



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Spotlight on Sommers Alumnus Monte Fronk

Reprinted with permission from the St. Cloud State University American Indian Center newsletter.

Our featured alum is **Monte S. Fronk**, an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. Monte is currently living in Isle, Minnesota. Monte's career in public service started 13 years ago as a Tribal Police Officer on the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. Monte focused on domestic violence enforcement and juvenile outreach for which he was honored as being the second American Indian state-licensed peace officer to be certified as a D.A.R.E. Instructor through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Monte is currently the Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Services with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, which includes being the Emergency Manager and Supervisor of the Emergency and Energy programs. He won't admit it, but he is doing a great job.

Monte's education includes an A.A.S. degree in Parks and Recreation/Law Enforcement from Vermilion Community College, a C.C. for Law Enforcement Skills Training from Alexandria Technical College, and a B.E.S. degree with honors in Psychology and Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University. He is a certified Prevention Specialist Reciprocal, a Certified Adolescent Sex Offender Counselor, a Minnesota Licensed Police Officer, and a Licensed EMS First Responder. Monte has given much of his time to volunteer at Pearl Battered Women's Resource Center and Sexual Assault Services Board of Directors, the Minnesota Outward Bound School Board of Directors, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Center for Crime Victims



Services, Battered Women and Domestic Abuse Advisory council and 21 years in the Boy Scouts of America which included being an Eagle Scout and a Scoutmaster for the past 11 years. Because of his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America, Monte was asked to be the adult leader on five National High Adventure camping trips.

Monte said his experience "attending St. Cloud State as an adult learner was a good one thanks to the assistance of the Center for Continuing Studies which provided great learning opportunities for me as well as the

staff of the American Indian Center."

Monte will continue his educational journey by returning to St. Cloud State in the near future to pursue the Public Safety Executive Leadership Master's Program offered through the Criminal Justice Department.

Monte is also a life member of the Sommers Alumni Association, and a Triple Crown award winner as an advisor. He has been a guest speaker during staff training at Northern Tier. Monte's heart is in the northland; he says that Philmont "is just a 3 day portage."

Cookin' with Charlie

by Mark Nordstrom

I would like to boast and beg at the same time. I think I can claim benefiting from some of the highest caliber trainers, but I hope I don't start an argument over who's best.

I never really had any cooking training until I got to Charlie's. I had sliced apples for my grand-

mother to make pies when I was a little boy. I had helped in the kitchen in lots of ways, as a matter of fact, when I was little. When I got older, though, I was no longer welcome in the kitchen during cooking time. It was a different era.

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Scouting Champion Remembered

The Northern Tier programs lost a long-time supporter and volunteer contributor with the passing of **Jack W. Osborn** on April 7, 2003. In his 35 years of involvement with Northern Tier, Jack made many significant and lasting contributions to the Northern Tier programs. Jack joined the Region Ten Canoe Base committee in 1968 and remained a member of the Region Ten Canoe Base committee, and later the Northern Tier National Advisory committee; until his death. During 1983-87, Jack served as chairman of the Northern Tier Advisory committee.

Some things Jack should be remembered for through his impact on Northern Tier are:

- International Camp staff exchange program participation
- Emergency boat and radio use
- Program expansion to include Canadian bases
- Wood Badge course offerings
- Atikokan base land acquisition
- Gaining ownership of the site of the Sommers Canoe base

When Jack first joined the canoe base committee he also served as a member of BSA's national committee on International scouting relations. He worked with the canoe base to begin Northern Tier's participation in the International Camp Staff Exchange program. The first International staff member, in 1974, was **Graham Scott** who came from Scotland. Graham was the first of more than 100 International staff members to come to Northern Tier.

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President's Message

by Allen Rench

It's late August and the home-ward migration of the Base staff is nearing its end. My wife Dianne and I have been very lucky people. Our family has welcomed some of those southbound travelers in off the road, and treated them to a long awaited home cooked meal, a softer place to sleep and one more crackling campfire. All of this in exchange for a few summer adventure stories and some laughter. It's nice to know that staff life and the guide staff hasn't changed all that much over the years. They chattered about old friends, new friends, missed friends, practical jokes, trip tales, scout size or lack of size, fishing, mud, bugs and bears. They were even talking of the Charlies Challenge; which caught my ear pretty quickly. The more I listened to this escapade the more I realized that this new tradition was sparked by a story of a race between a couple of by-gone guides. The object was to carry 3 canoes a personal pack and paddles across Ranger Portage all at one time and without stopping. A canoe on the shoulders and one roped to each side. By the end, winner or not, each racer realized he/she was now about 3 inches shorter and able to lace their boots

