

## SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## REFLECTIONS

## NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE



## Millennium Rendezvous Very Near

Hol-Ry Charlie Guides. Rendezvous 2000 will be held during the first three days of September, the first through the third. The location will be the end of Moose Lake Road - The Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base, Ely, Minnesota, 55731.

**Don't Wait**

You need to register now, in advance, if you plan to stay at the Base. Please do this by returning the registration form, not by contacting the base. You will be notified if cabins are full when your reservation form is received. The notice will go to the address you give on your reservation form. Staff and crews will be on the Base when we are arriving for the reunion, so please be discreet. Not all cabins will be available to us. Do not move into a cabin until you check-in.

**Check-in**

At the Ely base check-in cabin will last until about 9:00 on Friday evening and resume Saturday morning after breakfast and continue until about 11:00 a.m. If you will be arriving later than that, please let us know when you register. We'll deal with unexpected matters and surprises on an ad hoc basis.

**Details**

Rendezvous 2000 formally opens on Friday evening with check in and cabin assignments. There will be no ceremony, just people getting together and renewing acquaintances. There will be plenty of open time to meet your fellow travelers and reminisce at the place of your choosing.

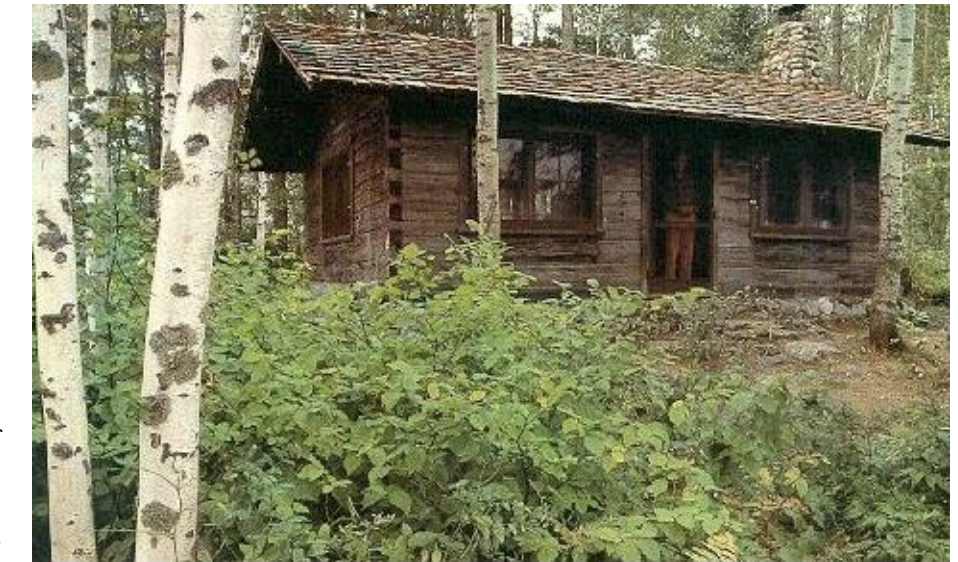
**Stuff**

We have a new item this year. Red Jac Shirts (staff item in the 50s & 60s) will be available this year. For those of us from a different era, this is a heavy wool shirt made at Bemidji Woolen Mills. Color options are Red or Red. It is high quality material and nicely built. The SAA logo is embroidered on the breast. T-Shirts, Polos, Red Jac Shirts and Knives are available by

preregistration. Even if you can't attend you can pre-order and it will be mailed to you after the event. We ran short and could not fill all requests last time (pre-orders were filled first). Grohmann knives with special markings on the blade for the reunion are also available. More on the knives on page three.

**Auction**

We will hold an auction of some donated camping and canoeing related items on Saturday prior to our featured speaker. If you would like to donate items for this auction, please contact either Patrick Cox or Chuck Rose.



*Sigurd Olson's cabin on Listening Point of Burntside Lake. Sigurd's son Robert is now president of The Listening Point Foundation, which works to preserve Sigurd Olson's legacy. Robert, a former Sommers staff member, is the featured speaker for Rendezvous 2000*

**Speaker**

This year's Rendezvous speaker will be Robert Olson. Robert worked on the Sommers staff in

the 40s and is the son of the distinguished author Sigurd Olson, who wrote much about our beloved canoe country. Robert is president of The Listening Point Foundation, Inc., which was founded in 1998 to preserve and protect "Listening Point," the Burntside Lake prop-

erty that served as a getaway place for Sigurd F. Olson, and to promote Sigurd's philosophy and build on his legacy in the field of wilderness education. Robert said last year at

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to follow their own feelings, to do what they thought best for them and not to imitate him or anyone else."

**Making BWCAW Reservations**

Applications for the 2000 season may be submitted by web site, fax, or mail. The BWCAW Reservation Fee has changed from \$9.00 to \$12.00 for the 2000 season. The overnight user fee will remain the same. However, when making an overnight reservation, a \$20 deposit is required regardless of party size. The remaining user fee is paid based on group size upon arrival at the permit issuing station.

Last year's storm changed the

wilderness for years to come and has created the opportunity for new experiences as well as new risks for visitors. Because of the potential fire danger associated with the blowdown, fire restrictions may be put into effect. Check on current fire restrictions just prior to your trip, as you may be required to use a campstove. There are areas in the BWCAW where it is impossible to hang your pack because of a lack of standing trees. BWCAW

recommends that you pack food items in specially-designed bear-proof containers.

Call the Forest Service at (218)626-4300 if you need more information. To make reservations: BWCAW Reservation Center P.O. Box 462 Ballston Spa, NY 12020 Phone: 877-550-6777 (toll free) TDD: 877-TDD-NRRS (toll free) FAX: 518-884-9951 Web Site: <http://www.bwcaw.org/>

## President's Message

by Dave Hyink

For years, I've labored under the misapprehension that as I got older, I'd be less prone to procrastinate. Looks like I've been wrong. I will say, that as I mature, I do seem to worry more about those things that have been the object of my procrastination. Take, for example, registering for the 2000 Sommers Alumni Rendezvous. I've had the form since the last newsletter was published in April (Heck, when I was in charge of planning Rendezvous, I was lucky to have the form to folks by mid-July!). Perhaps this is the reason

that the Rendezvous of recent years have been so successful! Could it be that "proper planning prevents poor performance?" I've fussed for weeks about taking time to fill it out. It isn't like I had to make up my mind about going. I always attend. And I always have the time of my life! Wouldn't miss it!

