



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."



Fred Page and Jim Goudie tune up for Reunion

HSRAA 7TH REUNION FEATURES RETURN OF "SUMP PUMPS"

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

If you were at last year's Reunion, you will not want to miss this one...bring your friends and past camper/staffers!

While this is not Woodstock, it is the return of that refreshing group of yester-year...Horseshoe's own - the "Sump Pumps!" They are back by popular demand and the price is just the cost of your meal and your time for laughs and guffaws when you hear their bucket kickin' musical renditions and the sharp witty humor of Jim Goudie and "Rusty" among others.

July 8, 2006 is the date for the Seventh Annual Reunion of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association at the Goodman Pavilion at Camp Horseshoe.

You will get together for this fun affair with campers and staff members of Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware 3rd from the past generations. On a number of occasions, there are even those from every decade who come back to re-connect with their camp and fellow staff members. The Reunion begins at 1PM and goes to 8PM.

Chris Minshall is the Reunion committee leader and has promised a great time for all. Special HSRAA reunion T-Shirts will be available. There will be song and food - great meal 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!

Please sign up when you get the invitation or go on the website: <http://www.hsraa.org>. for information. WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU THERE!

The reunion's theme is the return of "the Sump Pumps". Please contact Mark Hammond at mark.hammond@dbr.com or (215) 988-2994 if you are a former Sump Pump and interested in helping out in a great happening.

HSRAA - WEBSITE UPDATE

By Matt Lewis

The HSR Alumni Association now has a redesigned web page <http://www.hsraa.org>.

As we get more information about the upcoming Reunion, it will be posted onto the site. The site also features past issues of 'The Octoraro Loop', along with membership registration, and will soon feature a way to pay your dues online. Reunion registration also will be on line.

The biggest improvement is the "Spirit of the Horseshoe" that is now on the site. This is the history of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and the Chester County Council, written by HSRAA's J.B. Rettew and chronicles the history of more than 75 years of Scouting in Chester County.

Chairman Hammond '79 Writes:

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Thanks to your support, the Alumni Association continues to thrive and grow. The newly renovated Parade Field looks fantastic. We are looking forward to a return engagement of the Sump Pumps at our next reunion on July 8, 2006 at Camp Horseshoe. Our 2006 membership drive is well underway.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. The funds raised during our membership drive support our projects performed at the two camps, along with the publication and postage of this newsletter. In fact, over 90% of each dollar donated to the organization is spent directly on camp projects. I hope that you enjoy the benefits of membership in the HSRAA, including the reunion, our newsletter **The Octoraro Loop**, and the knowledge that you are helping to support the Reservation and make the experiences we all shared available to continued generations of Scouts.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2006, and we encourage your involvement in the organization. We are staffed solely by volunteers, and have numerous areas where assistance would be gratefully accepted. The Horseshoe Scout Reservation had a tremendous impact on developing my character, and I hope that you will join me in ensuring that it continues to do so for the youth of today and tomorrow.

On a sad note, William R. Hess, the Camp's Reservation Manager, passed away in January. Bill was a major supporter of the HSRAA throughout its history. As one of the HSRAA's founders recently remarked "Bill believed that the HSRAA could achieve special results for the Horseshoe Scout

Reservation. He fully supported our efforts to create it." Bill's leadership was instrumental in the Council's first successful capital campaign, creation of a 'Cub World' program at Camp Ware, and continuation of the superb summer program at Camp Horseshoe.

Chairman, Mark Hammond '79



Camp's Mason – Dixon marker #17 rests in cage

"ERNIE SAYS"

Ernie Heegard, Camp Director Emeritus In this issue- REMEMBERS

"HISTORICAL STONES IN LINE"

While on a hike to the swimming pool my first Sunday in camp, our stockade leader took a small detour to show the newly formed troop (camping in Carson Stockade), the red steel cage in the woods just above Scouters' Grove near the Athletic Field. As we approached the cage, he told us it was a gorilla pen, but then we heard about Mason and Dixon who had planted a monument there!! We learned that the cage was placed there by the Scouts to protect the monument. We all had an opportunity to straddle the line, standing in two states, Maryland and Pennsylvania at the same time. Over the years I have led many exploration hikes showing new Scouts and their dads the marker while giving them a brief history of the Mason-Dixon Line.



