



# THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News  
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## 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."*



Bill Grubb and Sump Pumps Tuning Up

## HSRAA 7TH REUNION WELCOMES THE "SUMP PUMPS"

*Lil Freezes Over Tour to perform at the camp to commemorate their roots here.*

BE A GROUPY!! This is the return of that refreshing group of yesteryear...Horseshoe's own - "Sump Pumps!" They are back by popular demand. All attendees will enjoy being on hand for laughs and guffaws when hearing their bucket kickin' musical renditions and the sharp witty humor of Jim Goudie and "Rusty" among others.

Bill Grubb has been hard at work putting together this year's "concert" with loyal Sump Pumpers of old. Thanks to Bill and all our old friends!

We welcome you and the Sump Pumps this July 9, 2006! Have fun, jump and shout for joy as this ensemble entertains and delights old timers and newly con-

verted campers and staff to this special style of music and entertainment that has outgrown the entertainment of the likes of Peter, Paul & Mary, Bruce Springsteen, Radiohead and others of today!

Thanks to Chris Minshall, the Reunion committee leader has promised a great time for all. Special HSRAA reunion T-Shirts are available. There will be song and food – great pig roast for attendees – opportunities to tour both Horseshoe and Ware camps, trade patches, view memorabilia of the "olden" days, videos, slides, etc. and to generally have fun!

Enjoy the Reunion and check into the HSRAA website later for Reunion photos! The address for the HSRAA website is: <http://www.hsraa.org>. Please visit the site for information and entertainment. WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU THERE

## PARADE FIELD'S CROWNING GLORY ANNOUNCED...THE FLAGPOLE!

Thanks to our loyal members, the HSRAA has had a tremendous, maybe our best, year. Our accomplishments were many, and were headlined by completion of the third and final (well, sort of) phase of the Camp Horseshoe Parade Field Renovation as our commitment to the Council's recent Capital Campaign. In addition, HSRAA'S website has undergone a well needed and major upgrade, and new content continues to be posted

almost continuously. Our 2005 reunion was well attended, thanks to the return of the Sump Pumps (after a 20+ year hiatus).

The third phase of the Parade Field renovation included construction of a new retaining wall at the foot of the field, excavation of rock and leveling of the field by heavy equipment, and the addition of topsoil (from 18" to over 4') and grass seed. Initially, this phase was to include a new main flagpole and an underground sprinkler system.



1950's Retreat Ceremony on old Parade Field

After completion of the stonework, excavation and re-seeding, the Parade Field looked tremendous. In fact, it looked so good that we decided to defer, for an undetermined period of time, installation of the main flagpole and sprinkler system (budgetary constraints played a role in this decision).

Upon further reflection and discussion with several of our members, we saw the error of our ways. Not only did our members (rightfully) see a value to the camp in installing the flagpole and sprinkler system, but also a number of our members ("Anonymous") stepped up and volunteered to finance both projects. Their generosity resulted in installation of the main flagpole prior to the arrival of the troops this summer, while the sprinkler system will be installed this autumn. While their modesty precludes disclosing their identities, I think its safe to say we all

offer a very heartfelt thank-you for this gift.



New flagpole moves into position

Completion of this project represents a tremendous accomplishment for our HSRAA members. This project has been enthusiastically received. It truly puts the camp's best face on display to all her visitors. We are looking towards further major projects in the future for both camps.

In the next 12-months, we intend to turn part of our focus on Camp Ware. We are in the final stages of selecting a project for completion this winter at Camp Ware. In addition, we expect a major membership drive to kick off this autumn and to conclude with our first ever start-to-finish reunion held at Camp Ware.



2006 new parade field flagpole juts to the sky

The HSRAA has a bright future. I am proud to play a small role in completing the project that the HSRAA's founders

originally developed and embraced, and I hope that you find it as breathtaking as I do.

**YOURS IN THE "SPIRIT",**

Mark Hammond, '79 Chairman



Scouts "attention" c. 1936 – for bunk inspection

## "ERNIE SAYS"

**Ernie Heegard, Camp Director Emeritus In this issue– REMEMBERS:**

### A TICK WITH AN ITCH

One evening while at camp, Moose (alias Karl Wunsch) and I were sitting at camp and came up with a number of things that are no longer found at camp. One of these items was very important during the 1930's, and 1940's. It was not until well after WW II that a suitable inflatable air mattress was developed.

