



THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News

Issue No. 3 - Volume 10 - FALL 2009 - On Line - WWW.HSRAA.ORG



HSRAA 10TH REUNION SALUTES ERNIE HEEGARD & JB RETTEW



On Saturday, July 18, 2009, the Tenth Annual Reunion of the HSRAA was one of our biggest yet with over 150 Alumni gathered for the celebration, a great BBQ meal and entertainment! "Heegard-Rettew Day" was a great success, enjoyed by the returning Alumni

and especially Ernie and JB! Members of Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware 3rd from past generations were on hand for their traditional Class Pictures.



Featured in this issue...

- Chairman Hammond's report
- "Bumps in the Night" a real trip
- Noah Austin "Gooooood Morning!"
- Leonard McCabe - a Memorial
- "Kaboom!"
- Camp Ware's new Director
- Eagle Grove - inspiring memorial



JB and Ernie with Ronald Sykes – 1940's staff

Returning Alumni had opportunities to tour camp, see the Aquatics meet at the pool; to enjoy reuniting with other HSRAA members and retell stories of their past camp days (slightly embellished over the years!). Bob Matje, Reunion Chairman, along with Stu Watson delivered a great time for all. There was 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 have a great time!

Ernie and JB were particularly happy when a contemporary of theirs joined in the celebration. Ron Sykes who had served on the Horseshoe Staff in the 1940's returned to pay respects to the honorees. Ron had been the HQ Director and the Handicraft Director in his early days. He also served as Camp OA Sakima and was a representative to an early National OA Conclave.



Bob Matje, Reunion Chair leads Tribute with Bill Waxbom

The HSRAA formalities started off in the late afternoon with a tribute to the memory

of Jim Gawthrop. Among the tributes were those from Fred Gates, Bill Waxbom, Andy Fish, John Souder, Ernie Heegard, JB, Bob Matje and others. Jim had served as Troop 53 Scoutmaster and the OA Lodge 22 for many years as an Advisor. He had been a Horseshoe camper from the early '40's.

Following the Gawthrop memorial tributes, all joined in the evening Flag Retreat Ceremony. After the lowering of the flag, the Senior Patrol leaders were called on to put their troops “at ease”. Upon the American Flag being folded, it was carried and presented to Ernie Heegard by Noah Austin as the voice over the “P.A.” related the outstanding accomplishments of Ernie Heegard as he was formally presented with the Flag in his honor. This was shortly followed by a tribute to JB for his service to the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and the Chester County Council, BSA. He was presented with the Flag of Chester County Council, BSA by Staff member Graham Lenker of Devon 50.

Following the sumptuous pig roast supper, and a song lead by Ernie, special tributes to JB and Ernie were presented. Among those presenters were Bill Lenker, John Kemmerer, Bob Matje, Stu Watson, Board Member Ken Tunnell, Steve D'Antonio, John Souder, Chris Rettew, Neil Chippendale, and Bill Waxbom among many others...

In all it was a great evening and celebration of two men who have served the Council and Camps for over 65 years each!

“VM” - HSRAA'S VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS:

HSRAA's Virtual Museum” is a reality on a computer near you!

Check out the addition of a nine segment movie taken of the 10th Reunion with all the tributes and the Retreat presentation to Ernie and JB.



(Check the top floor of the Virtual Museum and look for “Special Summer Programs” and its link to HSRAA Reunions. Also search out the game that Andy Coe

has added in the form of a museum hunt!)
 (Above) Dave Woodward accepts Fred Gates input for the VM.

Pictures are needed along with other memorabilia (like the 30's Horseshoe pennant on page 1 of this issue brought in by Roland Minshall...a real find!).

HSRAA's CHAIRMAN, MARK HAMMOND WRITES –

I am very pleased to report that the HSRAA's 10th year, which culminated in our July reunion at Camp Horseshoe honoring JB Rettew and Ernie Heegard, was highly successful.



Alumni A. Fegley, C. Rettew, A. Fish & S. D'Antonio

Our membership rolls grew, brotherhood among the Reservations alumni increased (as evidenced by our best attended reunion in years), and our commitment to preserving the Reservation's history took a tremendous step forward with the launch of the HSRAA Virtual Museum. And, we completed another camp improvement project.

