



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

30 Scholarships Awarded Seasonal Staff

During 2004, the SAA – along with the Northern Tier Advisory Committee – awarded 30 scholarships to Northern Tier seasonal staff. This year's awards totaled \$25,500 and brought the total scholarship awards to \$149,000. Staff members become eligible for the scholarships after completing two years on the seasonal staff at one of the Northern Tier bases. Each staff member is eligible to receive up to \$3,000 during their careers. The scholarships are awarded directly to the financial aid office of the staff member's school.



The Northern Tier Staff Scholarship fund has three designated (endowed) scholarships. The Christopher D. Breen Memorial Scholarship is awarded to the seasonal staff member who embodies the "can do attitude" and "service to scouts" that was Chris' legacy. The selection is made annually by the professional staff of the Northern Tier High Adventure Program from staff members applying for the seasonal staff scholarships. The 2004 **Chris Breen** Memorial Scholarship was awarded to fourth-year staff member **Candace Vinke** of the Bissett base. Candace received a \$1,500 scholarship for studies at University of Calgary.

The Terry J. Wall Scholar-

ship was endowed by **Dr. Terry Wall**, who participated in the Northern Tier Program as a scout in 1970 and several times as an advisor from 1981 to 1995. The scholarship recipient is selected by the professional staff. The 2004 Terry J. Wall Scholarship was awarded to second-year staff member **Israel**

Andraski. The \$500 scholarship supports his studies at University of Texas Pan American.

The Erickson Memorial Scholarship recognizes an employee who has worked in a base staff position, gone "above and beyond" expectations in support and service to Northern

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Lodge Restoration Highlights 2004 Alumni Work Week

By Patrick Cox

Red Renner Memorial Work Week for 2004 was a dedicated effort to working on the restoration of the Lodge. The main players this year were **Roger Clapp** and his long time friend **Maurice**, plus **Roy Conradi**

and **Patrick Cox** among others. We all arrived at various times during the weekend and week of August 28. You really should see how beautiful the night is on the Base when no one is home. Just ask Roy.

We did enjoy one other major project during work week - the fishing on Basswood on Thursday afternoon. After some comical delays involving engines, fuel, welding, boat shortening, and water, we were on our way to slay the fish by about noon (ok, so it was really about 10, but it seemed like noon). Butch brought his new boat that was really a nicely outfitted boat with all the bells and whistles. The Base graciously lent us their boat which, after the previously mentioned comical

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NEW EDITOR

Mike Bingley has accepted the job as our next newsletter editor. Please send Mike any news you'd like to share. Submit stories via Email in MS Word or Plain Text to: mbingley@telusplent.net

For snail mail, send to:

REFLECTIONS

c/o Mike Bingley
233C-3250 Rock City Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9T 4RS
Phone: 250-668-0983



National High Adventure Base BSA entrance.

WE BROKE THE MIRROR....

Perhaps you were wondering why you haven't seen a copy of *Reflections* lately? We broke the mirror, hence, no reflections. But the good news is we have a new mirror and we're ready to swing back into action...with some assistance.

We want to hear from you. Send us a paragraph or two on your favorite "Charlie Guide", stories, history, opinions, photos, news and humor. We will use it for current or future issues.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS - JULY 31st



President's Message

by Patrick Cox

Welcome to my first column as your new Association president. The 2004 Reunion went well and found many new folks and more than a few of the regular attendees. The Board of Directors met to address the change of officers after two of our officers asked to be replaced. They also handled several of the other business matters of the Association.

On the officer changes, past-president, **Allen Rench**, decided he was ready to retire after serving for four years as our second president and **Butch** decided to retire after serving many years (since our founding) as our Association secretary. As a result, we have several new officers and three new directors. While I became the new president, **Chuck Rose** is now the secretary of the SAA. I would really like to thank all the retiring directors for their service.

For those of you who have never walked a mile in Turch's moccasins, you can only try to imagine how much Butch did behind the scenes and how much of a job Chuck has taken on with this new post. **Mike Holdgrafer** is now our vice president. This job carries a great deal of responsibility – not the least of which is to help keep the SAA president moving in all the right directions on our various projects. This is something akin to herding cats (with apologies to the other cat lovers in the SAA).

You will see reports on the many SAA projects big and small in the pages of this edition and future editions of *Reflections*. We want to encourage you to find one or more projects that interest you and volunteer to help in some form

or fashion. You will find that many of them do not require any time at the Base in Ely or only a rare visit. Some of our major projects include:

Red Renner Memorial Work Week – This was led by yours truly, but is now being headed by several Alumni who will be working to recruit participants from each decade. Contact **Dick Shank**, **Ray "Red" Matson**, or **Roger Clapp**. This will be expanding to offer some projects during the summer as well as the annual work.

