



SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

REFLECTIONS

NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE



Give A Hol-Ry And They Will Come

by Allen Rench

How does one begin to describe the events of our Labor Day Weekend Cleanup? EXTRAORDINARY.

In short, joyous reunions, intense labor, wedding celebration, aching muscles, hearty appetites, evening get-togethers, and fond farewells.

I first have to thank every one of you who committed yourself and your family for this event. Your time and contributions have not gone unnoticed. I had the opportunity to sit in on the Northern Tier Committee Meetings this past weekend. You were commended for an excellent job in this seemingly endless task of clearing and cleaning the Base. I especially want to thank the wives and families that participated as well as those family members that remained home while your husbands traveled north.

There were those of you who wanted to participate but circumstances dictated otherwise; I want to thank you for your considerations also.

At breakfast Saturday Morning I was overwhelmed at the sight of 60+ alumni and their families who came from all ends of this country as well as Canada to join in for the weekend. It was a real inspiration to watch members greet each other, some of whom had not seen one another since the last time they left the Base 25 - 35 years ago.

The group formed a single-minded force with one mission, to remove the debris that was generated by the storms of July fourth. We had come together as a small logging operation with lots of Big Boy Toys. Chain saws, a forwarder with a 100-inch bunk and claw arm for trunk removal, 70 horsepower chipper, road grader, bull dozers, and a working spirit that was endless.

We had groups clearing all the program areas and trails around the base as well as spotters who went into the back 80 to locate and limb

downed white pines. The pines that have been located and the trees that remain in the woods are to be harvested and preserved for possible future building projects at the base.

Saturday afternoon all were invited to the wedding of staff members **Liz Vollmer** and **Brian Buhl** in the lodge. At the last minute **Cherie (Bridges) Sawinski** and **Cory Kolodji** stepped in to provide the music for their ceremony when the scheduled musician was unable to attend. The nervous wedding couple had been feverishly looking for replacements but graciously declined the alumni's offer to provide an armpit band if no other musicians could be found. At dinner Chucky's Chipmunks and selected participants treated us to a skit of drenching proportions. Afterwards **Jack** and **Flossie Strickland** invited everyone over to their cabin for a traditional happy hour and story telling, "Truth Stretching," session.

Even though the nights were rainy, the days cloudy and the air muggy, motivations were not dimmed. Sunday proved to be even more productive than the day before. A 10-foot stack of aspen and birch logs was now forming near the garage and 5 of the large white pines were being dragged into the parking lot. The palisade fence had been dismantled and was awaiting reassembly by the OA the following weekend.

Piles of slash and cut logs were mounding along the roads. Downed trees were coming out of the woods as fast as they could be hauled. Everyone had a chance to feed the chipper. It just kept gobbling up the trunks and limbs as fast as a dozen people could feed it. By the evening our progress was quite evident. Everyone was keenly aware that the job could not be completed in one weekend; but the smiles of satisfaction were growing at the day's accomplishments.



Photo by Winnie Renner

Nigel Cooper gets a stack of logs ready for the loader.

Our dinner was topped off by ice cream and some Dorothy-Style, homemade root beer. The root beer was brewed and bottled by our own Chipmunks. It added a fitting touch for our evening meal. People began reminiscing about their trips to the Isle of Pines.

Afterwards we relaxed in the company of **Butch** and **Lucy Diesslin** who opened up their home to those who weren't too sore or tired to make the drive to Fall Lake.

As Monday morning greeted us with sunshine there were those who had to start making their journey South. Those who remained kept right on working. By afternoon only a handful of members were on base to wrap up the weekend's events.

From your efforts we are anticipating to harvest roughly 200+ white and red pines ranging in size from 20-36 inches in diameter and lengths in excess of 60 feet. The base trails are open and the pro-

gram areas are markedly cleaner. There is a long way to go, but we are a far cry from the point where we began.

Special Thanks to a number of individuals:

Jim Mitchell is the owner and operator of Professional Tree Care of Enid, Oklahoma. He employs alumnus **David Starks**, who was not able to attend. Jim and 3 others felt compelled to help us out but also wanted to get out of the Oklahoma heat. They drove 1,000 miles in a day to join in our fun;

Real Berard, a longtime affiliate of the Northern Tier programs from Winnipeg, and his associate, Marcel Richot, were also on hand. Real, as some of you know, is a well known artist and map maker. He has produced a number of historic maps of the northern regions of Manitoba. These maps illustrate the waterways of the fur trade era;

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President's Message

by Dave Hyink

Given what I do for a living and where I live, I'm familiar with the devastation and recovery at Mt. St. Helens. Still, it was a difficult moment for me as I crossed Hibbard's Creek and drove that last mile to the Base last month. As with St. Helens, even the best photos were not the same as "being there." This was certainly true as I passed several decks of logs in the parking lot next to where the stockade used to be. The July 4 storm had surely created some havoc – reportedly four times as much timber down as in the 1980 St. Helens eruption. Likewise, the evidence of recovery was everywhere.