Some Scouts and leaders have wondered why the bunks in our stockade buildings are built more like coffins than a standard bunk. Some have speculated that the high sides were designed to prevent Scouts from rolling out at night. This is partially true. The real reason is that the early Scouts were required to bring a cot-sized mattress cover or sew up a large bag out of light canvas ticking. Some finished them with a zipper at one end. Most Scouts came with a supply of large safety pins. After the Scouts checked in and reported to their stockade

(Sherwood Forest, Boonsboro, Kit Carson, Davey Crocket, and Bayard Taylor), they were directed by their stockade leader to go to the "straw hut", which was located to the rear of what is now the old Quonset hut on the Loop Road. This was manned each Sunday by a camp staff member to prevent Scouts from overfilling their "straw tick", which was the name for this type of mattress.

Those Scouts, who overfilled the tick, did in fact roll off the bunk at nighttime. Those with too little straw found that 'bed and board' is the same thing at Horseshoe. After church service on Sundays, those Scouts leaving camp would drag their straw tick back to the straw hut and empty it there to be used again. However, there seemed to be at least one Scout each Sunday, who dragged his tick to the straw hut by the wrong end, and left a trail of straw along the way. Naturally, he was required to retrace his steps with a rake and clean up the mess he had left.

The straw hut had another exciting feature. Scouts later in the afternoon would be digging further back in the straw and would often uncover a sleeping black snake, which invariably would be caught and put on display at the Bug House Nature Center, which was to the right of the old Headquarters/White House.

Once the air mattress, developed during WW II, started showing up at Army Surplus stores, the straw tick became less and less used. Finally the straw hut was torn down –

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!**

**PS – Think of what it must have been like in the straw hut on a hot, steamy and sweaty Horseshoe day with all the straw flying around in the air! No wonder we all wanted to take the swim test that day!**

## CCC 5K RUN TOP COMPETITION ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

Calling all Troop, Crew and Cub Leaders, Scouts and Friends of Scouting! Be on the lookout for the 3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk invitation forms being sent in the near future.

**Be the first to sign-up!**

**Be the first to win!**

**Be there!** At East Goshen Township Park 5K Run Course and the Mile Walk Course.

**Be prepared!** For good competition...for fun...for friendship...for Scouting!

There are competitions and awards at all levels – individually and for Boy Scout Troops, Cub Packs or Venturing Units.

Register on line at [www.cccbsa.org](http://www.cccbsa.org)



### NEW COUNCIL COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCED

HSRAA'S Bill Taylor has been selected as the top uniformed leader as Council Commissioner for Unit Service.

Bill has been a longtime member of the Council's Executive Committee most recently serving as Vice President of Program. He serves on the 5K Run Committee and on the Camping Committee. He is a longtime member of the HSRAA. A Vigil Honor member of OA Lodge 22, he also is a Silver Beaver awardee.

The Unit Service program is a vital organization whose members work directly with units and serve as the liaison between the Scout unit and the Council matters pertaining to charter renewal and overall vitality for every unit in our Council.



Bill Taylor with Berk awaiting Vigil call

### HORSESHOE COMMENTS BY "BERK" and BY A TROOP

Berk reports that Noah Austin is again serving as the Horseshoe Program Director, assisted by our new Commissioner this year, Eric Sifford. Other staff include: Matt Lewis business manager; Chris "Spud" Truitt HQ Director; Walter Boyd as Aquatics director; Dr. Dave Mellinger and Mark Graham in the Health Lodge; Clayton Lottes in Handicraft; Devon Roper and a great staff in the kitchen; Brian Hady as COPE director; Josh Hughes as Nature director; and, Josh Taylor taking over as shooting sports director

Moose Wunsch returned for the summer as the director "jack of all trades"





Horseshoe's Trading Post now open for business!

The new Trading Post greeted this summer's campers and the parking lot has been expanded for visitors.

### TROOP 50 Email REPORT FOLLOWS ABOUT THEIR CAMP WEEK:

*(Kudos to campers and Horseshoe Staff!!)*

"Hello Summer Camp Week 1 Parents -

Sorry for the late news update but until now the weather and a full schedule has precluded risking taking the computer out and "penning" an update.

One of the scoutmasters summarized our week to date with the word "amazing":

1. The weather has been "amazing". I think the rain we have had can be measured in feet. Feet of rainwater and wet, soaked feet. We have stacks of water logged and muddy boots, sneakers and socks. We have even drowned water shoes.

2. The scouting staff at Horseshoe has been "amazing". The programs are all running and the kids are learning scouting skills and most important having fun. The aquatics program has been hardest hit. The pool was flooded Saturday night with rain and groundwater runoff and grew an impressive algae plume in the process. That was getting under control when the mud on the hillside above the pool decided to go for a swim. The pool will likely be closed for Week



1942 floods Athletic Field – Octoraro 'up' in 2006!

