

# Tomahawk Alumni Association Newsletter

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## 2014 Holiday Party: December 29th 6:30-10:00 p.m.

The Tomahawk Alumni Association annual holiday celebration and brief meeting at 7:30 p.m. will return to the Northern Star Museum of Boy and Girl Scouting located at 2640 E. Seventh Avenue, North St. Paul. Food and beverages provided.



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## Service to Camp

The weather was warm and sunny and the spirits were high as alumni from all eras gathered on Saturday May 10th to partake in the annual event that is one of our core values: service. The event began with a TAA meeting at the traditional Friday night gathering at Lincolnwood. The Saturday started early with a homemade breakfast to get everyone off to a good start. Many building projects were completed, including foundation, floor leveling and roof work, not to mention the coveted job of demolition. The demolition included several structures that did not withstand the vast amount of snow that accumulated this past winter. Although turnout was lower than past years, the jobs completed were greatly appreciated. The alumni provided roughly 200 hours of work compared to 5 weeks of work for one staff member. **The annual event is planned for Saturday, May 9th 2015.**

## Service to Camp From Your Home



Painting signs for Tomahawk at the McCabe's residence. Left to right: 2000's staffers: Tim Lovett, Sam Larson and Greg Rohde

A service evening was organized by Lovett, Sam Larson, Greg Rohde, Clint Andera, Molly McDonald, Sara VanDerWerff, Kathryn Wyatt, Mark and Katie McCabe. If you are interested in helping camp from your home with future projects in upcoming winters, contact Brian at [bhaloran@northernstarbsa.org](mailto:bhaloran@northernstarbsa.org) or 651-254-9178

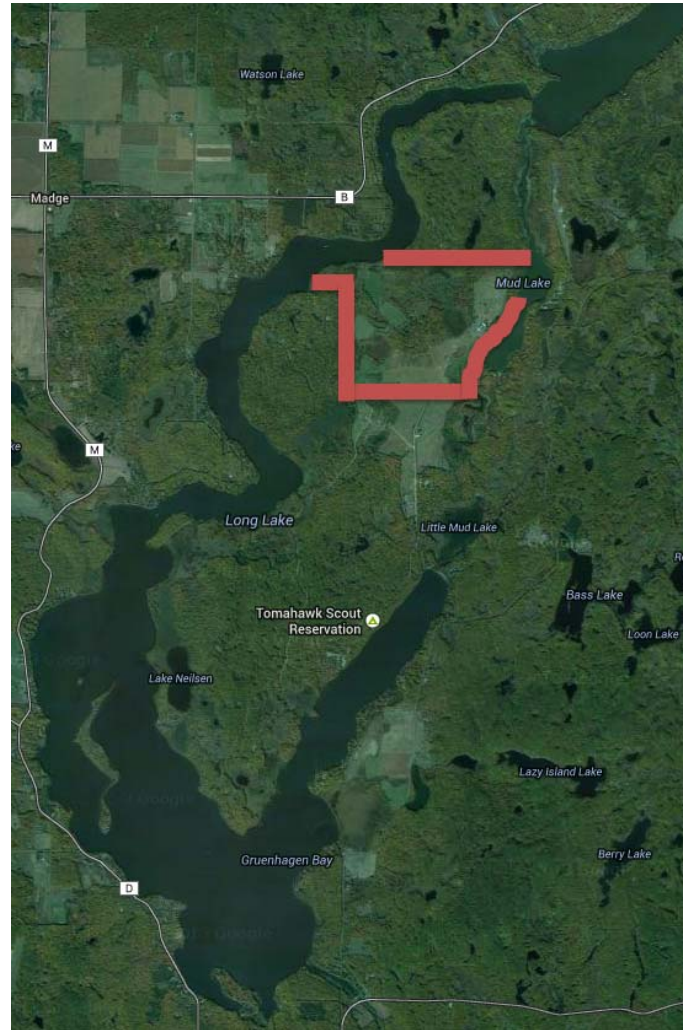


## Tomahawk's Upper Peninsula

In 2007, Tomahawk Scout Reservation acquired property that made up the Rindsig Dairy Farm, just east of White Pine Camp. The property, which contains rich forests filled with osprey and a small number of bald eagles, wraps around what is known as Mud Lake. The property is currently being used to board a large herd of American Bison who graze in the alfalfa fields.

Along with the bison fields, the property is being utilized as the beginnings of a large ATV trail that wraps around a considerable amount of camp property along with a portion of property that lies north of camp, primarily owned by Mr. Jack Nessen. The ATV day trip is offered through the summer High Adventure program and can handle six scouts at a time, lasting roughly three hours. Prior to taking to the larger trail, scouts will spend a portion of their day learning how to safely handle an ATV by riding on a comfortable practice trail.