without bending over. Who would dream of doing such a thing! Well it's not hard to imagine. We all had a hand in it. Even though you or I may never have raced that race, every one of us at some point has added to the pot of what it means to be a Charlie Guide. Our unconventional ability and desire to push us to the limits provided invaluable momentum for our successors. Momentum to step up to the plate and give their all and their best to those big and little "Chipmunks" that venture North for a trek in the Woods. The current Interpreter Staff are taking their turn at raising the bar even higher. It is just plain fun watching them do that. As the fire slowly died down and left only it's glowing embers, I sat back in my chair and silently chuckled to myself, I knew some of those original racers and their antics. They have given me cause to laugh a lot over the years. I am sure that the base will be host to many more fun filled summers as long as there are people that love and accept a challenge.

Mark your calendar for Labor Day Weekend 2004. The rendezvous is rapidly approaching. The gate will be open and the coffee pot on the fire.

Have you seen this guide?

We're still looking for the following guides, have you seen any of them lately? If you know how to get in touch with any of these folks - tell us how we can reach them!

Blair, Scott 1977
 Blauser, Doug 1970
 Bolay, Randy 1972-72
 Bolay, Rod 1971-73
 Bond, Paula 1982
 Bonneville, Christian 1977
 Born, Vernon 1968-69
 Bowlin, Stan 1975
 Brasheares, Bruce 1963
 Brewton, AIC Matthew 1997
 Brown, Derwin 1956
 Brown, Greg 1984
 Brown, Kirk 1974
 Brown, Steve 1968
 Buchinger, Alexander 1986
 Burrowes, Mark R. 1997
 Buska, Bill 1968-69
 Butrum, Jeffrey 1991
 Butsick, Joe 1983
 Byrnes, Dan 1988
 Cafferata, Francesca 1996,98

Cameron, Rodger 1985
 Carlson, Melinda 1989
 Carroll, Barry 1986
 Cegielski, Catherine 1998
 Christiansen, Josh 1997
 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
 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

Directors and Officers

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Director (1) | Roy Conradi | (770) 496-0920 |
| Director (1)** | Dave Hyink | (253) 863-6406 |
| Director (1) | Mike Holdgrafer | (918) 743-5565 |
| Director (1) | LeRoy Heikes | (616) 685-0083 |
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| Director/President (3) ** | Allen Rench | (507) 536-0736 |
| Director (3) | Larry Hanson | (651) 628-4923 |
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| Director (2) | Chuck Rose | (320) 252-2768 |
| Director (2)** | Michael McMahon | (651) 483-5759 |
| Treasurer** | Nigel Cooper | (715) 325-6521 |
| Secretary** | Butch Diesslin | (218) 365-6904 |

Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term
 **Executive Committee Member

Program Liaisons

Mr. Keith Galloway National Director of High Adventure
 Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA
 Cimarron, NM 88714
 (505) 376-2281

Mr. Doug Hirdler Director and General Manager,
 Northern Tier
 National High Adventure Program
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 Ely, MN 55731
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76 Years in Scouting

by Butch Diesslin

Jack Weldon Osborn, 88, passed away Monday, April 7, 2003, at his home in Lake Havasu City, AZ with his wife by his side. He was born in Chicago IL on January 5, 1915, to Percy and Thyra Osborn.

Jack's first love was Scouting, which he was introduced to at the age of 11 when he began his 76 year tenure with the Boy Scouts of America. He graduated from Libertyville Township High School in 1932 and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1938, the University of Illinois College of Law where he received his Juris Doctor in 1940. He was admitted to law practice in Illinois in September 1940. His law practice specialty was municipal and quasi-municipal corporate law.

He was involved in Boy Scouts of America throughout his life and served as assistant scoutmaster, scoutmaster, district and council commissioner, council president, regional executive committee member and training chairman. He had extended membership on several national and regional committees and was past chairman of the Northern Tier High Adventure Committee. He held the Scoutmaster's Key Award,



Jeff Miller, a certified nurse's assistant with Hospice of Havasu sits with Jack Osborn on the day Osborn and his wife Mary, gave the Lake Havasu City Boy Scouts their Grumman canoe.

Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope Awards, Distinguished Eagle Award, NESA Distinguished Service Award, Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor, Alpha Phi Omega Award for Distinguished Service and was a certified Wood Badge Course director. He attended as a staff member at several national and world Jamborees and official observer at world conferences, as well as a staff member of Diamond Jubilee Heritage Campfire Caravan in 1985.

