



SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

July 4, 1999: BWCAW, Sommers Canoe Base, Hit by Destructive Winds

A thunderstorm with winds up to 100 miles-per-hour took a 40 mile swath out of the BWCA Wilderness, including the Sommers Canoe base, on Independence Day. It lasted about 30 minutes and blew down most of the trees in an estimated 386,000 acres of forest, injured over 20 wilderness travelers, and has altered the area's forest mosaic. One estimate says 12.5 to 25 million trees are downed or snapped. The damage area is said to cover 25 percent of the BWCAW. Entry points to the wilderness are still open, but travel in the area will be difficult. Downed trees are blocking portages and covering campsites.

The storm tore into the Moose Lake base with no warning at 1:15 p.m. Miraculously, no one on base was injured and damage to buildings was not devastating. Of the 428 northern Tier people on the water in the BWCAW or in the Quetico when the storm hit, only two received minor injuries. A scout had a hairline fracture of the collarbone and was airlifted out from Eddy Lake. An adult leader burned his foot with hot coffee while running to avoid a falling tree. Of the estimated total of 3,500-to-4,000 people in the BWCAW that day, 20 were airlifted out with injuries.

Every building on the base, with the exception of the pole barn near the maintenance building, had numbers of trees on the roofs. A large Aspen went through the roof of the maintenance building and another tree pierced one side. The lodge had a small hole in the roof about the size of a softball. The dining hall had some 30 trees spread across its roof. General Manager Doug Hirdler describes the inside of the dining hall as "a dark tunnel" because of the trees hanging down over the windows. Much of the palisade/stockade around the gate-

way was knocked down. The north canoe in front of the lodge was crumpled by a fallen tree.

Power lines and telephone lines were down, so for about five days, the base relied on cell phones and generators. A 100kw generator was obtained to provide power for the dining hall, sauna, office and staff lodge. A smaller generator near the depot kept \$30,000-to-\$40,000 worth of food cold, so no food was lost. Power lines had to be rebuilt from Hibbard's Creek to the Base and Snowbank Lake.

By afternoon of the storm, people laboring with chain saws had begun to clear the Moose Lake Road and to open up trails to the cabins for crews coming off the water and to the staff cabins. Trees also had to be cleared from cars in the parking lot. Then trails were cut to the first-night cabins for crews coming in.

The base staff from Doug Hirdler on down spent hours chain sawing and clearing. The only hitch in the entire schedule was that the "Rendezvous" for crews coming off the water July 4 was not held. Otherwise, meals, outfitting, moving crews onto and from the water proceeded on schedule. That is powerful testimony to the tremendous dedication and skill of the base staff. "We never lost a beat," Doug Hirdler says. "The way the staff pitched in is unforgettable. People on their days off were out cutting." Doug reports that crew evaluations have been highly favorable in their praise for the way the base staff responded to the disaster.

Doug Ramsey of the base staff said there seemed to be a "summer of '99 bond" developing on the base.

All incoming crews had stories to tell. A group from the state of Virginia had been on the water one day and was on the west end of Ima lake just finishing lunch when



the storm hit. "Three trees fell across our canoes and that is the only reason they did not blow away," the advisor says. "Our crew literally 'hunkered down' under a big granite rock for an hour and a half to keep from blowing away! Do you remember the article on the NT program in Boy's Life last winter or spring? It featured pictures of a Scout crew out on Strup lake. The pictures were beautiful. We paddled through Strup and it literally looked like a bomb had gone off. On the north and east ends not a single tree was standing... just remember the pictures of the forest on Mt. St. Helens after it blew up and you will have a good idea of what some areas in the BWCAW look like." The advisor goes on to say that, after changing their primary route to head into Kekakabic, the portage into Kekakabic that should have taken 10-to-15 minutes took three hours as the crew climbed over and under stacks of trees up to eight feet high. Other crews coming in experienced the same thing. The advisor wrote, "The storm was a terrifying thing

to have been in. It certainly provided a level of 'high adventure' to the Scout program that no one could have ever anticipated. Despite that, everyone seemed to have a great time and the storm actually pulled my crew members together in a way that no training ever could have."