Lodge Renovations – **Mike Holdgrafer** and **Dick Shank** are leading this major undertaking. If you have any knowledge or log building restorations, please offer your help.

Staff Training – **Mike Holdgrafer** leads this major undertaking each year. Help Mike plan it or come out and help with training the new staff. You could even go on a current version of the Swamper trip and pass on suggestions to current trail staff based on some of your old trail activities.

Locating Lost Alumni – **Brian Vollmer-Buhl** leads this and could always use some help. Find a few of your friends, locate them, and encourage them to update everyone with their activities.

Editor of Reflections – We have a new volunteer editor. **Mike "Bing" Bingley** will serve as editor with help from **CT Hart** and **Roy Conradi**. Mike steps up after the terrific jobs done by **CT Hart** and his predecessors, **Mark Nordstrom** and **Roy Conradi**.

We all look forward to seeing you on some project or another. Til then, we'll keep the coffee pot on the fire...*Pat*

Directors and Officers

Director/President (3)**	Patrick Cox	(713) 628-2532
Director (3)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 594-6287
Director (3)	Mike Bingley	(250) 668-0983
Director (2)	Roy Conradi	(770) 953-4178
Director (2)	Dave Hyink	(253) 863-6406
Director /V-Pres. (2)**	Mike Holdgrafer	(918) 743-5565
Director (2)	Chris Clay	(218) 525-9006
Director (1)	Dick Shank	(651) 698-5375
Director (1)**	Allen Rench	(507) 536-0736
Director (1)	Larry Hanson	(651) 628-4923
Director (1)	Kevin McKee	(705) 983-2703
Treasurer**	Nigel Cooper	(715) 325-6521
Director/Secretary (3)**	Chuck Rose	(320) 252-2768

Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

**Executive Committee Member

Program Liaisons

Keith Galloway	National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Doug Hirdler	Director and General Manager, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, BSA P. O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Douglas H. Dittrock	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee, BSA 317 Godwin Ave. Midland Park, NJ 07432 (H) (201) 444-9520 (W) (201) 444-1700 (FAX) (201) 444 - 5092
James W. Shepherd	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA 507 Brookwood Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35209 (205) 870-1213

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MOVING? Please let the Alumni Association know so they can update the Alumni database. Please provide your new address, phone number, etc. We will include your e-mail addresses in the member directory. Send your address changes or additions to P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428 or to Chuck Rose clrose@stcloudstate.edu. **The US Postal Service will forward your newsletter to you - HOWEVER - they do it at the alumni association's expense!** The statement "Address Services Requested" on the newsletter tells the USPS that we want them to forward your newsletter so you don't miss an issue. It also provides us with your new address. For each issue we have between 50-100 address corrections that we pay \$.80 a piece to the USPS for this service. Please help us reduce this cost to the association!

Two Alumni Recognized: Osborn and Melander Receive Hedrick Volunteer Service Award

The George D. Hedrick Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals whose service and dedication to the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program is noteworthy in terms of both its impact and/or duration. Created in 1995 and given by the SAA Directors, the award honors the late Region Ten Executive and ardent Canoe Base and Sommers Alumni Association Supporter.

On Saturday, September 4, 2004, at the Sommers Alumni Association's Annual Meeting, the award was presented (posthumously) to **Jack Osborn**. Jack joined the Canoe Base Committee in 1968, while also serving on the Region Seven Base committee. He was very active with the Wood Badge training center at the

Northern Wisconsin Base, and Northern Tier Committee from 1983-1987, and was instrumental in arranging the land swap between the BSA and the USFS – leading to BSA ownership of the current Sommers Canoe Base property. He was also instrumental in the acquisition (by donation) of the Donald G. Rogert National High Adventure Base property near Atikokan, Ontario. He was active with the BSA National International relations, and was instrumental in starting Northern Tier's participation in the International camp staff exchange program. Finally, he was a Charter Life Member of the SAA and an early supporter of the concept of a seasonal staff scholarship program. In October 1999, Jack and Mary

became the Founding Members of the Northern Tier Heritage Circle when they announced a \$250,000 deferred gift that someday will help endow that scholarship program. Jack's widow, Mary, and her son John Shelton, were present to receive the award.

