



THE OCTORARO LOOP

**The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News
Issue No. 1 - Volume 3 - March 2002 On Line - WWW.HSRAA.ORG**

The purpose and mission of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

"To preserve and promote the spirit and heritage of Horseshoe Scout Reservation and its camps (Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III), to be a benefactor to the Reservation and to promote the brotherhood of Scouting among the alumni of the Reservation."



Camp Horseshoe 1928

75TH CAMP SEASON CELEBRATION

"Trailing" (predecessor of today's Trail Blazer newspaper) on July 16, 1928 reported: "at last the new camp is open to the Boy Scouts of Chester County! Monday, the 16th, witnessed the arrival of the first delegation of boys for the first season on the Octoraro."

Now, 75 years later, we celebrate that time and place. We celebrate and take pride in the fact that thousands upon thousands of Scouts and leaders have felt the uplift of camp, the friendships made, the experiences shared, the chance to take part in and benefit from advancement programs that taught and tested our skills and have captured the "Spirit of the Horseshoe".

(Continued on Page 2)

HSRAA'S REUNION - JULY 13, 2002!

What would the Horseshoe Reservation's 75th Anniversary be without the Reunion of the Alumni of both Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware III? The Spirit of the Horseshoe is made up of all the (continued on left column, Page 2)

KEY STORIES IN THIS ISSUE...

Camp's 75th and HSRAA Reunion	Pg. 1-2
Chairman Matje's Message.....	Pg. 3
Communications-website.....	Pg. 4
HSRAA Camp Ware Gateway.....	Pg. 5
Personality of the day- W.W. Robertson.....	Pg. 5
"Ernie Says" Column.....	Pg. 6
Horseshoe Scout Reservation Today ...	Pg. 7
HSRAA Virtual Museum.....	Pg. 8
Octoraro Lodge 22 News.....	Pg. 8

Reunion continued from page 1 ...

Scout campers and Staff who have the "dust of Horseshoe" in their moccasins.

This is the "big one" celebrating the founding season of our Reservation. It is not to be missed.

Special Scouting displays, old Camp Echos, patches and introduction to the HSRAA Virtual Museum will be there. Your fellow camp or staff friends will be there from around the country. Do not be missed – be there for the fun, fellowship and good eats!

The Reunion begins about 1:00 PM at the Horseshoe Goodman Pavilion next to the Health Lodge. Top the Reunion afternoon off with the Indian Pageant and Campfire in Agheketum Circle. Cost \$10.

Reservations for the Reunion must be placed by July 1, 2002 since the food is being catered this year.

Order your HSRAA T-shirt! Special T-shirts carrying the HSRAA attractive logo are for sale at \$10 per shirt. Further information will come in the reunion mailing. They will be available at Camp Horseshoe at the Reunion.

Thanks to Bill Davis, Reunion Chairman, for his leadership to see that we'll have good meal and a great time!



Joe Eagan and Biff Davis prep for 3rd Reunion.



HSRAA 2001 Scouts await barbecue goodies.

75th Celebration continued from page 1

Pictures in this issue depict how our camp looked in those first years. While "bricks and mortar" are important, as are the beautiful hills and woodlands to camp, they only serve to bring together the youth and leaders that build the traditions and the spirit of the camp. Our Camp Director that first season was Charles M. "Chief" Heistand. He, along with Joe Brinton, was surrounded by a staff of Eagle Scouts, Scout leaders, teachers, and the like – people who envisioned what the best experience could be for young men of the day and the future. They laid the great foundation upon which the future generations have built at Horseshoe and at Ware.

Program was essential to the campers' experience. The formal Retreat Ceremony, merit badge and skill building opportunities, outdoors living and applying the principles of Scouting all worked together.

The "Mess Hall", named Allen Memorial for a generous supporter of Scouting, served to bring together as many as 213 of the campers and leaders from the five stockade camps for each meal. The Kindness Center building, donated by the S.P.C.A., served for evening programs and housed the Trading Post and Handicraft areas. The Scoutmaster's Building, named for Devon 50's first Scoutmaster Edward Browning, stood across the way as a leader's center. The Reynolds' home, now named the "White House" served as Camp HQ.

As can be seen in early photos, Flag Pole Hill (then known as Goat Hill) was devoid of trees with only the Flag Pole standing high above with the US flag visible to all. (Continued on Page 3)



"Chief" at OA's 50th Anniversary in 1976.



