

Only the 6th Camp Ranger

Repman Joins Professional Staff

Joining a very select group, Adam Repman started work this past spring as one of only six camp rangers since Bob Bryant in 1953. He comes to Tomahawk from a large ski resort in Vermont where he

spent 11 years handling all aspects of its operation.

With him in the Long Lake home formerly occupied by Mike McKim and his family are his wife, Erika, eight-year-old daughter Elora, and

five-year-old son Charles.

Adam grew up in Colden, NY, near Buffalo, and went to high school in Springville. He is an Eagle Scout and has associate degrees in both parks and recreation management and forest technology.

When asked what he thought of camp ranger work in general and Tomahawk in particular, Adam said, "Nothing can top it!" He also acknowledged that the land and physical plant are huge with lots of management challenges.

In his words the work atmosphere is great and living at the lake cannot be beat. He has established a fine working relationship with Phil Gruenhagen, his partner as a camp ranger. They are joined by two assistant rangers for the summer.



1993 to Present

Phil Gruenhagen

The Gruenhagen name is well-known at Tomahawk and in the Long Lake community. Ranger Phil has been working at camp for almost 20 years and the lake's Gruenhagen Bay is named for his great grandfather.

Phil grew up in the area where except for military service he basically has spent his entire life. He attended high school in Rice Lake, took college courses there, and has done construction and maintenance work. He and his wife Debra have five grown children, Angie, Steve, Kelly, Fred and Roy. He loves the outdoors, particularly wintertime when he can snowshoe.

At camp he has many different tasks including maintaining some 40 vehicles and providing year around security for the huge facility. Among his accomplishments he lists building the mega climbing tower and the rest of the COPE course.

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Camp Rangers

Since the Beginning

- Bob Bryant—1953-1967
- Vern Minick—1967-1972
- Tom Randall—1972-2001
- Phil Gruenhagen—1993-Present
- Mike McKim—2001-2011
- Adam Repman—2012

Sub-Camps, Buildings and Vision*

A 1958 schematic sketch of Tomahawk Scout Reservation was found in a furnace room filing cabinet at the Northern Star Council St. Paul office and is now part of the camp's history exhibit. It shows a vision of five sub camps plus provisional (individual, non-troop camping) and family areas. Camps labeled A and B became Chippewa; C was not developed; D is White Pine; and E is Sioux Camp.

Sioux and Chippewa (A, B and E) with their campsites, beaches, activities areas, rifle and archery ranges, chapels, roads and trails, are much the same today as they were when Tomahawk first started to take shape. And Camp D was not forgotten—in 1995 White Pine opened there.

The 60s provisional camping area was where Navajo Webelos Camp is situated today. In the 50s, 60s and early 70s Scouts without their own Scoutmasters or troops camped with reservation-provided leaders. The provisional program disappeared for a time but was reborn this year

as All-Star camping. TAA members now have the opportunity to apply to act as short-term leaders. If interested, contact Mark McCabe—mmccabe@nsbsa.org.

A second drawing shows that by 1958 there were 14 buildings at Tomahawk. With one exception all have been updated through remodeling or expansion and are still utilized today.

The exception is Fisher Cabin near Cherokee (first called Site 1), which was on the property when it was acquired—bits of the foundation are all that remain. Ben Flood, Bruce Foster and Gordy Miller lived in the cabin for a month in 1953 while they worked with ranger Bob Bryant clearing brush and trees for roads, buildings, campsites and beaches. To reach it they often traveled in Ben Flood's boat from near the Administration (Central Service) Building. The last week they were there they made daily boat trips to an old sawmill, near where the COPE course and Berglund Welcome Center

are now situated, to saw lumber that eventually was used in some of the camp's new buildings.

Over the years the Gagner Central Service Lodge has been called Administration (or Ad) Building, Central Service Lodge, and Central Administration. But gone is the iconic 100 feet tall wooden flag pole in front of the building that was first used during the camp's official dedication in 1958. It was destroyed by a storm in 2002 and replaced by a steel pole of 125 feet, which was dedicated on the occasion of Tomahawks' 50th anniversary celebration in 2003.

**This article is part of an ongoing series on Tomahawk's history taken from the exhibit in the Berglund Welcome Center at camp.*

RESERVATION DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS

E. O. Clemens—1955-56

Field staff director for the council when Tomahawk Scout Reservation was purchased, he was responsible for the sale of Camp Neibel, the move to Tomahawk, and its early development.

Richard Molby, Jr.—1957-59

The camp's initial camping professional, he established activities areas and introduced program features including the legendary Wednesday night chicken barbecues, which were a treat for Scouts and a public relations outreach to the community.

Edward Tribble—1960-61

His sons Bob and Dana both worked at camp. They recall how good their dad felt about having selected a great staff and how proud he was of the way they all worked together.

Edwin Dery—1962

In 2006, he celebrated a 75-year association with the Boy Scouts of America in Thief River Falls, Duluth, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota.