A crew coming in to the base on its last day sat out the storm in a low spot on the south side of Moose. They had gotten off the water because of the storm and tied their canoes together. A spruce tree fell on them in the water, but they were able to paddle them in. The advisor says, though, that the highlight of the trip was the day before, when the girls in the crew were able to show off their portaging skills to a group of privately-outfitted Boy Scouts who were full of instructions on how to handle the canoes.

In the words of another advisor, "As for the storm, you had to be there. It hit us on our second day and I believe it will leave a lasting impression on everyone... The

continued on page 4

President's Message

by Dave Hyink

Among the pleasures of being a member and part of the leadership corps of the Alumni Association is the fact that I get to interact with so many fine folks. Some face-to-face, some by e-mail, others by telephone, and some by "snail mail." In true "Charlie's fashion," virtually everyone will at some point say, "...what can I do to help?" I usually have an answer, it usually involves work; and despite the fact that they know that answer, they ask anyway!

Given the events of July 4, I've heard from more alumni than normal. It occurred to me, however, that I certainly didn't hear from everyone. So, for those of you who put off calling me, I've developed a Top Ten List (actually a list with 10 items in no particular order) of things for you to consider helping with.

1. Join **Allen Rench** and others at the Ely Base over the Labor Day weekend to work on removing downed trees from the Base and on the winter ski trails.
2. Help **Craig Pendergraft** as he leads the next 5-year funding program for SAA's annual operating expenses (our current program is called Crossing Portages).
3. Help the Northern Tier Staff Scholarship Development Committee (**Dave Hyink, Butch Diesslin and Michael McMahon**) with fund-raising

and administrative tasks associated with this wonderful new program.

4. Contribute material to **Mark Nordstrom** for use in *Reflections*.
5. Help **Mike Holdgrafer** and **Craig Pendergraft** and the Base Management by offering your time and talents to the Seasonal Staff Training Program.
6. Work with **Mike Sawinski** and **Red Renner** during Alumni Work Week prior to the opening of the Bases in late May and early June.
7. Assist **Pat Cox** and his crew as they plan for the Year 2000 Alumni Reunion and Rendezvous!
8. Contact **Zane Beaton** about promoting the Base or advising a crew in your local area.
9. Help **Doug Hirdler** and **Terry Schocke** by recruiting an outstanding young person from your area to be a member of the Seasonal Staff.
10. Sign and return your Proxy for the Annual Members Meeting, September 12, 1999. Better yet, bring it with you!

There are plenty of other ways that you can *make a difference* by helping out. Just give me a call. Thanks to everyone for their concern about the effects of the storm and especially to those who were able to lend a hand.



A Look at The Destruction From the Air

The bottom right corner of this picture shows a darker area of trees still standing. The rest of the picture shows lighter-colored areas, where the trees have all been blown down by the storm. There are swamps to the right and left of the lake in the foreground. It gives you an idea of the devastation caused by the July 4 storm. This photo is from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Internet page.

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In this view down the Moose Lake Road, you can see the sign at the entrance to the base at the end of the road (to the left of the picture). Notice the extent to which trees are blown down along the right side of the road, broken off several feet in the air. Also, there are no taller trees behind these

Alumni Work Project to help Base Recover from July Storm

by Allen Rench

Pack up your chain saws, hand saws, axes, and your brush chippers and bring them with you to the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base during the Labor Day weekend (September 4, 5 & 6). The base has been getting extremely enthusiastic help from staff in the work to clear downed trees (folks have been coming in on their days off to help). The base also may get help from the Order of the Arrow. Now it's for the members of the Alumni Association to help too.