75th Celebration continued from page 2

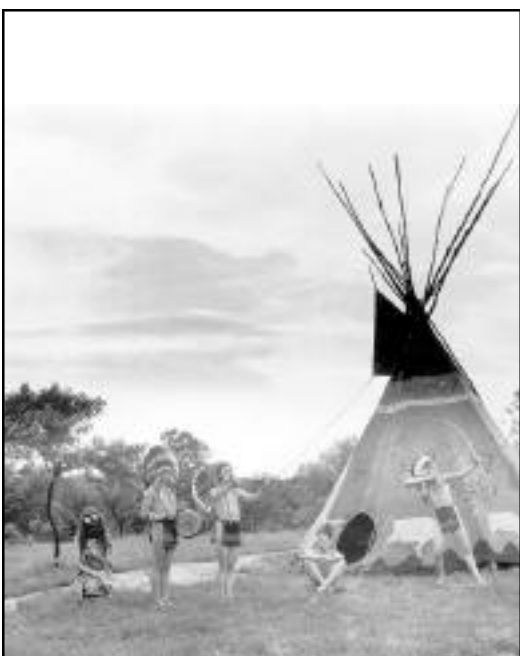
Retreat Ceremonies were conducted on the athletic field each evening. Chief Heistand, being interested in music, had a Camp Band of buglers, etc.

Early days saw the camp participate in a number of camp wide pageants - A Hiawatha Pageant was popular as was one depicting the travails of Pioneers and Indians. The latter even brought forth live oxen from a local farmer as part of the pageantry. The aquatics program was centered below the Bayard Taylor Stockade camp where swimming and boating programs held forth (see "Ernie Says" column for more).

Horseshoe today reflects the hopes and dreams of its founders. It truly is among the best Scout camps in America today as our founders had envisioned and even more so, thanks to the generation of campers and leaders who followed and now are alumni.



Athletic Field landing below Flag Pole Hill.



Indian Lore led by Chief Medicine Eagle 1928.



HSR Band leads Retreat on Athletic Field '28.



Five Stockade campsites for campers in 1928.

CHAIRMAN BOB MATJE '78 WRITES

Dear HSRAA Alumni -

It is truly an exciting time in the HSRAA. There are many new and innovative ideas that are planned. The enthusiasm and support of our benefactors and executive committee are as strong as ever.

As an example of up coming attractions, in a short time we hope to be rolling out a means for members of the association to post memorabilia on our web site for all to see and appreciate in a virtual museum. This initiative, a concept schemed by Eric Lorgus, has been several months in the making and has taken countless hours to plan and execute. It looks like we are nearing the completion and hope to have this up and running soon. See the article in this issue of The Octoraro Loop and stay posted to www.hsraa.org for more details.

It is with great pleasure that I announce a resolution of the many complex issues that have stymied the completion of the gateway on the Camp John H. Ware III side of the HSR. We expect to have a crew in from PPL shortly to relocate a utility pole for us at which time Dick

Bensing and his team will move in and complete the job. If everything goes as planned, construction should be completed by the April OA Ordeal weekend.

Congratulations to Dick and his team for an outstanding job on both gateways, and thanks to the many benefactors who made this all possible.

Lastly, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so now. We count on your support to make these great things happen. Also, the 2002 Reunion is swiftly approaching. Please see the details in this newsletter for more information.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there for a fun, fellowship and camaraderie and to help celebrate Camp Horseshoe's 75th.

Yours in the Spirit,
Bob Matje, Chairman, HSRAA



Reunion's nostalgia of old books and patches.



Nature Study 2001 at Roberts Nature Lodge.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERSHIP - E-MAIL AND WEBSITES, ETC. UPDATE

[The editor can't help but comment about communications and reflect on some of the means we Scouts (of an earlier day - I guess I

am dating myself now) conveyed information. Yes, we had telephones where there was an operator to send along your call; but, we also had semaphore flags and wig wag Morse Code flags, the Trail Blazer and the like. There was nothing like what we have today - cell phones, direct dialing phones, voice activated messagers and pagers, e-mail, electronic devices and high speed document printers, etc.]

Several ways are used to give and get the most current HSRAA information - electronically: online via the Council's website: <http://www.cccbsa.org> or directly to <http://www.hsraa.org> and via written word in The Octoraro Loop or the Council's Trail Blazer newspaper.

