



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Dorothy's Island Revisited

By Mark Nordstrom

Knife Lake is a pretty good paddle from Moose Lake. If you make it to Knife from Moose on the first day, with a new crew, you've done pretty well. Until 1986, if you went to Knife Lake, you probably stopped at Dorothy's and bought root beer. Often, if a guide took a crew there, the crew was told to bring a little money, but wasn't given much of an idea what it was all about. They were always surprised to find themselves buying root beer after a lot of hard paddling through miles of wilderness.

In September 2002, it had been 16 years since Dorothy's death. The "Isle of the Pines" where she operated her resort had been deserted for that time. The "Blowdown" had come along during that time.

Dorothy had lived for decades on the group of Knife Lake islands where she rented cabins and sold root beer. When the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was created, she stayed on those islands, not out of profit motive, but out of something else that bound her to that spot. She rented her cabins and sold her root beer until she had a stroke and died.

Her cabins and other structures (such as a bridge that connected two of the islands) were taken down and some were reconstructed in Ely. The island that was probably familiar to most people, where they bought root beer and sat and chatted with Dorothy, is now covered in 15-foot-tall White Pine saplings. The clearing is gone and the only sign that remains of her presence is the tree trunk with some remnants of the signs she had posted on it. There is no Forest Service sign there to identify the spot, like you'll find if you go to where her cabins were.

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Rendezvous 2002 Enjoyed By All

By Chuck Rose

Did anyone else enjoy the reunion as much as I did?

People started arriving Friday afternoon; after settling into their cabins, were treated to a rousing sing-along around the campfire, led by Barbara Cary Hall, with help from Doris Kolodji, Roger Clapp, Cory Kolodji, and others. Blacksmiths Dave and Gerri Hanson

from Duluth also set up their wares, demonstrating their skills and allowing hands-on activity for participants. Saturday morning after breakfast, current staff gave tours of the Base, while Cory, Eric Simula, Bill Erickson and other voyageurs entertained the crowds. Eric also showed off his birchbark canoe building skills. Dianne Rench

and Doris Kolodji provided programs for the numerous children of Alumni, including making root beer and paddling the Voyageur North Canoe. During the afternoon, Laurel Theis and Kellie Hendrickson had art projects for the kids. Buzzing around was "official reunion" photographer Joel Sheagren, documenting all the events.

After lunch, it was Allen Rench's turn. He ran the annual Sommers Alumni Association business meeting which was followed by pictures of attendees as well as cake a root beer to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lodge.

The Saturday night rendezvous banquet was memorable for several reasons. Joe Seliga and photographer Deborah Sussex earned their dinners by signing copies of their newly published book, *The Art of the Canoe* with Joe Seliga (see related story, on page 3). Cory made the most of his French accent and

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Work Week 2002 Devoted to Staff Lounge

by Patrick Cox

Red Renner Memorial Work Week for 2002 got off to a surprising start. We arrived expecting to do some work on the log peeling project and maybe head to Atikokan to work on the porch. As is SOP (standard operating procedure) at Charlie's Place, nothing was to go according to plan – not that there was a grand plan to start, but it very quickly became moot as the plans changed to suit the circumstances. Like all good Charlie Guides, we rolled with the project changes and enjoyed it. Since we came prepared to do one thing and wound up doing another, we were fondly reminded of the old adage from our guiding days that "if you have the right tools for the job, you must be doing the wrong job."

We did, however, enjoy the added bonus of working with and meeting some of the trail staff from this past summer. We all observed how few of them seemed to have mastered the art of gold bricking while on Base. Unlike a few of the Alumni (and especially this author) in their trail days, they actually worked – and worked hard. But, much to our pleasure, we did have plenty of time to do a little story swapping with them about trail adventures, great campsites or lakes, such and such portage, and where to fish in the Quetico or up in Bissett or Atikokan. Some things never change, only the players....

This year's cast of players included several generations of Alumni. Roger Clapp was the first

Alumni on the scene along with Dick Boone – a long time friend of Roger's. Dick was a retired Scout Leader with no prior connections to the Base. Roger and Dick were affectionately known by their own words as the "old codgers". Mike Downing arrived soon thereafter. More Alumni arrived during the week to help with the work. Chris Clay arrived to get the log peeling going. Roy Cerny was a whiz with the wall board. Tom Beaton (a.k.a. Father Tom) arrived mid week to help out. Dave Greenlee had a nice canoe trip down from Atikokan and then stayed to help with remodeling and log peeling. Everyone's help was welcomed for whatever length of time they could be there.

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President's Message

by Allen Rench

Wow its that time again? It's early October, the leaves have started their change. My short sleeves are being exchanged for longer ones. There is a cool crispness in the air that reminds one that winter is quickly approaching. You would think that fall would inspire a slower life's pace. Not!!! Not when you have children coupled with a passion for outdoors in the fall. School is in full swing sporting events are filling up the week and weekend time slots with football, volleyball, swimming/diving. Just yesterday it was Memorial Day and I was dusting off my camping equipment preparing for a Quetico trek. Then I blinked and summer went whizzing by.

