paid or volunteer staff member. If you know someone who wants to be part of the Association, is at least 18 years of age and in good standing with the BSA and the Council (does not have to be registered), encourage them to join as a Friends of Alumni member. For \$10 in membership dues, Friends have full membership in the Association, except they cannot be officers. Membership forms for both are available under "About Us" on www.MassStaffAlumni.org. The more the merrier!

Upcoming Events

March 2005

5 MSAA Winter Rendezvous

May 2005

20-22 Skills Weekend at Massawepie
Alumni welcome, skill or no skill!

June 2005

3-5 Beaver Weekend at Massawepie
4 MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend
dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

July 2005

29-31 Staff Alumni Weekend at Massawepie
30 Beach Barbecue for 2005 Camp Staff
Have fun & help out; accommodations in Gannett Lodge

If your membership expired in May of last year or earlier (see the mailing label for your membership expiration date), please send in your renewal ASAP! *In order to keep receiving newsletters, please renew today.*

If you have moved please send your new address to: Peter Collinge, MSAA Secretary, 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534-2639.

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

c/o Don DeClerck
J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation
7131 Gulick Road
Naples, NY 14512

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