Later that evening at the Sommers Alumni Rendezvous Banquet at the Grand Ely Lodge, the second George D. Hedrick Award was presented to Duluth architect, **Don Melander**. Don joined the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee in 1988 and is currently an active member. During his tenure, Don has taken a leadership role in creating the Master Site Plan for the Charles L. Sommers Base, as well as playing

a major part in the creation of the facilities plans for all three Bases. A student of the Fur Trade architecture, Don designed many of the newest buildings – beginning with the Commissary. Don's other passion is the OKPIK program where he has worked tirelessly for many years. An active Scouter in Duluth, Don has brought numerous groups from his local Troop to the Base for OKPIK for many years.

Past Hedrick Award recipients include: **Robert "Red" Renner, Allan Batterman, Craig Pendergraft, the late Ed Chapin, Gene Felton, the late Henry Bradlich, Cherie Bridges-Sawinski, Dr. Dick Shank, Mike Holdgrafer, Butch Diesslin and Bob Cary.**

2005 Annual Membership Meeting Held at Base

The annual meeting of the membership of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc was held at the Lodge at Sommers on June 5.

The meeting was called to order by president, **Patrick Cox**. There were 17 members counted. The 14 members present and the properly executed proxies received constituted a quorum.

Crossing Portages, the SAA's fund raising campaign is proceeding under the direction of **Dave Hyink**. In his absence, Pat Cox reported that pledges for 2005-2009 exceed \$100,000 while expenses related to the campaign are currently \$350.

The Staff Scholarship Program, sponsored by the SAA and Northern Tier advisory committee, has given out \$146,000 to date as reported by **Dick Shank**. With 60% returning staff this season, the amount of scholarships is unknown at this point. Staff completing their second year are eligible for a \$500 scholarship, third year staff may apply for a \$1000 scholarship and after their fourth year, a staff member may be eligible for a \$1500 scholarship. Additional requirements include:

good academic standing at their university, completion of 10 weeks of summer employment at Sommers, and being asked back for the next season by the professional management.

Plans for the **2006 Rendezvous** – scheduled for Labor Day weekend, 2006 – were presented by **Larry Hanson**. The banquet venue will remain the Grand Ely Lodge. Hanson discussed his goal of making this a fun and nostalgic event.

Barbara Cary Hall presented the idea of a joint venture with the Ely Arts Association to produce a free-to-the public concert with performances (songs and stories) by SAA members in the Washington auditorium in Ely. Optional times when this could be presented include Friday evening of the 2006 Rendezvous, as a mini-reunion Saturday night of Memorial Day weekend 2007 (coinciding with the 85th anniversary of the Boy Scout Canoeing program), or Sunday afternoon of the 2008 reunion. The purpose of the concert would be to entertain, but also to educate the Ely public about the SAA. **Butch Diesslin** stated that alumnus **Eddie Jeff Cahill** has of-

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Hedrick Award presented to Don Melander by Dave Hyink



Accepting the Hedrick Award for Jack Osborn was his widow Mary and Mary's son John Shelton (from Butch Diesslin (l) and Dave Hyink)

Night Paddling, An Awesome Experience

"There's supposed to be a campsite up ahead across from the portage trails, and somehow our Charlie Guide will find it in the dark and we'll set up our tents. But for now, we are silent and humble visitors, suspended in canoes between water and stars in this awesome, timeless wilderness."

- Journal entry by Calvin Gabriel, ASM, Troop 476, Cupertino, CA during August 2003 trek to Northern Tier.

This is one of the many reasons Troop 4 is trekking to Northern Tier next summer.

Calvin recorded this after night paddling on Louisa Lake. He goes on to talk about how every member of the crew was awed by the spectacle of nighttime. It's something we often overlook. Astronomers complaining that our cities pollute the sky with light at night. Here on the ground folks complain when their neighborhood doesn't have a streetlight. They feel the need for light, but some of us can remember when nights were dark. Very few of the scouts who canoe at Northern Tier have any idea of how dark it gets at night. Very few of the leaders do either. It's an experience that they can get at Northern Tier, but the nights are short in the summer. You have to plan it in advance.

Paddling at night is a very bad idea unless you've covered the same route at least once before in the daylight. You need an idea of how long it will take to cover the distance and you need to be quite certain that you'll have an open campsite at the end. A bad experience I once had shows why...