Both of these websites are being updated. Andy Smith is working on the HSRAA site to bring it up to date along with back issues of The Octoraro Loop that can be retrieved electronically. This site will eventually be tied into the Virtual Museum planned by HSRAA.

The Council's website is also being upgraded. Today, a TRAINING section has been added for all levels of training available. Other elements being added in the next month are High Adventure and Council Commissioner's Corner. District sites are being revamped. Octoraro District has a particularly good presentation and Diamond Rock should soon follow. The current Trail Blazer issue can now be electronically displayed.

Stay on-line for more information.



Wig Wag Signalers of the 1920's communicate.

HSRAA FUNDED GATEWAY PROJECT UNDERWAY FOR CAMP WARE

Dick Bensing, Committee Chairman for Special Projects, announces that work on the gateway for Camp John H. Ware III is underway.

The location of the gateway at Camp John H. Ware III will be in a prominent location just

inside the Reservation property line and visible to all who enter the camp.

This is the second HSRAA funded gateway to be built on the Reservation. The Camp Horseshoe gateway was completed last fall. The Ware Gateway project is expected to be completed this spring well before Camp Ware's opening day.

In the meantime, lists of other projects are being developed. Anyone having a suggestion for special projects for the HSRAA is invited to submit rough plans along with a justification of need. Dick Bensing and his committee will take suggestions under consideration and will respond. Contact 610-696-2900.

SILVER BEAVER AWARDS PRESENTED

Four Silver Beaver presentations were made at the March 1, 2002 Council Recognition Dinner. Besides Council President Kent Patterson, there were HSRAA members honored. John O. McGovern Jr. '78 Thomas G. Savoy '76 and Scott Salvatore '86 were recognized for their exceptional Scouting service to youth. Congratulations to all!

WOOD BADGE COURSE AT CAMP WARE

Gary Schroeder, Wood Badge Course Director, announces that the Chester County Council is hosting NE-IV-143 Scout Leader Training for all Scouters working in the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venture, Council and District programs. It is being offered at Camp John H. Ware III for two weekends - August 22 to 25, 2002 and September 13 to 15, 2002. Interested leaders in this mountaintop training experience should check the Council website www.cccb-sa.org for information or call Tom Dintaman 610-696-2900.



Three generation Eagles for Robertsons.

PERSONALITY OF THE DAY - BILL ROBERTSON OF JUBILEE FAME

William "Bill" or "W.W" Robertson has been around these parts for 33 years! He is still at it! He is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 44, Oxford PA. His first year at Camp Jubilee (now John H. Ware III) was 1969 when was asked to take the troop to camp, then called Camp Jubilee. Since then he has been there every year for a total of 33 seasons.

At the age of 83 he no longer spends the night, but he is there every day working with the boys as a merit badge counselor or an advisor of the first year scouts. His major accomplishments while a Scouter at the Reservation include: 18 standard troop awards in a row while Scoutmaster, Wood Badge, Polish Jamboree staff, Troop Leader Development staff and Scoutmaster for three years. His service to Octoraro Lodge 22 has been outstanding with 57 O.A. service weekends attended and being elected to Vigil Honor. He is also recipient of the Council's highest award to a volunteer - the Silver Beaver. Probably Bill's proudest time is now in seeing that his son Bruce, an Eagle Scout, has taken on the Troop 44 leadership roll that he previously held in an earlier day.

Few know that Bill and Pete Sirocco were the original engineers and builders of the bridge that now spans between Ware and Horseshoe camps. Much of the work done at Camp Jubilee/Ware in maintaining the camp, building tables and benches, etc. on OA weekends has been spearheaded by Bill Robertson.



Good Works - Camp Ware Plaque testifies to Troop 44 and leadership of Bill Robertson.

When you talk with him about the foundation of Camp Ware, he will talk of names like Herb Ey, Ray Pauley, Chuck Kelly, Gwyn Patrick, Dale Melrath, Joe Warram, Cal Wallace, Al Foard, Mercer Sloan, Herb Warner, Pete Sirocco and many, many more who were inspired by Bill's leadership. If you ask Bill

what he likes best about camp, he will return you to the basics of Scouting: being in touch with nature, having dinner with Scouts who have cooked their own meal, and seeing the smile on a Scout's face when he learns a skill or is just having fun.

