



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Rendezvous Up North on September 1-4

By "Big Red" Mattson (and the Reunion Committee)

In the same manner as our beloved Voyageurs would gather at Grand Portage, Fort William, or any number of other places on the west end of Lake Superior, the upcoming Rendezvous is our chance to gather together to celebrate our time in the Boundary Waters, recall with our friends and colleagues what was, and to see what is today. The biennial reunion of the Sommers Canoe

Base Alumni will be held September 1-4, 1995 at the Ely base (registration form included).

Our Sommers Canoe Base is growing and evolving. Almost everything, from entry to exit, has been remodeled. The dining hall, sauna, Lodge, "Sandy's cabin", and offices have been changed. A new outfitting building has been built, and your Alumni Association built two

new crew accommodation cabins. All this change has put a new feel on the familiar. The constants are still there. Moose Lake, loons, bugs, clear air, portage trails and camaraderie.

This year's theme will be **Rendezvous Up North**. We will be celebrating the introduction of a new Gateway complex to the Canoe Base. The Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee will be on hand to help celebrate. The reunion committee is planning activities not only for former staff members, but also for their families as well. Nordique canoe sessions, smorgasbord cooking events, and other activities will be designed to both entertain and educate family members as to what our experience was all about.

The attendance of the Nat-

ional Committee will allow an opportunity for each of you to meet and talk with them, and to form an even stronger bond of mutual support for the Base and its programs. Our Association is unique among High Adventure groups and is a means of showing a commitment to the continued success of our Canoe Base. The upcoming Reunion is designed to inform our members and families about what is happening and what the future can hold. Your attendance and participation in our weekend of celebration is appreciated by and meaningful to our Canoe Base.

Please make plans now to attend and send in the accompanying registration form. We look forward to sharing an exciting weekend of "Rendezvous" activities with you and your family.

Reflections From "Big Red"

by Ray Mattson

Elsewhere in this issue of Reflections, you will find an article dealing with the construction of the new First Night cabins at the Canoe Base. While I suppose I could repeat much of what is said in that article, I would rather pass along some reflections of a human nature instead.

Aside from attending reunions, my involvement with the Canoe Base has been very minimal, my association with other alumni almost nil, and my main focus has been earning a living in several very hectic businesses.

After shooting my mouth off at the annual member's meeting last fall, I decided to involve myself in the building of these cabins. What I found was astounding. People from four decades of staff involvement met on a Friday night. Saturday morning they walked together for the first time in the northwoods, were presented a task and had formed a team. That team worked long and hard — no complaints, no bickering, no bruised egos, just fantastic results! An observer asked if we had worked together before or had done this construction before. He couldn't believe how well the team functioned. I wondered how and why.

Reflections during and after

turned up the following thoughts. While (as young adults) we were working at the Canoe Base, we formed an undeniable leadership ability necessary to lead our charges in the rigors of the wilderness... yet most of us recognized that we were really filling the role of teacher. Our charges needed to be led, and then lead themselves. I found that very thing happening within our group as roles would change as new tasks arrived. We each led, then followed, and then led again. In addition to our leadership training, I also sensed the commitment to complete a job. A limited time was available and this group was committed to success. No dallying was even suggested.

Last (but not least) was the undeniable effect of the northwoods — the birds, the trees, the loons, and the water. Each washed away the years gone by and made me feel exhilarated as nothing else has been able to do in thirty years.

In the coming years there will be more opportunities for Sommers Alumni to contribute time and energy for the benefit of our Canoe Base. I would like to suggest the experience would be enjoyable. Make time to participate.

Crossing Portages Campaign Off To Tremendous Start

Campaign Chairman, Jay Walne, is pleased to report that through the generosity and commitment of the early responses to our April mailing, we are already over half way (\$65,100) to our goal of raising \$100,000 to fund Association projects through 1999. Thanks the following individuals who have committed to "Sharing the Load": Ray Mattson, Dick Shank, John Fenoglio, Jack Osborn, Dave Hyink, John Parish, Eric Sapir, Steve Spencer, Harlan Hanson, Lou Kleager, Dick Conard, Bob Hingst, Bill Hingst, Ted Hingst, Dave Sitzer, Bob Renner, Clarence Hammett, Rodger Peterson, Mike Quinn, Lou Sabitini, Jeff Dahl, Steve Neidorf, Bob Henry, Fred Morton, Dallas Hill, Ken Klein, Zane Beaton, Barry Bain, Roy Conradi, Art Wirtz, David McGregor, Daryl Van Dyne,