I planned a night paddle into every trip I could, once I had enough familiarity with the routes I took to do it. One was on Sturgeon. If you paddle to the most western point of Russell and portage into Stur-

geon, you can paddle south through a narrows that has a large white rock standing out of the water at the narrows. Even with no moon, starlight would be enough to see the rock. Just beyond the narrows was a nice campsite. It would be easy. We ate supper near the falls into the Sturgeon Narrows, then paddled to the portage, took it and loaded up. Night came up over us as we paddled. So did clouds, though. The sky suddenly clouded over completely.

I had taken a very careful compass reading as I sat in my canoe before we started paddling and I turned on my flashlight occasionally as I paddled toward my rock. I knew about how long it would take and I checked my watch and compass often by turning on my flashlight. I wanted the flashlight on as little as possible, because I figured this total darkness experience was as good as the awesome night under the stars on a big lake experience would have been. The crew was completely silent. We didn't speak. They kept track of where we were going by my light coming on once in a while.

It was only about a 20-40 minute paddle. When I think back on now, I think that I should have been scared to death, but I was having a great time. It was a new experience for me too. I just kept a happy attitude. Of course, I also knew that we could camp just about anywhere and get things straight in the morning, but I didn't want it to come to that.

Then, my big rock (jutting about a dozen feet out of the water in the middle of the narrows) appeared. I found it when I turned on my flashlight to check my watch and compass. The rock was on my left shoulder. The canoe had missed scraping it by inches. If I had

turned my flashlight on seconds earlier or later, I would have missed it. I was unbelievably lucky and I knew it. I also knew, finally, exactly where I was.

I recalled something I read somewhere in one of those places like Reader's Digest, that you never fully believe – the quote from Daniel Boone, "I've never been lost. There have been plenty of times I had no idea where I was. But I've never been lost." That was how I felt at that moment.

The rest was easy. I knew it would only be a few minutes. I shined my light left and right as we exited the narrows, finding the campsite. Everybody in the crew got out flashlights and we had no trouble setting up camp. The mood was slightly festive as we did our work under the light of wavering flashlights held by people who were trying to work and hold lights at the same time. The crew got me up the next morning. Usually it was the other way around. They were still excited. They had gone to sleep, gotten plenty of rest and gotten up full of what, hubris?

So, the point is, that the night was a disaster. They didn't get the mystical experience of being on a big lake under an enormous sky. They just can't get that anywhere but in the BWCA or Quetico and it's unlikely they'll get it unless some Northern Tier interpreter lays it out for them to do. This crew, though, still got an exciting experience without the big sky, but only because I had a pretty darn specific idea of where I was going. There have been many, many times since that day that I have relived the moment that I turned on my flashlight, saw the rock at my right shoulder and praised every supernatural power for that.

I'm not telling you about all the wonderful night paddling experiences I had. There were lots of them and they made a lifetime of memories. I'm telling you about the worst. The point I want to make is that it ended as a positive experience, because I had been across this space before. And I'm telling you that whenever you're lost – you're home, you just don't know where you are.

Old Charlie Guide

Triple Crown Award Patch





Triple Crown Award Application

Boy Scouts of America

presented by
Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.

Awardees Receive: Certificate of Recognition suitable for framing plus a 3 inch patch/emblem that is available only to award recipients plus listing of your name in the permanent worldwide Scouting registry of Triple Crown Award recipients.

Name: _____ Birth date: _____
 Last First M. (mm/dd/yy)
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 (Street, P.O. Box, ...) (Area Code & #)
 (City, State, Zip, Country) E-mail: _____

Please complete as much information below as possible.

Base	Program (# days, type)	Crew #	Dates	Staff Member
Philmont (includes Double H Ranch)				
Sea Base				
Northern Tier (Ely, Bissett, Atikokan)				

Please indicate your interest and willingness to do the following:

	Northern Tier	Philmont	Sea Base
Serve as paid Summer Seasonal Staff	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Share your National High Adventure experiences with Scout groups in your local area.	YES		NO

Award Fee:

Triple Crown Award (includes 3 inch uniform patch) \$ 9.00

Large 6 inch Patch Emblems _____ X \$10 = \$ _____
 (for use on packs and such)

Total (mailing costs are included) = \$ _____

Please submit your application along with the above fee to:

Triple Crown Award
 P.O. Box 428
 Ely, MN 55731-0428

The Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. (a Minnesota 501(c)3 organization) in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America have authorized the issuance of a special certificate and emblem/patch to honor those Scouts and Scouters who have participated in at least one program at each of the three National High Adventure Bases operated by the Boy Scouts of America. These Bases are Philmont Scout Ranch (including the Double H Ranch), Northern Tier High Adventure Bases (Ely, Atikokan, and Bissett), and the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base.



