



THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News

Spring 2020

Council proudly honors G. Ernest Heegard on November 21, 2019

Alumni, Scouters, Friends and Family were in attendance at the Desmond Hotel to celebrate Ernie's life-time role and influence in Scouting.



Rebuilding Achgheketum

Part of the money raised at the Centennial Citizen Award Dinner goes directly towards the rebuilding of the Saturday night ceremonial fire circle, a camp attraction in need of a facelift.



Large natural boulders will be used along the base of the Scout seating area and along the base and top of the visitor section. All current benches have been removed and are being replaced. Manufactured stone steps will be used in the seating area to insure consistent riser heights with low level lighting. The current stone

entry for the Scouts and the Chief stand will remain, with a ramp to the stand coming from higher ground. The outer fire pits will stay.



Anyone who has sat in the visitor section of the circle may know the benches tilted forward due to hydrostatic pressure. This project addresses that problem by diverting water away from the seating area and using the large boulders and concrete to hold the ground and seats in place. While the heavy work is being handled by a landscaping company, Horseshoe volunteers are needed to help with the drainage, seeding, plus bringing electric and plumbing to the site.

Reflections of My First Year, by Andrew

Coe - Camp Staff: '95, '97, '98, '99, '01, '05



25 years ago, I was asked, at the last second, if I wanted to be on Camp Staff. I was at Hart Scout Reservation for a Section NE-4B conclave, my first ever, and the Lodge Chief at the time,

Jake Carrigan, asked me if I wanted to work at Handicraft. I was in a complete state of awe: this older Scout, the leader of the entire lodge, someone who I looked up to for his

confidence, knowledge, and leadership, asked me if I wanted to come work for him. I instantly said 'yes', feeling honored for such a privilege, unaware that they were looking for any warm body who wasn't likely to cut off his own finger in Woodworking MB.

My earliest memory of working on staff was showing up a few days late to staff week and getting put on campsite setup, where I was instantly nicknamed "Stain" for wearing some t-shirt with a stain on it. Never underestimate the ability of staff to "initiate" the new guy! But I quickly fell in love with the experience – working hard to prepare for my Merit Badge classes (Art and Basketry), helping the "creative geniuses" at Handicraft to put together camp wide game



stations, helping with Order of the Arrow callouts and pageants, portraying a "victim" during the Great Rhinoceros Stampede at Taylor Beach during a midnight EP drill, and making lifelong friends with whom I still communicate every day, regardless if I want to or not (you know who you are).



Of course, what would a summer camp season be without some challenges? I remember being called out by the Camp Director in the middle of the dining hall for making an announcement

related to a merit badge class, a practice that I quickly learned was frowned upon. I remember losing merit badge blue cards and getting yelled at for that. And I remember getting a staph infection on my foot that was so bad that I ended up missing most of camp takedown and ended up on crutches. Lesson learned: clean socks are your friend.

Each memory of the past of course informs the present. Memories reminding me to be prepared. To be adaptable. To be creative. To take your licks and keep going. Thousands of camp staffers that came before and since have a shared memory of similar experiences, and it's a unique brotherhood of those who, for a modest salary, deliver a special service to fellow Scouts. But that brotherhood is nothing without a whole host of guides who mentor and encourage new staffers and CITs to get past the tribulations and trepidations of learning a one-of-a-kind work environment that has been built and polished since 1928. My memories of those guides, like Jake Carrigan and Dave Franz, are amongst the fondest from my first year. I encourage each of you reading this, who have a fond memory of being on staff or camping at HSR, to take your recollections to this year's HSRAA Reunion, where we will be video archiving your stories to share with all who love the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

Mark off your calendar and save the date, **7 - 18 - 2020**, will be our HSRAA Annual Reunion. Festivities start

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around 2:00 PM at the Goodman Pavilion. Here's your opportunity to tour the newly refurbished Achgheketum fire circle, compete for prizes in a Horseshoe history Quinzzo game, watch drone aerial video of the reservation, and reconnect with fellow alumni, as you enjoy a catered Bar B Q feast for dinner.

If you would like to contribute to the Octoraro Loop: an article, memory, upcoming event, etc. for HSR alumni, please contact Steve Miller at 610-715-2319, or steve.miller@foxroach.com