



Tomahawk Alumni Association

Serving Past and Present Staff Members and Supporting Tomahawk Scout Reservation

Welcome & History Center Dedication

When was the last time you visited Tomahawk? Somehow, I manage to make it up to camp at least once a year. Consequently, when I think about camp, I am remembering it from the last time I saw it, and not the way it looked “when I was on staff.” Over the years, I have delighted in watching Tomahawk change and grow with the same awe I have in seeing my children grow.

This year was a year of many changes at Tomahawk. Once again, due to the generosity of those who share our love for Tomahawk and Scouting, facilities were improved and expanded. The most striking change is the new entrance to camp. A new camp sign (paid for by a special \$6,000 alumni campaign), carefully recreated to the specifications of Tomahawk’s original entrance sign, marks the beginning of the new road into camp. The old camp road we all recognize is still there, but it serves only as a service road, providing delivery access to the Central Services (Administration) building. All campers and visitors now enter camp and get to all four sub camps by driving past the old entrance and down a new road that extends south past the old outpost program area and links up with the pre-existing camp roads near the fire tower. Visitors to camp now check in at the Ber-

glund Welcome Center, located near the COPE High Course just south of White Pine Camp.

If these descriptions and location references seem a bit confusing and you find yourself thinking, “I don’t even know where that is,” then it’s time for you to come see what’s new at Tomahawk! Although alumni are always welcome at camp, the Tomahawk Alumni Association provides a couple of special opportunities for you to visit camp each summer, usually in conjunction with an event such as a new facility dedication, which now occurs nearly every summer. More formal camp staff reunions will occur at Tomahawk every five years, with the last reunion in 2008.

I was thrilled to be able to attend this summer’s alumni gathering on July 19th to witness the dedication of the Berglund Welcome Center. This magnificent new facility was made possible through the generous contributions of the Berglund Family Foundation. Ken Berglund, who was one of Tomahawk’s earliest staff members, was on hand for the dedication, along with about 75 others, including five of Tomahawk’s past reservation directors: Jim



Steve Weekes shares some words at the dedication, which took place on July 19, 2009. A beautiful day was had by all who attended.

King, Homer D. Miles, Steve Nordrum, Jeff Sulzbach, and Jim Schwieger. How fitting to walk through the center and view the displays on Tomahawk’s history with such living legends as Homer Miles and Ron Phillippo! A special thanks to Jim Frost for his months of hard work developing the exhibits and narrative boards that do such a fantastic job of telling Tomahawk’s story.

Article written by Myron Jacobson

Alumni Holiday Gathering

Our 2009 holiday gathering will include a brief annual meeting with new board members being installed and an adult evening with spouses and significant others that will be devoted to food, fellowship and fun!



Tuesday, December 29th @ 7:00 p.m.

Our Board members are seeking a location, details to follow in our November issue.

Online @ <http://alumni.camptomahawk.org>

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Spotlight Summer Camp to Winter Camp

Tomahawk Scout Reservation Summer Season Comes to a Close



The 2009 camping season at Tomahawk Scout Reservation was a great success. Just under 6,000 Boy Scouts and Webelos Scouts attended Tomahawk this summer. Over 160 camp staff members helped teach these Scouts valuable outdoor skills as well as invaluable life lessons during their camp experience. Scouts enjoyed traditional activities like outdoor cooking, campfire building, and knot tying but also got their chance to try activities including climbing, sailing, and mountain biking. This season's weather was quite cool but Scouts still managed to get plenty of aquatic activities including sailing, canoeing, swimming, and rowing.

Many people ask how the former Rindsig farm is being used since we have acquired that property. Several program activities are now being offered on the farm property including a newly constructed 5 mile mountain biking course taking Scouts on a ride past beautiful wetlands and fields with abundant wildlife. Hiking trails are also being

developed near the perimeter of the property and the herd of bison now roam north on the property through the former cattle grazing lands. Scouts also participate in leave no trace camping activities and wilderness survival outposts throughout the summer and winter months on the new property. The opportunities for uses of this newly acquired property are endless.

In 2010 the Boy Scouts of America will celebrate its 100th anniversary in the United States. This major milestone is being celebrated across the country in many different fashions. Tomahawk Scout Reservation will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Scouting throughout the 2010 season. We are excited to usher in a second century of Scouting with an even better season in 2010.

Article submitted by Mark McCabe - Tomahawk Scout Reservation Director

Snow Base Winter Camp

This January, Tomahawk's Snow Base program will open for another exciting season of winter adventure in the outdoors. Within the last several years the program has undergone several new developments, including the addition of Spearhead Expedition a program designed for the advanced winter camper, a fast fiber-glassed sled shoot, and a yurt—a round tent in the style of those used by Mongolian nomads.



Scouts age eleven and twelve have the option of Snow Huskies, an introductory experience involving cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, and basic cold weather skills. They sleep inside—up in White Pine Camp, but they eat several meals outside, cooking the meals themselves over backpacking stoves.

Spearhead Expedition, an advanced program for scouts have participated in Spearhead and are looking for something more challenging. This program has been headed up by Paul Fischer, an alum of Sioux Camp and Navajo Camp, and a long-active staff member at Snow Base.