(Continued from page 3) **2005 Annual Meeting**

ferred to sponsor a concert to raise money for scholarships (he is busy as a professional guitar player on Labor Day weekends). Alumnus **Ron Miles** was also mentioned as a potential participant and resource. Barb and others will continue to pursue these opportunities.

Butch also mentioned that **Steve Spencer** hosted a regional SAA reunion in Kansas this past March. About 20 people attended and a good time was had by all. These types of activities should be encouraged.

Chuck Rose reported that Membership was holding steady. Regular membership is 389, 273 of which are life members. There are 103 associate members, mainly advisors.

The Lodge Restoration Project was discussed by **Mike Holdgrafer**, and included a demonstra-

tion of staining of logs to match the color of faded areas. **Dick Shank** explained that an architect from the Minnesota Historical Society will hopefully visit the Lodge near the end of June to assess the needs for restoration. Holdgrafer and Shank are putting a budget together.

The Newsletter's status was discussed by Cox (filling in for **Roy Conradi**). The next issue should be out by July and we hope to be back on schedule thereafter. The new editor will be **Mike Bingley**. The deadline for submitting stories for the next newsletter will be July 31.

Work Week did not happen this year due to the lack of a newsletter as well as lack of a director in charge. **Dick Shank** has volunteered to be the director in charge of this project. There are

opportunities to work on the staff lounges in Bissett and Atikokan.

Staff training is in full swing. Holdgrafer reports a good start to the summer with alumni participating in training in Ely and Atikokan. Ideas from **Keith Gutierrez** will be helpful in the future. **Larry Hanson** and **Bill Erickson** also gave positive feedback on training. Holdgrafer will continue to try to improve alumni participation.

For the Annual Budget Review, Cox reported for Cooper that the SAA is solvent. Revenue is on target and expenses are under budget so far.

Charlie's Guide, a booklet on campsites, historic spots, and points of interest in the Northern Tier's program areas, was produced by **Bill Erickson** for the second year. Copies are available to staff, not the general public. The

number of pages has increased from 70 to about 200 for the 2005 edition. A former advisor printed the booklet at low cost (230 copies \$930). Bill also explained the Geocaching program developed for Northern Tier crews.

Doug Hirdler summarized the facilities at Atikokan. The jamboree has reduced participation this year (as in most jamboree years), but returning staff were 60%. He thanked the Alumni for their support.

Election of Directors was tallied from proxies by Mike Holdgrafer. The following members were elected as directors: **Mike Bingley, Patrick Cox, David Greenlee and Chuck Rose**.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Rose, Secretary

(Continued from page 1) **Staff Scholarships for 2004**

Tier attendees, demonstrated leadership to the program and has exhibited a strong work ethic. The scholarship recipient is selected by the professional staff. The first recipient of an Erickson Memorial Scholarship is **James E. Flannery**. The \$1,000 scholarship will support his studies at Florida State University.

Second-year staff members who received \$500 scholarships are: **Margaret C. Brown**, Benedictine College; **Nicole Christamtsis**, Lakehead University; **Ashley E. Clement**, University of Toronto; **Peter J. Glaser**, Colorado Mountain

College; **Michael L. Johnson**, St. Cloud State University; **Kim A. Kilpatrick**, Laurentian University; **Matthew R. Landry**, Lakehead University; **Anya J. Lipchak**, University of Toronto; **Kathryn A. Loynes**, Queen's University; **Peter C. Masson**, Lakehead University; **Sarah Rowell**, Lakehead University; **Mary P. Sinks**, University of North Dakota; **Clare L. Wilkinson**, University of Guelph; and **Christopher L. Ylimaki**, Confederation College.

Third-year staff members who received \$1,000 scholarships are: **John Churchill**,

University of Waterloo; **Timothy J. Davis**, University of Winnipeg; **Adam M. Jordan**, Midwestern State University; **Bradley G. Kooy**, McMasters University; **Bradley D. Martin**, Three Rivers Community College; **Claire M. McCasland**, Baylor University; and **Timothy Wickham**, University of South Carolina.

Fourth- and fifth-year staff members who receive \$1,500 scholarships are **Daniel E. Miller**, Slippery Rock University; **Brian D. Seeton**, Kent State University; **Thomas H. Sheaffer**, Garrett College; and **J. Scott Wickham**, Univer-

sity of Colorado. **Mathew G. Smith**, a fifth-year staff member, completed his eligibility with a \$1,000 scholarship for University of Calgary.