The base is offering to absorb the cost of your meals and your stays in cabins there for the weekend. However, you need to help in the planning for how to accommodate everyone who comes. Please let us know as soon as possible how many will be coming with you, so we can give the information to the base and help them prepare. The form that's included on page 7 gives you an idea of some of the information that will help make the base ready to accommodate a good work crew.

We need as many alumni as possible. Maintenance Director Mike Sawinski may hire a logging crew to clear the Flash Lake

trail. But if we had our own alumni crew of at least 40 we could open up the trail in about 2-3 days. Mike said it took almost 2 hours to walk to Flash, because of all the downed trees.

If we do not get that kind of response we will be clearing downed trees and doing stump removal around the base program area. Tools are an important issue, i.e. chain saws and extra chains. The more we can have the faster the work will go.

If you bring chain saws we will need to know fuel mixture ratios for the saws so we can have the proper mix fuel available.

Bring your family along. Sign up for baby sitting if you need it. We will be sensitive to those families who need that little extra help.

This is an ALL HANDS HOL-RY for help. Let's see what kind of response we can get.

The lodge was only slightly damaged. This picture shows a tree that was blown down onto it. Reports referred to a shingle damaged. There are more pictures of the storm damage on page 7.



Storm Damages BWCAW, Base

continued from page 1

storm arrived quickly, there were no signs or warning that this was a potentially deadly blast." One crew said they had hung their dining fly to eat lunch when the trees holding the tarp blew down. A crew on the east end of Ensign Lake had their tents trapped under large fallen trees and one canoe smashed. Members of a crew that went out after the storm hit said they had trouble finding a place to make camp among downed trees. On Snowshoe Lake they reported forest service crews were occupying all the campsites. They said Ashigan was relatively unharmed, fishing was fair, hanging a bear bag was difficult.

Doug Hirdler has gone over to Flash Lake to check out storm damage there. In some places trees are piled 15 feet high. Many pine trees were snapped off 10-to-15 feet above the ground; other trees were uprooted.

Clearing is continuing at the base, but some heavy duty cleanup with larger equipment will wait until early September, when crews are gone. A Sommers Alumni Association work effort is being organized (see article in this issue), as is an Order of the Arrow project to clean up around the Welcome Cabin and rebuild the palisades alongside the gateway. The U.S. Forest Service, which brought in outside crews to help, reported July 20 that all but one portage trail in the BWCAW was cleared.

While dealing with the storm, the Northern Tier staff has been conducting the biggest season by far of Scout canoeing in northern Minnesota and Canada. Registration numbers for the summer season are at 5400, compared to about 4000 in 1998.

The Minnesota department of natural resources has posted a map showing storm damaged areas on the Internet at <http://www.ra.dnr.state.mn.us/bwca/>. The map shows the storm damaged an area nine-to-12 miles wide, starting between Fall and Basswood, northeast of Winton, across the Moose chain, the north end of Snowbank, entirely surrounding Ensign and Kekakabic, reaching up to Knife and down to Thomas and Little Saganaga and ending in the area of Alpine and Sea Gull and extends east to the Clearwater, Pine, Caribou Lake area near Grand Marais. According to the Minnesota DNR the area around the ca-

noe base east to Flash Lake lost up to a third of its trees. Just half a mile up the lake the losses are over two thirds, MDNR's map shows.

Estimates from the United States Forest Service (USFS) show that in most areas affected, 70% of the trees have been blown down or snapped off. The MDNR's web site also contains several pages of thumbnail pictures of storm damage at: http://www.ra.dnr.state.mn.us/fire/press/bw_dnrpics.html, http://www.ra.dnr.state.mn.us/fire/press/bwca_img.html, <http://www.gis.umn.edu/snf/storms.html>. Blowdowns are a common form of forest disturbance in forested areas such as the BWCA Wilderness. However, blowdowns of this size are unusual. A large portion of the area affected was virgin, fire origin forest. Much of the area is covered in red, white and jack pine, mixed stands of aspen, birch, and balsam fir, white spruce and cedar. This particular event will result in increased forest fire activity in the next 10 years in the BWCA Wilderness. When trees fall in blowdown events like this one, trees are often stacked off the ground, which allows them to dry quickly, much like fire wood. With so many acres of dead and down wood, much of it conifer species, the chances of fire increase dramatically. Past Boundary Waters fires have followed blowdown areas and renewed the forests. Fire is a positive, a necessary, element of Boundary Waters forests. The red, white, and jack pine forests of the BWCA Wilderness are fire dependant, and other species are helped by fire when it clears out shade tolerant species, such as aspen and birch.