The Octoraro Creek grew up overnight and became the Octoraro River and is now big and fast and muddy. They opened dams above the camp to relieve flooding conditions upstream that shut down our docks and our access to the "Creek". However, this will likely be open again for Week 2. Last years 45-minute tubing trip on the river can now be completed in 2-3 minutes and there is absolutely no risk of scrapping bottom.

3. All the scoutmasters have also been "amazing". They have donated their valuable vacation time and they are sharing their skills, experience and perseverance on the front lines with the kids.

4. Finally your sons have been absolute-ly "amazing". They are happy, healthy and cheerful. They are going to their classes. They are doing their scout jobs around the site and dinning hall. They are having a good time. They have been wet, wetter and wettest but to a man they have been true scouts and you should all be very proud of them.

We are now experiencing what we hope is plenty of good weather to come. However based on the last few days, should it start to rain again, we are all of the opinion that it will be no big deal and our spirits will remain high and dry.

• *Ask your sons about the world's largest umbrella. We marched to the dining hall in the pouring rain carrying our Hotel Haerland like a big umbrella with all the kids marching underneath. Our tops stayed dry but with 2"-3" inches of running water on all the trails and roads as always our feet got a little wet.*

- *Ask your sons about how we pounded Troop 78 into the ground at an evening meal cheering battle. We bested them on volume, clarity and "content" through an exchange of four volleys. They had no final answer. We left them speechless and sputtering nonsense.*
- *Ask your sons about capture the flag in the mud and rain.*
- *Ask your sons about who has the smelliest and wettest socks.*
- *Ask your sons about their patrol service projects.*
- *Ask them about "Evolution" and rappelling at Cope.*
- *Ask them about the grilled cheeses. Voted overwhelmingly the most popular food like substance served at the Dinning Hall.*
- *Ask them about their merit badge courses and Trailblazers.*

I believe after you get past their "It was fine" or "It was ok" stock answer, they will tell you they had fun. They learned lots of new things. They were introduced to lots of lifetime experiences and skills.

We are barely half done. There is lots of fun to come.

Please come down Saturday for the campfire. Please consider spending the night with the troop and help us with all the rank advancements and Boards of Review.

See you then.

**Neil Chippendale and Tim Callagan"**

## **CAMP WARE SCIENCE AND ENERGY CAMP POPULAR**

Some 150 Scouts arrived at Camp Ware to take advantage of the Science and Energy Camp. This Science and Energy specialty camp program was introduced as the first in the nation in the early 1980's at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd.

Following this camp, Ware will be offering great programs for Cub Scouts as well as traditional Scouting's "jambo" style camping for Scout Troops.

A number of changes have been implemented in Ware and Horseshoe including new public address systems for Ware and Horseshoe camps. Also, neither seen nor heard will be new kitchen equipment for both camp kitchens. Unless one happens to be on kitchen staff or KP, you might not

notice the repairs to the walk-in freezer at Horseshoe, the new icemaker and convection oven at Ware. There will also be new windows installed in the Ware dining hall that will actually open and close.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*"What we have done for ourselves dies with us,  
What we have done for others remains and is immortal."*

Two longtime Scouters passed away recently:

**William W. Sellers**, Devon 50 Eagle from 1935, Devon 50, Inc. Trustee and former Troop Committee Chairman. He was more recently honored with the National Distinguished Eagle Scout award. Bill served on the Horseshoe Staff in 1936 - 37

**Roger Hollingsworth**, Paoli 1 Eagle Scout from the 1920's. He was a member of Paoli 1 when they traveled to England and met with Lord Baden-Powell. He camped at Camp Rothrock.

Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

## **STEPPING BACK IN TIME...**

Decades by JB Rettew

**1926** – "Chief" Charles M. Heistand contacts National BSA about a new organization "Wimachtendienk" or "Brotherhood". This became an integral part of Chief's planning for the 1926 summer camping season at Camp Rothrock. This was the OA program.

The result of this contact was that the charter for Lodge #22 was approved on May 17, 1926. The OA's founder E. Urner Goodman at Hilldale on the Brandywine Creek inducted nine new members: Charles M. Heistand, Joseph H. Brinton, Benjamin Thomas, Raymond G. Watson, Thomas Gillingham, C. Charles Schmidt, Carlton Supplee and Walter Burkey. The rest is our Octoraro Lodge #22 history.