Not so for the reunion. It was a terrific time to disconnect from normal life, make the trek North and to reconnect with our friends old and new. It was a special time to pay tribute to Joe Seliga, enjoy stories from Bob Cary and to slow down just for a day or two. Watching the children making themselves at home, jumping right into the activities and making that link

to this special place in our lives was gratifying. I was glad to see and hear how much they already know about Sommers, the North woods and what goes out there while canoeing. Not to mention what they think their parents actually did at the Base. It was also a nervous time contemplating the future of the Base if these youth end up working together in the near future. Talk about legacies continued and life coming full circle LOOK OUT. But as the rendezvous was drawing to a close plans were already in the works for Rendezvous 2004. So if you didn't make it this year mark your calendar for the next one. The fun never ends.

I want to take this time to express my sincerest appreciation for all who volunteered their time and talent to orchestrate such a successful reunion. To Chuck Rose with his undaunting spirit, guaranteed that for all who came to the Base, their weekend was much more than memorable. My hat is off to you..

Allen Rench

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."

Aasen, Doug 1968-69	Baugh, Greg 1974
Adams, Micah 1995	Baugh, Regina 1974
Adams, Sam 1989-93	Baxter, Brad 1974
Addy, Ervin 1966	Bell, Greg 1975
Ahasay, Sean 1986	Bentson, Nels 1968
Akins, Don 1968-69	Bergstrom, John 1958,59
Aldridge, Steven 2001	Bernard, Gerald 1955
Allen, Bob 1961	Bervers, Michael 1984
Allen, Jennifer 1990	Bigelow, Lee 1955-56
Allinson, Charles 1988	Bills, Duane 1955-56
Altieri, Anthony 1986-88	Bishop, Eric 1980
Altieri, Nicholas 1990	Black, Robert 1983
Anderson, Bruce 1991	Blair, Scott 1977
Anderson, Darren 1978	Blauser, Doug 1970
Anderson, Sandra 1979	Bolay, Randy 1972-72
Anderson, Scott 1975	Bolay, Rod 1971-73
Applegath, Matthew 1995	Bond, Paula 1982
Armin, Dave 1956,63	Bonneville, Christian 1977
Babcock, John 1966	Born, Vernon 1968-69
Bachman, Jim 1963	Bowlin, Stan 1975
Bailey, Bruce 1970	Brashears, Bruce 1963
Baker, Gregory 1956	Bratton, Kent 2001
Baker, Robert 1986	Brewton, AIC Matthew 1997
Balot, William 1992-93	Brown, Derwin 1956
Bardon, Larry 1961-62	Brown, Greg 1984
Barr, John 1961	Brown, Kirk 1974
Barton, Rob 1966	
Bauen, Lyle 1956	

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Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (1)**	Allen Rench	(507) 536-0736
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Director (3)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 594-6287
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Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

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

Michael McMahon

The Northern Tier High Adventure Committee and the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. have awarded 30 Seasonal Staff Scholarships to Northern Tier staff in 2002. Scholarships are awarded to staff members who have been on staff at least two years and have served at least 10 weeks on staff in the last 12 months, are in good standing on the staff, are enrolled in college or university programs and are students in good standing at their institutions.



The scholarship program has two endowed scholarships. This year, the Christopher Breen Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Jacob Jeswiet**. Jacob received a \$1,000 scholarship to be used at **Lakehead University** in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Terry Wall Scholarship was awarded to **Ben K. Tomlinson**. Ben received a \$1,000 scholarship to be used at **Case Western Reserve University** in Cleveland, Ohio.

The scholarship program awards \$500 to recipients who have been on staff for two years, \$1,000 to recipients who have been on staff for three years, and \$1,500 to recipients who have been on staff for three or more years. An individual recipient may receive a total of \$3,000 in scholarships under this program.

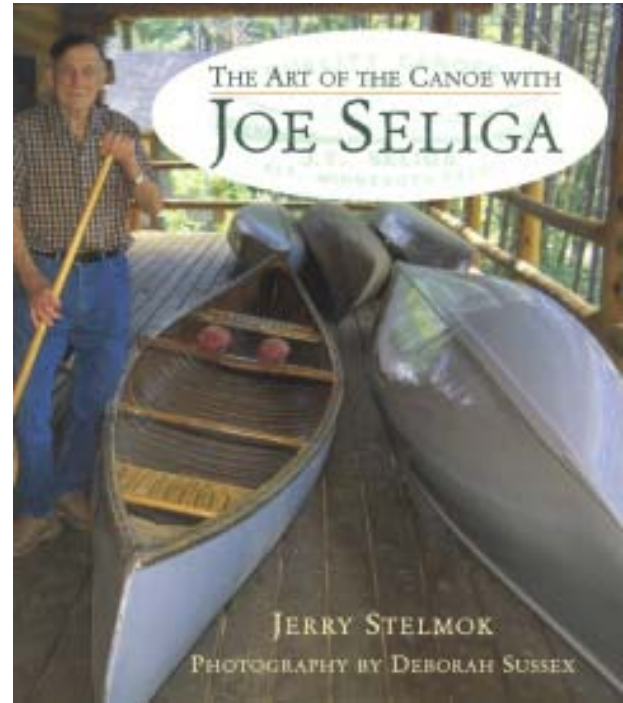
Staff members who received \$500 scholarships this year are: **Kent P. Bratton, University of Alberta**, Edmonton; **Frank O. Clouser, University of Florida**, Gainesville; **Brad J. Dewys, Lakehead University**, Thunder Bay; **Jason W. Harris, University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor; **Andrew D. Holloway, Beloit College**, Beloit, Wisconsin; **Erica R. McKenzie, Colorado State University**, Fort Collins; **Derek R. Monthei, Virginia Common-**

