



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Red Renner Memorial Work Week Begins June 7th

by Patrick Cox

The 2003 Red Renner Memorial Work Week for Northern Tier alumni at the Sommers base is scheduled for June 7th through 11th. This year we'll be gathering at the Ely base and going to Atikokan from there.

Tentative projects include starting with a deck (or porch) in Atikokan. Then we'll move on to working on the staff lounge and log peeling in Ely.

You are all invited to come up for as many days as your schedule allows and contribute your time and talents to the betterment of the base. Even if your talents are limited, your time will be well spent and will be much appreciated.

This is an opportunity for alumni to spend a week (or whatever part of a week they can get free) at the base, with fellow alumni, enjoying their surroundings

and their camaraderie. All room and board are furnished, however some staff have been known to travel to other locations in the area for food and drink beyond what's available on the base. All have reported having a good time.

If you can make it, contact **Pat Cox** to let us know you are coming. You can reach him via 281-497-4226(W) or 713-628-2532 (Cell) or email patrick.cox@coxcpa.net

Base Plans Through 2005 Approved

by Doug Hirdler

The February 24th meeting in Beaver Bay with the Lake County Planning Commission was extremely successful. The conditional use permit to add the Female Sauna/Shower to the current Sauna/Shower was approved as was the building of a new Tent Drying Building, another Staff Duplex, and a new Baypost.

All this good news comes in no small part as a result of the appeals put on by **John Parish, Butch Dieslin, and Bob O'Hara**. There were 8 positive letters of support from Fall Lake Township taxpayers plus positive support given by the following Fall Lake Township Residents: **Bill Forsberg Sr.; Bill Forsberg Jr.** (Co-owners of Timber Trail Lodge); and **Bill Evans** (Owner of Country Simple Pleasures) all of whom were present at the meeting to lend their support. There were no negative letters or comments made!

The remaining plans to renovate the base will not be implemented until after 2005. That includes all the fur trade history buildings. The staff lounge renovation is nearly complete, now in the painting stage, and will be ready for use this summer.

Sommers Alumni Triple Crown Award

by Allen Rench

Nearly 200 Scouts and Scouters received their Triple Crown Award this year. This is an award given to those individuals who have participated in High Adventure at all three High Adventure Bases: Philmont, Sea Base and Northern Tier (Sommers Canoe Base, Rogerts and Bisset). Each recipient is presented with a letter of recognition for his or her achievement and a Certificate of Commendation

This award is becoming increasingly difficult to attain because of the limited number of crews allowed to take a Philmont hiking trek. For anyone to receive this recognition requires commitment on the part of the participant and long-standing dedication of their Scouting organization. Hats off to all Triple Crown recipients.



Allen Rench personally presented These Scouts from Woodbury MN Troop 559 their Triple Crown Awards

Volunteer for '03 Nor'wester Staff Training

by Michael Holdgrafer

That dang ground hog sure was right about winter lingering on when he saw his shadow this year. But, the good news is that there are a lot of signs that the summer canoeing season is around the

corner. As this article is written, Canocopia, the world's largest paddlesport exposition is being held in Madison, Wisconsin. Ice houses in the northern part of Minnesota have to be off the ice

on March 15th. The white-throated sparrows that have migrated to Oklahoma for the winter are disappearing and headed north to canoe country for the summer. Plus,

(continued on page 5)

President's Message

by Allen Rench

Well, it is approaching spring-time. Those old familiar itchies are attacking once again. You know the ones I mean. Those little memory flashes of endless summer days, spent in the comfort of your canoe, paddling towards that days campsite. Those constant little reminders of a time when eating a meal in the rain, carrying a canoe on your head and a pack on your back walking through waist deep mud seemed kind of sensible and almost normal. Well not normal enough to put them on your resume or job application.

Don't forget those inspirational moments when your crew started to gel. Some trips this happened early in the trek and sometimes later and sometimes not at all. But when it did it was pure magic. They were all paddling along side you. None were zigzagging like they were trying to avoid a submarine attack, like that first day heading toward Prairie Portage. Time spent on the portages was shorter and you were less likely to be counting packs, paddles, lifejackets, crew members and canoes. You were having more confidence in your crew's abilities to travel, camp and not inflict bodily harm on themselves or you. Best of all, deep down inside, you knew, you really knew that you were giving these scouts a ride for their life. An adventure above all adventures, an experience, which could never be replaced.

When I hired on at Charlie's, teaching was not my conscious focus for being a guide.

I wanted to stretch my physical limits; my abilities to get to some seldom reached part of the park and even get back to a favorite oasis. I was seeking adventure. But adventure was something I wanted to share with scouts. Teaching wasn't a deliberate act, but it was part of the process of guiding. As each of us canoed

through the wilderness, a part of ourselves melded with our crews. Likewise our crews rubbed off on us. Just through constant contact and our crew's observation of our wilderness skills we were able to pass on our woodsmanship.

Some of us were fortunate to have crews that possessed trekking skills that propelled them through the park with ease, making everyone green with envy. These golden moments made our guiding days even sweeter. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this were the norm rather than the exception? Each of you in some way still possesses your knowledge of canoeing, camping, fishing and love for the out of doors. If presented to you, would you take the opportunity to share your wilderness experience with some needy Scout or Scouter who is planning a trip to the North?