Speaking of improvement projects, in September, the HSRAA Executive Board voted to begin the first phase of a major renovation and upgrade to the Camp Horseshoe Picnic Grove. Over the last 20-25 years or so, the biological health and appearance of the Picnic Grove has slowly, but inexorably, been slipping. This is primarily due to erosion, which has exposed the roots of many of the pine trees in the Picnic Grove—killing off a number of the pine trees over the years and injuring those that remain.

Simply put, our goal is to “do for the Picnic Grove what we did for the Parade Field”. The first phase of the project, which is currently underway, involves construction of a short stone wall between the Parade Field and the Picnic Grove. This will offer an immediate improvement in storm water management in the area, and is a precursor to the second phase of the project, which will address storm water management on/in the Picnic Grove in a permanent and complete manner. The

engineering details of the second phase are under development, and we expect to begin construction in the autumn of 2010. The third phase of the project is purely conceptual at this point, but will generally involve the “finishing touches”—aesthetics and issues relating to use. We are committed to using native plants and trees in our re-vegetation efforts.

We also have two new board members.

Like many of us, Jay Gregg says he spent the best summers of his life at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. In Jay's case, it was first as a camper with Troop 22, and then as a camp staff member at Camp Jubilee. Jay brings a couple of credentials to the board...he's an Eagle Scout, Wood Badger and Vigil Honor member of Octoraro Lodge 22. He also has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Explorer Post Advisor, Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Cub Day Camp Leader and District Committee member, and his current Scouting involvement includes the Council Jamboree Committee and working as Troop Committee Chair to reestablish Troop 135. Jay works in the field of environmental education, and he has built bridges between his professional and Scouting lives by presenting workshops on "Successful Eagle Scout Project Sponsorship at Nature Centers", and as a faculty member for the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's Scouter College of Natural Resources.



(Above – Jay Gregg center.)

John Kemmerer (left) has also joined the HSRAA executive board this year. John's connections to Horseshoe run deep-- he was a camper with Devon Troop 50, and later served two separate stints on the Horseshoe staff. In



fact, John was the Horseshoe Program Director in 1983-1985. An Eagle Scout and former Octoraro 22 Lodge Chief, in recent years John has been active with Frazier Troop 76 and the cub program. Also, John and his wife Katelin served on the Council's Gala Committee. You may also recognize John from his recent stint as the master of ceremonies for the 2009 HSRAA Reunion honoring JB Rettew and Ernie Heegard, or his mid-1970's stint with the Sump Pumps as the Mountain Dew "spitting" boy.

Yours in the Spirit,

Mark Hammond



Chris Rettew, Bill Grubb (standing) and other attendees



Paul Fegley, Bill Trowill, Al Fegley, Stu Watson & JB

BUMPS IN THE NIGHT!

A SCARY EXPERIENCE!!! Ever have one at Camp? I did as a young kid on the Horseshoe Staff. It gave me (all sorts) bumps and still does thinking about it.

George Cole was Camp Ranger... a great guy who had be-friended me in my "homesick days" my first year in camp and many others.

ONE NIGHT he invited me along with Larry (another staffer) to come over and join his family in a get-together. His house was well up the ridge from the swinging bridge across the Octoraro (much more flimsy than the OA Bridge today). So not too long after supper the two of

us found our way along the rough trail (seemed like a mile or more) to Coley's home.

Arriving there we came across George and his family (all skilled in different instruments) having what we today might call a "jam" session. It was good ol' bucket kickin' music. Larry and I joined in the song and clapping losing all thoughts of time and place! It was fun...but then we heard "Taps" sound from the Camp PA system...it brought us to our senses that we really needed to get back in camp! In the dark shadows of evening we bid Coley and his family good night.

Now, those who know (and remember) the Scout Motto "Be Prepared", would have thought to carry a flashlight to go down that rough trail...we did not remember!