So today, I completed the form and sent it in? What's your excuse? Return your form today and give our great Rendezvous 2000 the information they need to make this year's event one of the best ever. I look forward to seeing you there!

## Tidbits on the Sommers Clan

Virpi Vayrynen-Lamminpaa Works as Information Technology Assistant, Nokia Communication. Her address is: Lahtomaenkatu 10 B 9 FIN-33580 Tampere, Finland virpi.vayrynen@nokia.com vivayryn@sci.fi +358-3-356 3339, home +358-40-747 5620, mobile

Mikko Lamminpaa works for the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission, in Ireland. His address is: Lahtomaenkatu 10 B 9 FIN-33580 Tampere, Finland mikko.lamminpaa@sci.fi

Ingrid Ploke, 1987, of Switzerland moved to Australia in late 1980s.

Marja Tuominen, 1984 is nowadays Marja Kosola.

Paivi Vuorela, 1984 is Paivi Miilunpalo.

Kurt Muller, 1984 summer and winter, works as a researcher, Ph.D., at the University of Jyvaskyla, Finland

University of Jyvaskyla  
P.O. Box 35  
Fin-40351 Jyvaskyla  
Finland  
muller@psyka.jyu.fi  
Anne Lyly 1992 and Jussi Lyly,

1984, 1987, 1988, 1992 had trips in August, 1999.

The daughter was named Kerttu and the sons are Valtteri and Verner. Previously they already had a daughter, Iida. Watch out, you have only some 18 years of time to learn the identical twin brothers apart!

Kai Puustinen, an Okpik Instructor of 1989, is the editor-in-chief of the first outdoor magazine in Finland.

Last summer a group of six scouts from Voyageur Area Council, Minnesota, led by Ray and Virginia Hatinen, visited Finland on a seven-day visit. It included a cycling, hiking, boating, Finnish baseball, visit to Iittala glass factory, and literally building a bridge between scouting in USA and Finland, on the camp area of Virpi's troop.

As the second part of the Finnish American Scout Exchange, a group of scouts from Tampere, Finland, led by Mikko, visits Minnesota in July-August. The highlight of the visit is of course a seven-day canoe trip Quetico.

Information provided by Mikko Lamminpaa

## Alumni Association Directors and Officers\*

Director/President (2)**	Dave Hyink	(253) 863-6406
Director/Vice President (1)	Barry Bain	(612) 944-5178
Director/Secretary (2)**	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Treasurer**	Nigel Cooper	(651) 738-1242
Director (3)	Patrick Cox	(847) 223-6074
Director (3)**	Dave Greenlee	(605) 594-6287
Director (3)	Chuck Rose	(320) 252-2768
Director (3)	Jay Walne	(901) 278-2633
Director (1)	John Christiansen	(417) 646-8512
Director (1)	Mark Nordstrom	(614) 833-0499
Director (1)	Linnea Renner	(218) 365-3655
Director (2)	Roy Conradi	(770) 972-8115
Director (2)	Robert Welsh	(425) 454-5628
At-large**	Michael McMahon	(651) 483-5759

\*Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

\*\*Executive Committee Member

## Program Liaisons

Mr. Keith Galloway National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 87714 (505) 376-2281

Mr. Doug Hirdler Director and General Manager, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731-0509 (218) 365-4811

Mr. John W. Creighton, Jr. Chairman, National High Adventure Committee Madrona Group 1000-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Suite 3700 Seattle, WA 98104

Mr. John L. Parish, Sr. Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee P.O. Box 550 Tullahoma, TN 37388

## Membership has its privileges

by Chuck Rose

Honestly, I didn't know. But when the sirens flashed, I glanced at my speedometer. Yep, too fast.

"May I see your license?" the officer said. After the usual exchange, he continued, "Well, everyone appears to be buckled up tight and anyone from Sommers can't be all bad so I'll just give you a warning." He had seen my HOLRY!

bumper sticker and Sommers Alumni Association membership decal.

Seems that he had been to the Base three times as a Scout, he obviously had a good time. If you haven't already, join the SAA (your membership benefits may vary).

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# New Chief Executive is Parent of A Scout

The Boy Scouts of America came under a new administration June 1 of this year. Roy L. Williams is the new Chief Scout Executive, directing the administration of approximately 7,400 employees and almost 1.3 million adult volunteers.

Williams has been active in Scouting since his youth and is now active in his son's troop. He has also served as Wood Badge instructor and Order of the Arrow chapter and lodge adviser. He is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. His professional career includes service as a district executive in Graham and Abilene Texas; finance director in Little Rock, Arkansas; and Scout executive in Topeka, Kansas, and Providence, Rhode Island. He has held the national positions of director, Boy

Scout Division and regional director, Western Region. Williams has served on several Boy Scout professional conference steering committees and chaired many task forces on issues relating to Scouting.

Williams is succeeding Jere B. Ratcliffe who retired as Chief Scout Executive.

Roy L. Williams has served as a member of his church's board and chairman of its pastor parish committee. He has chaired several United Way committees and United Way agency campaigns in several communities. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served in Texas, California, and Okinawa. He has been active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Rotary International, Kiwanis and Jaycees. He has served as presi-

dent of his parent-teacher association.

Northern Tier General Manager Doug Hirdler is enthusiastic about Williams' selection as Chief Scout Executive. "Needless to say, we cannot wait until Roy comes to Northern Tier. Hopefully, that will be with his son's unit, as Roy hiked the trails at Philmont this summer as an adult leader with his son's troop."

Hirdler says this is the first time in at least 32 years that the Chief Scout Executive was young enough to have a son involved in Scouting during his time as chief. "Roy will be good for high adventure and Northern Tier will be good for him!"



Chief Scout Executive Roy L. Williams

## Good Memories and Gridlock

by John O Thurston

Last weekend my wife, Becky, and I were visiting our daughter Gretta and our grandson in Dallas. Our other daughter Robin and her two daughters were with us as well. Saturday morning we all loaded up to go to our five year old grandson's soccer game. We were running late and found ourselves in the kind of traffic produced by thousands of soccer parents, on their way to the most important sporting event of the week. At one point, we sat in total gridlock, when a pickup, pulling a trailer-load of canoes, came into sight.

My daughter must have noticed the effect it had on me because she said "What are you thinking, dad?" She knew very well where the sight of a canoe takes me. I think that she goes there too. I am transported to the calm of a beautiful wilderness lake and that "little mini mind trip" has a very calming effect on me. Just before the canoe sighting, I was thinking to myself, how does an old Charlie Guide, an avid outdoorsman, find himself in so many traffic jams and other unpleasant big city situations. Just the day before I had been packed like a sardine into a very unpleasant commuter flight going to Dallas.

Actually, even though the quarters were horrible on that flight, it wasn't really so bad because I was busy pointing out the clouds to my two year old granddaughter and

keeping track of all the rivers we crossed as we flew from South to North Texas. The guy ahead of me must have heard me describing or naming every lake, reservoir and river to my granddaughter. He started to ask about every town and city we saw. I have always loved maps and I guess it is second nature to keep track of where I am even on a plane. The time on the cramped plane was actually quite pleasant for me. I wasn't really on the flight. I was busy messing with boats, and rivers, and showing my granddaughter the clouds.

Like many old Charlie Guides, I find myself in an administrative job spending much of each day at a desk with a computer screen worrying about cash flow, liability, and keeping a complex organization moving ahead. That was definitely not my life's dream when I was a Charlie Guide long ago. That's not what I dreamed about doing as I paddled down a wilderness lake, in a Seliga, on those warm summer afternoons 35 years ago. But, paddling down a wilderness lake or sitting in a good campsite, after a good fish dinner, up in Mackenzie Bay, watching the loons play on the calm cool lake is exactly where I find myself when I need a "little mini mind trip." What I did 35 years ago is exactly what I do several times every day, and I am grateful that I have those memories to go to when

I have the need.

There are lots of positive outcomes that we can describe after a trip into Boundary Waters. There are skills learned, leadership lessons, good food, good fellowship and if we are doing it right, we are molding good character in some promising young people.

It was hard for me when we began to call the Charlie Guides, Interpreters. But, as I think back, that's exactly what the good ones were. They helped the

crewmembers by letting them see the beauty, the calm, the history and the natural world around them. Interpreters and old Charlie Guides help the crew member understand and really feel the experience. If we do our job as an interpreter, we also teach them to collect real memories. . . and those memories can be played back later, when they need a little calm or adventure in the more urban lives which will likely lay ahead. Good memories can make gridlock fun.

### Reunion Memento Knife



Grohmann knives for the reunion are being made up now. We are making 100 of them. The folding knives are 1.4 oz. in weight. The blade is  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and the knife is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, folded. The handle is black Zytel and is very thin for carrying in the pocket, but rugged enough for the woods. It will have the twilight paddlers on one side of the blade and the Indian in the canoe on the other side of the blade. The sales price will be around \$29. We wanted to make this an item that everyone could afford and something that they could carry for everyday use, but yet be strong enough for the woods. This knife will not have a sheath. It is made for lightweight pocket use. They have a strong blade, though and are easy to sharpen. They also have a lifetime warranty from Grohmann Knives of Picto, Nova Socia. The blade locks open. The knife shown in this picture from Grohmann has a serrated edge, the reunion memento knife has a straight edge. *Information supplied by Larry Whitmore*

# A Charlie Guide Can Make The Difference

by John LeBlanc

Six canoes approached Prairie Portage in a soft, light rain. Just two hours earlier those same canoes carrying thirteen scouts, four adult leaders and one Charlie Guide had left the Sommers Canoe Base on Moose Lake for a ten day canoe trip into Quetico Provincial Park. For seventeen of those paddlers, it was the trip of a lifetime. For the other, a Charlie Guide, it was his job.

Donnan Christensen was the Charlie Guide. He worked at Sommers to help pay college expenses. It was a tough job leading canoes of scouts all summer long, but someone had to do it. Don did it well.

The canoe trip had been the focus of attention for over a year as Troop 82 in Port Arthur, Texas prepared themselves for their northern journey. Physical training was on schedule when we left home. We had worked hard and we were prepared. Or so we thought. What we were not prepared for was the weather. For a group of people from an area that gets more rain than anywhere in the United States except Seattle, we were not doing very well. The rain was getting to our boys. Complacency was setting in. This was only the first day of a ten day voyage. At this rate, we were in for a long and miserable trip.

Boys rode the middle "duffer" position almost in a daze. Packs that were opened to get to rain gear stayed that way. Bilge began to fill with rainwater and soaked through the Duluth packs. Rain trickled down into the dry corners of sleeping bags. At the first lunch stop right after the portage into Carp Lake, three boys wanted to turn around and go back.

From my position in the bow of Don's Seliga canoe, I could see that things had to change. My journal entry expresses my concern and hope for turning it around. Don and I talked various strategies to get the crew functioning properly.

Listening from his position in the middle of the canoe was Bobby Jefferson, the smallest boy on the trip. Bobby had constantly worked to bail out the rainwater from the bottom of the wood and canvass canoe that we were traveling in and had done a good job. He was using

his drinking cup and bandana and was keeping it almost as dry as on a sunny summer day. He spoke up. "Just tell them what they got to do and make them do it," was his solution to the problem. "I mean I am not having the most fun in my life, but at least our packs and clothes are all dry and so are the sleeping bags. All you got to do is work at it."

Several portages tested our mettle to see if we really wanted to be on Knife Lake for the first night of the trip. After some moaning and groaning, our crew all made it onto Knife and found a vacant campsite just across the Canadian border and down a ways from Dorothy Molter's Isle of The Pines.

As the tents were going up, it continued to rain. Not hard, but steady. The cooking detail fixed Boundary Waters Stew and all enjoyed a warm meal. After a dessert of warm pudding, the cleanup detail did their thing in the kitchen. Don then called all the scouts together. We had what some called "thorns and roses."

People aired their likes and dislikes. Listening to the crew, I was appalled. Bobby Jefferson was the fall guy. The smallest boy, the only one who had successfully kept his canoe bilge and packs dry was blamed for anything and everything that went wrong. I did not like what was happening to Bobby and told Don so. I knew what he was going through. Just seven years earlier, I was in those same shoes at Philmont. Don told me, "we'll fix that."

This treatment is pretty hard to take as an adult, but is nearly impossible at age fourteen. Bobby simply wanted to please. He was riding in the wood and canvas canoe with the Charlie Guide, a position of pride and had earned his keep on the first day. Very few of the others could say that. So far, he was pretty much holding his own. Finally the session ended. A few minutes went by, then Don called everyone together under the dining fly to escape another rain shower and said the things that needed saying. He told the scouts what each job was and how it needed to be done. These things would have worked themselves out in time, but time was running out for us.

We already had wet sleeping bags that needed drying out and we were just in the first day of the trip. It was "show and tell," "touch and feel" as Don went over the finer points of packing their gear in a Duluth pack so it would stay dry. The duties of the "bilge keeper" were defined and understood by all.

The eight sleeping bags that were soaked were a total disaster for most people, not for Don. With some help, he cut up a big deadfall into two-foot logs, split them and built an enormous fire that would warm and dry the wet gear. By today's standards, it was unacceptable, but very welcomed in the "big bonfire" days back then.

As the sleeping bags were being dried, Bobby huddled around the fire in his shorts and T-shirt. When Don asked if he thought he might need to put on a jacket, Bobby said he could not because he had left his back at the base. "I'll be O.K.," he said with a smile. Don being a man of few words simply winced at the words.

In a few minutes Don said, "John and Bobby, come with me." While the crew dried sleeping bags, Don took us down the lake to see Dorothy Molter. It was after dark when we got there. Don told her we wanted to buy some root beer. "not until you come in and warm up first" was her reply. There in her cabin we warmed Bobby with coffee and her wood stove, fed him a candy bar or two and a root beer.

Don explained Bobby's problem. Dorothy found a jacket tucked away in the corner to loan Bobby. When he told her that we would not be coming back this way, she simply told him to mail it back to her when he got home.

What ensued was and still is the most memorable evening visit with anyone I have ever had. What we did not talk about does not exist. After about two hours, we told her that we had to go back to check on the others. We swore Bobby to secrecy as to what we had done and where we had been. He told no one.

We returned to our campsite just in time to hear the cheers as the last sleeping bag was declared dry. The fire was doused and we all went to sleep.

The next morning proved to be a different kind of day. It was still raining, as it would for the rest of the canoe trip, but it was a different group of boys as they busily did what they had to do. About halfway through the trip, Bobby commented to Don, "See, I told you how to get them to do it." Bobby was so proud that his method had worked.

*Donnan Christensen lives with his family near the shore of Lake Superior in Hayward, Wisconsin. John LeBlanc lives with his family in the coastal town of Bridge City, Texas. Both are avid canoeist and outdoorsmen. Bobby Jefferson's spirit lives on in their hearts and minds.*

## Tales from the Tall Timbers

by Lodgepole Larr

### Flying Little Pigs

The moonlight swells  
Across Glistening waters deep  
And whistling wings  
Above the Isle of Pines  
in night flight  
Has brought them homeward  
bound  
From winter's  
Long eminence, abandoned sleep  
  
To find their mentor gone  
Foster mother  
Who had born them well  
From babe  
to winged fowl  
  
No longer to hear  
The swish of corn

Along the shaded sands  
No longer to take a tasty treat  
From out of loving hands  
Oh! To hear the voice!  
With sweet refrain!  
Be gone! You flying little pigs!!!  
Only, now! Left!  
Wandering upon the northern  
Winds!  
That whisper through those Isles  
And speared pines  
Shadow into a silvered mist  
That glimmered and danced  
Before fading light and life!  
To find that Dorothy!  
Their beloved friend!  
Had Moved!!  
To another island!

# Alumni Association Looking for “Lost” Members

There are many former staffers who find the association and join, others can't find us or don't know anything about us. If you can help locate some of the former staff members and introduce them to the association, please do it soon. This is the second part of the long list of folks the association has not been able to locate. Look for the rest of the list in upcoming issues. If you see a name you know, try to find the person. Introduce them to our web site, get their address so we can send them a newsletter, let them know about the reunions.