I would like to offer you that opportunity. You can have a chance again to share, to teach, a chance to participate in this organizations goal of supporting the programs of Sommers Canoe Base.

We are developing an expansion to our web site. We are adding an active United States map to enable prospective crew leadership to contact alumni in their area as a canoe trek resource. By being a resource volunteer you can provide your knowledge of North woods canoeing to Scouts and Scouters alike. This way you can still affect a crew's ability to have a memorable canoeing experience. By sharing your knowledge, you also increase the interpreter's ability to teach beyond basic trekking skills. I believe one is never too old or out of the water too long to share their knowledge, skills and passion for the North.

All you have to do is contact us and say HOL-RY.

<http://www.holry.org/>

Have you been over to the online home of the Sommers Alumni Association? If you've never been there, just put the above URL into the "address" window of your browser and click on over for a visit. It's an easy place to check on what's new and find all the back issues of REFLECTIONS. Former guides can also find their compatriots there by checking the Membership Directory. It's another resource that modern technology makes possible for us.

Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (1)**	Allen Rench	(507) 536-0736
Secretary**	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Treasurer**	Nigel Cooper	(715) 325-6521
Director/Vice President (3)**	Patrick Cox	(847) 223-6074
Director (3)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 594-6287
Director (3)	Chuck Rose	(320) 252-2768
Director (3)**	Michael McMahon	(651) 483-5759
Director (2)	Roy Conradi	(770) 972-8115
Director/Past President (2)**	Dave Hyink	(253) 863-6406
Director (2)	Mike Holdgrafer	(918) 743-5565
Director (2)	LeRoy Heikes	(507) 533-8822
Director (1)	Lynn Reeve	(507) 235-5107
Director (1)	Linnea Renner	(218) 365-3655
Director (1)	Brian Vollmer-Buhl	(541) 513-4124

Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

**Executive Committee Member

Program Liaisons

Mr. Keith Gallaway	National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Doug Hirdler	Director and General Manager, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Mr. Terrance P. Dunn	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee Dunn Construction 929 Holmes Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 391-2530 Fax: (816) 460-2786
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In Memoriam- Hank Kolbinger (1956-2003)

Henry J. "Hank" Kolbinger passed away on February 17, 2003 after a courageous 2-year battle with cancer. He leaves behind his immediate family of Claire, his wife of 23 years and his sons Clayton (20) and Joseph (18) along with his parents, brothers and sister and many friends who were fortunate enough to have known him.



Hank attended the canoe base as a scout and began working there as a guide in 1974. In 1976, during his last year at the base he served as the director of trail operations. In 1977 and 1978 Hank spent the summers with other former Sommers guides on extended canoe expeditions into Canada. In 1977 he joined **Jim Harkreader, Dennis Lafollette and Ralph Nelson** on an 80-day trip through the interior of Manitoba to York Factory on Hudson Bay, beginning the trip at Wallace Lake outside of Bissett. In 1978 he joined Jim Cole, Chris Clay and Ralph Nelson on a 56 day trip to Churchill on Hudson Bay, beginning at Lac Brochet at the northern end of Reindeer Lake, traveling north to Nueltin Lake then east to Hudson Bay by way of the Seal River.



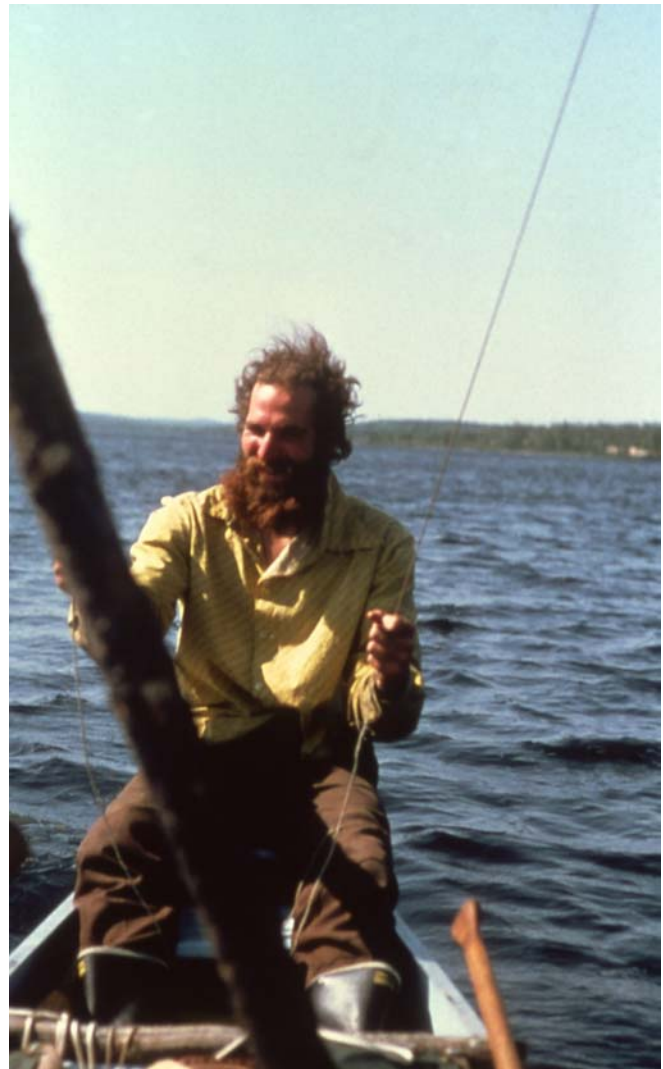
*Have you ever heard of the Land of Beyond?
That dreams at the gates of the day?
Alluring it lies at the skirts of the skies,
And ever so far away;
Alluring its calls: O ye the yoke galls,
And ye of the trail overfond,
With saddle and pack, by paddle and track,
Let's go to the land of Beyond!*