AS WE STEPPED OUT on the first part of the trail through the woods, it was a bit tough to make out the path. But soon the canopy of trees forming over us created a complete darkness that we could not penetrate. It soon became moving one tree trunk at a time, hugging another through the **DARKNESS** to what we thought was the trail to the swinging bridge. **"BUMPI!"** another tree trunk...**"BUMPI!"** Still another...and another **"BUMPI!"**...we continued and then stopped for awhile to see if we could get a sense where we were in the dark woods! There was a continuing sense of frustration...fear...that we were truly lost! Greenbrier scratched us, branches brushed our faces...we tripped over rocks...**BUMPED** and banged into tree trunk after tree trunk. Time passed...at least we were on the down slope.

IN THE DARK, we again stopped to allow our pounding hearts to calm, catch our breath and to see if we could hear anything...time passed and we found the footing was growing more difficult. **BUMPI!** Another tree! Another pause...we thought we heard water...a brief sigh of relief...it was water...it was the Octoraro in



the distance. We heard the sound and finally broke through the darkness and canopy of trees to see stars above and the glimmer of the water ahead. We had made it and only about half of a mile down stream from our welcome, rickety swinging bridge! A great sight in the darkness!

We made it to our tents but only with the memory of "BUMPS" in the night...lost in the woods!

Lesson learned: we carried flashlights with us as we travelled around camp after nightfall. After all, a Scout is "Prepared" you know! - JB

FOR THE 10TH YEAR OF THE LOOP WE WELCOME... "ERNIE SAYS": Ernie Heegard, in this issue, sings the praises of a dedicated Staff member: NOAH AUSTIN



If you have attended breakfast at Camp Horseshoe within the last several years, you undoubtedly remember the dynamic, ear-splitting, wake up call delivered each morning by Noah Austin, "GOOOOOOD MORNING, CAMP HORSESHOE!" It always evoked a similar but louder response, "GOOOOOOO MORNING, NOAH!!" This was Noah's way of putting the Scouts and leaders on notice that the days and week to follow would be jammed packed with fun, adventure, and Scout training. It would be delivered at warp speed. He always kept his staff on their toes, ready to deliver at the snap of his fingers: songs, stunts, cheers, and high powered training, which kept everyone

in camp breathless trying to keep up with the Horseshoe program.

He started his Scouting career in Coatesville, Troop 16. Noah took full advantage of his years of training, always remembering the leadership styles and skills of those who helped him along his trail through Scouting. His dad, Neville; older brother, Neville, Jr.; and his Scoutmaster, Jim Trainer, were the inspirations which led to his achieving the highest awards in Scouting: Eagle Scout with 3 Palms, and the Vigil Honor and Founders Award in the Order of the Arrow.

Noah joined the Horseshoe staff as a councilor in training the summer of 1993. He has held many positions since then: Handicraft, Aquatics, Boating, Pool Director, Camp Commissioner, and finally Assistant Camp Director and Program Director for the past 10 years. Indeed, a very impressive record! Noah was quick to mention some of his mentors while working through the various jobs at camp: Jon (Deaver) DeVirgilio, Brendon Battenfelder, John Callahan, and Chris Helmcamp, all stalwarts in their own time!



Adjutant Noah takes SPL Reports at Retreat

One accomplishment to add was: while attending camp school for Program Director certification, required every 5 years and a National certification requirement, Noah was reprimanded for having displayed 'too much enthusiasm' Hard to believe for such a reserved individual!

Noah attended Pequea High School in Lancaster County. He then received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Millersville University and is currently in

his second year of teaching Technical Education at Conestoga High School. Noah is also pursuing a Master's degree in Secondary Administration at Cabrini College. In spite of his commitment to education and his love and dedication to Scouting and to Camp Horseshoe, somehow Noah found time to court a wonderful and beautiful young lady, Kayla. The couple was married just before the opening of camp, June 21, 2008.

Noah announced his retirement from the Horseshoe staff at the close of camp this past summer, having served seventeen years.

When recently asked, "Have you really retired?" His answer indicated that he would be visiting camp from time to time, but that when career and family were settled, he might be looking for a return to the opportunities and challenges of the Horseshoe staff. We will all miss Noah and the legacy of his great programs at camp. He is leaving behind some very large moccasin prints in the dust of Horseshoe to come in the near future.