Jack and his wife, Mary Parker

Osborn were married in 1964; together they enjoyed many wonderful adventures. They moved to Lake Havasu City 30 years ago from Illinois. Jack served as past president of Kiwanis Club of Franklin Park, IL; and received the Kiwanis Legion of Honor. He was a member of the Lake Havasu Golden K Kiwanis Club (past chairman of Youth Services Committee), past member of the Lake Havasu Art Guild, the Elks Lodge and served as secretary and consultant in the Lake Havasu City chapter of SCORE (Service Corps

of Retired Executives). He was active in many organizations in Illinois, including representative on boards of education in Cook and DuPage counties, and a privileged member and senior counselor of the Illinois State Bar Association and Chicago Bar Association.

Jack was very active throughout his life and had many hobbies including canoeing, fishing, camping, golfing, computers, photography, travel and cruising. His family said he was very outgoing and gave of himself in every way. They said he lived a full and rewarding life and that his friends and family will always love him.

Jack is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Parker Osborn of Lake Havasu; eight children, Jacquelyn Summers (Mrs. James) of Crest Hill, IL, Sheila Saxon (Mrs. Jay) of Davie FL, Deborah Hage (Mrs. Philip) of Woodside CA, Holly Campbell of Medford, OR, David Shelton (Donna) of Arlington Heights, IL, Robert Shelton (June) of Fremont, CA, John Shelton (Nancy) of Elmhurst IL, and Sharon O'Hara of Palos Verde, CA; twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Volunteerism: The Anti-Drug

If your child were to show interest in pitching in at the local soup kitchen, you'd probably approve and would even be willing to drive him or her there. After all, volunteering is a worthwhile activity. But did you know that encouraging your child to volunteer reduces his or her chances of abusing drugs and alcohol?

Research shows that youth who volunteer are 50 percent more likely to lead healthy, drug-free lives. Parenting experts agree that one of the best ways to combat destructive behavior, such as drug or alcohol use, is to encourage children to be involved in structured, adult-supervised activities. According to Dr. Phillippe Cunningham, a nationally-recognized parenting expert at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Medical department at the University of

South Carolina, the more parents and communities can do to ensure that children and adolescents are involved in worthwhile activities, the better they can prevent most kinds of youth problem behavior.

Volunteering promotes positive values such as service, responsibility, and community involvement. And it gives kids a feeling of accomplishment, which boosts self-esteem. Aside from being good for the soul, volunteering is fun! Public service opportunities are endless—from entertaining the elderly at a retirement home to caring for dogs at an animal shelter. There are volunteer positions to meet everyone's interests.

Encourage your child to volunteer. Or, even better, volunteer *with* your child as a way to spend quality time together.

Saving the White Pine

Our beloved white pine have a problem. They're getting picked on. Literally. The problem is deer will eat the terminal buds off of white pine seedlings. On October 11th and 12th I went up to the canoe base to put bud caps on the white pine. A bud cap is a regular piece of 8 1/2 x 11 inch computer paper that is cut in fourths and then stapled around the terminal bud. The deer usually just eat the seedlings during the winter months. Then the terminal bud will grow out of the bud cap during the growing season. In some areas the little guys are not getting enough light either, so I trimmed the shrubs around the seedling.

Fortunately, I did not observe any white pine seedlings that have been browsed since I was at the Base in the spring of 2001. At that

time, at least half of the seedlings I looked at were browsed. The seedlings were not getting nipped due to the lack of deer, there were plenty around. Maybe it's the mild winters they have been having?

I did not staple every white pine seedling, I did not have time. But I stapled enough for insurance against the possibility that the deer might get hungry again this winter. Hopefully I will get a chance to go back up there in the spring to check it out.

Thanks to the Base Staff that was there for their hospitality: Steve, Pete, Kay and Don. And thanks to Joe Mattson for his cooperation.

Jim Barott (Minnesota) '75-'79



Red Renner Memorial Work Week 2004

| | |
|----------|--|
| Where? | Charlie's Place (Ely and maybe Bissett or Atikokan) |
| When? | Sunday, August 29, 2004 to Friday, September 3, 2004 (week prior to Rendezvous 2004) |
| How? | Anyway you care to get there – by canoe, car, plane, hitch hike, crawl, etc. |
| Details: | Come for some or all of it. Pre- or post-work week canoe trip options available. |

Think Ely is just a Place for Summer Fun? – Maybe Think Again?

Here's a list of just some of Ely's upcoming events for the spring of 2004...