5-Mile Marker with Penn and Calvert's shield

This stone marker is one of fifty that mark the southern boundary line between Maryland and Pennsylvania. It is a true east-west line at 29 degrees, 43 minutes, and 26.3 seconds north latitude. Before the Civil War the line was considered to be the separation between the non-slave north and the slave states in the south. Many squabbles arose during the 1700's between Maryland and Pennsylvania farmers, and were finally settled in 1763 when two English astronomers, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, were hired to survey and mark this boundary with stone markers placed at mile intervals. The stones were quarried on the Isle of Portland, Dorsetshire, England, and were carved there prior to being transported to America on a ship called the Betsy Lloyd. There were 40 limestone blocks - 34 inches long, by 12 inches wide, by 11 inches thick, each with an M on one side and a P on the other. They were placed at each mile interval... Each was recorded with their mile marker number. Ten larger blocks were carved with coats of arms of Penn's and Calvert's, and were placed with great ceremony at each 5 mile interval

Mason and Dixon began their work on December 8, 1765, and completed their charge by placing the fiftieth granite stone at the western end of Pennsylvania on January 1, 1766. Many of the original stones over the years have been damaged or

stolen. Some of the stolen stones have been reclaimed and the missing stones have been replaced by Historical Societies.

Ray Plante, Nature Director at Horseshoe, 1984, urged me to join him on a search of the surrounding countryside to find some of the other markers. We took off on a sunny afternoon, armed with geological survey maps, a compass, and some notes we had gleaned from ranger and local historian, Roy Cole.

The first marker we found was Stone number 17, which was behind one of the properties along Ridge Road. We had started at the old stone foundation of the old Gray Horse Church and walked due east a short distance to the marker. Stone number 18 is the one on the Horseshoe Reservation Property that is located just to the right and up the hill beyond the archery range. The red iron cage surrounds it. We then traveled to a farmer's field west of Quarry Road beyond the stone quarries, in search of Stone number 19. We were unable to find this marker as the field was planted with corn, making it difficult to walk. Roy advised us that the monument had been severely damaged by continuous plowings of the field and may indeed be shattered beyond recognition.

We were however successful in finding Stone number 20, a crown marker with the coats of arms in good condition. We each had a great deal of fun that day retracing the steps of Mason and Dixon. This may be a trek you may want to try someday. Ray and I were successful in finding several markers - some replacements, some originals, and remember fondly the hours spent tracking the elusive Mason - Dixon English Limestone Markers.





Council 5K run practice in camp

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.



First Aid Merit Badge work in 1920's

MERIT BADGE PROGRAMS YESTERDAY AND TODAY

By Joe Bradley

What was the reason you went to camp? Was it to spend time in the outdoors with your friends? Try things you couldn't do at home? Well, for most Scouts today, summer camp is an integral part of the Scout's advancement towards Eagle. Without going to camp, it is difficult to earn the various merit badges necessary to earn the prestigious Eagle award.

Has this always been the aim of summer camp? If you've been to the Horseshoe Scout Reservation lately, it seems apparent that the boys are there for more than just a lazy week in the outdoors. In fact, of the modest number of complaints Horseshoe gets, the most frequent from the boys is, "we didn't have time to 'mess around'". This is probably part of the appeal (at least for parents and troop leaders) of Horseshoe and the reason it is still dubbed, "A Real camp, for Real boys".