We should see jack red and jack pine thriving in places where low intensity fires do burn in the next decade. If fires are suppressed or never materialize in places, we should see an abundance of aspen, birch, spruce and balsam species, which are not fire tolerant and grow faster than most pine species.

This blowdown event will have major impacts on bird and animal species. For instance, many of the bald eagle and osprey nests in the affected area have likely been destroyed, and likely many of these birds injured, killed, or displaced. The population of woodpeckers will likely skyrocket in areas where trees are blown down as they feed on the many insects that thrive in the decaying trees.

Recreational Issues

Thanks to Gene Felton, Adam Sokolski, Bruce Harper, Doug Ramsey, Butch Diesslin, Nathan Davis, Deborah Slager, Jan Simmons, and John LeBlanc for the information in this report.

If you are planning a trip or have a permit for the BWCA Wilderness, the USFS is advising visitors to contact either your outfitter or the USFS at (218)365-7548 to determine what conditions are likely for your trip. Currently, many portages are impassable and campsites unusable due to fallen trees. USFS crews are, however, clearing trees from portages and campsites every day until these places are open. Now, all entry points to the wilderness are open, but some may be impassable due to fallen trees.

The USFS is also offering full refunds to anyone wants to cancel their BWCA Wilderness travel permit. Refunds are available by calling the reservation center at: 1-877-550-6777.

If you travel in the BWCA Wilderness, the USFS is asking visitors to adhere to the following safety and resource protection considerations:

When visitors come into the area most affected by the storm, they should be prepared to alter their plans and remain flexible. Most importantly, they must be aware that they are entering an area that may have many trees whose root systems have been compromised by the wind storm. Many trees are leaning and are held up only by other leaning trees.

- Use caution when walking open portages. (There will still be

- some down trees to negotiate.)
 - Do not try to cross the wind-falls on blocked portages or go cross-country through blowdown. (You won't get far and you could get hurt.)
 - Do not choose a tent site under leaning trees. (More wind or rain could cause them to fall further.)
 - Use extreme caution if you choose to cut small downed trees or remove branches. (Fallen and leaning trees of any size are often under tension and will snap or jump back unexpectedly if sawn. - Please leave the removal of larger trees to trained sawyers.)
 - Visitors must also plan on digging a shallow pit toilet at least 150 feet from the shore. (Many of the latrines were damaged or destroyed in the storm.)
 - The USDA Forest Service is very concerned for the safety of BWCAW visitors. Please be aware of the additional risks when planning your trip and use caution and common sense when you arrive.
 - Visitors with reservations in the blowdown area may request a refund of their reservation fee by contacting the reservation center at 1-877-550-6777.
- The Superior National Forest Web Site has information about the storm at: <http://www.gis.umn.edu/snf/storms.html>.

Some News Reports

The Duluth News-Tribune reported some statistics on the storm's effect on the BWCAW: 909 portages damaged, a week after the storm 364 had been checked and 73 percent were said to be passable; 385,000 damaged acres, 250,000 of that forested; no closures for any part of the BWCAW, lists of passable portages were being made available at ranger stations, outfitters, and other businesses around the BWCAW; motorists on the Gunflint Trail were being asked to drive 10-to-15 miles per hour under the speed limit with lights on. ABC news carried a story featuring Interpreter Pete Esposito, whose crew praised him for his help when trees fell on them in camp. One member of the crew suffered a broken collarbone, others large

bruises. CBS news featured an interview with photographer Jim Brandenburg, whose voice halted as he pointed out a dead eagle chick to reporter Cynthia Bowers. "I'm kind of like a picture farmer," Brandenburg told Bowers, "and my land just blew away. This is a scene I probably won't shoot anymore. I'll just paddle by here and remember the good old days." Other reports said the forest service was considering lifting the ban on chain saws and that it was considering controlled burns of downed timber to reduce the danger of wild fires developing in the wide area where the downed trees would become fuel for fires. Neither of those was anything more than an option, though.. They were only being discussed.