January 2004

January 24
Ragnar Fun Run

January 29 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival 2004

January 30 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival

January 31 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival
10 am
Spirit of the Wolf
Sled Dog Race
7 pm - Midnight
8th Annual Mukluk Ball

(More information on any of these events can be found online via <http://www.ely.org/events/>)

February 2004

February 01 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival
10 am
Spirit of the Wolf
Sled Dog Race

February 02-06 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival

February 07 All Day
Voyageur Winter Festival
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wilderness Trek
Cross Country Ski Race

February 08 10AM - 3PM
Wilderness Trek
Cross Country Ski Race

February 14 - 15
Ely Winton Rod and Gun
Club Fishing Contest

April 2004

April 23
26th Annual Art Auction &
Dinner by Ely Community
Resource

June 2004

June 12 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
18th Annual
Finnish American
Summer Festival

June 17-19
Nature of Northwoods
Festival

July 2004

July 23-25 All day.
Ely's 24th Annual
Blueberry Arts Festival

July 24
6th Annual Ely/Winton
Monsters of Mud

What am I?

Average length
females: 4.5 to 6 feet (tip of nose to tip of tail)
males: 5 to 6.5 feet

Average height
26 to 32 inches (at the shoulder)

Average weight
females: 60 to 80 pounds
males: 70 to 110 pounds

Average foot size
4 inches wide by 5 inches long

Length of Life
up to 13 years in the wild (usually 6 to 8 years) and up to 16 years in captivity

Fur color
gray, may also be black or white

Number of teeth
42 teeth

Breeding season
February to March

Gestation period
63 days

Weight at birth
1 pound

Litter size
4 to 6 pups

Pack size
2 to 30 or more
Average pack size 6 to 8

Pack territory size
25 to 150 square miles in Minnesota
300 to 1,000 in Alaska and Canada

Average travel speed
5 miles per hour
Sprinting speed
25 to 35 miles per hour for short distances

Common food
deer, moose, caribou, elk, bison, musk-oxen and beaver.

Main threats to survival
loss of habitat due to destruction, development and encroachment by humans; persecution by humans

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LIFETIME GIVING

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|-------|--|
| What? | Tax Deduction and Tax Savings for You - Now Permanent support for the SAA |
| How? | Donate appreciated property where you have substantial gains |
| When? | Anytime – with your estate planning or to reduce current taxes |

We will work with your attorney and tax advisor to make this an effective tax saving strategy for you and your estate.

Please contact SAA Vice President Patrick Cox by phone 281-497-4226; by email patrick.cox@coxcpa.net; or through any SAA director or officer. The directors and officers with knowledge in this subject area donate their time. No fees are charged to the SAA for your donations.

Continued from page 1

The Scottish heritage of the Osborn's was a big factor in the first participant coming from Scotland. To make Graham feel more at home, Jack wore his kilt to the opening night staff gathering.

In 1971, Jack and Mary became summer residents of Moose Lake when they purchased a cabin across the bay from Canadian Border Outfitters. This cabin was only accessible by water and originally had an electric generator. Electrical service was eventually installed, however the cabin is still water access only. The Osborn's later purchased "Jack's Point of View" cabin with road access on the South shore of Moose Lake, where Jack and Mary were summer residents through 1990.

Jack made his boats available for use by the canoe base. Before the horsepower limitations in the BWCAW, Jack would provide base staff members with an afternoon of waterskiing behind his orange and white boat with a 75-hp motor. This big orange boat was used by canoe base staff to go to North Bay of Basswood Lake when Guide **Gary Garlitz** was killed by lightning. The boat was equipped with a CB radio so the support team members were in constant contact with the canoe

Scouting Champion Remembered



A photo of the USFS and BSA participants at the canoe base land swap ceremony at the canoe base. Jack Osborn is 2nd from right.

base, which Jack has loaned another CB radio. This was before the base had an emergency radio system.

Jack and his long-time canoeing partner Stan took many trips over the years. When the base began to outfit trips from Bissett, and later Atikokan, Jack and Stan and canoe base staff members took trips in these areas. It was Jack's nature to want to know first-hand about things, hence wanted to travel through these new areas. As a volunteer advocate for the canoe base programs, this gave him the ability to speak from his having been there. Jack also saw the coming of limits on the group size and the number of parties that are

allowed to enter the BWCAW and Quetico Provincial Park daily. Jack was a strong supporter of maintaining and expanding canoe base participation through the establishment of the Canadian bases.

Jack was the person who, as a volunteer, contacted Donald G. Rogert and arranged for the donation of the current site of the Atikokan, Ontario base. Jack utilized his experience and expertise of land acquisition gained during his career.

