



Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.

REFLECTIONS



Supporting the mission and programs of Northern Tier National High Adventure.

WINTER-SPRING 2015 EDITION

Work Week: Join us for a northwoods break from your usual routine!

By Dick Shank

May 28 through June 5th, this is your chance for some sweat equity and camaraderie with your fellow alumni members and current staff, and also benefit Northern Tier programs and facilities. We can use help for a day or a week, so come as early and stay as late as you can! Meals and accommodations on the base will be provided at no cost. The work will involve a variety of projects on the Base, including some work on the Welcome Cabin and bunkhouses.

You will have the added opportunity to participate in training week activities and Seminar Day on June 4. Seminar Day is sponsored and staffed by fellow alumni

to provide additional education for trail staff in outdoor and guiding skills. If you have an area of expertise you are willing to share, please contact us. A volunteer alumni dinner is planned for June 3.

You also have the option of heading out on the trail after a few days work (advance arrangements with Northern Tier are required if using base equipment or leaving from the NT landing).

We hope to hear from you! For more information and to arrange to participate contact Dick Shank at



Crossing Portages 2014 raises over \$30,000

By Chuck Rose

Thank you to all who contributed to the SAA during 2014. Your generosity allowed us to collect over \$30,000.

Thank you Kay & Darcy Anderson, Rodney Anderson, Kent Behnken, Doug Bender, Dave Bird, John Breen, Roger Clapp, Michael Clayburn, Jim Cole, Mary Cousin, Bryan Craft, Kenneth Davis, Butch Diesslin, Dan Dineen, Sparky Duroe, Kendall Ellingson, William Erickson, Chris Felton, Jack Fenoglio, Roderick Garlitz, Owen Gibbs, Dave Greenlee, Kurt Hansen, Jerome Hartke, Doug Hirdler, Mike Holdgrafer, Paul Holte, Jim Hood, Tim Huemiller, Karl Huemiller, David Hyink, Kay Ingebrigtsen, Cory Kolodji, Greg Kvam, Don Lee, Scott McCommons, Michael McMahon, Marvin Mealman, Don Melander, Dave Nachtsheim, Alex Nepple, Bob

O'Hara, Ralph Olsen, Richard Olson, Jon Pederson, Rodger Peterson, Mike Quinn, Douglas Ramsey, Dean Rau, Lynn Reeve, Don Richard, Reed Rings, Chuck Rose, Robert Rosene, Brenda Ryther, Louis Sabatini, Marian & Jack Sandlas, Lee Sessions, Richard Shank, Bruce Tannehill & Gail Cleveland, Jim Varcho, Peter Vial, Brian & Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Bob Vouk, James Wedge, Dennis Wogaman, Chris Wolfe, and Ray Wood.

We are also excited for the people who have expressed interest in supporting SAA activities through their estate planning. Through Jay Walne at Stifel, the SAA is able to accept donations of appreciated stock for those interested in that tax-savings option. Thanks again.

Twenty-four SAA scholarships awarded

By William Erickson

Owen Gibbs announced the names of the 2014 SAA Scholarship recipients. For staff to be considered for the \$1000 scholarships, they must submit an application and a transcript of their grades and be endorsed by Northern Tier Management.

Name scholarship recipients were Megan White (Christopher D. Breen Memorial), Nick Peterson (Butch Diesslin), Katherine Rose (Erickson Memorial), Colby Moeller (Clifford J. Hanson Memorial), John Young

(David Hynik), Michael Small (Friends of Tinnermann/Tinnermann Guide Association) and Christopher Martin (Terry J. Wall Charles Sommers).

Additional recipients were James Bickel, Nora Crist, Adele Daniel, Paul Folsom, Travis Gibson, Ethan Hardy, Ian Hardy, Bryan Henderson, Christopher Kolischak, John McKenney, Spenser Moreland, Andrew Nine, Derek Richard, Josephine Schmitt, Daniel Smith, Tressa Theis and Lucas Wade. Congratulations to all recipients.



Photo by Lynne Tolbert

2014 Reunion Rendezvous enjoyed by all

By Chuck Rose

The 2014 Reunion Rendezvous at Northern Tier's Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe base went smoothly. Singing and stories around the campfire, annual meeting, picnic in town, and afternoon activities all went smoothly. Speaker Kevin Callan and Master of

Ceremonies Cory Kolodji kept us entertained during the banquet at the Grand Ely Lodge attended by over one hundred alumni. Thanks especially to Karl Huemiller and Alex Nepple and their volunteers for all their work planning and executing this reunion.

Check out the Summit

By Alex Nepple and Lee Huckstep

We've all heard about Scouting's newest High Adventure facility, the Summit Bechtel Reserve located near Beckley, WV, but most of us don't know much about it. That's going to change.

The Philmont Staff Association and Summit management are pleased to invite SAA members and their guests to the PSA Weekend at the Summit June 19 and 20, 2015. For those of you with children aged 11 years (for Summit activities) and 12 (for whitewater rafting) and up, this will be the most action-packed family weekend the PSA has ever offered.

On Friday, June 19, you'll get your eyelids peeled back whitewater rafting on the gnarliest section of the famous New River Gorge rapids and on Saturday, June 20, you will participate in all the activities at the Summit's Action Point and get a broad sampling of the program the Summit offers. When you leave, you'll have a good idea of what the Summit is all about.

The cut-off date for purchasing rafting and meals is June 13. For more information (including lodging) and to register on-line visit <http://bit.ly/CheckOutTheSummit>.