It's a Jungle for Feet in the Wrong Boots

by Mark Nordstrom

America once found itself with a large number of soldiers committed to duty in tropical terrain. Not the South Pacific in World War II, but southeast Asia in the 60s and 70s. A boot was developed for the soldiers serving in those wet conditions and it found its way into surplus stores and onto the feet of Sommers trail staff. They were called jungle boots and some of them were identified as 'Nam boots. They had hard rubber soles, leather around the feet and uppers of canvas that reached high above the ankle. Most important of all, they had drain holes at the instep. When you walked up out of the water at a portage trail you'd squirt water out of your boots with every one of the first few steps. It left little marks on dry ground that were unmistakable to the trained eye. You could always tell if a pair of those had walked up out of the water recently when you pulled up to a portage.

The boots were quite a novelty 30 years ago and caught on pretty quickly. They're still among the most recommended footwear for

folks planning a trip to Sommers. The fact that the boots dry fast is their greatest comfort. The sturdy leather around the foot is great for those sharp rock edges that turn up on portages and in the water where you load and unload canoes. Morgan sharp told the members of the high adventure list serve that he found his at a surplus store, made by Altama and priced at \$60-to-\$70. John LeBlanc reported that there are other jungle boots out there that may not be as sturdy as the Altamas. Other folks wrote in to agree.

Alan Houser wrote in to say that he'd gone to L.L. Bean to ask about jungle boots, but they didn't seem to know what he was talking about. "They don't have a clue," were his words. Bruce Harper found some boots at Bean that he was pleased with, though, and they weren't from the jungle. The classic canoe shoe (catalog item number TA25368, to be precise) comes high-cut. Bruce says he and his two sons wore them on a 10-day Sommers trip and they expect to get many more trips out of them. He said he was a little concerned about them at first, but, "The

boots held up just fine and did real well, both on normal portages and while climbing over downed trees and bushwacking after the storm." He said after he bought them he saw a sale price for them of \$24.95. He lamented paying the full price.

Altama says it has been making nothing but boots for 30 years and has been making a version for commercial sale since 1991. The company says it sells boots to the U.S. military and now foreign militaries as well as police.

Just as there's apparently a difference in the jungle boots you can find today, there was a difference between the jungle boots and 'Nam boots. The 'Nam boots had one added feature. They had steel plates in the soles, to protect the wearer's feet from poisoned spikes. The story was told that North Vietnamese soldiers dug holes about

knee deep, sharpened sticks, coated them with poison, stood them in the bottom of the hole, and covered it. Anyone who stepped through the cover and got the spikes into his foot found himself poisoned, unless he was wearing those steel-soled boots. I never saw a pair that I knew of, but I heard a lot about them.



**8852 Green Jungle Boot
Commercial Version**

8th Circuit Court Ruling on Homeowner and Resort Owner Exemptions in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals recently issued a ruling which disagreed with the Forest Service's interpretation and management of the exemption found in the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act for homeowners, resort owners, and their guests.

The BWCAW Management Plan defined the phrase, "that particular lake," by treating certain chains of lakes as one lake. Based on this definition, the Moose Lake chain (comprised of Moose, Sucker, Newfound, and Birch lakes), Farm Lake chain (comprised of White Iron, Farm, South Farm, and Garden), and Saganaga (including Gull Lake and Seagull River) were each considered to be one lake and permits were not required for homeowners, resort owners, and their guests on any of the lakes in a group. The 8th Circuit Court disagreed with this definition and stated, "it is clear to us from the context that each individually-named lake is to be considered a particular lake." As a result of this ruling, homeowners, resort owners, and their guests are now only exempt from permits on the specific

lake or river where their property is located. For example, homeowners and resort owners with property on Moose Lake are now exempt from permits on Moose Lake ONLY and must obtain a permit for motorized day use of Newfound or Sucker Lakes.