Northern Tier seasonal staff members who have completed at least two years with the program, are enrolled in college or university programs, are students in good standing, and have worked on staff for at least 10 weeks in the year are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Scholarship applications are available from the staff. Applications for 2005 are due no later than August 1, 2005.

GET INVOLVED!

If you are wondering how you can be more active within the Sommers Alumni Association, here is your chance. We would like to establish a nationwide network of willing members to act as a Northern Tier Trek Resource. The volunteer would make him or herself available to local Scout groups wishing to gain knowledge about canoeing at the Northern Tier Canoe Bases. In meetings you can pass on your wilderness experiences to the group and help better prepare them for what lies ahead. In doing so you enable them to have a more enjoyable Treking adventure. Plus, these groups can meet the people that established the name of Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base.

Please take the time and fill out this form, clip it out, and mail it to:

Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.
PO Box 428
Ely, Minnesota, 55731-0428

OR email the information to NTTResource@charter.net

I am interested in participating as a Northern Tier Trek Resource

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Tid-Bits on the Sommers Clan

Doug Hirdler reports that the Triple Crown Award, is very popular. The Atikokan directors cabin and program center are finished and the staff area has been improved by remodeling.

Ninety-one staff are returning to Charlie's this summer, out of 150, reports **Dick Shank**.

Volunteers have planted over 10,000 seedlings over the past five years under the Reforestation Project headed by **Jim Barott** (75-79). The goal is to enhance the reestablishment of the conifer population on the base property by planting white pine, white spruce and red pine seedlings.

A group of Charlie Guides and advisors from the Midwest region attended a "first ever" Sommers Canoe Base Midwestern Alumni Rendezvous in March, in Lindsborg, Kansas. It was hosted by **Steve** (72-79) and **Sandy Spencer**.

The Hudson Bay Boys, three recent Charlie guides (**Tom Copeland**, **Evan Durland**, and **Brian Dobry**), started May 31, to paddle 1400 miles from Lake Superior (Grand Portage) to Hudson

Bay. They are reporting their trip on Hudsonbayboys.com.

Attendance in 2004 at the base was 4,149. The seasonal staff totaled 197.

Broken paddles - obits in 2004. Remembered at the September 2004 annual meeting where those affiliated with Northern Tier who passed away in 2004: **Adrian Van Roogen**, former maintenance director at the Rogert Base, Atikokan; **Mike Vosburg**, Moose Lake neighbor and friend; **Dean Townsend**, Okpik leader from the Viking Council since the beginning of the program; and **Jack W. Osborn**, long-time and very active committee member and committee chairman.

Tom Beaton (70-73) has offered to rent his Seliga canoe to alumni for trips in the Quetico/BWAC. Proceeds would be donated to support the Alumni Association scholarship program. Tom says candidates would have to be able bodied enough to insure capable handling of said craft. Contact Tom or **Butch Diesslin** for details.

Mike Hart, mmphart@sbcglobal.net,

writes that while moving recently he discovered a box full of memories from his time as a guide at Charlie's (pictures, maps, etc). which had been stored away for many years. Most notable was a Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base neckerchief signed by all the guides.

Barbara Cary Hall and **Joe Seliga** participated in Ely's Voyageur Winter Festival's opening ceremony February 4, 2005 at the Ely High School. **Doug Hirdler** and several winter staff members marched in the Community Grand March.

Allen Rench (75-79), our immediate past president, is working on a Pictorial Preservation Presentation, archiving thousands of photos from the base. He has developed the means to display Sommers' pictorial history on line and allow registered users to input information about images.



First Winter Base Staff Member Passes Away

Ronald W. Walls, the first winter resident of the Canoe Base, passed away November 13, 2004. Ron, who was 65, was a staff member from 1956-69, then later as a member of the Canoe Base Committee.

He was a graduate of Oklahoma State University, taught English and Chemistry and received a Law Degree at the University of Minnesota. He practiced law in Ely where he also served as City Attorney for a period of time. Ron co-authored the Dayton-Walls legislation for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in 1978. He held a Judicial appointment in St. Louis County District Court and was later the co-owner of Walls & Walls, a Federal Court reporting firm.

Walls is survived by his wife Sandra Moberg Walls, Champlin, MN and sons: Andrew of Champlin, Peter of Blaine, Christopher of St. Paul and daughter Jennie Ivezic of Ely.