With 42+ years of Scouting, one can't imagine the lives he has touched and hopefully changed for the better. If you see an old time Scouter like Bill around camp, he has probably received every award imaginable, but if you go to him and tell him, 'thanks for the time you have spent in scouting' that is the highest honor he can receive!

Bill's life embodies the Scout Oath and Law. He serves as a fine example in Scouting and his community. Bill's Scouting love is reflected in the fact he is an Eagle Scout as are his son, Bruce and grandson, Ryan.



Octoraro Creek in 1928 serves to cool swimming and boating Scouts of the day.

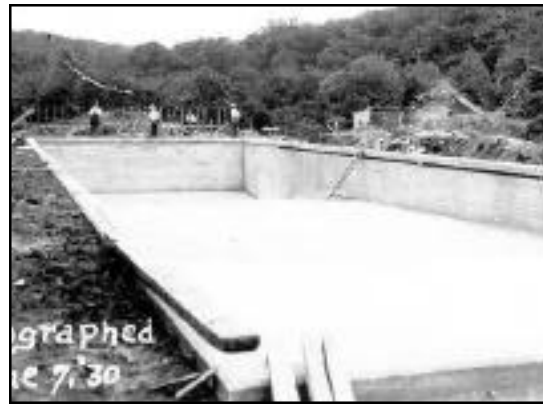
"ERNIE SAYS" ... **Ernie Heegard, Camp Director Emeritus of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, is the Honorary Chairman of the HSRAA. His column is regularly in "The Octoraro Loop."**

"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE..."

Charles M. "Chief" Heistand, Scout Executive at the time Camp Horseshoe property was purchased and developed, must have been greatly impressed by the stream that encircled the property. The sparkling, clear water of the Octoraro in 1928 had to have been mighty inviting to those first Scout campers on a hot summer day. Swimming pools were few and far between back then and swimming holes were very popular, even in the 1940's when I was growing up.

The spot selected for the early aquatics activities was what is now known as Taylor Beach. It was just below the Bayard Taylor stock-

ade campsite. Scouts enjoyed boating, canoeing and swimming in the Octoraro until 1930.



New Horseshoe Reservation Pool takes shape in June 1930.

In talks I had with Chief Heistand, he made it clear that it was always his intention to build a swimming pool at the camp. He related that he had met some opposition from the National Council of the Boy Scouts as they felt the Octoraro was all we would really need for our program. With Chief Heistand's persistence and support of the Council Board, work began on the pool in 1929 and was completed a year later. The almost Olympic-sized pool (210,000 gallons) became the largest pool this side of the Mississippi and was well ahead of its time. It was built at a cost of \$22,700.

The early bathers were required to wear colored bathing caps in order to keep track of the bathers. Early photographs of the pool picture Scouts without swimsuits. Only on weekends were suits required with visitors in camp or donning the old fashion prickly-wool over the shoulder model suit. No wonder they preferred to swim in the buff!!!



Everyone into the swim 1930 style!

It wasn't until 1986, when the old pool filters in the basement beneath the diving area

were replaced with new aboveground rapid sand filters, that we discovered the original filters were not sand as we believed, but were anthracite coal.

During the first years of operation, no one realized the capabilities of the filtration equipment. The pool was filled by pumping water from the Octoraro Stream, then filtered and chemically treated. The water was still murky.

Camp Ranger George Cole (Roy's dad) told of suddenly realizing that if extra copper sulphate was added in the filtration process and the water was filtered for a longer period, a perfectly clear pool resulted. I can attest to the extra copper sulphate as all the swimmers with blond hair soon had bluish green hair within a week.

The pool was dedicated and named in honor of Chief Charles M. Heistand.

Our Scouts and leaders today owe a lot to Chief Charlie Heistand and his Council Board of Directors for the great foresight in carrying out a vision of a pool in our camp. It has served well for nearly 75 years.

Thank you, Chief!!!

NEWS HORSESHOE RESERVATION '02

At Camp Horseshoe, a freshly renovated Morrison Health Lodge will greet the campers this summer thanks to the efforts of many volunteers.

The Health Lodge was built in the early 1940's and was dedicated in 1944 on Robert's Day. (Robert's Day was so named for Associate Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts of Chester County who was a prominent Council leader and President.) Your Editor was present that July day.

While doing the renovation, a "Time Capsule" that had been placed behind the dedication plaque, was found and opened. It contained the signatures of all who were present that day as well as some other memorabilia. A further write-up will be done in a future Octoraro Loop.