We recognize and appreciate the effect this may have on many of you, as day use motor permits are limited for these lakes and demand will be high.

For more information on this ruling, contact the Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Avenue Place, Duluth, MN 55808, (218) 626-4300.

The association received the following card:

Dear Sommers Alumni,

Thank you for the "guide pack" marking my third summer at Northern Tier. I have used the pack for my first two Bissett trips and it has worked wonderfully. My poles fit in one of the side pockets with a few other things. The front pocket is perfect for my first aid kit. We've had a wet summer so far and the

pack resists the rain nicely. Thanks again, the pack so far has accompanied me on some of my biggest guiding adventures yet and it will see many more.

Thanks,
Liz Vollmer

p.s. Thanks for all of your support for the staff!

Tidbits On the Sommers Clan

The e-mail address for **Dave Hyink (1966-70, 86-Cmte)** has been changed to [\[dave.hyink@weyerhaeuser.com\]](mailto:dave.hyink@weyerhaeuser.com)

Lillevi Ivarson (1985) is living in Hosle Norway. After spending a year and a half in Trinidad and Tobago, she now works in Oslo for Hydro Agri Markets, Norsk Hydra ASA. She is expecting her first child this August.

Fred M. King (1960-63) is now online at [\[FKingusa@aol.com\]](mailto:FKingusa@aol.com).

Chuck Ogee (1965-66) is one of the co-founders of the **Deer River (MN) White Oak Society** - a circa 1798 Northwest Company fur trade

post and modern day Rendezvous site. Chuck commented in the "Point Blanket" article by Craig Pendergraft, that the beaver pelt "point" value changed from year to year and blankets were initially "unsized." The annual White Oak Rendezvous is the first full weekend in August. Chuck teaches in Rosemount, MN.

Stephen Schueller ('82-84,90) has moved to RR 3 Box 327, Guthrie, MN 56461. Stephen is a Free-lance Writer.

Congratulations to **David Starks (1991-94)** and his wife **Mary** on the birth of their daughter **Sydney Grace** on May 1, 1999.

Cherie Bridges (1970-) and **Michael Sawinski (1969-72, 98-99)** were married on April 16 in Duluth.

Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee and Sommers Alumni Association member, **Steve Fossett**, was awarded the prestigious Silver Buffalo, by the National Council, BSA. The Silver Buffalo is the highest award given to volunteers for service to youth. Congratulations, Steve!

E-mail from Ima, Cell Phones are here

by Mark Nordstrom

Several years ago, when the Internet was still just text messages with enormous headers on them, I was participating in a chat group on CompuServe, what they called a forum. It was about the outdoors and several of the people who traded messages in the group had been to Sommers. One member of the group had spent lots of time in Ely, but not at the base. He was a free-lance computer software troubleshooter and service man in Chicago, but he spent most of his summers in Ely.

When he left Chicago for the summer I told him he should stop by the base and say hello, which he did. He told me to keep an eye on my e-mail. A couple weeks later I received an e-mail he said was from Ima (and he included that dumb joke about Ima bear in it). He said he had brought along a solar battery charger, a cell phone and his laptop and was sitting on an Island campsite in the middle of Ima as he typed the message to me. I told him I was skeptical, but he swore he was on Ima and sending me e-mail from there using the cell phone. That was 1993 and cell phones were still

fairly rare, especially on Ima. Today, though, cell phones in the wild are becoming a bit of a controversy.