wealth University, Richmond; **Andrew M. Neil, Southeast Missouri State University**, Cape Girardeau; **Chris R. Roberts, University of Central Arizona**, Conway; **Joseph W. Sheffield, Georgia College and State University**, Milledgeville; **Danielle K. Stiles, Confederation College**, Thunder Bay; **Timothy D. Tipple, Iowa State University**, Ames; **Candace R. Vinke, University of Calgary**, Calgary, Alberta; and **David E. Wolf, Allegheny College**, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Recipients of \$1,000 scholarships are: **David I Burt, Carleton University**, Ottawa, Ontario; **Ryan B. Campbell, Peace River Bible Institute**, Sexsmith, Alberta; **Thomas M. Copeland, University of Missouri**, Columbia; **Andrew R. Creighton, Seneca College**, North York, Ontario; **Michael P. Goodwin, Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta; **F. Geoffrey Kooy, Laurentian University**, Sudbury, Ontario; **John D. Lundy, University of Guelph**, Guelph, Ontario; and **Jason McGowan, Confederation College**, Thunder Bay.



Staff who received \$1,500 scholarships are: **Alexander Ferrier, Carleton University**, Ottawa; **Shani L. Morgan, Lakehead University**, Thunder Bay; **Alexander D. Nepple, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater**, Whitewater; **Kimberley L. Reid, Lambton College**, Sarnia, Ontario; **Melissa A. Stoops, University of Missouri**, Columbia; and **Jay M. Timmerman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls**, River Falls.



Seliga Book is Big Hit at Rendezvous

“Wow.” “Outstanding.” “Beautiful.”

The new book *The Art of the Canoe with Joe Seliga* got rave reviews at the Sommers Alumni Association (SAA) reunion. The 10” x 10” coffee-table format book has text by Jerry Stelmok and about 200 photographs by Deborah Sussex. Scattered within the book are nine Charlie Guide stories and 20 SAA members are mentioned in the text. Sommers Canoe Base bought 122 Seliga canoes from 1950 to 1972; the Scouts were Joe’s biggest customer.

The SAA was lucky to have received the book in time for our gathering. The first 50 books ordered were air-shipped from the printer in Hong Kong. As the reunion approached, it was obvious that more copies would be needed. Fortunately, the slow boat from China arrived a week before the Rendezvous. Orders from alums unable to attend the Rendezvous have pushed sales to over 100 copies. While books can now be ordered on-line and at many bookstores, purchasing them through the Northern Tier trading post allows any profits to go to the SAA.

Sales of the book around the region have gone well. A feature story on Joe appeared in the Minneapolis StarTribune in September. He has done book signings in Ely, Duluth, and St. Paul, MN. One bookstore had 60 chairs set up for

his appearance, but the crowd filled the aisles; the store sold its 126 books and gave out rain checks for another 150. Autographing took over three hours. Joe was also filmed for TV segments by WCCO (CBS affiliate in Minneapolis), and Venture North (out of Duluth). The staff at Motorbooks Publishing expect that they will sell all 5,000 books in the first printing. The editor, publicity, and sales people also say that this was one of their favorite books to work on. While most likely to be found on shelves next to other canoe books, editor Dennis Pernu suggests that this book could be in the outdoor adventure, woodworking, or even philosophy section. But don’t overlook the love story of Nora and Joe who were married for 68 years. Even people who have never heard of a Seliga canoe are being impressed by the photography and charmed by the story.

Joe has been so busy that he has not had a chance to read the book himself. Someone told him he needed to check because there may be errors in the book.

“Well then,” Joe replied, “they’ll have to do a sequel.”

So, Pernu says that *Joe Seliga, the Second 91 Years* is being scheduled for publication in 2003. I hope it has a bunch of Charlie Guide stories in it.

Dorothy's Island Revisited, continued...



Jeff Dahl and John Stoops lean against the post where Dorothy Molter posted signs on "Isle of the Pines."

The cabin locations are also obscured now by overgrowth and as a result of the trees blown down during the series of downbursts that devastated the area. The tree to which the sign is attached near where her cabin stood was among the trees that was blown down. It broke just above the sign and split to the roots.

The locations of her docks and other structures still have some small remnants visible, but unless you know she was there, it's harder to find the remnants of her



presence than it is to find the old log flumes on the portages between Moose and Knife.

The rocks of Knife Lake and the surrounding area are high quality flint and on the south shore of the lake, within sight of where Dorothy used to live, are covered with tiny knaps of flint from the many hours stone age people spent there making cutting tools. Those knaps will probably lay there for centuries undisturbed as a marker of the people who lived there.

Dorothy operated a commercial resort and rented cabins and sold root beer for profit. However, she did it (and this is just a personal opinion) out of pride for her own work and love for the Knife Lake surroundings she called home rather than out of a commercial drive for the glory and luxury that result from capitalistic success. When you hear the comments of some of the "responsible businessmen" of Ely, it's easy to imagine Dorothy's Little "Isle of

the Pines" being quickly overrun by projects that would have happened if the BWSAW had not been created.