As for the future of this area, the plan is to clear the area of any unnecessary features that may distract from the natural beauty of the land. Buildings from Mr. Rindsig's farm are being utilized for storage, despite some of the roofs collapsing under the weight of this winter's snowfall. There are also plans to restore the original summer home of Axel Nielson (previous owner of the Long Lake Ranch) a major player in camp history. This historic home would support future programs at the farm. Future programs to be held in the northern property are always in consideration with the hope that whatever programs come to fruition will inspire scouts to appreciate, restore and conserve the beauty of nature.



Rindsig acquisition outlined in red is the approximate area.



Scouts enrolled in the High Adventure ATV program enjoy the Upper Peninsula on ATVs donated by Polaris Industries for the purpose of introducing youth to the sport with an emphasis on safety, responsible riding and respect for the environment.



## 50's and 60's Reunion

Alumni members gathered for a 50's and 60's reunion, held on September 18th with over 30 people attending. Hugh Gwin prepared the food and a committee made up of Bill Dorgan, Steve Flood and Jim Frost assisted in the planning details. The event was hosted by Bill Dorgan in Maplewood, MN. Bob Albright brought memorabilia from the 50's and early 60's.



Above: Bob\_Albright and Bill Dorgan.. Right: Andy Creager, Dale Martin, Dave\_Albrecht and Greg Travis.

### Board Members Needed

Interested in serving on the Tomahawk Alumni association Board of Directors? Please do not hesitate to contact Brian Halloran at [bhalloran@nsbsa.org](mailto:bhalloran@nsbsa.org) or 651-254-9178.

## UP AND COMING STAFF MEMBER: PAIGE JERRETT

Paige Jerrett started her career at Tomahawk Scout Reservation last summer by serving as the White Pine Horse Corral Director. She has a passion for horses, especially when ridden in a rodeo. Paige is from Parish, New York and is a recent graduate from Morrisville State. She is currently the President of Miss Rodeo New York, however, this past summer her duties as president took a back seat to ten weeks at Tomahawk.

She incorporated her love for rodeo into her area by developing a fun and safe scout rodeo for the White Pine campers. Along with the rodeo, Paige also incorporated a fun renaissance theme which included a game where scouts used foam pool noodles to knock rings off of hooks, similar to jousting. Scouts really enjoyed these programs and consistently made comments about their "favorite staff member."

While busy at camp, Paige added programs such as actual Rodeo events such as Pole Bending, which tests the scouts' newly acquired horsemanship skills with a race against the clock to win the ultimate prize — a Slushie.

She strived to build a firm foundation and developed a system for future horse corral directors so the success she has brought to camp will continue to build each and every year.

Paige was a great asset to our camp staff and has a goal to be involved professionally with horses, working with their care and management. We wish her luck in her future endeavors!



## Tomahawk Instructor Awards



**Megan Rielly**  
Navajo-BB Gun Instructor



**Josh Torkelson**  
Chippewa-Brownsea Director



**Allen Voigt**  
White Pine-Tower Director



**Charlie "Professor" Plumb**  
Sioux-Ecology Instructor

Every summer the Tomahawk Alumni Association supports camp staff. Past summers included a camp staff sparkler this past summer we have voted to recognize individual staff members for their talents. We now sponsor a \$100 awarded to four Tomahawk staff that are nominated by their peers and supervisors as the best instructors. The award recognizes and supports those camp staff members that stand out as individuals.

Meagan Rielly was a first year staff member. She hit the ground running in her area cleaning and fixing guns and really connected to the Webelos attending Navajo. Hitting the target is important in a cub program and having proper instruction and quality equipment ensures that each Webelo attending Navajo has a positive experience to connect them with all the excitement of becoming a Boy Scout.

Josh Torkelson brought a whole new energy and enthusiasm to Brownsea this summer. Multiple mentions in end of the week surveys show that his passion for the first year program and teaching new skills is right up his alley. We look forward to seeing what Josh brings to camp next summer.

Allen Voigt joined our team with no past camp staff experience, he showed a great deal of patience and attention to detail with instruction at the White Pine Tower. His well known fear of heights inspired Scouts to face their own fears head on.

Charlie Plumb or better know to scouts as Professor Plumb, has been a fan favorite in Sioux Ecology for the past three summers. Not only does he bring a great deal of knowledge and experience to his area, he is able to convey the complex curriculum of Ecology in a fun way that scouts enjoy.

## Sean Merhar Creative Leadership Award

The Sean Merhar Creative Leadership Award was created in 1997. At 22 years old, Sean had worked at camp for seven years including two years as Sioux Camp Director. The award began in 1998 and is presented annually. Candidates for the award are nominated by their fellow staff members and finalists are reviewed by Directors, the Merhar family and past recipients. Candidates must demonstrate creative leadership skills and participation in campfire programs is a plus.

Sean's family and friends established the award to honor Sean's love of Tomahawk Scout Reservation. Designed to encourage staff to reach above and beyond the normal duties as assigned and work outside the box. To date there have been 17 recipients of the award, each receiving a \$1000 scholarship to recognize them for their exemplary service to camp. This year the Sean Merhar Creative Leadership Award recipient was Spencer Passmore. Specializing in the ecology area, Spencer has inspired young minds to think broader and helped them to understand the natural world around them.



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