Despite the violent nature of the storm, coupled with the fact that the Base had a near record number of people in the woods, participants in our program sustained only two relatively minor injuries. We lost some equipment and had some minor building damage, but story after story told of how the leadership and skills of our Interpreters made a difference to crews on the trail. Of note as well was the way our Base staff responded to the task of keeping operations running in the face of power and telephone outages. While one is never fully prepared for a storm of this magnitude, the quality of our staff was in evidence everywhere, and they made a difference!

Also in evidence, were the efforts of Sommers Alumni and friends as the cleanup and recovery began. Led by **Allen Rench** and **Mike Sawinski** (also Base Maintenance Manager), some 45-

50 volunteers converged on the Base over the Labor Day weekend to help with cleanup. Among the up sides: many views of Moose Lake heretofore unseen, new and improved ski trails, and several hundred white pine logs suitable for construction projects. Ironically, the Charles L. Sommers Lodge was built from "blowdown" salvaged from the Echo Trial in 1940. Volunteers came from as far away as Alabama, California and Oklahoma to lend a hand. Once again, "When the going got tough, the tough got going." Out of this recovery effort will come many opportunities.

Several articles in this issue of *Reflections* detail the successful efforts of many dedicated volunteers. **Pat Cox** and crew have Rendezvous 2000 well planned and organized. The joint efforts of the SAA and the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee have resulted in the awarding of \$15,000 in scholarships to deserving seasonal staff. Hedrick Awards went to **Henry Bradlich** and **Cherie (Bridges) Sawinski**. **Jack** and **Mary Osborn** "set the example" as they provide leadership in permanently endowing the Seasonal Staff Scholarship Program. There are many other stories to be sure. Stories of folks "being there."

As we launch a new century at the end of this year, I ask each of you to consider finding new ways to engage — "to be there" — in the many important activities of our Association. If you need some ideas, give me a call or an e-mail; I'd be glad to offer you a few.

Burke Lake Strife

by Chuck Rose with Ron Miles

On August 27, 1999, SAA member Ron Miles reported a clump of Purple Loosestrife in the Quetico at the north end of Ranger Portage, on Burke Lake. The location was on the Burke Lake end of Ranger Portage, just out of Bayley Bay of Basswood. The florescent plant clump was a few hundred feet west of the landing, where the intermittent stream enters Burke Lake. Ron is also a Regional Naturalist of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources so he recognized this potential threat. He initially reported it to a seasonal naturalist at Prairie Portage; later it was also reported to Quetico Park Superintendent Jay Leather. We hope the Quetico management handles this situation before it becomes a terrible problem.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum*

salicaria) is a non-native emergent aquatic plant that has been spread throughout North America. It was imported from Europe as a decorative plant. This purple-flowered plant can reach 2 meters in height and has 30-50 stems per plant. This stuff is NASTY. It threatens native plant and animal communities by "crowding out" native vegetation and forming dense monotype stands. It is difficult to control, usually the whole plant—roots and all—must be destroyed (mechanically or chemically) to prevent its spread. Monitoring for several years is required to make sure it really is dead. Researchers are testing various insects to see if they might control the plant's growth and reproduction. It's useless to wildlife, but takes over a wetland and chokes out native species.