KABOOOM! ... A BLAST OF THE PAST!

(We thank Bill Waxbom; Troop 6 early leader, for his article: "No Reveille Needed!"

Traditionally, Troop 6 of West Chester, camped in the Boonesboro stockade at Camp Horseshoe. This is where their Scoutmaster Ozzie Spellman had been the stockade leader in the 1930's before becoming Troop 6 Scoutmaster; then a dentist and prominent West Chester citizen. Bill relates the time he was in charge of the Troop in 1957.

"It was just past first light on the Saturday morning at the end of the first week of summer camp in 1957. The quarry across the Octoraro Creek was re-activated and getting into full production.

The noise from the various trucks, crusher engines and other equipment carried across the creek into our camp of restful Scouts. After a short period of time all these sounds ceased. It was then that a very loud whistle sounded from the quarry. This was followed by silence for a minute or so. Then...a tremendous explosion followed by the rocking, shaking of all our bunk houses – the ground just shook!

If one were not awake before – they were now. The next thing I remember was that it was raining rocks. I can still hear the small particles of rock as they pelted the roofs of the bunk houses and the surrounding ground.



All this occurred well before the 7:25 AM "First Call". No reveille was needed this Saturday morning in Boonesboro."

Editor's note: While not as close as Boonesboro was to the quarry, I recall a number of times this happened in the Rothock site when I was Scoutmaster. Fortunately, over the years, the quarry has been less active and the setting off of charges has happened around noon time.

BORN AWAY BY TIME...AND YET AMONG US ALL THE MORE.

Sadly, we report the passing of Leonard M. McCabe shortly after attending his last visit to Camp Horseshoe and the HSRAA 10th Reunion. He was a long-time member of the HSRAA.



Len's last visit with Ernie and his brother, Tom, at Reunion

Len was an Eagle Scout first camping at Horseshoe in the mid 1940's. He was a Silver Beaver recipient and a Vigil Honor member of Lodge 22. He served 20 years in the US Navy in WW II, Korea and Vietnam. He was a 69+ year Scouter in both Chester County Council and the South Jersey Council.

He also served as a worker at the South Jersey Scout Camp Roosevelt on their "Thursday Crew". He was a member of his local New Jersey Fire Company and numerous military organizations. He is gone but not forgotten....by his Family, friends and all who knew him.

*"What we have
Done for ourselves
Dies with us;
What we have
Done for others
Remains, and is
Immortal."*

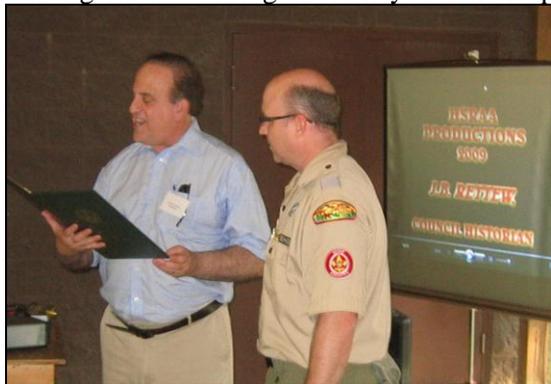
- Dedication, Truckee, CA

By his friend, JB

+ + +



As part of our 100th year of Scouting in America and our Council's 90th Anniversary, our Friends of Scouting who have helped the Council over the years were treated to an afternoon event at Horseshoe where they could see first hand the program areas and get a sense of the great work being done for youth at camp.



Sen. Dinniman presentation to Eric Magendantz

Among the special guests was State Senator Andrew Dinniman. Following the evening Retreat Representative Dinniman presented a citation to the Council recognizing the work done in the past and continuing.

Also present at the VIP Day was Charles

Barber, representing the organization that helped fund improvements to the Clifton Lisle campsite directed by Dick Bensing, former Scoutmaster of Paoli 1 and our HSRAA Vice President.

It was interesting when JB and Mr. Barber were talking, that the subject turned to the Mc Ilvain family name connected with early days of camp. JB had a letter of interest written by J. Gibson McIlvain to Camp regarding a donation of \$5 to camp that McIlvaine's son had found. The letter had been sealed behind a picture of camp and not found until a Staff member cleaned the picture this past summer. (*The Virtual Museum has the article in its Publications listing.*) Interesting was the fact that Mr. Barber's wife was a direct descendent of J. Gibson McIlvain!