Cell phones are being marketed alongside Global Positioning Systems as outdoor sporting equipment. It's a tremendous safety tool, the promotions say. The phones are being used for more than safety in the woods though, and some of the emergency calls aren't quite particularly urgent.

Cell phones have been in some poignant moments of adventure. Rob Hall, a guide on a commercial expedition on Mt. Everest, spoke to his wife via cell phone from the middle of a storm on the mountain. She was at home in New Zealand, pregnant with their first child and he was losing strength in the extreme cold. He died before rescuers could reach him. They were coming without being called.

The increasing presence of cell phones in the wild has stirred a few protests. Folks who want to get away from traffic and communication signals complain when they hear beeps, rings, and tele-transmitted voices on tinny speakers. Articles have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the Manchester

Union Leader, the Columbus Dispatch and others telling about hikers who take along their cell phone, but no compass or map, and when they get lost, call for directions. Hikers who were lost with a global positioning system and a cell phone in the Appalachians called emergency workers and asked for directions. A police officer and fire fighter climbed up and showed the hikers the way back to a road. Some local folks were offended when the hikers later complained that the response had been too slow. If only they had a fax machine they could have received a map.

A Scout troop in the East reportedly called for an evacuation of their adult leader who had broken his wrist. They were asked if he could walk. They said, yes. He walked out.

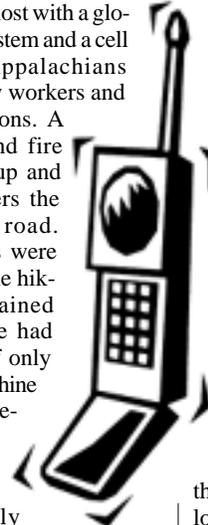
Three hikers on the Appalachians' Mt. Washington called for assistance, but when asked what

the emergency was, said, "Never mind, just send help," and hung up. A rescue was not sent and when they came out of the woods several hours later the only apparent injury was that they were "bent out of shape" because no help was sent.

Can folks who are upset over being disturbed by overhearing a cell-phone conversation at the Isle of the Pines on Knife Lake hope for any help from the forest service? Well, the forest service has no policy on the phones. Even if it had a policy that banned the phones, enforcement would be a nightmare. USFS officers have not carried cell phones, but some have carried radios; cell phones are being considered for them.

CellularONE has demanded that our National Park Service allow it to build a 43-foot cellular phone tower at Hopi Point on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. CellularONE executives say it's so drivers can make use of their mobile telephones. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires national parks to be available for mobile communications towers, so the park is required to consider it.

The ethics of not disturbing other folks in the wilderness are what control cell phones now. They haven't gotten much attention in that context, though. For some people a noisy group camped across the lake ruins their wilderness experience, for others it's the smell and sound of a motor, for some it's beeping cell phones and the sound of half a conversation.



Alumni Directory Available

The latest version of the Sommers Alumni Association membership directory was printed in July, 1999. The directory includes the addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of association members and the known address information for former canoe base staff and friends who are not association members. Each association member in good standing should have received a copy of the 1999 directory. If you did not receive your copy please contact Butch Diesslin through the alumni association address or by e-mail [butchnlucy@juno.com].

Non-members can receive a copy of the 1999 alumni directory for \$10, along with a free one-year association membership.

Directory Maintenance Assistance

You help is requested in keeping the information in the association's database as up to date as possible. There are errors in the directory - due to telephone area codes changes, new e-mail addresses, moving, etc. Please send information updates, address changes, etc., to the association.

Please use the cards provided with the directory, the information update form in each *Reflections* newsletter, or send them by e-mail to butchnlucy@juno.com.

Help Find LOST Staff Alumni

We would very much appreciate your assistance in finding the many "Lost" former canoe base staff members. Please take the time to look through the "Lost Staff Alumni" list in the directory to see if you know the status of any of the former staff members listed. We would appreciate any information you might be able to provide on any of these people. Please use the reply cards in the directory, or send your information via e-mail to Butch Diesslin [butchnlucy@juno.com].