As it was, her defiant life in the Boudnary Waters and the solitude that the

BWSAW preserved for her combined to create a Wilderness Spirit that has spread from the Isle of the Pines to where ever people who met her have gone.

There's barely a trace of Dorothy and her cabins today. Of course, they were taken down and moved soon after she died and the white pines growing where she used to sell root beer look suspiciously like they were planted there. It seems to have taken some effort to erase her mark so quickly, but maybe that's appropriate. In a sense it seems to indicate that she was barely tolerated there and an effort to erase her from it seems crass. But, when we break camp we do our best to "leave no trace"; six years after Dorothy "broke camp" there's very little trace.



Jeff Dahl and Mark Nordstrom stand where Dorothy's cabins were located. The sign behind them marks the place, but the tree it's attached to is broken off just above the frame of the picture and the trunk is split to the ground as a result of the damaging winds of the series of downbursts that struck the area since Dorothy's death.

Reunion 2002 – Kids say the Darnedest Things

by Dianne Rench

The kids program was very exciting this year, with about 20 chipmunks ranging in ages 3 to 16 (not counting the babies who are upcoming to participate!) Thanks to Doris Kolodji for facilitating a teen program. The kids had a great time paddling and experiencing “pre-Charlie” training. Thank you Laurel Rosene Theis and her friend Kellie for the leaf print activity that all the kids enjoyed.

The kids also made Dorothy’s traditional root beer and bottled it and made some exquisite necklaces out of beads and Lake Superior driftwood. All the kids later loaded up in the North Canoe for a short voyager experience. Thanks Doris and Kim Sheagren for that wonderful experience!

I had quite some experiences with the younger children and learned that most of the Charlie Guide parents have taught their children a deep appreciation for the WILD. On our scavenger hunt, some of the highlights were the “wild Velcro” found growing on the trail, the pelts in the library and the “wild interpreters”.

Charlie Guides, your children DO have a perspective about your role as a guide and I think it’s important to share this with all of you out there!

What is a Charlie Guide and was your Mom or Dad one of them?

- It’s a girl guide – my mom was one.
- It’s a boy guy who swims in the Boundary Waters. My mom was one but not my dad. (so what were you doing Mr. Kolodji!)

What does a Charlie Guide do?

- Plays games (some would agree Mr. Rench!)

What did your mom/dad/grandpa do when they were here at the base?

- Told stories
- He wore a canoe on his head
- Just walked in and said “yep, yep, let’s go to bed”

What did they do for fun?

- Nothing – they didn’t have fun
- Lived in a tent

What does a Charlie Guide look like?

- He looks like a dad
- Freaks!
- A Power Ranger – they are not fake, they are real

This weekend, we are celebrating a 60th birthday – what are we celebrating?

- I can’t think of her name
- Joe Seliga

Who is Doug Hirdler?

- Is he old?
- The guy who started the base

If you were a Charlie Guide, what would you do if....

- You had paddled a full day and realized you forgot the food pack?

*Go buy some

- Catch fish, I guess

- Your paddle broke?

*Guess I’d paddle by hand

- Use the other paddle, if I had another paddle

- Go buy a new one



- You were carrying your canoe and a pack and a bear came walking down the trail towards you?

- Hit it with the canoe
- Run Away
- Push it and kick it

- You got lost?

- Go the other way
- I don’t know – I know what my uncle would do but I can’t tell you – it’s too gross!

- Your canoe went over a waterfall?

*Swim – get out of the canoe first, hold on to something and let the canoe crack!

- Use your pack for a cushion
- Bring my life jacket and put it on

- It rained for days and days on your canoe trip?

- Go back home
- Find a good sheltered camp-site

- If your crew didn’t like the camp food?

- Run to a neighbor camp and take their food
- Make more and make them eat it

- It’s evening and your canoe swamps, now your sleeping bag is wet.

- Get into my other sleeping bag that never gets wet
- Build something out of sticks and leaves to keep me dry
- Swim away

Brown, Steve 1968
 Burrowes, Mark R. 1997
 Buska, Bill 1968-69
 Butsick, Joe 1883
 Byrnes, Dan 1988
 Cameron, Rodger 1985
 Carlson, L. Monty 1955-56
 Carlson, Melinda 1989
 Carroll, Barry 1986
 Cegielski, Catherine 1998
 Clack, Tom 1961-66
 Clancy, Steve 1984
 Clark, Roy 1961-63
 Clark, W. Chad 1989-90
 Close, Carl 1968
 Clute, Dave 1999-00
 Colburn, Andy 2000

Have You Seen This Guide? Continued...

Collins, Hugh 1970
 Collins, Jed 1966
 Collins, Lee 1968
 Conaway, Bill 1980,81
 Cook, Craig 1991
 Coombe, Charles 1986-87
 Cooper, Jeff 1990
 Cote, Bill 1975
 Courteau, Tim 1970
 Courtemanche, Sylvain 1985
 Crawford, John 1966
 Crombie, Cameron 1978
 Cross, Jamie 2001
 Culver, Tyler C.
 Cummins, Michael 1975

Curry, Buzz 1966
 Davis, W. Todd & Kathy 1987-88
 Dawson, Doug 1963
 Delforge, Andrew 1989-91
 DeRhodes, Douglas 1993,96
 Deuchene, Dennis 1963
 Deutsche, Craig 1956
 Dewys, Brad 2001
 Diamont, Joel 1996
 Dietz, John 1968
 Dinda, Patricia 1990
 Dodd, J. Douglas 1969
 Domimicak, Curt 1980
 Donahue, John 1990
 Dorazio, Angeliqne 1996-97