PERSONAL INFORMATION UPDATE

Addresses are changing, area codes keep changing, e-mail addresses keep changing. Please send any personal information changes that you would like to share with the SAA and other alumni members to:

Sommers Alumni Association
PO Box 428
Ely, MN 55731-0428

or e-mail the changes to:
Chuck Rose
clrose@stcloudstate.edu

Association members can check SAA's current directory information at www.holry.org

Name: _____

Years at No. Tier: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Fax: _____

Other: _____

Occupation/Employer: _____

Scouter? _____ Position(s) _____ Scout Council: _____

Additional Information To Share: _____

Rendezvous 2004 Is Now History

by Chuck Rose

The gathering of our clan began on Friday, September 3, as people slowly trickled into the Sommers Canoe Base from as far away as Texas, and Alberta. **Barb Cary Hall** and **Cory Godfrey Kolodji** led singing around the campfire until it was finally time to find cabins for the night. Saturday was filled with activities including Cory's voyageur camp, tours of the Base, kids activities with **Sue Kavanah**, **Laurel Theis**, and **Kellie Hendrickson**. Blacksmith **Dave Hanson** was back as well with demonstrations and hands-on experience.

During the business meeting on Saturday afternoon, the following people were elected to serve three-year terms as Directors of the SAA: **Chris Clay**, **Roy Conradi**, **Dave Hyink**, and **Mike Holdgrafer**. There was also a presentation on Charlie's Guide, a booklet of canoe country information and related maps to help interpreters do their jobs. We thank Bill Erickson for all his hard work on this project. **Jack Osborn** became the first person honored posthumously with the George Hedrick Service Award. Jack's wife, **Mary Osborn** and her son, alumnus **John Shelton**, accepted the award on his behalf. As at other rendezvous', we assembled after the meeting for pictures.

Saturday night was the reunion banquet held at the Grand Ely Lodge on the shores of Shagawa Lake. Dinner included entertainment by Canadian folk singer **Rodney Brown**. Once again, our master of ceremonies was **Cory Kolodji**, with his voyageur costume, French accent and usual wit.

Newly elected SAA president **Pat Cox** thanked the volunteers who participated in work weekend (especially their work on the Lodge) and introduced the SAA officers, including Vice President **Mike Holdgrafer**, Treasurer **Nigel Cooper**, and new Secretary **Chuck Rose**.

Northern Tier General Manager **Doug Hirdler** told the crowd of the successes of the past year, including the completion of the new Bay post and planned new building in Atikokan. He also announced the winners of the endowed scholarships. The **Terry Wall** Scholarship was awarded to second year interpreter **Israel Andrasko**. The **Chris Breen** Memorial Scholarship went to **Candace Vinke**, a fourth year staffer who was director of Bissett this past summer. The newest endowed scholarship, the **Edith and Axel Erickson** Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **James Flannery**, who served as check-in officer and interpreter. It was his third year on staff. We wish all the recipients of staff scholarships good luck in the coming year.

Dave Hyink presented a second George Hedrick Service Award to a surprised, but very deserving, **Don Melander** of Duluth. Don has served the Northern Tier for many years as a committee member and with his architectural advice.

Items auctioned at the Rendezvous banquet raised \$1716. The biggest items were two pieces of artwork, an original **Real Berard** painting featuring a pictograph from Northern Lights Lake and a print by **Bob Cary** of

the cabin at Listening Point in winter. While Bob was sitting right up front, Real made an appearance via a video, showing how he creates his art. Other individuals and companies that donated auction items were **XY (Meany) Paddles**, **Kondos Outdoors**, **Granite Gear**, **Skiits Charis**, **Roy Cerny**, **Tom Holleran**, **Stearns**, and **Adventure Marketing (Larry Hanson)**. One auction item (won by Roy Cerny) was a certificate for 100 shares of the **San Gold Corporation**, one of the current owners of the San Antonio Gold Mine in Bissett, Manitoba (just down the road from the BSA's Northern Expedition Base). We thank them all for their contributions.