Recruit Alumni

Association Members

The majority of the former canoe base staff members are not members of the Alumni Association. Many of these people need to be invited to join the association. The most effective invitation comes from one of their former co-

workers cronies. The association would appreciate it if each of you would contact a couple of your former canoe base co-workers and invite them to join you and I as members of this tremendous support organization for the Northern Tier programs.

1999 Spring Work Week and Staff Training Volunteers

- Roy Cerny**
502 2nd Ave. S.
South St. Paul, MN 55075-2811
- Roger Clapp**
P.O. Box 521
Florence, MS 39073-0521
- Dave Greenlee**
48332 254th St.
Garretson, SD 57030-6046
- Mike Holdgrafer**
2310 S. Birmingham Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74114-3222
- Jason Kracht**
8043 Mitchell Dr.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
- John Oosterhuis**
1116 Parkway Dr.
Bettendorf, IA 52722-3042

- Craig Pendergraft**
P.O. Box 741
Belmont, CA 94002
- Mike Quinn**
8616 Irish Ct.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016-4721
- Robert Renner**
1601 E. Pioneer Rd.
Ely, MN 55731
- Chuck Rose**
103 1st Ave. N.
Sartell, MN 56377
- Richard Shank, M.D.**
425 Mt. Curve Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55105
- Robert Welsh, M.D.**
10311 S.E. 28th St.
Bellevue, WA 98004-7226



This crew cabin still has some tall trees standing next to it, but most of the trees around it are down.



That's the Hanson House on the left, with a downed tree against it. Most of the trees around the house have lost at least their tops.

Sommers Labor Day Work Weekend Information Form

Please give us some information so plans can be made to accommodate everyone:

NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

WORK PHONE _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

Number of people coming with you _____ Number of children who'll require day care _____

Number of meals on: Saturday _____ Sunday _____ Monday _____

OTHER INFORMATION, work implements (tools, saws, ropes, etc.) you can bring to help clear downed trees, can you haul loads?
Please see article on page 3 for suggestions on information that will help us prepare to help you work.

Please send to: **J. Allen Rench, P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428**
Or e-mail at: **allendianne@home.com (hm)** or call: **507-536-0736**

1999 SAA Holiday Greeting Card Sale

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

venture, BSA. Orders will be shipped promptly.

This year's card features a Bob Cary's drawing of the Northern Tier area. The subject has not been chosen yet, but you can get in your advance order now. It's printed using highest quality thermography (what's often referred to as em-

bossed) on premium cards of recycled paper. The cards are blank inside. You choose your own message. The back of the card carries a message about Northern Tier High Adventure. This is a distinctive and very handsome greeting card. The cards come 25 per package, including envelopes. A limited number of

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 cards: "Commissary," "Lodge," "Hanson House," "Canoe Yard," and "Gateway" are available at discounted prices. A special series set of all five previous years is available at a special price. As is a limited edition Holiday sampler. All orders subject to availability.

Quantity

_____ 1999 Cards	x \$25.00= _____
_____ 1998 Cards - Commissary, Plain Inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1996 Cards - Fort Gateway, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1994 Cards - Hanson House, Holiday Greeting inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1994 Cards - Hanson House Notecard, Plain Inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1993 Cards - The Lodge Notecard, Plain Inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ 1993 Cards - The Lodge, summer view, Plain inside	x \$20.00= _____
_____ Holiday Sampler (five of each card, 1993-1997, 30 total)	x \$20.00 _____
_____ Special, save 20% , one box of each, 1993-1998 (six boxes, 140 cards)	x \$80.00= _____
_____ Tax Deductible Gift to the Alumni Association for 1998	_____

FREE SHIPPING

Total _____

Ship to: _____

Ordering Address: Sommers Alumni Association
 Holiday Card Sale
 PO Box 428
 Ely, MN 55731-0428

SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 PO BOX 428
 ELY MN 55731

NONPROFIT
 POSTAGE
PAID
 Ely MN
 PERMIT NO. 102



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED