

FALL 2009 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Founded in 2000 to provide Spirit, Service and Support!



Photo by G. Varga



2009 Annual Meeting and Elections

by Peter

The 2009 MSAA Annual Meeting convened about 7:15 pm on Saturday, June 6 in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Massawepie. Outgoing Chair Mike Knittel started the meeting by summarizing some of the achievements of the past year, including the successful Clambake and the sailboat re-pair project.

Peter Collinge then gave the Treasurer's Report. (See Page 2 for current details.)

Next, the annual election of Officers and Executive Committee members was held, with the slate from the Spring newsletter overwhelmingly approved, as listed to the right.

Other meeting topics included:

Webmaster Matt Arlauckas announced some improvements planned for the MSAA website.

Ideas from incoming Chair Stephanie VonBacho (absent due to illness) include an MSAA brochure, additional membership levels, and helping celebrate BSA's 100th anniversary in 2010.

The upcoming Fall Family Picnic & Clambake was promoted.

Erin Burruto described the Eagle Flight program planned for Week 7 at camp, and asked for help in recruiting volunteers.

After the meeting, many of the MSAA members participated in BarkEater ceremonies, including the premiere of the new fifth year ceremony for those who earned their teeth!

Executive Committee

Chair

Stephanie VonBacho
svonbach@rochester.rr.com

Vice-Chair

Gary Hicks

Treasurer &

Council VP of Camping
Peter Collinge

Secretary

Position Vacant

Past Chair

Mike Knittel

Member at Large & Webmaster

Matt Arlauckas
matt.arlauckas@gmail.com

Member at Large & Newsletter Editor

George Varga
(585) 461-9424
gjvarga@rochester.rr.com

Members at Large

David Lippitt
John Zaffino

Position Vacant
Position Vacant

Staff Advisor

Don DeClerck
(585) 374-5770
don.declerck@otetiana.org

MSAA USPS Address

MSAA, Camp Cutler
7131 Gulick Road
Naples, NY 14512

MSAA E-mail

MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com

MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org

Chair's



Corner

It's hard to believe that summer is over when the warm sunny days feel like they have just arrived. As kids start back to school, the leaves begin to turn and crisp fall nights are upon us, it is time to start planning the Alumni Association activities for the 2009-2010 year. We will kick off with the annual Clambake on September 26th for what promises to be an exciting, event filled year. The merging of Otetiana and Finger Lakes Councils offers many opportunities for collaboration through the creation of a new council. 2010 also marks the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and the 10th anniversary of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association. There will be much to celebrate! Now is the time to consider becoming more involved as a member of the alumni association.

Stephanie

Executive Committee Members Needed

by Stephanie

The MSAA Executive Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as Secretary and to fill the Member at Large openings for 2009-2010. If you'd like to become more involved with the Alumni Association or know of a good candidate to fill these positions, please contact Stephanie VonBacho. The MSAA supports the programs of the Boy Scouts of America within the Council through "Spirit, Service and Support" for Massawepie specifically by:

- Providing volunteer support and/or funds for capital improvements, maintenance projects, and program enhancements at Massawepie;
- Preserving, disseminating, and promoting Massawepie history and traditions;
- Providing social opportunities for Association members;
- Supporting Massawepie staff recruitment, training, and retention;
- Raising funds through dues, fundraisers, and other activities to support the purposes of the Association; and
- Engaging in other activities that support Massawepie and the Council.

2010 is going to be an exciting year for the alumni association as we celebrate our 10 year anniversary and the Boy Scouts of America celebrate its 100th anniversary! Bring your ideas and join us for the fun and excitement.

Treasurer's Report

Here is data for the first half of 2009. Membership dues pay for the Association's routine expenses. We're still successful in raising money for special projects at camp, and for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment. Near the end of 2009 the Executive Committee will decide on further donations from our fund balance.