While Jack was Chairman of the Northern Tier Advisory committee, he played an integral part in the BSA gaining ownership of the land that is the site of the Sommers base. This land had been leased since

1941, when the Lodge was built. Over the years the lease terms became less desirable and it was much to everyone's advantage for the BSA to gain title to the site. This was accomplished in 1987. Jack was intimately involved in the acquisition process which began in 1980. Again Jack's land acquisition experience was of great benefit to Northern Tier.

Jack was always a strong advocate of the need for training. Jack came to Region Ten while a member of the Region Seven Canoe Base committee. Jack was very involved in the Region Seven base having a Wood Badge training center and building, and was a many-time Wood Badge course instructor and course director. Jack was instrumental in Wood Badge courses being offered at Sommers, including the first-ever Winter Wood Badge course. Jack also supported the seasonal staff training of the staff members at the canoe base.

Many of us had the opportunity to help Jack and Mary with various tasks at their cabin. Hopefully, these contributions of Jack, with Mary's support, will give greater appreciation to your time given in return in support of Northern Tier.



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: _____

2003 Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee Meeting

The Fall 2003 meeting of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA, was held September 12-14 at the Ely Base. The committee welcomed its newest member, **Bill Sansom**, a businessman and scouter from the Great Smokey Mountain Council in Knoxville, TN. This meeting focused on the development of the 2004-2010 Strategic Plan – led by **Mike Holdgrafer** and **Dave Hyink**. The plan will be presented at the combined National High Adventure Committee meetings this January at the Florida Sea Base. Following the meeting, General Manager **Doug Hirdler** led a tour of the Base – focusing on the construction of the new Bay Post and another staff duplex.



Paul Bruns, Bill Sansom, and Butch Diesslin in one of the new buildings

Annual Membership Meeting of Summers Alumni

The annual membership meeting this year was held September 14, 2003 at the Elmo Reserves Park, near the twin cities in Minnesota. Alumni, spouses, and family from as far back as the 1950s and as recent as guides from the 2002 season were in attendance, more than 30 people in all. Many topics were



Lynn Reeve on the grill with Lucy Diesslin, and Dave Sitzer



Allen Rench addresses the group

covered at the meeting, including the next alumni reunion (**Rendezvous 2004**) will be September 3-6, 2004. Contact Chuck Rose for more information.

One item on the agenda at the committee meeting was the election of new directors. The most recently elected Sommers Alumni Association directors are:

Kevin McKee, a professional Scouter from Thunder Bay, Ontario and **Larry Hanson**, an outdoor rep. from Roseville, Minnesota.

Lynn Reeve and **Allen Rench** were also each reelected for second three-year terms.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to **Linnea Renner** and **Brian Vollmer-Buhl** who are becoming "civilians" again after all their service over the past three years.

We'll look for you at next year's meeting, see you there!



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: _____

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.

Eddie Jeff Cahill ('66-70) [*cell: 480-250-0130*] is a Professional Entertainer. In addition to club work in NV, CA and FL, he works renaissance festivals in MN, NC, AZ and the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Eddie credits having worked at Sommers with his learning to play the guitar and his career.

Joe Keppert ('75-79) lives in Eau Claire, WI and works as an over-the-road driver. It was great to see Joe at the SAA Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN.

Reggie Knight (1959-62) [*RegLKnight@AOL.com*] is retired from Professional Scouting and is living in Cape Coral, FL.

Mike Ziegahn ('69) lives in St. Paul, MN; is a Wine Salesman and an Entertainer.

Mike Pehler (1967-69) [*mikepehler@cableone.net*] recently retired as Head of Security at Moorhead (MN) State U. As Sommers' former Head Cook, Mike enjoyed the past articles about the missing dinner bell, but is wondering about the missing ice cream when the door was taken off the walk-in freezer at night.

Bradley Perry (2000-01) [*esteseperry@hotmail.com*] replied by e-mail when told he would receive Reflections directly: "Thank you very much. Peace Corps Ghana is going great (have been in service 10 months now), but there are those days when reading about home, especially The Base, and hearing of fellow staffers really goes far. I'll certainly never forget Sommers. Your newsletter helps to keep the memory even clearer. Hope the summer season is going well. Yours in Scouting, Bradley Perry"

Brad Baxter (1967-68, '71) [*bradbaxter@baxsys.com*] is a Telcom Engineer, living in Tulsa, OK.