Land of Beyond, Robert Service

Hank returned to the canoe base in subsequent years, bringing up crews from the Mankato area. He continued to remain involved in Scouting, and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award as an adult.

Hank was a gentle giant who immediately caught your attention once he gave you his patented firm handshake. Anyone who came to know him was impressed with his way with people. His genuine interest and concern for others translated into immediate friendships that would endure through time. One of his greatest assets was his sense of humor - his quick wit allowed him to introduce humor into seemingly any situation. His ability to pull off pranks always kept you on your toes when you were around him. On the trail he was the perfect companion for a canoe trip of any length, providing leadership and wise council for making good decisions, eternally considerate of others and always putting the concerns and interests of the group first.

Hank was a good man that was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all who came into contact with him. We can all consider ourselves lucky for having known him.



Bing's list of more things I learned in the woods

by Mike Bingley

A couple of years ago I wrote a brief list of things that I had learned in the woods and sent it off to **Dave Greenlee** for inclusion on the alumni website. Well, that was more than two years ago and I'm now deeply involved in the development of a High Adventure base with Scouts Canada. I can tell you that my short list of things that I wrote down weren't the only things that I learned. With that in mind I present to you Bing's list of more things I learned in the woods (the 2003 version):

- Take care of your crews – you never know when you might need a pick me up over email and a sounding board for a marketing plan.

- Gourmet coffee houses make good coffee but it doesn't hold a candle to the taste of the worst

- coffee made at the side of a lake in the Northcountry.

- If you hang a picture of any of the canoe bases in your office somebody will eventually come in and say "isn't that the canoe base?" It will lead to many stories being told.

- People who haven't been a Charlie Guide will tire of canoeing stories eventually. I suspect it's because they don't believe them.

- No matter how hard you try – voyageur clothing rarely passes as clothing for the office.

- That being said – if you keep your trail clothes in the bottom of a file drawer in your office you can have an instant "take me back to the north country" fix.

- Mark your maps – and

- mark them with more than portages – write stories on them. They look good framed on your apartment wall.

- Keep a journal – when the ground is frozen and you're feeling lonely for the north you can go back instantly with just a short read.

- Take a camera and take lots of pictures. If you have a light-weight video camera – take that too and videotape other Charlie Guides. What was funny while you were working is even funnier when you're back in civilization.

- Be Prepared for culture shock when you get back from even a short stay at any of the bases. I flew home for my graduation halfway through staff training in my second year at the base and being in a university robe just

- didn't seem right after a month at the base (though I did make a point of wearing a shirt recently off the trail under my robe – yes, I washed it).

- There is no person more important than the kids in your crew – remember that and act accordingly

- In the eyes of your crew there is no person stronger, faster or cooler than their guide – remember that too

- The kids who drive you nuts while you're on the trail will send you a Christmas Card two years later if you treat them with the same respect as everyone else.

- Finally – You will bump into Charlie Guides in the oddest of places at awkward times and it will turn you back into a Charlie Guide instantly.

Hudson Bay Bread - What's in it?

by Dave Greenlee

Anybody can look at the ingredients in the recipe and see that bay bread is full of nutrients that help satisfy the kind of hunger you can only get while paddling and portaging all day long. Thanks to some detective work, now we can share a good bit more about the nutrition information.

Recently my daughter, Meghan, went to England and made a discovery. She had heard the story that Sandy Bridges told us about the origin of the recipe and its roots as an English snack called "flapjacks." Imagine her surprise when she saw



some bay bread packaged in cellophane on the shelf of a convenience store. There were several kinds, but the one that looked most like bay bread was called "Mixed fruit flapjack."

She dutifully bought one and dragged it home so that I could see her discovery. On the front of the package, it says: "with raisins, sultanas, and currants." Since I didn't know what a sultana was, I checked the Internet and found

out that in the UK, a sultana is a dried Thompson Seedless Grape, a "special" kind of raisin. Also, it certainly looks just like bay bread, except that the portion is about half the size of our typical 3 1/2" (just fits in a milk carton) size.



Look at the carbohydrate! It sure isn't going to make it for the Atkins Diet. On the other hand, you can begin to see better why we look forward to it on the trail. Keep in mind that these numbers are BEFORE you put the peanut butter and jelly on.