Dotson, Dennis 1963
 Dovre, Erik 1982
 Dowdell, Melina 1999-00
 Dunnigan, Dennis 1963
 Durkee, Phil 1960-92
 Dyson, Rodney 1992
 Earl, Dennis 1980
 Earle, Peter 1963
 Edwards, Jeff 1962
 Elfelt, Stephen 1985
 Elias, Charles 1986-87
 Ellingson, Ken 1960-66
 Elrod, Scott 1990
 Else, Kathy 1975
 Eng, Patrick 1991

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Engel, Julie 1998
 Etcheson, Steve 1966
 Etnner, John 1952
 Evans, Vincent 1968-70
 Fago, Cliff 1955
 Farmer, Danny 1990-92
 Felton, David 1978
 Felton, Joel
 Ferdinand, Lorrin 1986-87
 Ferguson, Malcolm 1980
 Ferris, John 1962
 Fladmark, Sally 1976-77
 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
 Gilsdorf, John 1955
 Goodman, Scott 1983
 Gossman, Bill 1970
 Grabar, Paul
 Graham, Justin 1993-94
 Grant, Scott 1977-78
 Gray, Bill 1968-69
 Gray, John 1974
 Greenlee, Nathan 1997
 Grewell, Kevin 1980-87
 Gribble, Kathy 1978-79
 Griffith, Mark 1986-87
 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, MD, Matt 1980
 Hart, Alexander 1991
 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
 Hill, Nicholas 1956
 Hoffbeck, Chad 1956
 Hoffman, John

Have You Seen This Guide? Continued...

Holm, Dick 1966
 Holtzhauer, Adam 2000
 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
 James, Steve 1978
 Janssen, Willis 1970-72
 Johnny, Bob 1986
 Johnson, Bruce 1966-68
 Johnson, Jeff 1974
 Johnson, Jon 1970
 Johnson, Lee 1996-7
 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
 Jonsson, Sig
 Keating, Kelly 1975
 Keene, Joe 1998-99
 Keeton, David 1978
 Keller, John 1990-91
 Kelley, Warren 1984
 Kilmer, David 1969
 Kimball, Bud 1961
 Kindred, Ann 1977
 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
 Korteum, Kevin 1994
 Kortz, Jim 1970
 Kotovsky, Jack 1986
 Krueger, Leonard 1956
 Kumler, Jay 1983-84
 Kunzman, Dan 1993
 Laduke, Kerry 1966
 Landon, John 1966
 Langley, Anthony 1991
 Larsen, Steven 1988
 Lavigne, Anthony 2000-01
 Lavoie, Casey 1999
 Lawrence, Alan 1974
 Lawver, George 1990
 Lawver, Jeannine 1990
 Leggate, Warren 1963
 Likely, James 1984-85
 Likely, Scott 1986-87
 Lindberg, Mikaela 1986
 Linden, Hank 1972-72
 Little, Chris 1969

Llewellyn, Martha 1978,80
 Lommen, Gordy 1959-65,68
 Loomis, Bill 1961
 Ludman, Don 1966
 Lundy, John 1999-00
 Magnuson, Jill 1977
 Mahoney, Sean 1987-88
 Makela, Mark 1999
 Malmskog, Judy 1989
 Maloney, James 1955-56
 Mantell, Bob 1980
 Martin, Craig 1994
 Martin, Dave -1975
 Martin, Geoffrey 1994
 Matheson, Jeff 1970
 Matson, James
 McCain, Cris 1961
 McCloskey IV, Charles 1987
 McCommons, Scott 1971-73
 McCormick, Cameron 1986
 McCoy, Richard 1972-73
 McCulloch, Jim 1963-66
 McCurry, Paul 1969
 McEwen, Pete 1966-70
 McGauley, Erin 1997
 McGuire, Glen 1989
 McHardy, George 1985-86
 McKee, Brad 1979
 McKee, Phillip 1986-87
 McLaren, Bruce 1961-62
 McNeil, Robert 1955
 McNichol, Brian 1960
 McRoberts, David 1990
 Micklavcich, Shawn 1987
 Miilunpalo, Paivi 1984
 Millard, Steve 1964
 Miller, Anthony
 Miller, Bob 1968-70
 Miller, Dea 1999
 Miller, Lewis 1956
 Minaker, Sarah 2000
 Money, Jason 1998
 Monson, Lynn 1975-77
 Moore, Greg 1967-69
 Morales, Timon 1996
 Moreno, Claudia 1983
 Munson, Gary 1968
 Myers, John 1970
 Nave, Michael 1999
 Neal, Brian 1990
 Naisse, Bruce 1966
 Naisse, Darryl 1966
 Nelson, Steve 1956
 Neville, Paul 1981
 Newton, Bob 1975
 Nicklas, Dale 1961
 Nielsen, Henrik 1979
 Nipp, Amy
 Nold, Stephen 1985-87
 Novak, James 1984-85
 Nuchols, John 1956
 Nute, Doug
 Nyberg, Jonas 1985
 Ogren, Dave 1970
 Oikkonen, Soile 1987W
 Olsen, Christian 1986
 Olsen, Jeferen 1978-79
 Olson, Dave 1966-68