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. Bill Spice 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
1000-2nd 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

Volume 9, Number 3. *Reflections* is the official publication of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 428, 5891 Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731-0429. *Reflections* is published three times a year (Oct, Feb., and July). The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. is a nonprofit Minnesota corporation. The IRS has determined that the alumni association is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the alumni association are tax deductible. Membership in the Sommers Alumni Association is open to all persons 18 years and older. Association dues are \$10 for Annual membership, \$25 or more annually for Sustaining membership or \$150 (one time) for Life Membership. The association's dues year begins January 1. **Moving...** please notify the alumni association of 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 Butch Diesslin via e-mail at: b.diesslin@mail.vcc.mnscu.edu

Seasonal Staff Scholarships Awarded

On September 11, 1999, the Northern Tier Program Fund Advisory Board awarded twenty scholarships to seasonal staff members totaling \$15,000. A joint effort between the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA and the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., the Seasonal Staff Scholarship Program provides post-secondary scholarships to deserving young people. Receiving \$500 awards were: **Jason A. Accola**, University of Illinois/Oxford University; **Philip D. DeWitt**, Michigan Technological University; **Timothy J. Hartmann**, University of North Dakota; **Darren D. King**, Wilfrid Laurier University; **Karl A. Kruger**, University of Minnesota - Duluth; **Ben R. Matthies**, Des Moines Area Community College; **Christina M. Mayer**, Minnesota State University - Mankato; **David P. McCarville**, Hutchinson Com-

munity College; **Chester W. Morse**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; **Nathan W. Prather**, Washburn University; and, **Robert M. Richards**, Iowa State University. Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 went to: **Michael D. Clayburn**, University of Missouri - Rolla; **Jeffrey R. Kracht**, Montana State University; **Kevin L. McKee**, Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Sciences;

Kimberley J. Miller, Michigan State University; **Elizabeth M. Orman**, University of North Dakota; **Doug L. Pearson**, Northern Illinois University; **Elizabeth S. Vollmer**, University of Oregon; and, **Paul R. DeWitt**, Ferris State University. A \$1500 scholarship was awarded to **Paul P. Laine**, Laurentian University.

Under the current operating agreement, the Sommers Alumni

Association acts as the fiscal and administrative agent for the program and commits \$5000 per year of its operating budget to fund scholarships. The remainder of the funds are currently raised by the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA through annual contributions. An endowment program is also underway (see related story on Jack and Mary Osborn).

Jack and Mary Osborn: Founding members of the Northern Tier Heritage Circle



At the fall meeting of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA, longtime Northern Tier supporters **Jack and Mary Osborn** were recognized as the Founding Members of the Northern Tier Heritage Circle. Membership in the "Heritage Circle" is awarded to individuals who make tax-deductible gifts to permanently endow the Northern Tier Seasonal Staff Scholarship Program. Gifts may be either current or deferred. Jack and Mary's deferred gift of \$250,000 "sets the example" and successfully launches a drive to attain the \$1.5 million needed to permanently fund the program. In addition, Jack and Mary also make an annual contribution to fund current scholarship awards. Both Jack and Mary have been very active in Scouting for many years, and Jack is a past-chairman of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks go out to both of them.

Two Alumni honored with Hedrick Award

Created in 1995 and awarded by the SAA Directors, 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. The award honors former Region Ten Executive and ardent Canoe Base supporter, George Hedrick. Recognized for their decades of service to the program at The Annual Members Meeting were **Henry Bradlich** and **Cherie (Bridges) Sawinski**. They join former awardees **Robert "Red" Renner**, **Allan Batterman**, **Craig Pendergraft**, **Ed Chapin** and **Gene Felton**.

Photos Requested

Robert Carlsen (Interpreter 1986-95) is working on updating a pictorial display for the promotion of the Northern Tier Programs. Bob will be using the display for the 4-Lakes Area Council "Pow Wow" on January 15, 2000. Bob is requesting assistance from readers who are willing to loan him pictures for his display. He will credit the photographer and return the photographs when he is finished with them. Bob would greatly ap-

preciate pictures from recent trips through all three Northern Tier bases, and pictures of the facilities at each of the bases. Pictures should be sent to Robert Carlsen, 17 E. Pleasant St. Apt. 4, Portage, WI 53901 (608) 742-1774.

Listserv For Northern Tier Trip Info/Sharing

The Internet listserv Canoe@dynapolis.com is a forum for the interchange of information between volunteer scouts about canoe trips - primarily those

through the Northern Tier bases. The questions, answers and discussion are enlightening for anyone who wants to see what the customer is saying, asking and thinking about scout canoeing.

Newlyweds, new addresses:

Just married in the Northern Tier Lodge, find them now at: **Brian and Liz Vollmer-Buhl**
1527 Bailey Hill Road #1
Eugene, OR 97402
541/513-4124

Somewhat-recently-married:

Jeff and Michelle Dahl
General Delivery
18-2430 Volcano Hwy
Mountain View, HI 96771
808-968-8575

valadon@aloha.net
Jeff invites visits, but has discovered canoe races in Hilo (outrigger canoes). If you visit, be prepared for a canoe race when you least expect it.