: Canoeing skills displayed on Octoraro near beach

In 1928, the first year of operation, boys were able to earn many of the badges that Horseshoe offers today. The more popular of the time, among others, according to J.B. Rettew, were first aid, life saving, swimming, canoeing, archery, pioneering, camping, cooking, metalworking, handicraft, leatherwork, and woodcarving. In order to earn the Horseshoe felt camp patch, boys had to do service projects, advance in their rank or complete 2 merit badges, take an overnight hike, pass the first aid test, and take part in all camp activities. Because the boys came to camp not with a troop, instead joining a provisional troop, the program was not as structured as it is today and the motivation

to complete these requirements came from the boys. Rettew remembered that in the very early days, the boys concentrated their efforts preparing for weekly pageants. But this soon changed to the advancement work.



Heegard's handicraft merit badge program in '50's

After a while, with an increased emphasis on earning merit badges, Horseshoe's program became much more structured. The boys stayed with their troops instead of joining provisional troops. The troop's adult leaders became more involved with the overall leadership of the boys.

Today, much of the Scout's day is spent working on merit badges or developing scout skills. With this increased emphasis on advancement, new programs like the "Eagle Resource Center" began with the instruction of non-traditional camp badges that are required for Eagle.

However, despite the rigor or the camp merit badge program, the traditional appeal of the outdoors: hiking, swimming, campfires, and the sort are still what keep the boys coming back to Horseshoe!



Parade Ground steps getting railings and cement

HORSESHOE COMMENTS BY "BERK"

As we mourn the loss of Bill Hess and regret that he will not be with us this summer, we are pleased that the reservation is in the well-qualified, experienced, and capable hands of Ray Hayden.

We are very excited to announce that Noah Austin will again be serving as the Horseshoe Program Director, assisted by our new Comisisoner 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 will also be returning for the summer as the director "jack of all trades", dispenser of drinks in the dining hall, ambassador for new troops, role model and mentor for the camp staff. He is such a valuable asset to our camp and an extremely important part of the staff.



Camp Ware's 'Mayor' Montich leads the Cubs

CAMP PREPARATIONS 2006 AT WARE AND HORSESHOE

By Bill Taylor, VP of Program

What's new at camp this year?

Summer 2006 will not bring as many visible changes at camp as you have seen in recent years. There will only be one new building.

The one new building will be for the Trading Post at Horseshoe. Remember the rocky hole next to Headquarters at Horseshoe? That hole is now filled with a new structure to house the Horseshoe Trading Post. It will be set up similarly to the TP at Camp Ware, including an office for the Camp business manager. The new TP will be self-service, with ample floor space and shelf space for many additional items. Of course the new TP will still offer counter service for snacks. Who knows? There may even be more snack choices.

Since there will be space vacated in the Headquarters building renovations will be made to make that space useful for the Headquarters and Program staff.

Less visible (but easily heard) will be the new public address systems for both camps. These will include new amplifiers, dual CD players, enclosures and speakers for both camps. We will utilize some of the old speakers at Camp Horseshoe. Both systems will be camp wide, with the Horseshoe system extending to the pool area. Both systems will be available for both program and emergency use.

Neither seen nor heard will be new kitchen equipment for both camp kitchens. Unless you happen to be on kitchen staff or KP, you might not notice the repairs to the walk-in freezer at Horseshoe, the new ice-maker and convection oven at Ware. There will also be new windows installed in the Ware dining hall that will actually open and close. For Horseshoe, additional equipment to be selected by the kitchen staff and Kitchen Alumni will be ordered to arrive in time for camp.

On the program side, several members of the Ware senior staff are putting finishing touches on some new programs for 2006. For the Boy Scouts, they are proposing an overnight adventure for older scouts. For Cubs they are adding snorkeling for Webelos.

There are a few other program surprises planned, but if we tell you, they won't be surprises. You have to come to camp!



Bill Hess 'thanks'to volunteers in 2005

IN MEMORIAM

William R. Hess, beloved husband of Janet, passed away January 30, 2006.