One of the 16 historical displays in the Berglund Welcome Center at Tomahawk Scout Reservation. This one chronicles early development at the camp and includes the visionary drawings from 1958 on the left.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED



Taking part in preparing for the 2012 Tomahawk season at the TAA work day on May 12 were first row (left to right), Jake Erickson, Rob Murray, Trevor Dobbs, Eric Weflan, Clint Andera, Calvin McCabe, Cody Fallin, Mark McCabe, Myron Jacobson; second row, Dominic Dee, Jeff Sundwall, Bernie Pergie, Larry Moser, Brandon Bent; third row, Brian Halloran, Jennifer Molitor, Coleen Friend, Jerry Daniels; fourth row, Kendra Jones, Ian Maki, Emily Blomer, Matt Newman, Doug Lenard, Greg Rohde, Daren Bibeau, Jeremy Clouch.

Apologies to those whose names are missing. The first person to correctly identify and submit the names of all 36 work day participants in this photograph will win an official neckerchief from the 1964 Valley Forge Jamboree. Submit to jimgfrost@aol.com.

TOMAHAWK+VOLUNTEERS+WORK=ACCOMPLISHMENT

It was great to see so many willing volunteers at the May 12 service day at Tomahawk. By all accounts it was a quite a success. Thanks to everyone who showed up and contributed to the effort.

About 50 volunteers ranging from staff and others currently involved with Tomahawk back to 1950s staffer (and later Order of the Arrow lodge chief) Dave Franks accomplished dozens of tasks to help prepare for the summer camp season.

Heading up the effort for the alumni association was board member Greg Rohde.

I'm guessing others experienced the same sense of accomplishment and camaraderie that I did while work-

ing with a group that varied from six to about 14 at various times during the day. Those I worked with cleaned logs from an 1860s log cabin and reassembled most of the walls to be part of the logging camp area at Tomahawk.

The combined efforts of all the volunteers also included setting up Navajo tent platforms, setting up Miles Hall, planting grass seed, making road and bridge repairs, setting up a teepee, trail maintenance, latrine construction and staining, as well as miscellaneous other tasks.

Next event on the TAA calendar is the association-sponsored Sparkler, Thursday, July 19.

Take care, Larry Moser, president.

Why Become a Member of the TAA?

Thank you for being an alumni association member. Using the talking points below, please promote membership with others. For complete information and an application form go to the website.

Give back to the organization that you received benefits from – Many of us who worked on the Tomahawk staff were deeply affected in positive ways from serving as a member of the camp staff at Tomahawk; working at Tomahawk during their formative years helped shape many individuals for the rest of their lives. In order to ensure that an organization that can have such a profound impact can survive we need to raise funds (dues and gifts) to support its mission.

Maintain a social connection – Camp staff members form friendships with each other that last a lifetime. The Tomahawk alumni association hosts an annual holiday gathering that fosters fellowship with alums and current members of the Tomahawk staff.

Stay informed on what is happening in Scouting and at camp – The association produces quarterly newsletters, maintains a Facebook page and a website that helps alums stay connected to each other as well as with the operations of the camp and Scouting program.

Volunteer to help support Tomahawk – Tomahawk needs volunteers to help ready the camp for the summer and to help complete projects at camp that have been identified as priorities. Alumni members are needed to help care for the facilities and grounds.

Support the Current Staff – To become effective staff members counselors need quality training, mentorship, and encouragement from leaders. Tomahawk alums can provide direct training, guidance, encouragement, and financial assistance to help make our current staff successful.

TAA is online at
<http://alumni.camptomahawk.org/>

Guest Column: North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting is a one-of-a-kind museum, right in your backyard. Although the museum is 36 years old, in the last seven years it has transformed from a homeless collection of material that traveled to community events, to a full-service institution that “collects, preserves, shares, and interprets the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the Upper Midwest”.

Tomahawk Scout Reservation sits squarely in our area of interest.

In considering the value of a Scouting Museum to the TAA, it occurred to us that we are engaged in the same work: to preserve the history and traditions of important Scouting institutions. You know better than anyone how important your time at the TSR was, and you can help us preserve the stories for new generations of TSR staff and alumni. There is precious little on public display right now that relates to your experiences at Tomahawk. However, we have a great deal in our collection, and someday expect to mount an important exhibit that will tell a fraction of the stories that you carry with you.

You are welcome to visit any time, Tuesday through Saturday. Contact Claudia Nicholson at 651-748-2880 or cnicholson@nssm.org to schedule a visit. Online the museum is at <http://www.nssm.org/>.

Notes from the Reservation Director...

The 2012 summer camp season is underway at Tomahawk Scout Reservation. The camp staff completed their training on June 15 and welcomed campers on June 16. This summer campers will have a chance to earn several new merit badges at Tomahawk including chess, kayaking, and photography.

This will be the second year of our logging camp outpost. The outpost now features a 160-year-old log cabin. Troops will be able to spend the night in the cabin and work on making brands, climbing, and cooking meals at the outpost.

Several troops from across the country are visiting Tomahawk this summer. In addition to our local troops Tomahawk will serve troops from Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Florida, and Texas. Over 70 troops from outside our council borders will participate in Tomahawk's summer camp program.

And in addition to our new camp ranger, we have a new reservation program director. Brian Halloran is in the position and will share responsibility for overall direction of the camp.

Please continue to communicate with the camp by visiting www.camptomahawk.org or find us on Facebook by typing in “Tomahawk Scout Reservation.” Also feel free to visit the camp during the summer and see for yourself what has changed and what has remained the same.

I hope to see you soon, Mark McCabe.