If you want to send these or other folks Holiday Greetings, see page eight.

The night we stole the dining hall bell

by Hayden "Tink" Groth

It was in July or August of 1970 and it seems as if **Mike Pehler**, the head chef, and his staff had been producing some four-point Hudson Bay breakfasts for the staff on days when crews were not on base. They were things that you just don't see in the wilderness. He was cooking up one-eyed sailors, fresh peach pancakes, french toast with hot maple syrup and whipped butter, and on and on. The only problem was that nobody was showing up to eat these fine breakfasts from heaven. I guess he complained to **Cliff** and **Cliff** talked to **Sandy** and **Sandy** mentioned it to **Bill Stigler** and eventually we had a mandatory meeting on the steps of the dining hall. **Cliff** laid down the law to one and all - "By golly all of you guys better show up at second bell tomorrow morning or else!" This sounded serious so we all paid close attention until later that night at **Vertin's**.

After a night of excellent camaraderie in various places in Ely, a group of us headed back up the **Fernberg**. I honestly can't remember all of the folks who were in on this ordeal and I certainly wouldn't want to leave anyone out, so I shall not name any of the other five who accompanied me. Upon arrival in the parking lot, it was clear that second bell would come way too early for us to comply with **Cliff's** mandate. There was only one way

to solve the problem. The six of us fought our way up to the dining hall, commandeered strips of foam, tape, an eight foot section of pipe and assorted tools from **Cerny's** workshop. The foam and tape were placed around the clapper to the dinner bell, and the tools were used to remove the whole bell from its pedestal. With the pole through the yoke, the bell was taken to a secret place. We went to bed that night with a feeling of true accomplishment; we had saved the world from breakfast! Well... the next morning when we were rudely awakened and force marched up to the dining hall, **Cliff** and **Sandy** were wearing serious scowls. Neither of them demanded to know how the bell disappeared, but we were informed that it would be back in place by noon. It was. As I recall the next few days we

got boiled eggs and bread for breakfast, bologna sandwiches for lunch and something of the same caliber for dinner.

mor, **Sandy** must have gotten more than one chuckle out of this episode.

Hayden "Tink" Groth worked at



Mr. Groth shown here in what was known at the time as a "hero shot." He appears to be exercising his authority as waterfront director over Steve Niedorf.

I talked to **Cliff** several years later about the day the bell disappeared and he admitted that it was a really good joke, but couldn't have said so at the time. I can't help believing that with his sense of hu-

the base 1969-70 as Waterfront Director. Tink now owns Groth International - a health, safety, environmental and quality engineering consulting company.

Hol-ry translated into Finnish

by Mark Nordstrom

Dave Greenlee reported discovering a hol-ry list serve in Finland. Knowing that many Finns speak Swedish and having a weak command of the language, I decided to risk making a fool of myself and check it out. I sent a message in Swedish and English, asking whoever might read the letter to find someone who could write an article for *Reflections* about the Finnish Hol-ry list serve. I received a response from **Jyrki Niemi**, who operates the list serve.

I said I hoped he could read the message. He replied, "Yes, I could read it very well. And as most Finnish-speaking Finns nowadays, I am more fluent in English than in Swedish, but I certainly can read also Swedish."

In regard to the request for an article about the list serve he said,

"I was rather amazed when I read your request and I still cannot help wondering what you thought hol-ry is. In reality, it is nothing more than the (up to now almost dead) mailing list of the Helsinki Evangelical-Lutheran Student Mission. And I guess you don't want an article in your newsletter about a dead mailing list. I'm afraid I can hardly help you in this respect.

Best regards, **Jyrki Niemi** (maintainer of the hol-ry mailing list)

Jyrki.Niemi@helsinki.fi *
<http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/%7Ejaniemi/>

I referred him to <http://www.holry.org> as a way to learn what I thought hol-ry meant. I also told him the Hol-Ry was knäckebröd (hardtack) and the red-eye was a red drink made from a powder mixed in water. He replied,

"I see... The trademark 'Hol-Ry' then comes from 'whole rye', I guess." He was interested. I said, Hol-Ry has become an expression we use to identify ourselves. Several people have come to the Sommers Canoe Base from Finland, so when I found the listing for the Hol-ry service, I thought it must have been started by those people. I can't read Finnish at all, so I could not make out what it was about.