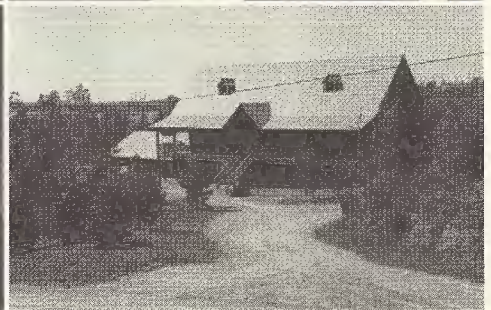
Finally, our banquet speaker was introduced by Canadian program Director **Don McDonald**. **Don Meany** was a Quetico Ranger and canoe racer who founded the XY Paddle Company of Atikokan, Ontario, which has been passed on to his son, Spencer. In 1967, Don decided to participate in a cross-country voyageur canoe race to celebrate Canada's Centennial. He tried out and made the Ontario team. Don regaled us with tales of running rapids and paddling down from Quebec to New York and continuing straight out to the Statue of Liberty (that was just a warm-up for the real race). The race was done in stages, from town to town, so people could witness this living part of their country's history. Despite his team finishing fourth (Manitoba won), it was apparent that he would not trade the experience for anything. He finished his talk by

reading a poem about a young voyageur and then gave an Irish blessing. Thanks, Don. The evening was capped off with **Cory**, **Barb Hall**, **Roger Clapp**, and **Jeremiah Gardner** leading us in The Far Northland. Well, that wasn't the last event of the evening. For example, **Dave Greenlee** and **Mike Bingley** made sure that the current staff (who helped cook and clean for the reunion) made it to the Dairy Queen for treats!

Sunday's Hymn Sing in the Lodge was led by **Cory** and **Barb**, with **Mike Ziehgian** also bringing his guitar. The afternoon's activities included a trip to **Sig Olson's** writing shack in Ely and his cabin at Listening Point on Burntside Lake led by **Larry Hanson** and **Don Richard**. **Chuck** and **Marty Wick** of Ely were our hosts for these tours. Hanging over the fireplace in the Listening Point cabin is a painted paddle. On the blade is a loon and the name "Sig Olson." On the shaft it reads "Sommers Canoe Base." It was a fitting reminder of the link between the Northern Tier program and so many, many good people (past and present) who have contributed to its success.

Invariably, the Rendezvous had to come to an end. We thank all those who helped put the weekend together, including the professional and seasonal staff at Northern Tier, **Ray Mattson** who produced this year's T-shirts, photographers **Roy Conradi** and **Joel Sheagren**, and **Mike Sawinski** who recruited singer **Rodney Brown**. Many of us are looking forward to the next reunion, and the next, and the next, and...

Photos by Roy Conradi



(Continued from page 1)

Plans Changed For 2005, 2006 Work Weeks

event, was left at the dock in favor of one rented from LaTourell's nearby.

2005 Work Week Plan: Work Week for 2005 was pushed back to the fall. Date is early- to mid-October. The place is Bissett. The exact date has not been set, so contact us if you want to join in the fun. We will work with you on the dates if possible. The project is to work with JJ on fixing the Bissett canoes. This will involve a fly out to Scout Lake in Bissett. The flight from Bissett to Scout Lake costs \$150 per person. Please note that this cost is at your own expense. There will be time for fishing on Scout Lake, in addition to the canoe work. Scout Lake and most of the nearby lakes have excellent walleye and trophy northern fishing. For the Charlie Guides

from the late 70's and very early 80's, a portage trail was opened via a brush crash into the lakes north of Scout Lake in the mid-80's. The fishing is excellent in these lakes. It is used regularly now by the Bissett Charlie Guides and is beginning to somewhat look like a portage trail – or at least as much as any portage trail in the area can look like one.

2006 Work Week Plan: We are currently planning to do substantial work on the Lodge restoration project, staff lounge work in Atikokan, SCUBA diving on New Found and Sucker in search of a boat engine for JJ, and other fun projects.

New Work Week Coordinator: Director Dick Shank has volunteered to take over as the coordinator of the annual Red Renner Memorial Work Week.

Lodge "Dusted" During 2004 Fall Work Week

Dust removal and window cleaning...a tough job taken on by our Work Week crowd of volunteers prior to the Rendezvous. Well, not really a crowd – four to be exact. With no Base staff gurus around to direct the volunteers to an assigned project, they voted to spit shine the Lodge. The Mary Maids dusted and polished and washed windows until the Lodge glistened. No more cobwebs on Charles L. Sommers' picture over the fireplace.

The real weight of the project was carried by our organizer (and newly elected president), **Pat Cox**. Other Work Week participants were **Roy Conradi** (59-63); **Roger Clapp** (56-60); and **Maurie Reed** (Grubbie 55).

Thursday was a non-work day. Butch Diesslin took the four for a fishing trip to Washington Island on Basswood Lake. They only caught two fish, but it was enough for a fresh, fish-cooked shore lunch.



Maurice Reed (L) and Roger Clapp dust the Lodge

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