On the back is the ingredients list:

- Oats (47%)
- Partially Inverted sugar syrup (containing flavouring)
- Margarine (containing emulsifiers)
- Colours (Annatto, Curcumin)
- Flavourings
- Butter
- Sugar
- Raisins (2%)
- Sultanas (2%)
- Currants (2%)

...and even a table of nutrition information:

Enjoy,
Dave



	per 100g	per slice*
Energy Value	1725kJ / 410kcal.	2562kJ / 610 kcal.
Protein	5.8 g	8.8 g
Fat	15g	22g
Carbohydrate	63g	94g
Fibre	3.2g	4.8g
Sodium	.2g	.4g

* I doubled the values from the 75g portion to indicate a typical (150g) canoe base portion.

Tid-Bits on Members of the Sommers Clan

The alumni association has an online member directory that is updated every few months. Check the online directory at www.holry.org for updated information

Doug Bender ('88-91) [dbtds@centurytel.net] has moved to O' Fallon, MO. His new address is in the online directory.

Alan Gibson has moved to another part of Glasgow Scotland. His new email [alanm.gibson@ntlworld.com] and his new address is in the online directory.

Terry Gibson ('63-65,'72) [cleantile2@aol.com] called Butch Diesslin ('61-79,'81) [butnlucy@cpinternet.com] when the temperature in Florida was near freezing. The glass of water Terry's son set outside didn't freeze until Terry placed it in the freezer, then set it back outside before his son got up. Terry reported great fishing for juvenile Snook from a canoe.

Man's Hobby Becomes a Business

Hol-ry,

As I put on the years as an elder alumni I have looked for a hobby that I enjoy that can tie me with the northwoods. Several years ago Butch showed me what diamond willow looked like and the cool walking sticks you could make with it. After making a few of the sticks I have gone a step further and made a number of pieces of furniture for myself.

This has led to making and selling some pieces and putting a number of them in a store for sale on consignment. Gradually this is developing into a business. I now have a really cool website. The address is www.bcrustics.com I would like to have you check it out and let me know what you think.

If you like what you see and would like to have me make a piece or two for you or have ideas for something, let me know. The pictures are only a small portion of what I have built. I do not yet have a price list made as the site is still under construction but email me and I can let you know. If you click on the pictures in the product section they will enlarge. I would like to find out what you all think, so please email me.

- Roy Cerny



Volunteer for '03 Nor'wester Staff Training *continued...*

across Canada and the United States, about 200 young men and women are thinking beyond final exams and planning to be a part of the staff at the Northern Tier.

Yes, summer will be here sooner than we think and SAA alumni will have another chance to pass along their experience and knowledge to a new generation of Charlie Guides by volunteering to be a part of staff training from June 1 -11.

What is going to happen? The U.S. staff will train in Ely and the Canadian staff will train in Atikokan. The total staff at all facilities will exceed 210 in number. New staff will be divided into historically-named training brigades, led by an experienced brigade leader. On June 1st, the majority of the staff will arrive and starting June 2nd, participate the next few days in on-Base training and preparing for swamper trips on June 5-9. Then June 10-11, seminars will be conducted in Ely, for the combined U.S. and Canadian staff, by various professionals and/or volunteers. In the past, these sessions have been taught by **Cliff Jacobson, Bob O'Hara, Steve Piragis, Bob Cary, Butch Diesslin** and many other

individuals, notable for their experience in the outdoors and in the program.

What can I do? There are multiple opportunities in Ely depending upon the flexibility of your schedule and where you think you can pitch in and share your knowledge and experience. You can participate in any portion or segment of the training from June 1 through June 11.

Volunteers are needed for:

- On-Base staff training.
- Swamper training trips.
- Seminar presentations.
- Base Staff training.
- To help with staff activities and meals.

The story remains the same each year: *We welcome any volunteer who is willing to share his or her time to build upon the legacy of the Northern Tier program!* Volunteers are needed to accompany the swamper trips to serve as a resource advisor. All you need, other than time from your busy schedule, is to bring along a signed physical (which you can download at www.ntier.org) signed by a physician within the twelve months prior to the swamper trip. Please plan to arrive a day or two before the swamper trip leaves, to participate in brief review sessions and to assist with on-Base

preparations. There is no other cost other than for fishing licenses.

Volunteers are equally needed for on-Base training or to be a part of the SAA presence at sessions, whether formal or informal. The Base will provide lodging and food. The SAA will provide an alumni shirt. Plus, Butch Diesslin has offered to take up to nine volunteers fishing on a Basswood motor permit he has while training is in session. But, it's your choice to volunteer.

If you're not sure what goes on, go to www.holry.org and read the articles about prior years training in *Reflections*. Training is a good opportunity for you to stay connected with the Northern Tier, or more importantly to re-connect. The woods, other than a few blown down trees, are still pretty much the same. The program is also similarly the same, which means that your knowledge and experience is a valuable asset to be passed down to the next generation of Charlie Guides. This is, after all, our legacy.

Please contact Mike via 918.669.3048 (w), 918.743.5565 (h) or mike.holdgrafer@dtag.com for more details, or Terry Schocke at 218.365.4811 or terry@ntier.org.



Get Involved!

If you are wondering how you can be more active within the Sommers Alumni Association, here is your chance. We would like to establish a Nation wide network of willing members to act as a Northern Tier Trek Resource.