Dave Hyink wishes to express his sincere appreciation to all those who made contact by e-mail, phone, cards and letters acknowledging his receipt of the Silver Antelope Award. He was very pleased to receive e-mail from **Ken Milburn** of Harrison, AR. Ken was the Quartermaster on the infamous "Pooh Bah Worm Crew" that Hyink guided back in the late 60's. In his e-mail Ken wrote: "Oh, by the way, I thought that I would let you know, I slept with my paddle down in my sleeping bag." Ken has returned several times since, as a Crew Advisor for his son's crew.

Rick Seume (1992) [*kseume@houston.rr.com*] lives with his wife, Kat, and their 2 young children in Pearland, TX. Rick is a Dentist in Hitchcock, TX. He promotes Northern Tier to area Scouts using a CD he has developed.



Winter In Ely

Winter is a beautiful season in the pristine country that surrounds the Ely area. The area is uncrowded and unspoiled so you have the freedom to move about as you like and at your own pace. Our vast expanse of forest and ice-covered lakes invite you, your family and friends to ski, snowmobile, photograph, fish, mush, snowshoe, explore and even camp. Choose any activity that interests and challenges you. The rewards will be worth it!

At the end of an exciting day outdoors relax in the warmth and comfort of a motel, bed & breakfast or cabin. The area has a variety of accommodations for the winter visitor. You'll discover many fine restaurants as well. Our multinational heritage has provided a rich and varied cuisine well suited to warming your spirits and satisfying your appetite.

It may be more your style to head to a remote wilderness lake, camping and fishing for several days. It is an experience you won't forget. Ski, snowshoe or take a dog team into the woods, make camp and enjoy dinner over an open fire. After dark you may witness the breathtaking northern lights dancing across the sky. And if you are lucky, you may hear the spine-tingling call of a timber wolf on some distant ridge.

However you choose to spend your stay in the Ely area, you can be assured that your hosts will do everything possible to make your visit rewarding and enjoyable.

Copyright 2002,
Ely Chamber Of Commerce

The Story of Mace the dog

A mechanic who worked out of his home had a dog named Mace. Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass in the mechanic's lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside. The grass eventually became overgrown.

One day the mechanic was working on a car in his backyard and dropped his wrench losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him, so he decided to call it a day.

That night, Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard. The next morning the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight.

Realizing what had happened he looked up to the heavens and proclaimed:

"A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound that saved a wrench for me!"

Scholarship Program Needs Alumni Support

The Northern Tier Scholarship Fund was long a dream of former Director Sandy Bridges. Sandy recognized that the cost of education was making it increasingly difficult for our staff to return for multiple years of service, as they were more able to do in the earlier years of the program. As a result of his vision, and through the collaboration of the Sommers Alumni Association and the Northern Tier Committee the scholarship program was begun in 1998. Steve Fossett, former Northern Tier Committee Chair, generously donated initial funding. To date, the program has provided over \$96,000 in scholarships to eligible staff.

Success of this program has resulted in improved retention rates of our excellent seasonal staff, to the benefit of our program and its participants. But that success has

also meant increase in program costs. Donor solicitation is restricted by BSA policy to individuals and groups that have a direct connection with Northern Tier. The purpose of this restriction is to avoid interfering with local BSA Council fundraising.

The majority of this scholarship money has been contributed thus far by Sommers Alumni Association Directors and Northern Tier Committee members. The Sommers Alumni Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation is the fiscal agent for this fund, making donations tax deductible. The long-term goal is to establish an endowment fund to finance scholarships, and several endowed scholarships have already been established. Donations in any amount, however, are welcome and appreciated.

You, as a friend of Northern Tier, can help! A request for donation will be forthcoming in your mail this fall. Consider a donation in honor or memory of other Charlie Guides, friends, or others who have guided you. Acknowledgements to honorees are gladly sent. If you have questions, or suggestions for other funding sources, please contact Dick Shank, Program Fund Chair (rshank@allina.com) or any SAA Director.



Cookin' with Charlie

continued...

Then I arrived at the canoe base and I wanted to be a guide. People named **Hyink, Cerny** and **Bridges** taught me more cooking than I would have ever tried in a kitchen. Then I went on a training trip led by another guy named **Diesslin**, who baked fresh bread on the trail every day. Hey, no sweat, I could do it. I was teaching guys who had multiple years of guiding experience how to cook on the trail by the time it was done. I didn't think much of it, but I remembered something that Diesslin guy told me on that training trip. "Whatever happens during the day, if you can feed them good at night, they'll think it's been a good day."

Words to live by.