He said, "I see; I am sorry to have caused you this disappointment. I am only wondering how you happened to discover our mailing list, since at least Alta Vista does not seem to find for "hol-ry" anything else than pages on www.holry.org. "Hol-Ry" really does not mean anything in Finnish. The name of the mailing list comes from the abbreviation "HOL ry",

where "HOL" stands for "_H_elsingin (Ev.lut.) _O_piskelija_l_ähetys" meaning Helsinki (Evangelical-Lutheran) Student Mission, and "ry" for "rekisteröity yhdistys" meaning an officially registered society. So, to us there is nothing extraordinary in the list name."

I told him if he ever says "Hol-ry" in Finland and gets an answer, he'll know he met someone who has been to Sommers. He said, "Maybe I should also mention that _if_ "hol-ry" were a Finnish word, it wouldn't be pronounced quite like you do in English. It might be more like how you'd pronounce it in Swedish or German, but with shorter vowels; "ry." is a common Finnish abbreviation usually pronounced in that way by saying the letters."

The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association Inc. Sunday, September 12, 1999

Convened at the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base, Ely, MN 55731

Executive Committee Members Present: Nigel Cooper, Butch Diesslin, Dave Greenlee, Dave Hyink, Michael McMahon

Executive Committee Members Absent: none

Others Present: Tom Beaton, Bob Cary, Roger Dellinger, Allen Rench, Linnea Renner, Chuck Rose, Craig Pendergraft, Paul Schlieve, Chuck "J.J." Sheely

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. by President Hyink. The Executive committee members present constituted a quorum.

President Hyink expressed the appreciation of the association to Allen Rench, for his efforts in arranging the very successful work weekend September 3-5, 1999. Considerable cleanup of the downed trees from the July 4, 1999 around the base was accomplished by approximately 50 volunteers.

Rendezvous 2000 - President Hyink highlighted the report from event chairman Pat Cox. "Rendez-

vous 2000" will be September 1-4.

The Voyageur encampment will be coordinated by Cory Kolodji. It is hoped that the encampment will be an experiential activity for the attendees. The banquet will be at the Holiday Inn Sunspree in Ely. Robert Olson, son of Sigurd F. Olson and former Sommers staff member, has agreed to be the banquet speaker. Other activity ideas were presented and discussed. Assistance will be provided in forming pre- and post-reunion canoe trip crews. Information will be in upcoming newsletters. Reservation materials will be in the Spring, 2000 newsletter.

2000 Budget - Treasurer Nigel Cooper a summary of revenue and expenses for the current year, and presented the 2000 operating budget. The budget was adopted as presented.

Year 2000 Alumni Work Weeks - The alumni work weeks in 2000 will be scheduled by Red Renner

and Mike Sawinski, Sommers Maintenance Director. Emphasis for the work week at Sommers will be improvement of staff facilities.

Training Week - Alumni members interested in assisting with the seasonal staff training should contact either Craig Pendergraft or Mike Holdgrafer.

Seasonal Staff Scholarships - President Hyink reported that the seasonal staff scholarship program has sufficient funds for the 1999 applicants. He also reported that Jack and Mary Osborn have named the scholarship program as the deferred benefactor of remainder trust. The scholarship program is well received by the staff.

Crossing Portages - The next 5-year annual giving fund drive is being finalized by Craig Pendergraft, with assistance from Jay Walne. Information will be sent when completed.

Alternative Volunteer Award - Mike Holdgrafer suggested that the

selection process for the Hedrick Volunteer Service Award be re-evaluated, or another award be developed. Mike felt that there should be a recognition mechanism that does not exclude the directors of the association. Mike agreed to head an ad hoc group to develop recommendations and bring them back to the board.

Hedrick Memorial Library - It was noted that the Hedrick Memorial Library is still in need of completion.

Policy and Legislation Monitoring - President Hyink urged members to monitor and share information proposed changes in the management policies and proposed legislative changes related to the BWCAW.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Blaine "Butch" Diesslin
Association Secretary

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. 1999 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., was held at the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base, Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731 on the 12th day of September A.D. 1999 at 11:00 A.M., pursuant to Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Hyink.

There were twenty three members present. The members present and the properly executed proxies received constituted a quorum.

President's Report - Dave Hyink

President Hyink gave a brief summary of the association's activities over the past year.

Treasurer's Report - Nigel Cooper

The association is able to meet its financial obligations.

The association is working with the Northern Tier National High Adventure advisory committee on the fiscal management of the seasonal staff scholarships.

Membership Committee - Blaine Diesslin

Association membership as of September 10 was 404 members.

The rate of growth in member-

ship has been very low, with many of the new members being received from current year crew advisors. Members are encouraged to personally recruit their alumni contemporaries who are not members.

Publications - Mark Nordstrom
The association will continue with three scheduled issues of the "Reflections" newsletter per year. The circulation of the newsletter is approximately 1,100. Thanks were extended to all article contributors, others were invited to participate. Much positive feedback has been received about the newsletter.

The association's Internet Web page -WWW.HOLRY.ORG - is used to disseminate information electronically. Members are encouraged to contribute materials, to keep the content "fresh". The association plans to expand the topics and information available.

Election of Directors - Blaine Diesslin and Dave Hyink

The nominating committee submitted the following candidates to fill the expiring terms on the board of directors: Pat Cox, Dave Greenlee, Wade Herbranson, Chuck Rose and Jay Walne. The membership elected Pat Cox, Dave Greenlee, Chuck Rose and Jay Walne to serve as directors until the

2002 A.D., annual meeting of the membership of the association.

Honorary Memberships

The members of the association approved Honorary memberships to the association for Real Berard, Sam Cook and Cherie Sawinski.

Hedrick Awards

The directors of the association presented George D. Hedrick Memorial Volunteer Service Awards to Henry W. Bradlich and Cherie Sawinski.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS

Storm Cleanup - Allen Rench and Mike Sawinski were commended for their organizational efforts related to the successful work weekend to clean up the fallen trees from the severe storm of July 4, 1999.

Root Beer Sale - Allan Batterman reported that the Sommers Trading Post will be selling root beer with the proceeds going to the Seasonal Staff Scholarship fund.

Alumni Work Weeks - Work week coordinator Bob "Red" Renner reported on the successful activities of the alumni work week at Bissett Manitoba, and the work week at Sommers Canoe Base.

Heritage Circle Award - Dave

Hyink informed the membership of the awarding the staff scholarship Heritage Circle founding award to Jack and Mary Osborn. Jack and Mary have named the scholarship fund as the deferred recipient of the significant proceeds of a trust established by the Osborns.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business
NEW BUSINESS

Mike Holdgrafer, moved that a committee be formed to review the awarding process of the Hedrick awards, and/or propose additional volunteer recognition awards. Seconded by Allan Batterman. Motion passed. Mike Holdgrafer was appointed to chair the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Sawinski reported on the plans for cleaning up the tree damage on the base property from the severe storm of July 4, 1999. Mike also told of the wood salvage plans and the reforestation plans for the property. Mike thanked all the alumni members who volunteered their time to assist with the cleanup.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Blaine R. Diesslin, Association Secretary

Give a Hol-Ry And They Will Come

(continued from page 1)

Fred Beck, a Scout Advisor of the 60s, and his sister **Dorothy** came from upper Michigan to support in spirit and to connect with his former scouts **Gil Knight** and **Robert Rench**;

Jack Fenoglio, **Chris Thurman**, **Jim Manning**, **Steve Spencer**, some of whom could not attend, made monetary and equipment contributions to help with the cost of this weekend. If I left out any names I apologize;

Dianne Rench, **Cyd Diesslin**, **Cherie Sawinski** and **Dorothy Beck** for providing the weekend's activities for our youth affectionately known as **Chucky's Chipmunks**;

Chris Clay for acquiring the dozer crew that cut road accesses for fuel removal;

JJ Sheely for uncounted hours climbing over trees to help mark the way for the dozer crew;

Roy Cerny for spending an entire weekend prior to Labor Day chain sawing his way to Flash Lake;

With these efforts we now have seven new roads through the back

80. Some of which will provide excellent ski trails for the winter program;

Mike & Cherie Sawinski and **Dave Clute** and other staff for keeping the Base program going in the midst of the chaos and debris. For their endless hours of chipping and sawing. For driving hundreds of miles to locate power generators and logging equipment;

Those of you who live just around the corner and all of you, who drove, flew or rode motorcycles thousands of miles to join in;

From Alabama to California, Oklahoma to Michigan, each and every one of you deserves tremendous thanks and admiration;

Last but not least are **Doug Hirdler** and the Northern Tier Staff for providing excellent care to the alumni during this weekend.

As we toasted at dinner there has never been a better group of people to be associated with than the Sommers Alumni.

Thank you for a job well done.

Red Eye

Worker Bees:

- Jim Barott**
- Fred Beck**
- Dorothy Beck**
- Real Berard**
- Roy Cerny**
- Chris Clay**
- Dave Clute**
- Cyd Cooper**
- Nigel Cooper**
- Butch Diesslin**
- Lucy Diesslin**
- Brian Eshleman**
- Jeremiah Gardner**
- Dave Greenlee**
- Leroy Heikes**
- Wade Herbranson**
- Doug Hirdler**
- Paul Holte**
- Ed Janzen**
- Daron Janzen**
- Monica Janzen**
- Cory Kolodji**
- Joe Mattson**
- Joe Miller**
- Zack Mitchell**
- Jim Mitchell**
- Knute Nisswandt**
- Jack Olson**

- John Oosterhuis**
- Doug Pearson**
- Brent Pendergraf**
- Roger Peterson**
- Lynn Reeve**
- Bob Rench**
- Allen Rench**
- Dianne Rench**
- Winnie Renner**
- Bob Renner**
- Marcel Ritchot**
- Cherie Sawinski**
- Mike Sawinski**
- Terry Schocke**
- Dick Shank**
- Joel Sheagren**
- Kim Sheagren**
- JJ Sheely**
- Steve Spencer**
- Sandy Spencer**
- Jack Strickland**
- Flossie Strickland**
- John Tuthill**
- Warren Wynn**
- Chucky's Chipmunks:*
- Sarah Barott**, **Allison Barott**
- Jamie Rench**, **Jayna Marks**,
- Quentin Rench**, **Tate Rench**,
- Tina Binfield**
- Rachael Cooper**, **Ben Cooper**,
- Collin Cooper**
- Cindy Wynn**

Some of the labor of the weekend

(From top left, clockwise) Staff cabins with downed trees shown behind them.

Leroy Heikes, **Butch Diesslin**, **John Oosterhuis** clear downed trees around the Gate-way entry. **Ed Janzen**, **Dick Shank**, **Knute Nisswandt** operate the chip-

per. **Erling Hegg** handles stockade pieces that will be reassembled. More than 60 alumni put in work that is expected to mean the harvest of roughly 200 white and red pines ranging in size from 20-36 inches in diameter and lengths in excess of 60 feet. This will be available for raw material for future base projects. Also, trails were cleared and standing trees, which might have become a safety hazard later, were brought down to protect against future accidents on base. The base now has plans to follow up with wood salvage and reforestation.



A New Breed: Chucky's Chipmunks

By Dianne Rench

The "Chain Saw Gang" wasn't the only bunch getting enjoyment at the sweat equity weekend. Several alumni were able to bring their family members to experience the North Woods.

Those attending were:

Dorothy Beck sister of Fred Beck; Rachel Cooper, Ben Cooper and Collin Cooper children of Nigel and Cyd Cooper;

Jamie Rench, Jayna Marks, Quentin Rench, Tate Rench and Tina Binfield children of Allen Rench;

Sarah Barott and Allison Barott children of Jim Barott;

Cindy Wynn daughter of Warren Wynn;

Harouna, AFS daughter of Cherie Sawinski.

The children's ages ranged from 10 months to 16 years.

A highlight of the weekend was to learn about Dorothy Molter and make some of her root beer! The kids used Dorothy's original recipe to mix up their own batch. They learned to bottle, cap and label their brew.

Of course tasting was fun too, especially at Sunday night's dinner!

They are quite the entertainers. They provided a dinner skit utilizing some unsuspecting volunteers

to pose as restaurant tables. Our giggling brood of actors managed to walk off stage leaving full glasses of water on the backs of the six kneeling tables. Needless to say no one from the audience had compassion enough to help these poor souls out of their predicament.

The young crew became affectionately known as Chucky's Chipmunks. It was wonderful to watch instant friendship being formed. They bonded in a way that

I have not seen before in my years as a Girl Scout Leader. Other activities included a nature scavenger hunt, collecting birch bark to make miniature canoes, canoeing to Boy Scout Island (Good job Dads, these kids can maneuver canoes and carry them too!).