Dog Sledding has been offered for several years, and was even featured in Scouting magazine. The program is run out of Navajo Program Building, from where the Scouts learn to mush, sled, and work with a team of trained sled dogs. Dog Sledding is always the quickest program to fill up for reservations, and everyone who participates has a great time.



Interview with Homer Miles

What years were you on the Tomahawk Staff?

1972 to 1987

What were your positions?

Reservation Director

What was happening at Tomahawk during your tenure? What was new?

Wish I knew (laughing) the troop sites where the first thing we addressed. They got new wall tents that are in use today and oots. Basically provided everything for the troops. Troops were using all sorts of tents and we wanted to make sure it was uniform. We made sure there were new latrines in the camp sites and that they had new display areas. We also created new camp sites in Sioux camp. We closed some sites and turned these into the Scoutcraft areas that are in place today.

I did my best to equally balance the program areas. The Beach Program area dominated but I made them all balance out. There were no supplies for Scoutcraft or Ecology when I took over; I made sure that was fixed. The old staff cabins were converted over to become the new Scoutcraft cabins.

What was your most memorable experience?

I did a raid on Seninal Island with Tom Gallager. This had a long lasting impression on the staff as to what would be permitted or not. I was and still am a believer that staff sets the highest standard to all, not only sponsors but scouts as well. This is why we distributed a copy of the National Standards and expected the staff to adhere to them.

How did you experience at Tomahawk affect your life?

It's the most rewarding life's work that a man could have. You get to work with the best of people, leaders, staff and kids.

What was your favorite place in camp?

Sioux Chapel. My wife and I always went to church services there. While hiking through camp I would stop there and just enjoy.

Do you have any advice for the current staff?

Never forget the values of the BSA. That is why you are there

When was your last visit to Tomahawk? What was different?

I was there for the Berglund Welcome center dedication. It's a beautiful building I did not get to see the new outpost though.

What is your current occupation/affiliation with Scouting, etc?

I volunteer at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp. I am on the properties committee for FCA. While Ranger Fred "Art" Marty goes on vacation, I fill in for him.

Which former staff member(s) do you keep in touch with?

I made it a point not to become pals. If you become pals you then become prejudice to a degree. You treat everyone the same from the first year dishwasher to a long time veteran. They all have important work to do. I read the retirement prayer; support Scouting but get out of the way. There is new ideas and let them blossom. Best thing is to step back and not interfere

Do you have any other comments you would like to add?

If I had to do it all over again I would. It was a great ride and a great experience. Still for every success and everything I did, it was because of my wife and kids. Without their support I could not have done it. Have a look at the sign down in Sioux camp and you will see the sign "Homer Miles Family" not just Homer Miles. Many of my successes were because of my wife's support.



Ron Phillipppo chatting with Homer Miles

Chris Lacher had the pleasure of conducting this interview.

Service Project Recap

Coming Together

Our Alumni organization is a vibrant and active one. Each time we gather, it is with a purpose. Our annual social get-together is an alumni tradition almost as old as the camp. Each December during the week between Christmas and New Year, we gather in St. Paul to socialize and catch up with one another.

help ready the new Berglund Welcome Center for its opening day and dedication. While there is always plenty of manual labor to be done, several of our alumni also returned during staff week to help with staff orientation and training. Lastly, about mid-summer we sponsor a “staff sparkler” for the camp staff. Last year’s event was a comedy



This past spring, under the leadership of Larry Moser, alumni gathered at Tomahawk to help the newest generation of camp staff to prepare for the opening of another season. This past May about two dozen alumni attended the spring service week-end to build display cases and

skit competition, and this summer’s was a talent show. It is a welcomed evening of good food and fun for the camp staff, organized and paid for by the alumni association. Special thanks to President-Elect Scott Schuette for his leadership on both of those events.



Jeff Sulzbach, Homer Miles & Mark McCabe
Thank you for keeping Scouting strong!

Thank You to Alumni Friends of Scouting!

Did you know that Team Tomahawk, made of mostly individual alumni like you, contributed over \$30,000 to the council’s Friends of Scouting campaign last year? Those contributions helped Northern Star Council deliver a strong Scouting program all year round. If you’d like to participate in this year’s campaign or just learn more about what’s going on across the council you should attend one of the Million Dollar Day for Scouting events on December 9th or December 10th. More information can be found at www.northernstarbsa.org/supportscouting

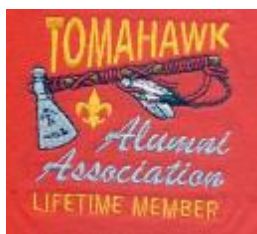
Social Networking on Facebook

A lot of alumni are finding old camp friends via the social networking website Facebook. There are a half-dozen different Tomahawk group pages on Facebook. Alumni Rob Lambert and Tyler McKean administrate the Facebook group page “Tomahawk Scout Reservation Camp Staff Alumni,” with over 200 fans. “Yep Tomahawk is Awesome” [sic] is equally popular on Facebook. Friend them today!

www.facebook.com

Official Site

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of items...



New entrance sign completed on June 20, 2009
Thank you to all who contributed to this project.