The volunteer would make him or herself available to local Scout groups wishing to gain knowledge about canoeing at the Northern Tier Canoe Bases. In meetings you can pass on your wilderness experiences to the group and help better prepare them for what lies ahead. In doing so you enable them to have a more enjoyable Trekking adventure. Plus, these groups can meet the people that established the name of Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base.

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

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

Or email the information to NTTResource@charter.net

I am interested in participating as a Northern Tier Trek Resource

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Have You Seen This Guide?

A list of missing/lost alumni

Have You Seen This Guide?

There are many of our fellow former Northern Tier summer staff with whom we've lost contact. We're always looking for them, so if you know where they are or how to contact them, please ask them to get "in touch."

Continued from the Winter edition:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sayed, Omar 1993 | Smith, L. Tom 1963 | Telford, Jim 1968-69 | Weir, Aileen 1998 |
| Sayer, Dave 1968 | Smith, Lorinda 1991 | Thoe, James 1955 | Weisinger, Carrie 1999 |
| Sayler, Chester 1956 | Smith, Mike 1961-64 | Thom, Nathan 1995-97 | Weisinger, Ron 1970 |
| Sayler, Dale | Smith, Steve 1970 | Thomas, Paul 1988-90 | Weisselberg, Ed 1953 |
| Scott, Lee 1993,94 | Smith, Steven 1990 | Thome, Tim 1983 | Wells, Bob 1968 |
| Scott, Lyndon 1993 | Spaulding, William 1969-70 | Thompson, Anthony 1977-78 | Welsh, Philip 1990 |
| Seitz, Niel 1963 | Springer, Julie 1991 | Thompson, Danny 1975 | Wertz, Jeremy 1994 |
| Serrault, David 1975-76 | Sprout, Jerry 1975 | Tierney, Richard 1956 | Wetmore, Brian 1974 |
| Sever, Ben 1991 | Staley, Robert 1955-56 | Tobin, Jan 1974 | Weyer, Gary 1978 |
| Sharon, Daniel 1986 | Standifer, Jim "Bubba" 1968 | Troehler, Greg 1992 | Whipps, John 1969 |
| Sheffield, Phil 1975 | Stemen, Jamie 1998 | Turman, Rich 1975 | Whistler, John 1968-70 |
| Sheire, Blair 1966 | Stephens, Don 1998 | Turner, Aubrey 1993 | White, David 1969 |
| Shlemkevich, Andrea 1996 | Stevens, Andrew 1997 | Urban, Pete 1968 | Widney, Tom 1970 |
| Shores, Garry 1999 | Stone, Wes 1968-70 | Valentin, Michael 1993 | Wilhelmsson, Mikael 1987 |
| Sikes, Mike 1969 | Strain, Larry 1968 | Van Riper, Tom 1997-98 | Williams, Anne 1976 |
| Simington, Ken 1975-76 | Strickland, Flossie 1999 | Vars, Roy 1992 | Williams, Jim 1983 |
| Simmons, Bill 1970 | Strobush, Dennis 1985 | Vasey, Steve 1979 | Williams, John 1983 |
| Sisco, Gary 1987 | Strom, Bruce | Vasquez, Manuel 1992 | Wilson, James 1968-69 |
| Sitzer, Brent 1976-77 | Struck, Bob 1981 | Virnig, Pat 1974 | Wink, Gary 1993-94 |
| Sitzer, Ed 1955 | Sullivan, Gayla 1986 | Vokaty, Dwight 1966 | Wittlief, Todd 1983 |
| Skeaff, Erik 1996 | Swails, Mark 1969- | Vowles, Jeremy 1991 | Wolfe, Hal 1980 |
| Skelton, Keith 1996-97 | Swails, Steve 1968 | Wagner, Steve 1984 | Wunderlich, Steve 1980-81 |
| Skelton IV, John 1991 | Swails, Tom | Waite, David 1987 | Wyatt, Paul 1969-70 |
| Skinner, James 1953 | Swanson, Hale 1956 | Wall, Don 1970 | Yocum, Caleb 1992-93 |
| Slagoski, Jimmy 1992 | Swanson, John 1954-58,62 | Wandstrom, Demar 1953 | Yocum, Jacob 1997-98 |
| Slansky, Chuck | Swanson, Leif 1983-84 | Ward, Bob 1978-79 | Yoder, David 1988,90 |
| Smith, Al 1970 | Sward, Ric 1970 | Ward, Chris 1997 | Yoder, Steven 1990 |
| Smith, Charles 1968 | Taft, Greg 1988-89 | Warren, Brad 1975 | Yundt, John 1984 |
| Smith, Con 1953 | Taggart, Fr. Rob 1999 | Warren, Michael 1968-69 | Zilisch, John 1961 |
| Smith, Donald 1987-89 | Takle, Bob 1961 | Waters, Browning 1968-69 | Zimmerman, Roger 1963 |
| | Taminenn, Pasi 1985 | Weatherstone, Scott 1986-88 | |



Personal Information Update

Addresses are changing, area codes keep changing, e-mail addresses keep changing.