Indoor activities included creating beady babies & cross-stitching and plenty of song and laughter. Cherie Sawinski taught simple tunes on her hammer dulcimer. Sun-

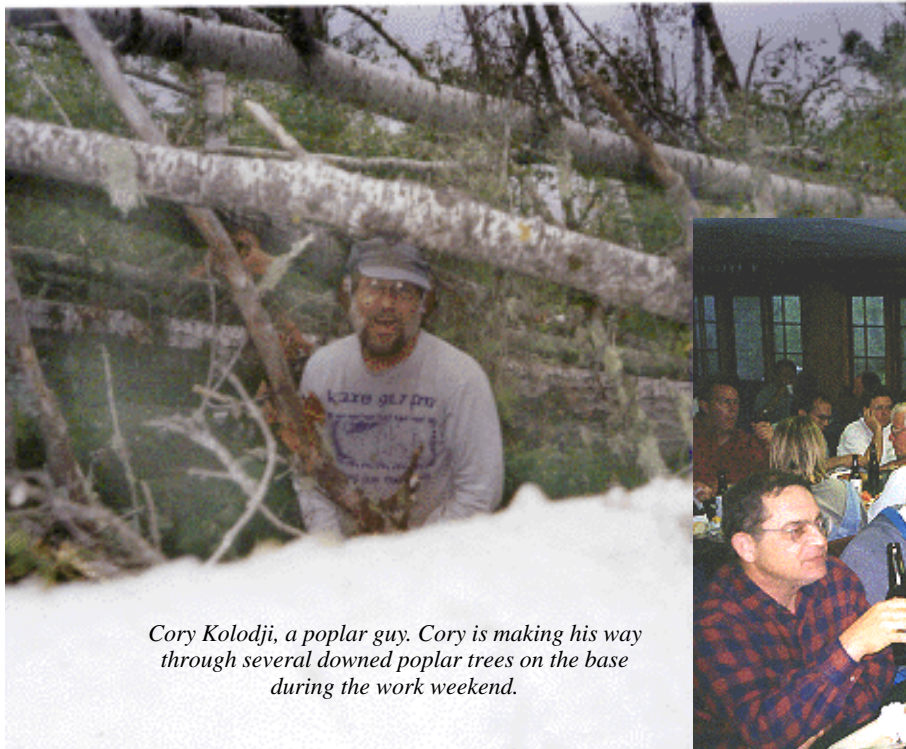
day evening the girls had a slumber party in one of the staff cabins and made zip lock baggie ice cream. A lucky few saw a black bear with twin cubs, on their return trip from Ely.

They are looking towards the future as staff members of Sommers Canoe Base. It would be fun to watch that happen. These staff-to-be were excellent help as part of the food service and cleanup team. They spent time exploring

the base and becoming acquainted with stories (some censored) of their parent's guiding escapades and swamper days.

I want to give special thanks to Dorothy Beck for helping in cross stitching and sharing some of her girl scout stories, Cyd Cooper as our water front director and Cherie Sawinski for sharing her musical talent

We are already planning our activities for REUNION 2000.



Cory Kolodji, a poplar guy. Cory is making his way through several downed poplar trees on the base during the work weekend.

Dinner one night included steaks and root beer, made by Chucky's Chipmunks, using Knife Lake Dorothy's recipe. Drinking up are (left to right, facing the camera): John Oosterhuis, Roy Cerny, Wade Herbranson, Joe Miller, and Roger Peterson.



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This year's SAA Holiday Card features the Bob Cary pen-and-ink drawing shown above. You can get yours with a holiday greeting inside or blank inside. Use the form below to order yours.

1999 SAA Holiday Greeting Card Sale

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is taking orders for our 1999 Holiday Greeting Cards. By using these cards, SAA members and supporters send holiday greetings to friends, business associates and fellow scouters and send a message of commitment to programs

of Northern Tier High Adventure, BSA. You get your order promptly.

This year's card shows a "Jackpine" Bob Cary drawing of a sled dog team and driver hauling a Holiday tree with spruce or balsams in the background. It's printed using highest quality thermography

(also called "embossed") on premium cards of recycled paper. The card opens on the side this year (past cards that opened on the bottom). The back of the card carries a message about Northern Tier High Adventure. This is a distinctive, very handsome greeting card. The

cards come 25 per package, with envelopes. A few cards: "Commissary," "Lodge," "Hanson House," "Canoe Yard," and "Gateway" are available at discounted prices. A special series of all five previous years is available at a special price. All orders subject to availability.

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___ 1999 Cards - Sled dogs hauling Christmas tree (Holiday greeting inside)	x \$25.00= _____
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___ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1994 Cards - Hanson House, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1994 Cards - Hanson House Notecard, Plain Inside	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - The Lodge Notecard, Plain Inside	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - The Lodge, summer view, Plain inside	x \$20.00= _____
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