**1936** – Camp Horseshoe Retreat ceremonies conducted on the athletic field with Flagpole Hill's flag prominently fluttering aloft.

New boat docks were built, lead by project foreman "Ossie" Spellman, on the Octoraro near the OA "swinging bridge".

Bill Lear anointed each canoe with its own Indian name.

1946 – John H. Ware, 3rd was Camping Committee Chairman.

OA's Lodge Building Fund builds as plans are laid.



OA Lodge building begins

1956 – Camp was burgeoning this summer to the extent that additional tentage had to be acquired to complement the five stockades. A camp renovation plan was developed and the Council's "Camp Expansion Fund" implemented. The plan results in the acquisition of what is now Camp John H. Ware, 3rd. The property was originally known as the "Explorer Base" and became the outpost for Explorer camping and canoeing adventures. In addition, six new campsites were planned for Camp Horseshoe.

1966 – The Explorer Base had earlier been re-named Camp Jubilee and now was being used for 'jambo-style' camping. Bill Robertson recalls it being a 6-day camp and each troop was provisioned with their meal essentials so they could cook in their site. The troops, like Bill's Troop 44 of Oxford, enjoyed the programs provided by the central camp staff – swimming, boating, archery, shooting, etc., while they could supplement their own unit's programs.

Sunday evening campfires welcomed new campers and vets at Horseshoe's 'bend' in the Octoraro. The "Sump Pumps" became a staple to excite and delight the campers. Little was it known that many of these original "Sump Pumps" would return for encores at HSRAA Reunions in 2005 and '06!

1976 - 50th Anniversary of Octoraro Lodge #22 with the highlight being the Banquet held at a resort inn in Lancaster. Later in the spring, a special Lodge Anniversary Fellowship took place at Camp Horseshoe.



"Chief Heistand and Joe Brinton at 50th."

Our Lodge founders, "Chief" Charles M. Heistand and Joseph H. Brinton, returned to help celebrate the Lodge's success. Ernie Heegard and Jim Gawthrop continued their exceptional advisorship.

Horseshoe's Sunday dinner was celebrated with Ernie Heegard leading "Who Killed Cock Robin?" and "Green Grow the Rushes..Oh!" The final song "Trail The Eagle" honored those with Scouting's highest honor as Scouts departed for home.

Cubbing programs in the Council were active under the leadership of Dolores Hagerstrom and District Cub Day Camps were held at Camp Jubilee. Dolores had started as a Cub Leader in 1971. She was honored with the Silver Beaver Award for her leadership in service to Cubbing and the Council.

1986 – Prior to this year, Camp Jubilee had been re-named in honor of John H. Ware, 3rd for his loyal and longtime service to the Council and the camping programs.

Paoli Troop #1 celebrated their 75th anniversary of continuous chartering and the oldest Council troop. Dick Bensing was Scoutmaster. At their birthday, two of their Eagle Scouts were presented the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award – Vice Admiral James B. Wilson and Lt. General G. Franklin Good, USMC, retired. New Campsite was built at Horseshoe to honor Paoli 1's long-time Scoutmaster and past Council Commissioner Clifton Lisle.

On the horizon was a planned encampment of the "World Jamboree of Polish Scouts-in-Exile" which was being coordinated by Bill Hess. This would be a major 1988 event at the Reservation.

1996 - Camp Horseshoe Director is Clarke Green and popularizes song "The Cat Came Back" much to the pleasures of our campers.

**THE OCTORARO LOOP  
HORSESHOE SCOUT RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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## Address label

Meanwhile, the second of three Bruton brothers, Ben Bruton, is Camp John H. Ware's Camp Director and will serve to 1997. The other brothers to serve in this capacity are C.W. Bruton – 1992 and Josh Bruton – 1998.



2006 new parade field flagpole juts to the sky

2006 – Today, Mike Berkeheiser celebrates his ninth year as Camp Horseshoe Director and Jim Montich his fourth year as Camp

Ware Director.

HSRAA is in its seventh year of Horseshoe Scout Reservation service. Since its inception major projects completed include welcoming gateways at each camp as well as a major renovation of Camp Horseshoe's Parade Field.

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge #22 has its 80th birthday and announces new building fund for major renovations to the OA Lodge building and an addition.

### OFFICERS

Officers elected for a term ending July, 2006:

Chairman.....Mark Hammond  
Vice Chairman.....Richard T. Bensing  
Secretary..... Donald Tyson  
Treasurer.....Eric R. Lorgus  
Editors.....JB Rettew and  
Joe Bradley  
Proofreader.....Ellie Rettew