Probably, our most cherished experiences and remembrances of Bill are his deep dedication and involvement with the Horseshoe Scout Reservation over the years. In tribute to Bill, hundreds of his friends, Scouting and Camp leaders and family were there for his memorial services.

He brought an international flavor to Chester County Council when he organized and managed both the Polish Scouts-in-Exile Jamboree in 1988 and the Irish 2000 Camporee. Both events were memorable from the standpoint of the hundreds of Council volunteers who shared in serving at these events.

There are so many things one can remember where Bill's influence made Scouting and Scouting service come alive and especially meaningful to all of us. His involvement with Council Camporees of earlier days, Regional Camp inspections, the Executive Board meetings, Jamborees and his deep and undying love of the Horseshoe Reservation are but a few of the many activities for which he provided leadership...all for the best. So many young people have benefited by his living up to the true meaning of being an Eagle Scout...service to mankind.

We ask all to keep Janet and Bill's family in your memories. We extend our deepest sympathies to Janet and the family during this time of grieving.

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



Girder goes into position between Horseshoe and Ware

BRIDGE BUILDERS

By JIM DUKOVIC

In Thailand, my wife and I walked over the bridge on the river Kwai, made famous in Hollywood. It triggered recollections of my involvement in getting a bridge over the Octoraro at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

The person who made our Horseshoe Bridge possible was a bridge builder extraordinaire; who added a vital brief chapter to our camp's history – Colonel David Pergrin.

In 1985, I was Program Director for the Council. Horseshoe faced a problem, both an exasperation and expense. Two camps and no way to get across the Octoraro for our Camp Ranger, Roy Cole, as well as the Scouts and leaders. Roy, living on the Ware side, had to drive 30 minutes to get to the other side of the Reservation to service Horseshoe.

Many avenues were pursued, none with success. I concluded that a "Bailey Bridge" might work having seen them work in Europe in World War II.

I investigated but all my efforts seemed futile. I had about given up except for a person I had met when working in another council with a group of volunteers. I recalled working with a quiet, efficient and dedicated volunteer – David Pergrin. One day, David was visiting our Council Trading Post and stopped in to my office to say 'hello'. In our conversation, I happened to mention the dilemma and frustration in finding a Bailey Bridge. I was floored when he casually commented: "Maybe I can help.

I will be meeting with the Commander of The Corps of Engineers in Washington, to help rewrite the history of the Combat Engineers."

In all my time, working with David, he never bothered to mention that he had commanded the most decorated unit in the history of the Combat Engineers. His unit, the 291st Combat Engineer Battalion, had fought across Europe, and had built, under shellfire, the first bridge to cross the Rhine River. Needless to say, Colonel Pergrin did what he had to do and we got our bridge!



Engineer Corps puts final touches to Bailey Bridge

Etched in my memory, is the scene along the Octoraro where the majority of our campers and leaders stood observing the spectacle, while a fully bedecked Army Engineering Battalion, that had bivouacked in camp the previous evening, now did their thing. And so, through the skills and labors of many men, the bridge was built, and for just one summer, the camp and Roy Cole in particular, enjoyed the benefits.

However, no good things last forever. When the Army discovered where one of their bridges had disappeared, and being short on Bailey Bridges for training purposes, the bridge had to return home after our camping season.

As for Colonel Pergrin, at 87 years, he is still receiving decorations (52 honors so far), still going strong, having written three books. His story is best told in his book *First Across the Rhine*, that has sold 350,000 copies. His amazing story also has appeared in documentaries on television on the

History channel. He's a world-class wood-carver and a lifelong Scouter. He is presently Eagle Scout Review Chairman for Cradle of Liberty where he has reviewed 691 Scouts for the Eagle rank.

David Pergrin stands unique as a Soldier, Woodcarver and Scouter. For an outstanding life of service, and a memorable contribution to the history of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, we extend a sincere thanks and Scout Salute to David Pergrin – a bridge builder.



Colonel David Pergrin – highly decorated

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

THE OCTORARO LOOP HORSESHOE SCOUT RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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