Peter

Massawepie Summer Camp 2009

by Peter

For most of us, Massawepie *is* summer camp. This season was one of the most successful in recent memory. Well over 2000 Scouts attended, a nice increase from the 1919 Scouts served in 2008 - despite a weak economy and a significant but necessary hike in camp fees to \$270 per week. Steve Weisenreder again broke his own record by serving as director of Massawepie for the 8th consecutive season. Trek Director Doug Turner, Assistant Camp Director Rick Byers and Program Director Tim "Tito" Royce were also back. Matt Janes moved to Business Manager, working with returning MSAA member George Varga. Trading Post Director. New Ranger Ben Geiger started in mid-June and had his hands full getting camp ready for summer, but managed very capably and is looking forward to a more gradual start-up for 2010. Here are some other highlights of the summer: ➡ The first 5th year BarkEater candidates received their teeth in 2009! 5th year ceremonies were held Thursday nights, completing the 5-year implementation of this program retention feature. The 4th year ceremony was improved, and a leadership seminar added. ➡ The first Eagle Flight intensive merit-badge program was held for aspiring Eagle Scouts during Week 7. The 36 participants fully earned an average of 10 merit badges each, thanks to hard work and a dedicated crew of volunteer counselors, leaders and 6 Eagle Scout JASMs. This program was organized by volunteers led by Bob Cooper and Erin Burruto, under the auspices of the Massawepie Program Committee. ➡ Newly refurbished sailboats (thanks to the MSAA and especially Mike Knittel) were a hit, and the kayaks continue to be popular. The "Great Canoe Race" through Massawepie Lake, Long Pond, and Horseshoe Pond and back made a big splash, as did the Polar Bear early-morning swims. ➡ At Scoutcraft, popular open time features included Pyro Night and the Iron Chef, while Econ featured the Toad Race, Bug Bash and Mythical Creature Contest. Sports offered Ultimate Frisbee and the Bog Bike. Handicraft held competitions in Chess and Euchre. ➡ Bottom line: 2000+ Boy Scouts experienced the outdoors, had fun, learned, and grew!

| CATEGORY | Income | Expense |
|---|-------------|------------|
| Dues | \$450.00 | |
| Administrative Expenses (mailing, etc.) | | \$62.10 |
| Camp Project Donations (sailboats) | \$1,005.00 | |
| Camp Project Funds to Council | | \$1,005.00 |
| Square Foot Endowment Donations | \$420.00 | |
| Square Foot Endowment to Council | | \$420.00 |
| Social Event Costs (Clambake Shelter) | | \$88.00 |
| Sales Income (patches, shirts, etc.) | \$54.00 | |
| Totals | \$1,929.00 | \$1,575.10 |
| 12/31/08 Balance | \$2,843.46 | |
| 2009 Income | \$1,929.00 | |
| 2009 Expense | -\$1,575.10 | |
| 6/30/09 Balance | \$3,197.36 | |

Sailboats by Peter

How does the MSAA fulfill the "Support" portion of our mission to provide "Spirit, Service, and Support" to the Massawepie Scout Camps? The primary way is to choose a project at camp each year to support. For 2008-2009, our project has been to help improve the sailboat fleet.

To date, MSAA members have donated \$1005 toward sailboats. Some was used to purchase spare parts so that broken sailboats can be repaired quickly at camp and put back into service. MSAA Chair Stephanie VonBacho helped arrange for a discount for these parts. We hope to use the remaining funds to purchase one or more good used camp-compatible sailboats. Thanks to MSAA past-chair Mike Knittel, we also provided "Service" for the sailboat program. Mike did a beautiful job of repairing and refinishing rudders, tillers, and daggerboards over the winter. A crew from Troop 19 (original sponsor of the sail base) fixed up the boat hulls this spring.

The staff was delighted with the newly refurbished sailboats and the spare parts. All reports say that more sailboats were available and usable by Scouts during camp in 2009 than in recent summers. Again, MSAA made a real difference this year for the Massawepie staff and Scouts!