Please send any personal information changes that you would like to share with the SAA and other alumni members to:

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

or e-mail the changes to:
Butch Diesslin
[butnlucy@cpinternet.com]

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

Name: _____ Years at No. Tier: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

_____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Other: _____

Occupation/Employer: _____

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

Additional Information To Share: _____

Wake Up

by Mark Nordstrom

One of the surprises of being a Charlie Guide is the day you are treated like some kind of icon. The crews come from "civilization." They figure they are in the "wild." You are part of that thing they have come to, but you seem enough like them to be part of them, so they ask you to explain it to them. The questions start out as, "How deep is this lake?" along with many of the other frequently-asked questions that we often marvel at. The truth is; those questions are how they express their awe for the power of nature they discover as they confront it (probably for the first time) without the aid of machines. It's brute force living and they just don't understand it.

We live our lives in machines. Our homes are machines. They regulate our temperatures with thermostats - temperature at a constant level supplied by natural gas, propane, oil, etc.; they carry us from home to work or school and back with minimal attention to their needs; they bake our pizzas; they supply our water; they empty our latrines. Our cities are machines.

On a Northern Tier canoe trip they confront nature without any of those machines to which become

accustomed. When they do that, they feel the power of nature (especially if there's a thunderstorm, lightning, big waves, or some other event that subordinates their lives or requires them to work harder). They realize how small they really are. Then they turn to the human being who seems to be so accustomed to it - the interpreter (previously known by the antiquated term of Charlie Guide). Sometime around the second or third day out that person changes from the jerk, who told them they couldn't take an extra pillow, to an oracle. As **Sam Cook** says, "The guide is cool." Then they start asking, and they don't really know the questions to use, so they ask about the depth of the lake (Chest high on a loon is a good answer). What they really want to know is, "Where do I really fit in this world, anyway?"

They think they've found something, but they don't have any real idea what they've found. It's the first time they've come face to face with the world they live in every day, but without the machines that make that world very different from what they see. They need something to connect what they're experiencing with what they live. It's really simple.

Their city is a campsite. At home, instead of hauling water from the lake and treating it to avoid giardia, they turn on the tap to receive water they pay taxes for so people will do it for them. Instead of fishing, or packing and hauling their food across portage trails, they rely on the health department to ensure that the food that's shipped to grocery stores and shipped to restaurants and cooked is safe. Instead of building fires or using stoves to cook, they pay for gas and electricity to supply their kitchen appliances so they can cook their food. Instead of digging a hole for their excrement, they're paying for sewage service. They just don't catch on, until they take a "wilderness" canoe trip, that they're camping out on the land every day. Their whole life is a campout, not a beach.

When they spend time traveling through what Joni Mitchell would describe as a "tree museum" they catch on to what their life is. The trick is to make sure they understand that the experience they've had is the experience they live every day. Of course that means that when their town's sewer system overflows in a heavy rain and dumps raw sewage into a

local watershed, they're responsible for that imposition on the folks downstream. They'll have to spend money (and, even worse, have to convince their friends and neighbors that they'll have to spend money too) to stop that happening in the future.

A Northern Tier canoe trip is a face-to-face with nature that crews work very hard to prepare for and work very hard to cope with afterwards. It's often the first and only time that children and adults from mechanized society directly confront the power of nature.

The trick is to put them on to the paradox of the mechanized human race and its relationship with nature. Although it's so easy to live with the city services modern civilization can provide, people should be smart enough not to put more stress on natural providence than it can endure. Perhaps a Northern Tier experience can give them something to take home: all of our environment needs to be treated with a respect like the one that we give this "special" wilderness area.



DreamQuest

Matt Smith has worked with Northern Tier High Adventure base in Atikokan for several years, but he was just eleven when he took his first scouting trip across the Canadian wilderness and began to formulate a dream. Since that time, Matt has spent much of his spare time preparing mentally and physically for what is now a quest to paddle his way across most of Canada solo. Starting in May he'll be living out of his Tranquility Solo canoe, provided by the Souris River Canoe Company, for some 200 days. When it's over, Matt will have covered more than 6,000 kilometers or nearly 4,000 miles.

Matt will set out from Rocky Mountain House in early May and follow the North Saskatchewan River east, eventually passing through the Boundry Waters and Lake Superior, following the traditional voyageur route all the way to Montreal. Reaching the St. John River by way of a portage of more than 30 miles, he will pass through the Bay of Fundy and hopes to reach Truro, Nova Scotia, where his grandparents live, sometime in November.

Want to know more? Follow Matt on this journey of a lifetime through his website at <http://www.justcanoe.com> and cheer him on through his quest.

Tid-Bits on Members of the Sommers Clan

Jon Johnson ('69-70) [jrjohnsn@redwing.net] found the alumni association. Jon is a Simulator and Operations Instructor for Nuclear Management Co., and lives in Hager City, WI.

Doug Ramsey ('95-02) [doug.ramsey@conserveschool.org] and **Sarah Swain Ramsey** ('98-02) [sarah.ramsey@conserveschool.org] have joined the staff at the Conservation School near Land O' Lakes, WI.