James Guldan, Steve Schwen, Raymond White, Greg Kvam, Dave Greenlee, Charles Hann, Sandy & Cherie Bridges, Blaine Diesslin, Ed Chapin, Paul Schlieve, John Africa, Al Batterman, Henry Bradlich, Robert Morgan, Dean Rau, John Erkkila, Doug McDuff, Lee Sessions, Pat Cox, Jay Walne, John Christiansen, Nigel & Cyd Cooper, Lee Olson, Kevin Peterson, Robert Cargill, Tim Huemiller, Charles Carter, Jack Strickland, Richard Hill, Jean Philip Chaintreuil, John Graham, Alan Everett, Scott Hedges, Phil Cady, Gina DeGrace, Paul Nitardy, and Phillip Swearingen. For those of you just "approaching the landing", please know that: (1) we need your support, (2) it will be put to good use, and (3) every commitment, regardless of amount, is important and highly valued.

Tidbits on the Sommers Clan

By Butch Diesslin

Nick Amann's ('80) new address is 3703 Marlebrough Way, College Park, MD 20740.

Doug Barker has moved to 1408 Pinon Dr., Castle Rock, CO 80104.

Roy Bartee III ('86) has moved to 104 E. 8960 South, Sandy, UT 84070.

Jeff Cahill ('67-69) has moved to 2531 31st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406-1637.

Jeff "Ole" Dahl ('69-73) has moved to P.O. Box 1881, Bisbee, AZ 85605; H: (502) 432-3537. Jeff was part of the Alumni Association's first-night cabin building crew.

Sean ('87-88) and **Chris** ('88-89) **Flanagan** went on a BWCAW canoe trip with their father and friends in mid-June. Sean works for Cool Cat Productions in Grandview, MO.

Roderick "Ottie" Garlitz, seven-time Crew Advisor and father of former staff members Gary ('73), Rick ('76-77), and Mark ('77-78), is retired and lives parts of the year in Brookville, OH and Sault St. Marie, MI.

Aaron Hall ('93) completed a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Tulsa and begins work on a Masters degree in Materials Science at the University of Illinois this fall.

Wade Herbrandson ('86-92) has moved to P.O. Box 452, Ely, MN 55731-0452, where he is working for the Voyageur Outward Bound School.

Brett Hill ('91) is a student in Graphics Communications.

Reggie Knight ('59-62) works for the BSA in the Gulf Stream Council, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Dan Mahoney ('61-64) spends most of the year in New Zealand doing research, teaches Biology Fall quarter at Cal State L.A., and spends some of the summer at his cabin near Ely.

Mark Nordstrom ('69-72) visited the Base during staff training week and went with

one of the brigades on their Swamper/Training/Shakedown trip.

Craig Pendergraft ('68-75) spent a two-week "vacation" in May from his job at Oracle Corp., at the Base building cabins, working on trail equipment, and other forms of relaxation he learned from Henry and Butch.

Shawn Piel ('91-92) is a Nuclear Weapons Technician for the U.S. Air Force at Dyess AFB, TX, Scoutmaster and Council Aquatics Director.

Kimberly Renner ('78-81) and **Leonard Bielawski** were married on the ice at the Moose Lake Public Landing on April 1, 1995. Kim owns KMR Designs, a manufacturer of outdoor clothing. Their new mailing address is P.O. BOX 163, ELY, MN 55731-0163.

Bob "Red" Renner ('51, '56-58, '85-) and **Zane Beaton** ('69-75 '90) spend the first weekend in May preparing the first-night cabin sites to pour footings.

Robert Ringer ('78-79) works for the Georgia DNR in their Environmental Protection Division.

David Starks ('91-94) an arborist in Enid, OK, is working with two Scout Troops, and is planning and organizing a Ten Crew contingent to Northern Tier in 1996.

John "Jock" Stoops ('41-42, '46-47) is director of canoeing and river rafting for the Sportsman's Club of Sun City West, AZ. Jock plans to be at the Reunion in September.

Robert Welch ('52-53) [(206)-454-5628] would like to join a canoe trip before the Reunion. If you are going on a trip and have room, he would appreciate a call or a note.

Robert Winchell ('66-69), his wife and their three children, stopped by the Base while staying at their cabin in the Ely area. Bob is a physician in Des Moines, IA.

Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (0)*	Dave Hyink	(206) 863-6406
Director/Secretary (0)	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Director (0)	Roy Conradi	(404) 496-0920
Director (2)	Zane Beaton	(612) 861-4930
Director (2)	John Christiansen	(417) 646-8526
Director/Vice President (2)	Barry Bain	(612) 944-5178
Director (1)	Lorri Hanson	(503) 744-2814
Director (1)	Jay Walne	(901) 278-2633
Director (1)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 371-2209
Treasurer	Nigel Cooper	(612) 738-1242

*Number in parentheses is years remaining in current term.

Program Liaisons

Mr. Bill Spice	National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Sandy Bridges	Director, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Mr. Robert LaFortune	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee 427 S. Boston #2104 Tulsa, OK 74103-4132
Mr. G. Charles Hann	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee 435 Peavey Building 730 Second Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 338-9019

Outfitting Assistance Available

If you're planning on taking a canoe trip in the Quetico-Superior, near Atikokan or Bissett; Northern Tier will provide outfitting assistance to staff alumni and their friends. Full or partial outfitting through the Base can be obtained at a cost that is less than most commercial rates. Please keep in mind, however, that assistance with food and equipment is subject to availability. For current pricing, contact Northern Tier (218) 365-

4811.

You are responsible for your group's permit reservations for the BWCAW [(800) 745-3399] and/or the Quetico Provincial Park [(807) 597-2735]. Reservations are required for all overnight use of both the BWCAW and the Quetico.

Overnight sleeping bag (your sleeping bag) accommodations at the bases are also subject to availability. Please call the Base and check before coming.

1995 "Rendezvous Up North" Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Housing and Meals *

Date	Friday Sept. 1	Saturday Sept. 2	Sunday Sept. 3	Monday Sept. 4	Subtotal of Days 1-4	x cost per meal or day	TOTAL
Housing (# persons) child/adult				N/A		\$2.00/day	
B'fast (# persons) child/adult	N/A					\$2.00/child \$4.00/adult	
Lunch (# persons) child/adult	N/A					\$2.50/child \$5.00/adult	
Dinner (# persons) child/adult				N/A		\$3.00/child \$6.00/adult	
Saturday ** Dinner Only (# persons)	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	

*Children under 6 eat free. Children 6-12, meals are half price. Housing rates are per person regardless of age — those staying on Base will need to bring their own bedding and towels. We will accommodate special dietary needs if advised in advance.

**Rate applies to those attending Saturday Dinner only.

of Adults _____ # Children: 1-6 years _____ 7-12 years _____ 12 + years _____

There will be a special **Rendezvous Up North** T-shirt (full body graphics) produced for this event. The cost will be \$8.95 each if pre-ordered. There will be a limited supply (essentially excesses above the minimum order quantity) for sale at the Reunion for \$12.00. To reserve your shirts, please indicate below:

Number	Small	Medium	Large	x-Large	xx-Large	Total

Please remit total housing cost with this registration for to ensure your reservation to:

Sommers Alumni Reunion Registration
P.O. Box 428
Ely, MN 55731-0428

____ Sorry, I won't be able to attend, but here's some recent news to share with everyone:

First Night Cabins Built by Alumni

As the "A-Team's" credo states . . . "I love it when a plan comes together." And, plans for two new First Night cabins really came together in late May. Organizing and planning coordinators **John Christiansen** and **Butch Diesslin** worked with **Erling Hegg** to order, acquire, and prepare the building materials. Butch, "**Red**" **Renner**, **Zane Beaton**, **Joe Mattson**, and **Dick Hall** (with the help of the Order of the Arrow) identified and prepared the sites, and poured the footings. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the construction crew consisting of **Ray "Big Red" Mattson**, **Jeff Dahl**, **Craig Pendergraft**, **Al Batterman**, **Lynn Anderson**, **John**

"Johnny-O" Oosterhuis, **Bob "Red" Renner** and **Jason Sanders** took over. Pictured with the partially completed cabin are representatives of four generations of "Charlie Guides" (l. to r. **Oosterhuis** — early

60's, **Sanders** — 90's, **Pendergraft** — late 60's/early 70's, and **Renner** — 50's). Completing the team are all of the contributors to the Crossing Portages — Sharing the Load annual giving program, who

provided the funding. Thanks to everyone! As noted anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, ". . . the actions of a few dedicated people can change the world; in fact, it is the only thing that ever has."



Did You Know?

That . . . Charles Kuralt (of CBS fame) has recently purchased WELY (1450 AM and 92.1 FM). The station will be managed by **Mike** (former heart-throb of Rom's Moose Lake Landing — 1970) and **Julie Hillman** — assisted by **Gil Knight** ('68-69). The station will continue to focus on local programming, including its traditional weekly polka program and emergency and personal message service. Will we once again hear ". . . from the top of the hill on Sheridan street . . .?"