Olson, Erik 1998
 Olson, Joe 1998
 O'Mara, Mike 1970
 O'Rinn, Susan 1999
 Ould, Lee 1964-66
 Pancake, Keith 1991
 Parks, Dr. James
 Parrott, David 1992-93
 Partner, Dan
 Paul, Ethan 1975-76
 Payne, Brian 1975
 Peeke, Dick 1964
 Pehler, Mike 1967-69
 Perez, Andrew 1996
 Perkins, Paul 1980
 Person, Alan 1963
 Perugini, Al
 Peterson, Harriette 1978-80
 Peterson, Mike 1978-80
 Peterson, Robert 1969
 Pfeiffer, Paul 1998
 Picken, Joel 1966
 Piepgras, Colin 1989
 Pio, John 1982-84
 Ploke, Ingrid 1987
 Port, Robert 1953
 Potts, Ronald 1956
 Price, Blake 1978
 Pummell, William 1986,92
 Purcell, John 1961-62
 Putnam, John 1956-61
 Quinn, Tom 1979-80
 Rabenold, Mark 1980
 Rablee, Chris 1987,88,92
 Rachey, Paul 1970
 Rahm, Bruce 1956
 Rainey, Justin 1993
 Randall, Dan
 Ranta, Toivo 1941
 Rasmussen, Richard 1952
 Rauscher, Lea 2001
 Rawson, Helen 1988
 Read, James 1978-79
 Read, Sue 1979
 Reese, Steve 1971-72
 Rehling, Terry 1962
 Rein, Roland 1976
 Renn, Tim 1986-87
 Renner, Jim 1956
 Resman, Bruce
 Rhyner, Kristine 1986
 Richards, Edward 1991
 Richards, Greg 1994
 Riddell, Laird 2000
 Ringer, Robert 1978-79
 Rinne, Sari 1980
 Robinson, Noel
 Roehler, Hank
 Roeschlein, Doug 1969
 Roth, Jerry 1958-61
 Rue, Dave 1963-66
 Ruge, Kenneth 1968-69
 Ruiz, John 1991,94
 Rulifson, Dennis 1956
 Runge, Chris 1998
 Salzer, Jeffrey 1992
 Sargeant, Jim 1966

*To be continued in the Spring
 editon of Reflections...*

Rendezvous 2002 Enjoyed By All continued...

quick wit as our master of ceremonies. Thanks again Cory. Following the dinner, the canoe raffle, auctions, and awards kept us entertained. The Wenonah Sundowner canoe was won by Mike Ziegahn who dedicated it to his father, a longtime professional scouter. As in 1997, Joe Seliga drew the winning raffle ticket. The raffle raised \$1760 for the Sommers Alumni Association's staff scholarship fund. Lucy Diesslin outbid Linnea Renner for the original Réal Bérard painting entitled North Wind on Hegman Lake, raising another \$550. Additional silent auction items including a Kondos guide pack (purchased by Greg Ferguson), an original Bob Cary print (Pat Cox),



It is not an annual award and is presented only to special candidates. This year, the award went to Butch Diesslin. Doug Hirdler presented two special endowed staff scholarships. Jacob "Sven" Jeswiet from Kingston, Ontario was awarded the Chris Breen Memorial Scholarship and Ben Tomlinson from Pickerington, Ohio was presented the Terry Wall Scholarship. Congratulations to all. Next, Mike Holdgrafer introduced author Bob Cary who entertained us with stories about local bush pilots, the topic of his next book. The evening was capped off with Cory leading us in singing The Far Northland.



Pat Cox & Artist Bob Cary

and a large scale Bérard map (Chris Clay) helped us raise over \$400. Butch Diesslin honored past-president Dave Hyink by giving him a portrait of himself done by Bob Cary. Next was the presentation of the George Hedrick service award. This "sweat equity award" is presented by the directors of the Sommers Alumni Association.



Cory



Hyink presents George Hedrick Service award to Butch Diesslin

also organized a tour of the Seliga building at Camp Widjiwogan north of Ely. This impressive facility is dedicated to Nora and Joe Seliga and will eventually house Joe's canoe-building forms and tools.

Attendance at the banquet of 140 made this Rendezvous nearly a record. Also notable was the



It's a banquet!

On Sunday, the pace slowed down a bit, but there were still plenty of activities. Barb Hall led the Hymn Sing in the morning with others contributing to the service.

The afternoon was a time for shopping and visiting old haunts in Ely or taking tours of the Dorothy Molter Museum or International



Rendezvous alumni gather for a photo



The usual garb...

increase in the number of Canadian alumni and staff for the '90s, a trend that will likely continue. Thanks once again to the seasonal and professional staff of the Northern Tier. Start making plans to attend the next festivities over Labor Day weekend in 2004. Barb Hall and others have already volunteered to help out. See you there.

Wolf Center. As usual, tours of Sig Olson's Listening Point enchanted visitors. Thanks to Larry Hanson and Don Richard for leading the tours and providing their insights into Sig's philosophy and its lasting impact upon people. Paul Holte



Kiss, kiss (He'll be back!)

Work Week 2002, continued...

It was, as always, a pleasant surprise to see people you haven't seen in a while.