CAMP JOHN H. WARE, 3RD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Chester County Council, BSA, has announced the Camp Director for 2010 at Camp Ware is John Lukowski of Phoenixville. He replaces the retiring Director Meredith Barrett.

John brings with him plenty of experience having run the Diamond Rock District Cub Day Camp since 2008, being a unit leader in Cubbing and Boy Scouts and a Wood Badge trained leader in NEIV 180..

He was instrumental in forming the Sponsoring organization that formed Cub Pack 85 and Troop 85 and where he provided their respective leadership. In these capacities he also provided leadership to these units at both Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware summer camps. He has also served on the Science Camp.

He has attended and completed a variety of programs at the National Camp School, BSA.

He and his wife, Denise, are an active Scouting family with their sons and nephew. He comments that he is "truly looking forward to working with an amazing group of youth and adult leaders as a full time part of the Summer Camp team.."

COLE FAMILY FEATURED...

The "Cecil Soil" magazine of September/October 2009, features a cover story on "The Coles of Camp Horseshoe". It covers the remnants of a bygone era beginning with our first Camp Ranger CC Cole to the last generation, Roy Cole. (*The Virtual Museum has the article in its Publications listing.*)

OUR CLASS PICTURES BY YEAR



1930's Mahlon Rossiter, Gumps McComsey, Paul Fegley, Roland Minshall and Bob Lorgus



1940's as spry as ever with newcomer Ron Sykes



1950's as always a loyal devoted group



1960's group has some of our favorite Sump Pump performers



Here are the 1970's in force



The 1980's also found their way back to Horseshoe!



1990's Class gathers with some new members



2000's Class shows promise!

OFFICERS OF HSRAA

ChairmanMark Hammond
 Vice Chairman.....John Kemmerer
 Secretary.....Stuart Watson
 Treasurer..... Donald Tyson
 LOOP EDITORS: JB Rettew, Ellie Rettew



**A CONVENTION OF EAGLES
...HORSESHOE'S EAGLE GROVE**

As an integral part of our 100th Anniversary of Scouting, a “Convention of Eagle Scouts” took place in October. Leading Chester County Council BSA, James MacErlane, 1961 Malvern Troop 7 Eagle Scout, participated in the National search for Eagle Scouts in the Council’s area. His work led to nearly 100 Eagle coming together for a fine evening of fellowship.

As part of the program, a video presented the history of Eagle Scouting in Chester County related to the Council’s Camps from that of Lafayette in 1919, Camp Rothrock in 1922 and to that highlighting the Horseshoe Scout Reservation in 1927. Focus in the video was on the Eagle Scout Grove on the north end of the athletic field.



It was 80 years ago when Eagle Grove began to take shape. The Order of the Arrow, Octoraro Lodge 22, had completed their ceremonial circle, and at this time made plans for a major service project that would make a lasting impression on Camp Horseshoe. That “Good Turn” project was to plant a grove of Norway Spruce trees at the north end of the athletic field dedicated to the Eagle Scouts of Chester County. Each Eagle Scout would have a tree planted in his honor and the Eagle Grove would be

maintained by the Octoraro Lodge. The idea caught hold and it was soon thereafter that a number of Scoutmasters were interested in a similar planting at the southern end of the athletic field arranged in the same configuration as the Eagle Grove.



Today, we enjoy the beauty of those two groves of trees arranged in a compass rose formation and making its mark in honor of past Eagles and Scout Leaders that have made an impact on our Reservation’s image. Photos in this article show the Eagle Grove in mid 1940’s; and, today, how both groves are easily picked out from an airplane. They are living mementos of early days of Scouting leadership.

MORE 10TH REUNION PICTURES



Carol Lenker, Matt Lammer, Gerry Cavanaugh reunite



HSRAA’s Ellie Rettew and Dolores Hagerstrom and Council Executive Board member Ken Tunnell

SEE YOU AT 11TH REUNION!

Postal Information