Camp Director Mike Berkehisser and his seasoned staff will have plenty of great programs ready for the campers this summer.

Camp John H. Ware III will have multi-level Scouting programs under the direction of Marjie Prosock, Camp Director.

The Cub Scout adventure program theme is "Wild, Wild West" for Parent & Pal, Cub Resident,

and Webelos Resident Scout campers. The Wild, Wild West theme will target the American West of the late 1800's.

In June the Handicapped Camporee kicks off the summer for those Scouts having special needs. 150 volunteer Scouters and the entire Camp Ware staff make this possible.

A week of Science and Technology Camp provides a multi merit badge program for Boy Scouts interested in the sciences. In addition Camp Ware will have the traditional camping programs and camp wide activities for Boy Scout troops.

A Venturing Weekend has been added to Camp Ware's program schedule this summer.

Camp Ware's new gateway, funded by HSRAA, will greet campers from its prominent location on the road to Ware. Also, ground is being broken for a new maintenance building in March and further work is being done on Ware's Health Lodge.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM TO BE A REALITY

Imagine being able to visit your HSRAA website on your computer and with a few clicks of your mouse you can be into a virtual museum of photos, patches, text, etc. of Camp Horseshoe or Camp John H. Ware III or even earlier Camp Rothrock. Or, it may even be your troop or other high adventure detail that can be searched! It is mind boggling and futuristic! It's coming and your HSRAA is in the process of designing it.

Horseshoe Scout Reservation (HSR) is one of the oldest continuously operating Boy Scout reservations in America. Founded in 1928, it is now serving its fourth generation of Scouts. Over its long and distinguished history, it has produced an amazing legacy of traditions, stories, photos, patches and other memorabilia which are cherished by its tens of thousands of alumni.

Most of this grand legacy is widely scattered and not easily available to HSR alumni. The Internet makes possible for the first time, however, a way to share these oral traditions and physical artifacts with all who love Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware. The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) intends to create on the Internet a "virtual museum" for Horseshoe Scout Reservation that will display, for the first time, the entire HSR heritage in one place.

The virtual museum will allow HSR alumni to:

- Post profiles of themselves that can be viewed by other alumni
- Create personal on-line galleries of their HSR memorabilia that can be viewed by other alumni
- Search for information on HSR alumni
- View galleries created by contributors or search for all HSR memorabilia in specified categories (year, location, person, etc.)

The virtual museum will support every kind of HSR memorabilia that can be converted to digital format, such as: photographs; documents (camp newsletters, songbooks, lists of staff members, etc.); patches; written stories; audio clips of oral stories, camp songs, etc.; and video clips.

The plan is to have the museum designed to run as automatically as possible, with centralized management reduced to a minimum.

Be on the lookout for more details in the near future either on the HSRAA website: www.hsraa.org or in the Octoraro Loop.

OCTORARO 22'S 2002 BANQUET BRINGS OA BROTHERS TOGETHER

Octoraro Lodge 22, Order of the Arrow, under the leadership of its Chief Dale Mast, held its Annual Banquet at the Kimberton Fire Hall on Saturday, March 9 with a capacity 400 in attendance as a follow-up to the Lodge's 75th Anniversary year.

Speaker at the Banquet is the former National Chief of the Order of the Arrow. The Lodge's Founders Award recognizes the exceptional work of Karen Morris and Lodge Chief Dale Mast during the past year.

The high point of the evening is the Vigil Honor Calling Out Ceremony that recognizes eleven youth and seven adults elected by the Vigil Honor members. The youth called out and lead on stage were: Christopher Boldin, Brett D'Antonio, Ed Dougherty Jr, Bill Hohl, Matt Koepke, Dale Mast, Toby McCabe, John Sauser Jr., William Warram, Ben Zieser and Tim Virkel. Adults called out to the stage were: Joe Bradley, Anthony Hawk, Chuck Pilkington, Mike Predmore Sr., Betty Quay, George Quay and Bruce Muncher. The acclaimed candidates will take their vigils later this spring and summer.

The Banquet closed with the singing of the Lodge song "...Firm Bound in Brotherhood..."



OA Tap Out at 1946 Retreat Ceremony of Regional Scouter by Lodge 22's Reds Russell.

Have You Expired?