The Summit is located near Beckley, WV, (limited air

service) and 1.5 hours from Charleston, WV (good air service). There are plenty of nearby sites and activities which allow your visit to West Virginia to become a full-blown family vacation. Questions? Contact: Alex Nepple at [REDACTED] or Lee Huckstep at [REDACTED]. Mark your calendars now!



From the President's canoe

By Chuck Rose

My Inspiration. I joined Troop 56, Roseau, Minnesota in 1972. That Saturday, we departed for a canoe camping trip on nearby Lake of the Woods. I had long admired canoes but had only paddled a few times. As we canoed and around campfires, I heard tales of the canoe country and Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base from the troop's trip that summer. I also heard about the planned Lake of the Woods trip the previous fall; unfortunately, that trip ended before it started when Scoutmaster Conrad Lommen had a fatal heart attack unloading canoes. Mr. Lommen was familiar with Sommers, his son Gordy had worked there in the 60s. While Sommers trip went off without a hitch, the leadership of the troop was mostly in disarray for several years afterwards. But the rhythm of the paddle, the still water at sunrise, and especially the tales of that trip to Ely had me hooked.

After the loss of Mr. Lommen, much of the leadership of the trip fell to 18 year old Pat. David—just back from Vietnam—filled in as adult advisor. With guide Tom Beaton, they plied a route through Kahshapiwi, a layover on Kawnipi, and back through Agnes, fighting headwinds while Charlie crews from the other direction sailed by. Vivid descriptions of heavy packs, loons swimming under the canoe, leaches, mosquitoes, bug juice, blueberries, cold and wet socks and boots, Louisa Falls, as well as barely big enough campsites were shared.

The group included 12 year old Woofer (rules were loose then) who in many ways handled the trip (especially portaging) better than the 14 year olds. But Woofer did drop his canoe, popping a rivet, and turtled while portaging. (Just so you know, Woofer had also set world records for the slowest mile swim and most demerits during inspection at summer camp the previous summer.) Merlin turtled too. Kirk learned to float the waterproof personal pack to the canoe at the end of portages. They broke and paid for a paddle. Merlin painted the paddle with "We're 706D. So what?" which was what they told a staff member at check-in and also his reply (they were at the wrong building). To this day, he displays the paddle on his wall

Where are they now (42 years later). Scouting, including this trip, had an impact on the lives of these boys. Pat Novacek had become Troop 56's second Eagle Scout shortly before the trip. Later he became Scoutmaster and served the troop in a variety of positions over the years. Two of his sons became Eagle Scouts; Jason guided for Sommers in the early 2000s. He still lives in Roseau; to this day, he displays the crew picture on his wall. Professionally, he served in law enforcement for many years including being elected county Sheriff, taking over that position from Jon Knochenmus' father. Jon became the troop's third Eagle Scout; he is now an itinerant preacher in the US and



Front row: Kirk, Woofer, Merlin, Chris. Middle row: Doug, Keith, Jon, Mike. Back row: Pat, David, Tom.

overseas. Merlin Gehke, the troop's 4th Eagle Scout, spent several years as a professional Scouter in the 80s, he now works in car sales in Iowa. Mike Hetten, whose father was a founder of Polaris Industries (snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles) works at the Roseau factory in the purchasing department. Woofer—who never got past Tenderfoot—is now President of the hometown Citizen's State Bank; to this day, he displays the crew picture on his wall. Years after this trip, I found out that Woofer's real name was Bob Foley. Keith Pierson works with his brothers in their tool and dye business in Mora, MN. David Foss recently retired from teaching Special Education and coaching in Norwood-Young America, MN. Kirk Oseid's family moved away while he was on the trip (they did retrieve him). He stayed active in Scouts, going to Philmont a few years later and is now a mechanical engineer with a software firm in New Hampshire. Chris Moen, and Doug Lommen weren't found but I'd bet that they look back on this trip with fond memories.

Guide Tom Beaton (70-73) grew up in North Dakota in the same council as Troop 56. He is now a physician in Idaho, SAA life member, and a volunteer on the Northern Tier Advisory Committee. Because of his skill on this trip, these Scouts came back home with enthusiasm that spilled over onto me. Thanks you Tom, I wouldn't be here without you. That's what Scouting is all about.

Owen Gibbs in Scouting Magazine

Check out the December issue of Scouting Magazine (<http://bit.ly/OwenGibbs>) for a great story about Owen Gibbs' volunteer work at Northern Tier. He is indeed giving back to Northern Tier.



Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.
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(Address Label)

Calendar of events

Alumni Work Week – Northern Tier

May 28 – June 5, 2015

PSA Weekend at Summit Bechtel Reserve –

Beckley, West Virginia

June 19 – 20, 2015

Annual Meeting of the Members – TBD

TBD

For further information, see the SAA website:

<http://www.holry.org>



Photo by Davey Warner

Leadership...the legacy of Northern Tier Staff...we pride ourselves on it. The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is on the lookout for those members who want to continue that legacy by volunteering to help payback what we received from NT. Interested in helping at Canoeopia? Serving on the Board of Directors? Helping with Reflections? Being part of Alumni Work Week? Let us know by contacting one of the Directors or sending an e-mail to [REDACTED]

SAA Officers

Chuck Rose, Pres., [REDACTED]

(320) 293-3332

Owen Gibbs, VP, [REDACTED]

Cory Kolodji, Secy., [REDACTED]

Eric Johnson, Treas., [REDACTED]

Reflections

[REDACTED]

Advisor: Chuck Rose