Our original project was to be primarily log peeling. It expanded to become a gutting job on the old Administration Building that is currently used as the staff lounge. It is being remodeled to be a much improved version of a staff lounge. The remaining summer staff and the 2 old codgers, as Roger likes to say, pulled the interior walls and stripped the inside of the exterior wall all the way to the studs on Saturday and Sunday. During the rest of the week, we added some 2x2's to the wall (ripped down from 2x4's since we would not want to have the right tools for the job), some insulation, and some

new wallboard to create the interior frame of the new staff lounge area. When completed, there will be a library, a computer area, a game and pool table area, a wet bar (a.k.a. bathroom sink), and a few phones so the staff can call their significant others and let the whole staff listen in as they whisper sweet nothings.

Next year, we shoot for that porch in Atikokan – and maybe finish up some stuff in the lounge.

Plan to attend the 2003 Red Renner Memorial Work Week. Tentative date is last week of May or first week of June in 2003 to coincide with staff training for 2003.



Tid Bits

Tid-Bits on Members of the Sommers Clan

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

Chris Harwell ('93) [crharwell@yahoo.com] has moved to Clifton, NJ.

J. J. Heid (1999-00) jjcanoeguide@hotmail.com is living in Dunwoody, GA and is a Project Engineer for Eberly & Assoc. in Atlanta, GA.

Wayne Lamon ('78-80) [wayne.lamon@sendit.nodak.edu] is living in Minot, ND.

Juha "Leha" Lehtinen (1985) [juha.lehtinen@navy.mil.fi] is an officer in Finland's Navy. He will be at the quartermaster for the Finnish Scout contingent to the World Jamboree in Thailand. Juha is also captain of the Finnish Olympic Solo class Yachting team.

Heli (Koljonen) Mikkola ('86) [heli.mikkola@fimnet.fi] lives in Helsinki, FI with her husband, daughter (6) and son (3). Heli is a Journalist with the Finnish Medical Journal.

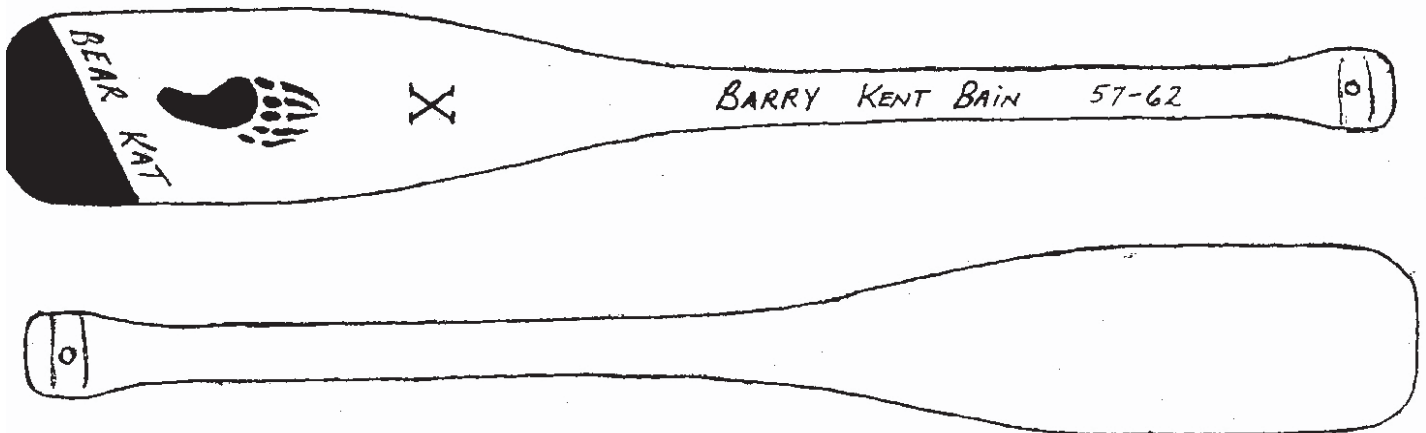
Congratulations to **Doug Ramsey ('95-02 present)** and **Sarah Swain ('98-02)** who were married in Ely on June 23, 2002.

Laura Piotrowicz (2000) [lmpiotrowicz@hotmail.com] is now living in Winnipeg, MB where she is a Youth Ministry Developer for the Anglican Church of Canada.

Paul Reitemeier ('70-73) [paulj@valley.net] is now living in White River Junction, VT.

Our condolences to the family of SAA Life member **Malcom Varner (Advisor '66,67)** who passed away. Family members include **Mike Varner ('67-72)**.

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 by gone 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 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 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.