Paul Schlieve ('71-87, '88-Cmte) [schlieve@katunigan.com] is no longer on the faculty at UNT and is now authoring and consulting. Note new e-mail address.

James W. Shepherd of Birmingham, AL has joined the Northern Tier committee. Welcome to Northern Tier!

Mike Hart ('63-64) also has a new e-mail address. [mmhart@advantexmail.net].

Robert Rench ('62-66) Warrant Officer 4, is in the Alabama National Guard. His duty is in Aviation Maintenance. He has been deployed to Kuwait for at least a year. His email address is [Robert.Rench@us.army.mil].

If you know of other alumni who are serving our country overseas, please send us information about that service so that we may share and support them.

Who Am I?

A picture is worth a thousand... Memories?

Do you have any idea who this guide in the bow tie is? It's got me puzzled. Can you stump us with a great shot like this from your guiding days? Why not share it with all of us and we'll do a little reminiscing over the fun and crazy things we did in those days. Over the years a lot has happened, but nothing can erase those special moments captured forever on film.

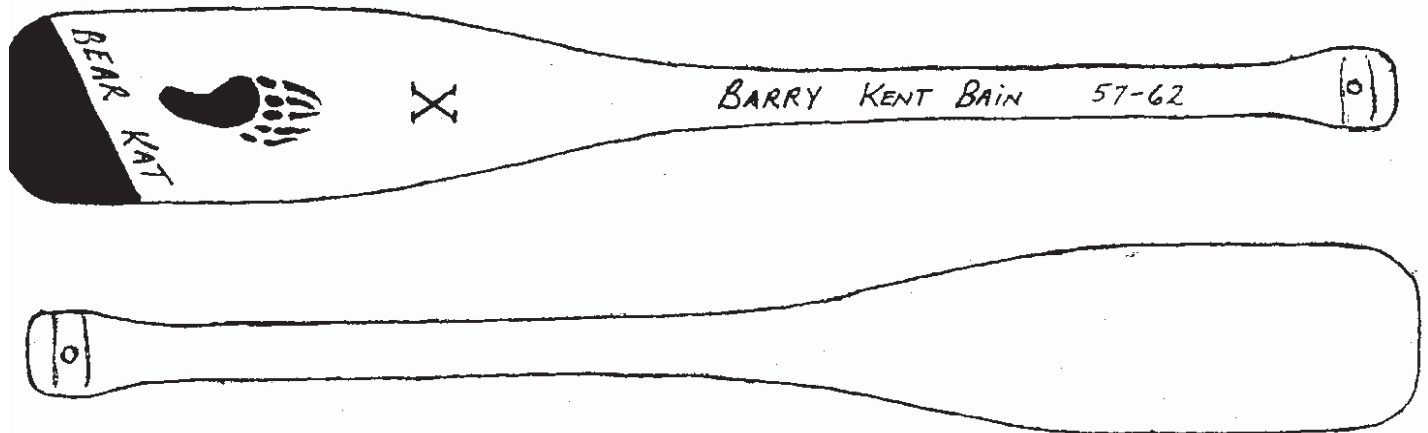
If you do have a pictured buried somewhere you'd like to share with the rest of us, find it, write to us about the story behind it and send it to:

Great Charlie Guide Photos
The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association
PO Box 428
Ely, Mn 55731

And be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope so that we can get your priceless gem back to you. We can't wait to see what you've got! Oh, and if you know who the over-dressed swamper is in this picture is - let us know!



Miniature Paddle Brands



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Red Tip: Yes No Region 10x: Yes No

Years Guided ____ to ____

Checks payable to **Sommers Alumni Association**
Mail to: The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association
PO Box 428
Ely, Mn 55731

Remember gazing at the Paddle display case and seeing all of those paddle designs of those bygone days and imagining the faces that went with them? Well here is your chance to leave your mark once again at the Canoe Base and have someone ponder your logo. With the addition of a second paddle display cabinet (crafted by Red Renner) in the Lodge there is plenty of room to add your brand to the growing collection.

For \$25 you can have your very own paddle brand placed on a miniature paddle and put on display. A full size sample is provided above as a template to place your artwork. Sketch your logo on the sample or send in a picture of your artwork and let us do the rest.

When completed your design name and years you served at the base will appear on the paddle to share with a whole new generation of Scouts and Guides. If you didn't have a paddle brand, but had a special canoe name or logo, put it on the paddle too. OKPIK staff — we have room for miniature skis or snow shoes too. Additional instructions, please staple them to the order form.



SAA Card Sale



Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is taking orders for Greeting Cards. Some cards come with holiday messages, others are blank inside. They can be used year

round to send greetings as well as a message of commitment to Northern Tier programs.

All cards are printed using high quality thermography on

premium cards of recycled paper.

The backs of the cards carry a message saying you are a supporter of Northern Tier High Adventure. These are distinctive and very

handsome greeting cards. The cards come 25 per package, including envelopes. All orders are subject to availability.