That . . . Ely now has commercial air service via Northwest Airlink which operates one round-trip flight per day from Minneapolis. Anyone holding a ticket to either Duluth or Hibbing may change the destination to Ely for no additional charge.

That . . . some employers will match their employee's (retiree's) gifts to 501 (c) (3) non-profits? **Ed Chapin** remembered that his former employer (First Bank System) did, and sent us the completed paperwork to get his Crossing Portages contribution matched by the FBS Foundation. All we had to do was supply a copy of the IRS tax-exempt letter. Thanks, Ed, for finding a way to double pack!

Alumni Association on the World-Wide-Web?

By Paul Schlieve

Can we get ourselves on the World-Wide-Web? Getting on is easy — keeping a web site up-to-date and interesting is more challenging. It will probably be a while before we have a high-speed Internet connection at the Base — but there is nothing that says that a web site must be located in the woods northeast of Ely! We can physically locate a site just about anywhere.

The nature of the Internet should make it possible for us to overcome the fact that Alumni with WWW skills are probably scattered all over the world. We probably want to start with a single Web server, and use our individual connectivity to the Internet to collaborate on building content. The first step, how-

ever, is to identify a group of Alumni who have some skills in HTML authoring and graphics to put together a site.

If you are interested in work-

ing on such a project, please send e-mail to **Paul Schlieve** at schlieve@unt.edu.

Interactive Touch-Screen Computer Video Installed

By Paul Schlieve

The Lodge has met the computer age. During staff training week, the touch-screen video kiosk, that has been under development for the past two years, was finally set up in the Lodge. It is located against the north wall in the "staircase" room, and will be used for trip planning this summer. It's "area information" will provide the interpreters with color photographs, text, sound, and video footage to assist them in preparing crews for their trips into the woods. The contents include places of interest, information about plants and animals, the fur trade, and area history — including a nice piece on **Dorothy Molter**. A section on Winter Camping will help promote the OKPIK

program, and will also provide information for winter participants once the cold weather arrives.

A 35-inch high-resolution monitor (donated by Oracle Systems/**Craig Pendergraft**) located adjacent to the kiosk will allow larger groups to view the material presented. The reaction by the summer staff has been highly enthusiastic. It is expected that the system will be used thousands of times this summer!

Because this is entirely a computer-based multimedia system, the content can continue to grow in the coming months and years to provide an ever-increasing pool of trip planning information.

President's Message

It has to be impossible — to read the articles in this issue of Reflections, and not be impressed by the results that can be produced when SAA members and friends combine their time, talents, and resources in support of the Northern Tier Bases and their programs! These stories are living proof that, where Sommers Alumni are concerned, the whole is much much greater than the sum of the parts! From "Red" Mattson's musings on multi-generational Sommers teamwork; to Jay Walne's report that we're nearly 65% of the way to our initial Crossing Portages goal, while as yet having heard from just over 20% of our membership; one cannot help but be filled with a deep sense of pride at being a part of something this powerful and this great! I challenge each of you to read this issue — cover-to-cover — and attempt to feel otherwise.

I recently had the good fortune of spending some time discussing the subject of innovation and innovative thinking with management-guru Peter Drucker. He described the most innovative

organizations he knew as "resource poor and aspiration rich", and suggested that they were not generally "comfortable places to work", but were always "exciting places to work." I can attest to the fact that I am not all-together comfortable (seemingly always) asking for peoples' time and money for Association projects; but I can tell you that it never fails to be exciting. And, while rich and poor are only relative measures, I can also assure you that the "rich" level of aspirations of the Association and its membership will always require that we remain highly innovative, as we continue to leverage our resource pool. That's the way it is, the way it should be, and the fundamental reason that we can make such a big difference together!

I had the good fortune recently, to be invited by Sandy, to give a 20-minute slide presentation on the Northern Tier at a High Adventure workshop at the 1995 National Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America. I opened the presentation with one of my favorite Robert

Service poems entitled "The Land of Beyond" because it captures for much of the spir-

it of what we do any why we do it:

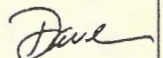
Have you ever heard of the Land of Beyond,
That dreams at the gates of the day?
Alluring it lies, at the skirts of the skies,
And ever so far away;
Alluring it calls: O ye the yoke galls,
And ye of the trail overfond,
By saddle and pack, by paddle and track,
Let's go to the Land of Beyond!