Butch Diesslin is Hedrick Award Recipient

The George D. Hedrick Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals whose service and dedication to the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program is noteworthy in terms of both its impact and/or duration. Created in 1995 and awarded by the SAA Directors, the award honors the former Region Ten Executive and ardent Canoe Base supporter. The 2002 recipient is Butch Diesslin. Butch has a long and distinguished association with the Northern Tier Program dating back to the Region X era. Following his participation as a scout, he was a member of the seasonal staff from 1961-1980 and the Canoe Base/Northern Tier Committee, 1982-present. He was a founding director of the Sommers Alumni Association and served three terms, 1992-2001. He was, and continues to be, the Association's secretary, and serves on the Association's Executive Committee. He is also an active member of the Seasonal Staff Scholarship Development Committee. He joins former recipients **Robert "Red" Renner, Allan Batterman, Craig Pendergraft, the late Ed Chapin, Gene Felton, the late Henry Bradlich, Cherie Bridges-Sawinski, Dr. Dick Shank, and Mike Holdgrafer.**

A Few Thoughts About Butch Diesslin

Anonymous – sent as a letter to the editor

This summer I had the chance to take a Boundary Waters trip with an old scout buddy that I met on a grub trip in 1969. He had bought a new wood canvas canoe and just had to try it out in the real north woods. We had a great trip – but the real reason for writing this note is that on the way home, when we were gassing-up in the Holiday station in Ely, and I was inside waiting to pay, I noticed a gentleman out at the pumps talking to my brother (another member of our crew) and I thought – that sure looks like Butch!

I hadn't seen Butch since my last year of guiding back in '74 so I wasn't sure at first, but I certainly was going to find out. Next thing I knew, he was standing right behind me (Butch could always find somebody hiding from work and surprised me several times back in the old days and asked if I would like to rake the road or do some other task). Anyway, I digress, it was Butch – he not only remembered me but also recalled that I guided for several years in the early '70's.

We had a nice conversation for a bit and he tried to cajole me into attending the reunion, but he was on the way out to the lake with his wife to try and catch some dinner

so we parted ways.

I thought about butch on the long 500-mile drive back home and recalled the time he taught me two valued lessons that have served me well all these 29 years since.

It was a crisp late June morning out behind the dining hall after breakfast. Butch had called for volunteers to help assemble a wooden tank of some sort for a purpose I no longer remember (fire control maybe?). I was an Industrial Technologies major in college and thought I was up to the task. Butch had unpacked some of the parts and pieces and the instructions and when the 4 or 5 recruits were lined up he asked if any of us know how to use tools. Well – I pulled a pair of pliers out of my back pocket and quipped "Sure. And I ever brought my own tools – a brand new Polish socket set." Butch looked at me with sad eyes, and put his hand on my shoulder and said "Tim (or Tom – substitute any name you want) why don't you fill the potholes in the road and parking lot today." I was young and not nearly as self-confident as my remark sounded and left to rake and shovel the day away – cowed – but thinking.

Another guide – when told of my anguish, asked if maybe Butch was of Polish decent?

I decided, no it didn't matter what his family origins were. An ethnic slur was still an insult, unintended, inaccurate or made in jest.

Further ruminations over the rest of the summer taught me also that when you show up to work, be ready to work, learn, and be nice.

Butch, I'm sure, never gave his gentle but firm lesson to a dumb young man another thought and treated me kindly and friendly the rest of the summer and the following one too.

Years later as a scoutmaster, I used Butch's teaching example many times with my scouts, a gentle rebuke, kindly made with a request to think about he misdeed worked for me and my charges. We both always learned something new about ourselves, and how to work together.

After returning home – what do I find in the mail but the latest edition of Reflections (what an appropriate title) and reading the staff training notes brought everything back again. There was Butch – still molding young minds into people who can be proud of themselves.

An anonymous staff member from Chucky's Boat Camp

Estate & Income Tax Benefits and Planning

by Patrick Cox

Did you know that you can donate property to the SAA and receive a current tax deduction – and still pass the property to your heirs if you like?

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to the SAA in your will that will reduce your estate taxes?

Both of the above are possible – and the benefits are enormous to both you and to the SAA.

While the different options available are too extensive to discuss in this short article, the results are that SAA members and those who support our efforts can provide current and future support to the SAA including the SAA Endowment and the SAA Scholarship Fund. You will help the SAA in its battle to help preserve the very

special experience of the youth who pass through Ely, Atikokan and Bissett. You will also receive current deductions to lower your income tax bill using the many legal tax reduction methods available via your generous support of the SAA and its programs.

Some of the many options include:

- Donate cash producing assets (that can be sold or later returned to you or your heirs) or cash to be held in one of the many types of Charitable Remainder Trusts.

- Donate appreciated real estate, stock, artwork, or other assets that will be sold.

You have a much better overall better tax result than if you sold the asset yourself and donated the proceeds.

The money received from the sale can be used to fund current activities such as the SAA Scholarship Fund, the annual training program, or the Annual Returning Staff Incentives program.

The money can even be used to permanently endow one of these (or another) specific area of service the SAA provides to the Sommers Canoe Base family.

- Benefits to You
 - Receive a current tax deduction (for the fair market value of the asset).

The deduction can be carried over to future years if needed.

Deduct the full appraised value – no deduction for commissions or brokerage fees incurred in the sale if an asset is to be sold.

No income tax paid by you on the gain in the transaction for a donated asset.

If you or someone you know plan to make a donation of this type, we can help by working with your financial and legal advisors. Please contact SAA Vice President Patrick Cox by phone @ 281-497-4226, email @ Patrick.cox@coxcpa.net, or any SAA Director or Officer. All gifts can be made and received confidentially. Gifts can even be restricted to certain projects or for certain uses. However, please note that all gifts carrying a restriction on the use of the gift proceeds must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to acceptance by the SAA.

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.

The 2000 card featured Bob Cary's drawing, "Company Coming," a pair of moose at a winter camp. All cards are printed using highest 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. 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

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 2002			

\$3.00 SHIPPING

Ship to: _____

Total _____

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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