I always made sure that the evening meal was the best I could make it. I never left the base with-

out knowing that I could deliver at least four more great evening meals than we would spend days on the trail. Of course, I knew that along the way there'd be at least one night when they'd catch so many fish that we'd all gorge on them (using the wide variety of fish recipes I had gotten from the previously mentioned cooking instructors). That added up to five or six, because usually there was a second great fishing day. Hey, it was easy. Add to that another secret - they would discover how spectacular starch tastes after paddling for a day. On just about every trip someone would tell me that I needed to rinse the spaghetti or rice to keep it from tasting too starchy. I'd smile and tell them they'd like it, then try not to look too smug when they raved about how it was the best spaghetti or rice they'd ever tasted.

So, after an extensive of culinary victories on the trail, I faced my first mechanized culinary challenge. I was a junior in college and I had an apartment of my own - not a dorm room and a cafeteria. I stood in front of the stove and oven, wondering how in the hell a person was supposed to figure out how to cook. I could put my hand in front of a reflector oven fire and find the right temperature, I could stoke a cooking fire under a pot, but I had no clue how to make a kitchen give me a decent meal. After all those cooking victories it was a devastating alienation.

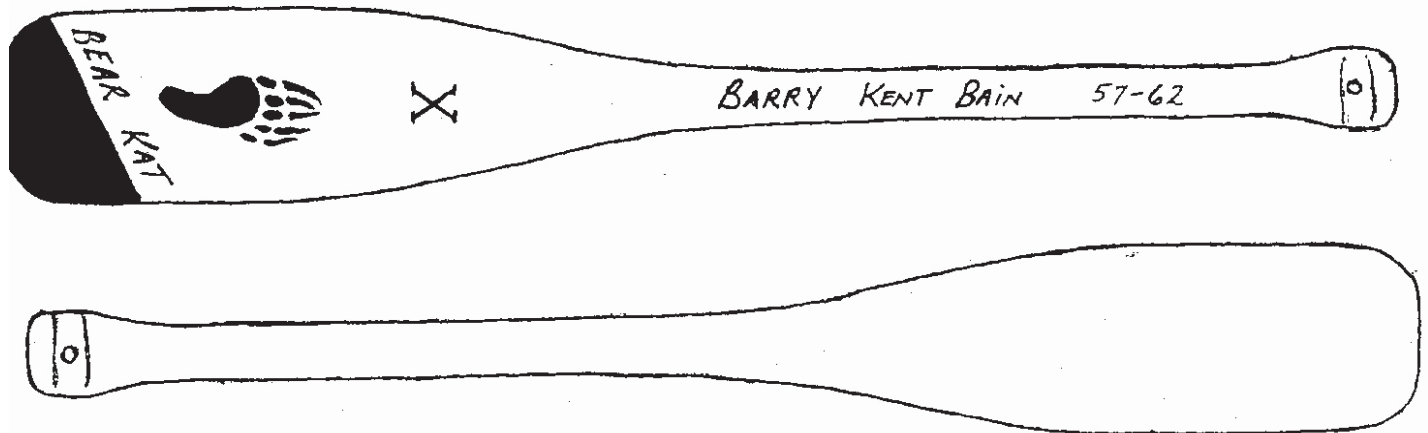
I realized, standing and staring in bewilderment at that stove, how far I was from being "at one" with the civilization to which I belonged. I wondered what other aspects of my behavior would cause the other people I met to single me out as

some kind of "backwoods clod." I thought of all the skills I had fought hard to develop, but now meant nothing standing in front of a simple kitchen appliance, an appliance I was very familiar with, but could not use to achieve familiar results.

Well, I learned to use an electric stove, gas stove, deep-fat fryer, and any cooking appliance developed by a boxer who couldn't hold a candle to Mohammed Ali. I can bake in any oven (don't rely on the temperature they claim - use a thermometer in the oven) and anything I can do in a kitchen I can do on the trail and vice-versa. And any time I need to get anybody on my side, I either feed them myself at the end of the day or buy them a meal at the best damn restaurant they ever ate at.

I call it being at one with nature.

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 1 Get 1 Free
Sale shipping = \$3.⁰⁰

Total _____

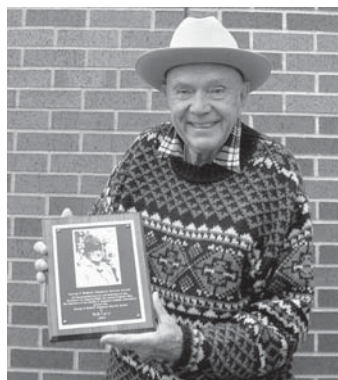
SAA Holiday Card Sale
 PO Box 428
 Ely, MN 55731-0428

**BUY ONE
 GET ONE
 FREE**

"Jackpine Bob" Cary is Hedrick Award Recipient

by Dave Hyink

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



Bob with the Hedrick Award

Ten Executive and ardent Canoe Base supporter. The 2003 recipient is "**Jackpine Bob**" Cary.