- Flinsch, F. Michael 1956  
Fosgate, Lonnie 1974  
Fowler, Kim 1984
- Fox, Rick 1987  
Fritzmeier, Bob 1966  
Furey, Patrick 1987-90
- Gallant, John 1975-78  
Garriott, Charlie 1968-69  
Gauffin, Claus 1991
- Georgitis, Nathan 1996  
Gill, Bill 1966  
Gillen, Mark
- Gillespie, Kim 1976  
Gillingham, Heidi 1996  
Goebel, Jill 1977
- Golding, Daniel 1987-89  
Goodman, Scott 1983  
Gossman, Bill 1970
- Grabar, Paul  
Grabow, Paul 1975-76  
Graham, Justin 1993-94
- Granskow, David 1956  
Grant, Scott 1977-78  
Gray, Bill 1968-69
- Gray, John 1974  
Gribble, Kathy 1978-79  
Griffith, Mark 1986-87
- Gruner, Bob 1975  
Grunzweig, Nick 1974  
Guttormsen, Hal 1968
- Guttormsen, Joel 1972-73  
Guttormsen, Judy 1973  
Haas, Fred 1974
- Haas, Jerry 1968  
Haas, Steve 1961  
Habicht, Dave 1970
- Hammerton, Neil 1978  
Hanson, Dan 1971-73  
Hanson, Jerry L. 1958
- Harjula, Jay 1974  
Harmon, Ben 1979-80  
Harrison, Matt 1980
- Hart, Alexander 1991  
Hart, C. Tom 1978-79  
Hawker, Brian 1980
- Hawkins, Gregory 1992  
Hedenberg, Jack 1986-88  
Heise, Warren 1956
- Helledy, John 1956  
Henderson, John 1961  
Hendricks, Ed 1956
- Henning, Tim 1986  
Hepner, W. Sandy 1969-70  
Herman, Bob 1969
- Herther, Terry 1955-56  
Heverly, Michael 1955  
Higdon, Samuel 1956
- Hilde, Hal 1970-71  
Hileman, Doug 1977  
Hill, Nicholas 1956
- Hoffbeck, Chad 1956  
Hoffman, John  
Holm, Dick 1966
- Houchin, Dan 1968  
Howe, Jim 1975  
Hoyt, David 1990
- Hughes, Chris 1975-76  
Hughes, Jason 1991  
Hullar, Timothy 1987
- Hulstrand, Mark 1985  
Hutchinson, John 1975  
Isaacson, Ben 1997
- Isackson, Ron 1966  
Iverson, Ryan 1998  
Jacisin, Chris 1983
- James, Steve 1978  
Janssen, Willis 1970-72  
Johnny, Bob 1986
- Johnson, Bruce 1966-68  
Johnson, Jeff 1974  
Johnson, Jon 1970
- Johnson, Mark 1970  
Johnson, Michael 1987  
Johnson, Paul 1955-56
- Jones, Anthony 1974  
Jones, P. Wayne 1956  
Jones, Reed 1979
- Jones, Todd 1990  
Jones, Will  
Karch, Rick 1975-76
- Keating, Kelly 1975  
Keeton, David 1978  
Keller, John 1990-91
- Kelley, Lionel 1978-80  
Kelley, Warren 1984  
Kerschbaum, John 1976
- Kilmer, David 1969  
Kimball, Bud 1961  
King, John 1966
- King, Tim 1968  
King, Vince 1978  
Kizer, Robert 1953
- Kleager, James 1991-92,96  
Kline, Jim 1970  
Klusman, Jim 1966
- Knouse, Chuck 1970  
Knudsen, Jerry 1953  
Knutson, Arlen 1956
- Koelker, Timothy 1985  
Koenig, Eddie 1955  
Koester, Karl 1984
- Kolodji, Paul 1984,86  
Koons, Dave 1974  
Korf, Phil 1974
- Korteum, Kevin 1994  
Kortz, Jim 1970  
Kotovskiy, Jack 1986
- Krueger, Leonard 1956  
Kumler, Jay 1983-84  
Kurt, Wayne 1975
- Laduke, Kerry 1966  
LaFollette, Dennis 1975-76  
Lamon, Brian 1975-76
- Landon, John 1966  
Languell, Bob 1975  
LaPlante, Bill 1982-84
- Lawrence, Alan 1974  
Lawver, George 1990  
Lawver, Jeannine 1990
- Leggate, Warren 1963  
Likely, James 1984-85  
Likely, Scott 1986-87
- Linden, Hank 1972-72  
Little, Chris 1969  
Loomis, Bill 1961
- Ludman, Don 1966  
Mahoney, Sean 1987-88  
Malmskog, Judy 1989
- Maloney, James 1955-56  
Mantell, Bob 1980  
Martin, Dave -1975
- Matheson, Jeff 1970  
McCain, Cris 1961  
McClary, Robb 1966
- McCloskey IV, Charles 1987  
McCommons, Scott 1971-73  
McCormick, Cameron 1986
- McCoy, Richard 1972-73  
McCulloch, Jim 1963-66  
McCurry, Paul 1969
- McDaniel, Terry 1965  
McElroy, Kevin 1980-84  
McEwen, Pete 1966-70
- McGauley, Erin 1997  
McHardy, George 1985-86  
McKee, Brad 1979
- McKee, Phillip 1986-87  
McKinney, Dale 1975  
McKinney, Kenny 1975
- McLaren, Bruce 1961-62
- McNeil, Robert 1955  
McNichol, Brian 1960
- McRoberts, David 1990  
Micklavcich, Shawn 1987  
Millard, Steve 1964
- Miller, Anthony  
Miller, Bob 1968-70  
Miller, Lewis 1956
- Monson, Lynn 1975-77  
Moore, Bill 1966  
Moore, Greg 1967-69
- Moreno, Claudia 1983  
Muller, Kurt 1984  
Munson, Gary 1968
- Musberger, Andrew  
Myers, John 1970  
Neal, Brian 1990
- Neisse, Bruce 1966  
Neisse, Darryl 1966  
Nellis, Don 1978-80

# The Home of the Northern Woodsmen

by Clyde S. "Sandy" Bridges

In the slightly faded memories of my early Scouting days (the early 1950s) I can very clearly see a door on a room in the staff quarters at Camp Quapaw. Camp Quapaw was located on the Saline River between Little Rock and Hot Springs, Arkansas. For several years it was my second home. There was a map of the canoe country on that door and a crude sign that read "Home of the Northern Woodsmen." To live in that room you had to have been on a canoe trip to the canoe base in Ely.

Later that summer our camp had Scout visitors from Sweden. You should have seen them! Their uniforms were different, they had sleeping bags filled with crushed foam that rolled up about the size of a football, packs that were really neat and fancy sheath knives.

Well, that did it. I had two quests. One was to somehow get to the Canoe Base so I could live in that room! The other was to someday meet other international Scouts. Those quests, however, seemed similar to wanting to see the dark side of the moon. Or so I thought.

The year 1956 was a big one for me. I became an Eagle Scout and was elected Lodge Chief for the Order of the Arrow. The biggest thrill that year was having the chance to serve as an assistant leader on a trip to the Canoe Country. When I returned, I also had the opportunity to attend the National Order of the Arrow conference in Bloomington, Indiana. At the conference I got the chance to meet Dr. Goodman, the founder, and attend a special program called "Lite Pack Camping." It was a project of Ernie Schmidt, BSA National Camping Service, and focused on camping with lightweight equipment especially for canoe trips.

The trip to Ely was really fantastic. Our guide, Paul Johnson — called the "little Swede" — took us to Kawnipi where we caught some of the largest fish I had ever seen. I was one of the largest in the group so I was picked as a canoe carrier. Our canoe was an Old Town so I got a taste of portaging early on. On the way home there was a bad storm on Agnes, and much to my distress, I lost my glasses. When I got home I vowed to someday return to see what I had missed.

The turkey dinner in the dining hall in the Lodge was great. I had

also enjoyed the "beans and wieners" before we went out. The wieners were actually polish sausage, and they were much better than the "hot dogs" I was used to. The last evening on the Base when we were presented with the emblem of the Indian in the canoe and we sang the Canoe Base song we felt that we had "arrived." We all had really been awed by the experience.

The men in charge - Oren Felton, Parley Tuttle and Henry Bradlich - all seemed as though they were true Paul Bunyans. The guides were very special, with names like "Cherokee" and "Swede." They all had knives with beautiful handmade sheaths; a couple even had sheaths made from the tail of a snapping turtle. Each guide also had a leather sheath to hold a small pair of "side-cutting" pliers and a pouch for their pocket knife (no self-respecting guide would carry their pocket knife in a pocket). On the other side of their belt they had a hank of cord to use for the food bags. They were our idea of what real Scouts were all about. They were more confident than anyone I had ever met.

I had spent many summers at Quapaw but what a difference to be at an Explorer Canoe Base. When I returned to camp it took me almost a week to find a pair of "side-cutters" and to have a pouch on my belt for it and my "pocket" knife.

The summer of 1957 was my last a Camp Quapaw. I had just graduated from high school and had a National Guard commitment for August, so traveling anywhere else was out of the question. A close friend, Jim McDaniel, who had been on a previous trip to Ely, applied at the Canoe Base and was accepted. I am sure my envy showed. Later that summer I was presented with the Vigil award in the Order of the Arrow. During the all-night vigil, my thoughts turned toward two things. First, to those that helped me through my early days of Scouting, and second, to the experience of the canoe trip - the real highlight of my Scouting days.

I finally applied for a position at the Base in 1959 and, to my surprise, was accepted. I was now one of those "guides." I couldn't believe it. During our training, one of the main things that was emphasized was "tradition." The staff

members at the Base were very proud of the long tradition of canoeing in the northwoods and what it meant to be a "guide." They emphasized how important it was for us to pass on these traditions to the crews that we would take out. They said that as soon as possible, we should choose a totem and paint it on our paddle. At the end of the "guides trip" they branded our paddles with the Region Ten "X" and dipped the tip in red paint. Like it or not - we were committed! We even had official Canadian Guides Licenses to prove it.

They spoke of Carl Chase and Hod Ludlow as if they were saints. Years later when I finally met Hod, I guess I would have to agree; he was really something special and his vision and wisdom were so important in the early days.

During the summer I mentioned to Henry that I would really like to see what the canoe country looked like in the winter. His comment was "come on up - I'll show you!" So Mick Hedrick and I decided to go on a snowshoe trip. Henry and Jane were fantastic hosts when I arrived in Eveleth (with more clothes on than I had ever owned before). Henry and Bill took me to Ely and out to the Base the next day. Wouldn't you know it, it rained and rained, so there was no snowshoe trip but a delightful opportunity to be hosted in Ely by Sig and Elizabeth Olson - something I still cherish. I suppose the seeds for OKPIK were planted that day.

In 1960, I was fortunate to return again. But in 1961, the Russians decided to build a wall in Berlin, so my summer experience was at a Fort run by our Uncle in Washington. During my Army days, reminiscing about the canoe country helped me to stay focused. I wrote and sent canoe country sketches to Sig and Mr. Randall (I had carried a Randall knife on my trips). They both wrote back and were very supportive. I began to see that if you wanted something, the first step was to just get out and do it.

I returned to the Base for a winter trip in December of 1962. This time I did get to go snowshoeing. I took a solo trip from Deer Trail Lodge on Twin Lake to visit my friends, Canadian Ranger and his wife, Rod and Lee Salchert, at Cabin 16 on Basswood. A real experience and one I will never forget. I had a

US Air Force survival kit with me. Much to my surprise, at below zero temperatures, nothing much worked! The paulin (tarp) came out in pieces, all the plastics were cracked, etc. The temperature the first morning had been below minus 40, the plastic on my steering wheel drew up around the metal frame leaving a gap of about one inch on each side. I once again traveled to Minnesota in the late winter (1963) to spend a year at the Base. I never returned to the "Sunny South."

In 1970 Cherie and I were married in the Lodge. On the first of September, I became the Base Director. What a change. What responsibilities! Just upholding the traditions of the Base was awesome. I needed help, and I got it. I had many talks with people I had known at the Base and those from St. Paul who were the professional people responsible. I, of course, had spent a great deal of time with Henry. He was my ideal of what we were all about. One of my closest contacts and a real mentor for me was George Hedrick.

George had three sons who had worked at the Base. His oldest son, Robert, had been a guide but had been killed during a college outing. I had been on the staff with both Mick and Dave. George had never been the Director (actually he always joked and said that he had served for a month or so at one time) but his dedication was legendary. He impressed on me how important it was to be a steward of a successful program, to innovate where I could, but to preserve the things in the program that had been so successful. He also spoke of men like Carl Chase and Hod Ludlow with real reverence. He told me that when I needed support to just go to the Lodge, that all of the things that had ever happened were still there, you just had to listen for them. Now that George is gone, I hope that he is pleased that the Robert Hedrick Library, thanks to the dedication of the Alumni Association, is in the Lodge; looking over that sacred past and preparing for the future.