Quantity	Holiday Greeting/Blank inside	
___ 2000 Cards - "Company Coming" moose approaching campsite	___/___	x \$25.00= _____
___ 1999 Cards - Sled dogs pulling Christmas Tree	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1998 Cards - Commissary	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1996 Cards - Fort Gateway	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1994 Cards - Hanson House	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Winter Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Summer Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ Holiday Sampler - 25 assorted cards		x \$20.00 _____
___ Special , save 40%, off original issue price. 1999-1993 (five boxes, 125 cards) Our choice. Will try to honor requests.		x \$75.00= _____
___ Tax Deductible Gift to the Alumni Association for 2003		_____

**BUY ONE
GET ONE
FREE**

Buy 1 Get 1 Free
Sale shipping = **\$3.00**

Total _____

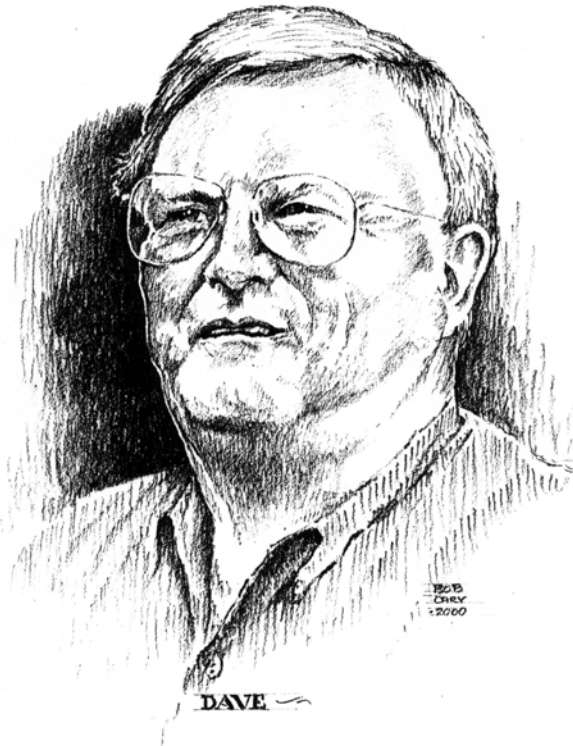
SAA Holiday Card Sale
PO Box 428
Ely, MN 55731-0428

Dave Hyink Honored

Dave Hyink was honored at Rendezvous 2002 for his outstanding contributions to the Sommers Alumni Association. Dave was presented with a pen and ink portrait, drawn by "Jackpine" Bob Cary.

Dave served as the chairman of the alumni association's founding committee. He arranged for alumnus and attorney **Greg Kvam** to use his professional expertise to establish the Sommers Alumni Association as a Minnesota non-profit corporation on February 14, 1992.

Dave was a founding director and the founding president of the association. Dave served as president from 1992-2000 and continues to serve as a director.



When \$30,000 was needed to complete the renovation of "The Lodge" at the Sommers Base, Dave designed the successful fund-raising effort.

When the preliminary management plan for the BWCAW set the group size at 6 people, Dave led the alumni association's successful efforts to inform supporters of youth group canoeing which generated more than 700 letters in support of a group size of 9 persons.

Seeing the need for the alumni association to have more operating funds than what is generated by dues, Dave worked closely with Jay Walne to develop the alumni association's very successful "Crossing Portages" annual giving campaign.

Thanks So Much!

HOL-RY — RED-EYE

To meet someone you know
in a faraway place,
Can be the best part
of a trip;
With something in common
it strikes a good note,
You may feel there's a
real kinship.

Now if you or your friend
went to the same school
Or fought in the war
over there,
Played in the band
or on the same team,
It does not really matter
just where.

What I'm trying to say,
and I hope to convey,
Are the feelings you have
as you meet;
The trust that you've shared,
as friends you have cared,
Your chance meeting has been
quite a treat!

Well, there is this group
to which I belong,
Their tradition has long
had its place,
They were guides in their youth,
some long ago,
At the Charles L. Sommers
Canoe Base.

When I'm paddling the lakes
up in the northwoods,
And a "Charlie Crew"
comes into sight,
I holler "Hol-Ry!" and
await the reply;
Then "Red-Eye!" means
everything's right!

For I've found a friend
I may never have met,
It was fate that we passed
on the lake;
It's the bonds that we share
as our trips we compare,
That make memories for
old times sake.

Dr. Kay H. Ingebrigtsen
1995

Supporting SAA Via Payroll Deduction

Will your employer make a payroll deduction for the United Way? If so, you can probably have your employer withhold a donation to the Sommers Alumni Association, through the United Way's donor's Designated Choice program.

Alumni member **Lee Sessions** (1982-86) is supporting the alumni association through a payroll deduction. When Lee completed his New United Way of Portland withholding form and filed it with his employer, Intel, Inc., Lee listed the Charles L. Sommers Alumni

Association, Inc. as his "Donor Choice" designated non-profit organization.

Lee's Designated Choice donation to the alumni association is deducted by Intel from Lee's paycheck, sent to the New United Way of Portland, which in turn is sending Lee's donation to the association.

The payroll department of your employer can provide you with more information about donor designated choice payroll deductions for non-profit organizations.

The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. is a non-profit Minnesota corporation with a 501(c)3 designation from the U.S. IRS, making all donations to the alumni association fully tax-deductible. Documentation of the SAA's non-profit status is available from the alumni association.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ELY MN 55731
PO BOX 428

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