Bob joined the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee in 1984. As a former commercial outfitter, Bob brought valuable insights about the "business of outfitting" to both to the administration and to the committee.

His enduring contributions include both artwork and writing. He has authored and/or illustrated many of the in-house produced materials such as the

Trail Cookbook, Participant Guidebook, and various advisor materials. Two books — The Big Wilderness Canoe Manual and Winter Camping were collaboratively written with the late **Sandy Bridges** and presented the Northern Tier methods. He is also the author of the BSA merit

badge book on Fishing.

Bob's best known book is "Root Beer Lady", a biography of **Dorothy Molter**. In addition, Bob has published books that include short stories, tales of sled dogs and conversations with bush pilots.

Bob designed the Sommers Alumni Association's "Twilight Paddlers" logo, created the Crossing Portages logo, the "Charlie Guide" pen and ink we use on the Northern Tier Seasonal Staff Scholarship brochure. In addition, he has created many pen and ink portraits for use by both the Base and the Alumni.

Bob always participates in seasonal staff training by offering his fishing expertise, his extensive Ojibwe knowledge and, of course, his humorous stories about the canoe country.

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**, **Mike Holdgrafer** and **Butch Diesslin**.



Bob and Edie Cary with the Award

Catnip Repels Mosquitoes More Effectively Than DEET

Researchers report that nepetalactone, the essential oil in catnip that gives the plant its characteristic odor, is about ten times more effective at repelling mosquitoes than DEET — the compound used in most commercial insect repellents.

The finding was reported at the 222nd national meeting of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, by the same Iowa State University research group that two years ago discovered that catnip also repels cockroaches.

Entomologist Chris Peterson, Ph.D., with Joel Coats, Ph.D., chair of the university's entomology department, led the effort to test catnip's ability to repel mosquitoes. Peterson, a former post-doctoral research associate at the school, is now with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Wood Products Insects Research Unit, in Starkville, Miss.

While they used so-called yellow fever mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*) — one of several species of mosquitoes found throughout the

United States — Peterson says catnip should work against all types of mosquitoes.

In the laboratory, repellency is measured on a scale ranging from +100 percent, considered highly repellent, to -100 percent, considered a strong attractant. A compound with a +100 percent repellency rating would repel all mosquitoes, while -100 percent would attract them all. A rating of zero means half of the insects would stay on the treated side and half on the untreated side. In Peterson's tests, catnip ranged from +49 percent to +59 percent at high doses, and +39 percent to +53 percent at low doses. By comparison, at the same doses, DEET's repellency was only about +10 percent in this bioassay, he notes.

Peterson says nepetalactone is about 10 times more effective than DEET because it takes about one-tenth as much nepetalactone as DEET to have the same effect. Most commercial insect repellents contain about 5 percent to 25 percent DEET. Presumably, much less catnip oil would be needed in

a formulation to have the same level of repellency as a DEET-based repellent.

Why catnip repels mosquitoes is still a mystery, says Peterson. "It might simply be acting as an irritant or they don't like the smell. But nobody really knows why insect repellents work."

No animal or human tests are yet scheduled for nepetalactone, although Peterson is hopeful that will take place in the future.

If subsequent testing shows nepetalactone is safe for people, Peterson thinks it would not be too difficult to commercialize it as an insect repellent. Extracting nepetalactone oil from catnip is fairly easily, he says. "Any high school science lab would have the equipment to distill this, and on the industrial scale it's quite easy."

Catnip is a perennial herb belonging to the mint family and grows wild in most parts of the United States, although it also is cultivated for commercial use. Catnip is native to Europe and was introduced to this country in the late 18th century. It is primarily

known for the stimulating effect it has on cats, although some people use the leaves in tea, as a meat tenderizer and even as a folk treatment for fevers, colds, cramps and migraines.

A patent application for the use of catnip compounds as insect repellents was submitted last year by the Iowa State University Research Foundation. Funding for the research was from the Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station.

Chris Peterson, Ph.D., is a former post-doctoral research associate at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and is a Research Entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Wood Products Insect Research Service.

Joel R. Coats, Ph.D., is professor of entomology and toxicology and Chair of the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.



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