Region Ten had been the parents, but now in 1972 the National Council merged the twelve regions into six and the Canoe Base became a National Base. Because of many

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# Alumni support for staff

In support of Northern Tier seasonal staff, the Association provides a copy of Gene Felton's "*A Diamond in the North*" to each new staff member. Other items provided to seasonal staff include: a Trading Post gift certificate to first-year staff to help them outfit themselves for the trail, a custom paddle by Don Meany for second-year staff, a Kontos guide pack embroidered with the recipient's name for third-year staff, and a Grohmann-Russell filet knife for fourth year staff.

There are now thirteen 3rd year staff.: Christy Eaton, Tim Hartmann, Curt Haworth, Kate Hill, David Japikse, Darren King, Mike Kingsley, Karl Kruger, Ben Matthies, Chrissy Mayer, Nathan Prather, Bob Richards, Rene' Sequin.

4th year: Jeff Kracht, Don MacDonald, Kevin McKee, Liz Orman, Charlie Shrewsbury, as well as Doug Hirdler - General Manager, Terry Schocke - Director of Program

5th year: Paul Laine, Jay Timmerman

6th year: Eric Dobry

7th year: Doug Ramsey - Accounting Specialist, Mike Sawinsky - Maintenance Director

16th year, Joe Mattson - Program Director

1st year there are now .....	105
2nd year there are now .....	53
3rd year .....	13
4th year .....	5
5th year .....	2
6th .....	1
TOTAL .....	179

*Provided by Joe Mattson*

## Robert D. Banks, Banker, civic leader



*In 1970 Chief Scout Executive Alden Barber visited to evaluate whether the base should become a national program. Bob Banks was chairman of the base committee. He's in the light pants. Also in the picture, L to R, Butch Diesslin, Bill Wadsworth of BSA, Sandy Bridges, Peter C. Paulson of Region Ten, Barber, and Al Rieger of BSA. Picture taken at waterfront.*

Robert D. Banks, 80, of Cape Cartaret, NC, formerly of Superior, WI and the Town of Highland, WI, died Sunday, June 11, 2000, after a short illness. Mr. Banks was born June 18, 1920, in Duluth, MN to John L. and Dorothy (Dowse) Banks. He attended McCaskill School, graduated from Superior Central High School and attend the University of Minnesota, where was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity.

Mr. Banks was the chairman of the Region X Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base Committee from 1956-1974. Mr. Banks was a Life member of the Sommers Alumni Association.

Mr. Banks served in the Navy as a Corsair pilot and flight instructor during World War II. He joined the First National Bank of Superior 1946, which was founded by his grandfather in 1887. He served as President and Chairman until his retirement in 1987. His commitment to banking was once summarized, "In the banking business there is an association with people at a very basic, at a very elemental level of human need. It is pretty hard to separate a person's life from financial needs."

Mr. Banks was a civic leader in Superior and Duluth, providing leadership and service to many philanthropic, educational and community organizations including the Superior School Board, Boy Scouts, Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base BSA, Camp Nebagamon for Boys, Kiwanis,

United Way of Superior-Douglas County, Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Superior Foun-

ation and Board of Visitors, Superior Chamber of Commerce, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Kitchi Gami Club and Brule River Preservation.

Mr. Banks was an avid conservationist, historian and outdoor enthusiast. His dedication to wildlife and forestry projects has been recognized by state and local officials.

Mr. Banks is survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Noyes Banks, children Marion Lamm of Grand Junction, CO, Margaret (Gordon) Castor of Lake Park, Ga, Cornelia (Raymond) Raab of Duluth and Robert (Marna) Banks, Jr. of Superior; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother John L. Banks, Jr. of Tucson, AZ; and a sister Cornelia (James) McDermott of Madison, WI.

Memorials may be sent to the University of Wisconsin- Superior Foundation or the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation.

## Woodsmen

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factors it looked as though there were going to be major changes in the BWCAW and the Quetico so I took the advice George had given and began canoeing programs at Atikokan and Bissett. OKPIK, the cold weather camping program was off the ground as well.

Cherie was a very strong partner and sensitive to world Scouting. She encouraged me to consider having International Camp Staff. In 1974, Jack and Mary Osborn sponsored our first two young Scouts from Scotland. It was one of our finest hours. The international program was to become a major influence for the next few years. The friends we, the staff, and participants have made are now scattered all over the world. The visions and traditions of the Base are carried to the far reaches of the world of Scouting. Having staff from so many different cultures has been a positive influence that would be hard to duplicate. In 1961, I had to spend a summer with the Army because of the Cold War threat. In 1995, we had a staff member from the former Soviet Union. What a difference! What a change - I was so pleased that I could be a part of it.

Not only had my second quest

been met but I was also able to travel to Scandinavia and enjoy Scouting in other countries. Adventures North was a program with Scouts from Europe, Canada, and the United States taking a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters and then a cold weather trip in Arctic Norway, Sweden and Finland. What an experience!

The association with Scouts Canada is also very special. The future looks bright and as we continue to move ahead, Scouts Canada staff will play a greater and greater role. Just think, a truly international program. This is something that I would have never dreamed of in my early days.

The support given me has been absolutely tremendous. My family has been a reward I could have only dreamed of. As I leave, I know that each of you, in your own way, will remember and enjoy your days "on the trail." Keep a lofty goal for your program as you seek to be stewards of one of the greatest programs Scouting has ever offered.

As the Water Rat said to the Mole in Wind in the Willows "...there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

*Submitted by Dave Hyink*

SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
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## 2000 SAA Holiday Greeting Card Sale

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is taking orders for new Holiday Greeting Cards. You can use the cards to send holiday greetings as well as send a message of commitment to Northern Tier High Adventure programs.

This year's card features a Bob Cary's drawing of the Northern Tier area. The subject is being chosen now and you can get in your advance order now. It's printed using highest quality thermography on premium cards of recycled paper.