New Member Note

Father Guido Verbeck's father and grandfather ran a private "Camp Massawepie" at Massawepie in the 1920's, in conjunction with the Manlius School. Father Verbeck's great-grandfather, William Verbeck, who had started the National Scouts of America as one of the first Boy Scout organizations in America at the Manlius School, merged his group with the new Boy Scouts of America in 1910. He was appointed as one of three National BSA Commissioners (along with Daniel Beard and Peter Bomus), and served in that role from 1910-1912. Father Verbeck lives in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Changes Coming

by Peter

When you read this, Otetiana Council, BSA may no longer exist! No, Scouting isn't going away in the Rochester area. But in June, after months of study, the voting memberships of the Otetiana Council in Rochester and the Finger Lakes Council in Geneva voted unanimously to merge. On September 15, voting members of the newly merged councils, will vote on a proposal to name the new council Seneca Waterways Council, BSA. (to Page 3)

The new council's territory will cover Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties. The "Seneca" portion of the proposed name reflects the fact that the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois had a territory covering about the same area as the new council. Also, Otetiana (often spelled Otetiani, and also known as Red Jacket) was a chief of the Senecas. At least the new name should be pronounced and spelled correctly! The "Waterways" portion of the new name reflects growing awareness of the value of the large number of freshwater bodies in the region, from the Finger Lakes to Lake Ontario to the Genesee River and the Erie Canal to smaller streams and lakes.

What does this mean for camps? Finger Lakes Council owns Camp Babcock-Hovey near Ovid on Seneca Lake, which is open year-round and serves as a summer Boy Scout and Webelos camp. Babcock-Hovey is obviously closer to Rochester than Massawepie, and has a nice atmosphere, but is also much smaller than Massawepie and doesn't have the Adirondack setting. For the foreseeable future, the new council is committed to keeping all three camps (Babcock-Hovey, Cutler, and Massawepie) open and operating. Current camp attendance is large enough to justify having three camps. Some former Otetiana troops will camp at Hovey (as a number have done in the past), and some former Finger Lakes troops will try Massawepie, as many already have. With more program options for Scouts, everyone wins!

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association Providing "Spirit, Service and Support!" Eighth Fall Family Picnic/Clambake

Come join us for an afternoon and evening of fun and food!
Bring your old camp photos and memories to share!

(Must be a **PAID** Alumni Association Member or family of paid member to attend.)

Saturday, September 26th, 2009



Shady Rest Pavilion
(off Woolston Rd. near Irondequoit Creek)
Powder Mills Park, Pittsford, NY
2:00 PM - until ?



Cost - \$15.00 per adult (same price as 2008)
Includes 2 dozen clams, chicken, salt potatoes, and corn on the cob

\$5.00 per child (same price as 2008)
Includes hot dogs and chicken, salt potatoes and corn on the cob

Please BYOB and a munchie or dessert to share!

Send below RSVP and check or money order (payable to Otetiana Council) to:
Massawepie Staff Alumni Association, 7131 Gulick Rd., Naples, NY 14512

BY Wednesday September 16th, 2009

RSVP - MSAA Family Picnic 9/26/09

Name _____ Phone _____

of Adults attending _____ X \$15.00= _____

of Children attending _____ X \$ 5.00= _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Welcome New Members!

George Haag
(Friend of Massawepie)
Joe Varga
(Mountaineer '87, '88;
Forester '90)
Paul Varga
(Mountaineer '89, '90)
Shawn Varga
(Mountaineer '97, '98)
Fr. Guido Verbeck*
(Friend of Massawepie)
*see note inside

Membership Renewal

We have 84 current members. Is your membership current? Annual memberships expire on May 31. If yours has expired you should find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. 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 to: the "Square Foot" Endowment (which will support Massawepie equipment and maintenance in perpetuity); or to our next "support Massawepie program and/or

Upcoming Events

September 2009

26 Family Picnic/CLAMBAKE – details on Page 3!
SIGN-UP DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 16!

October 2009

2-4 Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie (shut-down)
All Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

May 2010

14-16 .. Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie
All Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

June 2010

4-6 Beaver Weekend at Massawepie
ALL Alumni encouraged to attend!
5 MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend
dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

staff fund drive," which will be announced soon, replacing our successful drives to: improve the sailboat program; add new bikes; start a kayak program; build a new rifle range; and redo the campfire circle. If you know a 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. And if they send the form in at the same time, they are eligible to pre-register for the Family Picnic/Clambake to be held Saturday September 26!

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association
J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation
7131 Gulick Road
Naples, NY 14512

INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Annual Meeting & Elections!
- MSAA Notes!
- ***Family Picnic/CLAMBAKE!***
- And more!

TO:

Visit us at massstaffalumni.org