Have you ever stood where the silences brood,
And the vast horizons begin,
At the dawn of the day to behold far away,
The goal you would strive for and win?
Yet ah! in the night when you gain to the height,
With the vast pool of heaven star-spawned,
Afar and a gleam, like a valley of dream,
still mocks you a Land of Beyond.

Thank God! there is always a Land of Beyond,
for us who are true to the trail;
A vision to seek, a beckoning peak,
A fairness that never will fail;
A pride in our soul, that mocks at a goal,
a manhood that irks at a bond,
And try how we will, unattainable still,
Behold it, our Land of Beyond!

The Gateway to Service's Land of Beyond is located at the end of the Moose Lake Road, northeast of Ely. I look forward to seeing each of you there, this September, as we

Rendezvous to renew friendships, recall good times, and dedicate this new Gateway to future generations of scouts, leaders, and staff.



Alumni Conduct Seminars During Staff Training

By Mike Holdgrafer

The summer season kicked off with staff training during the week of June 4th. Training was coordinated the Northern Tier Committee, and several Alumni members were present to conduct seminars and assist with the training efforts this year. Those lending a helpful hand were: **Butch Diesslin, Dick Shank, Al Batterman, Bob Christie, Mark Nordstrom, and Mike Holdgrafer.** Following the graduation dinner on Thursday night, the training brigades assembled in

the newly refurbished Lodge, where **Bob Cary** spun Northwoods' tales with words of inspiration to a new generation of "Charlie Guides." In addition to **Bob, Bill Spice** and **Charley Hann** also addressed the group, while **Sandy Bridges** harkened the staff to "listen to the voices" (within the Lodge) of all those that have preceded them. Afterwards, many of the staff checked out the new interactive video that **Paul Schlieve** and associates had developed — opening a new dimension to the

program.

As in prior years, the collective experience, knowledge and expertise of participating alumni members has proven to be an invaluable resource in staff training — strengthening the tradition and pride we share in the world's finest wilderness canoeing program. Although the true measure of training is not measured until the canoeing season ends, early signs indicated that this was one of the best training sessions ever. Paddles Up! to everyone who devoted their

time and energies to staff training this year. And, special thanks to the Alumni Association. Your efforts in refurbishing the Lodge allowed us to use it as a focal point this year — and in the future — for staff training. At the conclusion of the Thursday night program, the logs and rafters of the Lodge echoed with the greeting of "Hol-rye" and sixty-plus voices of "Red-eye!"



Alumnus John Stoops (1940's) Leads Seniors On River Rafting Expeditions

By Debbie L. Sklar, *Daily News Sun, Sun City, AZ*

Hand John Stoops a paddle, a canoe, or even a river raft, and he's a happy man.

Stoops, '71, of Sun City West, is the director of canoeing and river rafting for the Sportsmen's Club of Sun City West. The club participates in various outdoor sports such as fishing, birding and hiking. The group meets at 1 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

"I've been rafting for eight years. I learned with a Methodist minister who took youth groups on the San Juan River," said Stoops, who was wearing a khaki-colored hat. "After I went on that trip, I was hooked on rafting.

"The thrill of it, for me, is the expectation of where the raft is

going to go," he said. "It's an amazing thing to do and the outdoor beauty of it is incredible."

These days, Stoops takes everyone from Sun Citians to teens river rafting throughout the region. A few weeks ago, Stoops took a group rafting down the Rio Verde. In April, he plans on going to the Upper Salt River with the Blue Skies and White Water Rafting Co. In May, he will take another group to the western Grand Canyon with the Yavapai Indians.

"The seniors love it," he said. "I took a group of them a few weeks ago down the Rio Verde, and just before we took off, it started to mist. A lot of them didn't want to go because it was raining, but once we

headed out, they were fine.

"Actually, they loved it because once we were on the river, we spotted an American bald eagle in a tree," he said. "It was great. We floated about six miles from Needle Rock to the north end of McDowell, near the Indian reservation where we saw another American eagle nesting in a cottonwood tree."

Stoops said participants need not be experienced or have expensive equipment to attend the adventures. "They certainly don't need any experience, and we provide all of them with life jackets," he said.

Stoops, born in West Virginia but raised in Oklahoma and Kansas, has canoed through the Ozark streams for more than 30 years.

"I just did it for the fun of it with the family," said the former claim manager for an insurance agency in Kansas City. "Now, I like to go out either river rafting or canoeing at least once a week."



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