The cards are blank inside. You choose your own message. The back of the card carries a message about Northern Tier High Adventure. This is a distinctive and very handsome greeting card. The cards come 25 per package, including en-

velopes. A limited number of 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 cards: "Sled Dogs," "Commissary," "Lodge," "Hanson House," "Canoe Yard," and "Gateway" are available at discounted prices. All orders are subject to availability.

### Quantity

- \_\_\_ 2000 Cards - Pre-order
- \_\_\_ 1999 Cards - Sled dogs pulling Christmas Tree
- \_\_\_ 1998 Cards - Commissary
- \_\_\_ 1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls
- \_\_\_ 1996 Cards - Fort Gateway
- \_\_\_ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard
- \_\_\_ 1994 Cards - Hanson House
- \_\_\_ 1993 Cards - Winter Lodge
- \_\_\_ 1993 Cards - Summer Lodge
- \_\_\_ Holiday Sampler - 25 assorted cards
- \_\_\_ **Special**, save 40%, off original issue price. 1999-1993  
(five boxes, 125 cards) Our choice. Will try to honor requests.
- \_\_\_ Tax Deductible Gift to the Alumni Association for 2000

### Holiday Greeting/Blank inside

- \_\_\_ x \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_/\_\_\_ x \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_
- NA/\_\_\_ x \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_/NA x \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_
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- NA/\_\_\_ x \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_
- NA/\_\_\_ x \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ x \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_
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**FREE SHIPPING**

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SAA Holiday Card Sale  
 PO Box 428  
 Ely, MN 55731-0428

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_





**Sommers Alumni Association's  
Rendezvous 2000  
Celebration of Scout Canoeing**



**Registration Form**

Submit by July 31

Return Registration and payment to:

Patrick Cox  
1011 S. Sycamore  
Palestine, TX 75801

**Contact information to reach Pat:**

**Home Phone: 847-223-6074**

**E-Mail: [patrick.cox@kemperinsurance.com](mailto:patrick.cox@kemperinsurance.com)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing Options**

- Option 1) Cabin accommodations at the Base on a first-come, first-served basis for available space. You will need to bring your own bedding and towels. For fee see registration below. Space is assigned at check in on the first day of the event. Special requests are on a space available basis only.
- Option 2) Arrange for off-base accommodations on your own. There are several local hotels. The host of our Rendezvous '00 Banquet on Saturday night is the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort at (218) 365-6565. Holiday Inn has agreed to hold a block of ten rooms until July 15, 2000. Rate is \$99.00 per night plus taxes.

Your registration includes one Rendezvous '00 T-shirt. Please see the next page to specify size and for information on how to order extra shirts.

Rendezvous '98 T-shirt

Your registration includes one Rendezvous '00 T-shirt. Additional shirts may be ordered later in this form.

Circle your size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

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Just some questions to help us make better plans

Would you like to have us arrange for a baby sitter during the banquet? Yes / No

Would you like us to arrange for older children's activities? Yes / No

Are you interested in the fur trade theme? Yes / No

Would you be interested in purchase of Voyageur clothing? Yes / No

Would you and/or your family be willing to participate as Voyageur actors in a reenactment? Yes / No

Would you be willing to participate in fur trade skits/stories/songs? Yes / No

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## Housing, Meals & Registration

Day/Date	Item or Event	Number of People	Per Person Cost	Total
	Registration	Family	\$35 Total	
		Individual	\$25 Total	_____
Friday 09/01/2000	Supper - Adult	_____	\$5.00	_____
	Supper - Child*	_____	\$2.50	_____
	Overnight Stay	_____	\$2.00	_____
Saturday 09/02/2000	Breakfast - Adult	_____	\$3.00	_____
	Breakfast - Child*	_____	\$1.50	_____
	Lunch - Adult	_____	\$4.00	_____
	Lunch - Child	_____	\$2.00	_____
	Supper - Adult	Not Available	N/A	N/A
	Supper - Child*	Not Available	N/A	N/A
	Reunion Gathering	Adult	_____	\$20.00
	Child*	_____	\$15.00	_____
	Overnight Stay	_____	\$2.00	_____
Sunday 09/03/2000	Breakfast - Adult	_____	\$3.00	_____
	Breakfast - Child*	_____	\$1.50	_____
	Lunch - Adult	_____	\$4.00	_____
	Lunch - Child	_____	\$2.00	_____
	Supper - Adult	_____	\$5.00	_____
	Supper - Child*	_____	\$2.50	_____
	Overnight Stay	_____	\$2.00	_____
Monday 09/04/2000	Breakfast - Adult	_____	\$3.00	_____
	Breakfast - Child*	_____	\$1.50	_____
	Lunch - Adult	_____	\$4.00	_____
	Lunch - Child	_____	\$2.00	_____
	Overnight Stay	Not Available	N/A	N/A

**Total Meals & Lodging**

\$

\* Child is defined as less than or equal to 11 years of age as of 1/1/00. Age of 12 or greater is on adult rates.

Requests for families to occupy a cabin privately will be honored to the extent we can. No guarantees as beds are limited.

Adult and child overnight cost is the same.

## T-Shirts and Such

Item	Sizes	Quantity Desired	Per Item Cost	Total
T-Shirts	Sm	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
	Med	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
	Lg	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
	X-Lg	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
	XX-Lg	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
	XXX-Lg	<hr/>	\$12.00	<hr/>
Polo	Sm	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
	Med	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
	Lg	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
	X-Lg	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
	XX-Lg	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
	XXX-Lg	<hr/>	\$30.00	<hr/>
Red Jac Shirt w/ SAA Logo**	Sm	<hr/>	\$100.00	<hr/>
	Med	<hr/>	\$100.00	<hr/>
	Lg	<hr/>	\$100.00	<hr/>
	X-Lg	<hr/>	\$100.00	<hr/>
	XX-Lg	<hr/>	\$100.00	<hr/>
Special Knife	N/A	<hr/>	\$29.00	<hr/>

<b>Total T-shirts and Such Page</b>	\$
<b>Total Meals &amp; Lodging</b>	\$
<b>Grand Total*</b>	\$

\* Please enclose a check in this amount payable to "Sommers Alumni Association".