The HSRAA membership cycle is a calendar year. Renewal notices were mailed at the end of December, and renewals are starting to come in. HSRAA has four levels of paid membership: Bronze (\$15), Silver (\$30), Gold (\$70), and Platinum (\$250). There is also a "general" membership that allows youth members to join for free.

Please check the mailing label on this issue of the Octoraro Loop. Your membership level is printed above your name. If it's "general" and you're not a youth member, won't you please consider renewing as a paid member? Last year, HSRAA had 283 free members and 177 paid members. The average contribution per paid member was \$45. There were 13 Platinum and 26 Gold members.

When checking the mailing label, please also make sure your name and address are correct. If you'd like to renew but have misplaced your form, you may do so simply by sending a check payable to Chester County Council, BSA, to the Council Service Center, 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

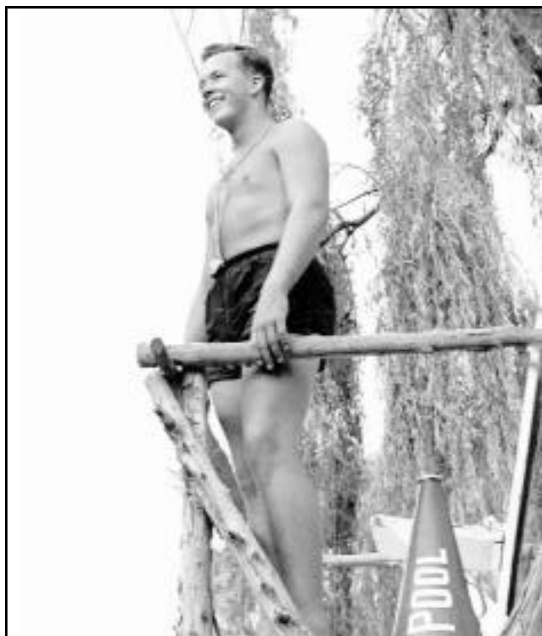
Please be sure to mark "HSRAA" on your check, and if you're paying for other members, such as sons or daughters, please enclose a list of each member's name and their renewal level.



Boating above Octoraro Creek dam in 1930's.



Health Lodge Dedication July 1944.



1948 Horseshoe Pool Staffer keeps vigil.

EDITOR JB'S NOTES MARCH 2002

In the Fall issue of "The Loop", in a moment of nostalgia, we talked of the five original stockade campsites built at Horseshoe. Each had its unique name and song.

It's a 1940's typical steamy July day. Here's the lively song that loudly broke forth from the Boonsboro campers -

***Oh, I'm a hayseed, my hair is seaweed,
And my ears are made of leather;
And they flop in windy weather:
Gosh all hemlock, I'm as tough as a pine knot,
I'm from Boonsboro, can't you see-e-e.***

Boonsboro was my six week home the summer of 1944 - my first at camp.

Watch for other stockade songs in our future issues of ***The Octoraro Loop***.



Horseshoe Pool well-used summer enjoyment.

**OFFICERS OF THE
HORSESHOE SCOUT
RESERVATION ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

Officers for term ending:
August 31, 2002

Chairman.....Robert E. Matje
Vice Chairman.....Open
Secretary.....Joseph M. Eagan
Treasurer.....Eric R. Lorgus

**REGISTRATION FORM: Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association - send to:
Att: HSRAA % Chester County Council, BSA, 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382**

Name: _____ Email Add: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP code: _____ Telephone (Home) _____

Occupation: _____ Telephone (Bus.) _____

Year of Birth: 19_____

I have camped at (please check): ____Camp Horseshoe; ____Camp John H. Ware, III (Jubilee); ____Both.

Camper Year(s) Date(s): _____

Camp Staff Year(s) Date(s): _____ Position: _____

_____ Please send me further information about The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

The following Camp Horseshoe/Camp Ware alumni* may be interested in the HSRAA:

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

* We especially need names/addresses of people not currently registered with Council or Lodge 22 OA.

(Tear off above and send)

**THE OCTORARO LOOP
HORSESHOE RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**c/o Chester County Council, BSA
504 South Concord Road
West Chester, PA 19382
Return Service Requested**

**NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 93
WEST CHESTER, PA**

Return Service Requested

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

JB Rettew, Editor

(Email Address: <JBR3@prodigy.net>)

(HSRAA website address: <www.hsraa.org>)

Address label