



THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News

Summer 2020

Pandemic Cancels Summer Camp

Letter from Jeff Spencer, Scout Executive / CEO



HSR Alumni, As you may be aware, earlier this spring we made the difficult decision to announce the cancellation of all summer camping programs due to safety concerns created by the virus. This decision affected not only the programs we deliver to

Scouts, but as you might imagine, has had a devastating financial effect on our council.

We were hopeful there may have been a chance we could open camp this summer. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, we continuously monitored the situation, gathering as much information as possible from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and others to aid in our decision-making process.

In the end, it was felt that the mass gatherings at Horseshoe Scout Reservation would simply create too much risk to the safety of our Scouts, leaders, and employees (as well as their families at home once they leave camp) to conduct resident summer camp programs responsibly. The safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees is and remains our top priority.

It is very sad to know summer camp programs will not be offered during at HSR for the first time in its long and distinguished history. But we plan to be back better than ever in 2021!

Thank you all for your continued interest and support of Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

Logon to www.HSRAA.org

Phase II – Achgheketum Project

Continued progress has been made to the Camp Fire Circle thanks to additional funding from HSRAA, plus donated equipment and time from fellow HSR Alumni, Lee McIlvaine.



Lee brought in equipment to help dig the trench from Roberts Lodge for the water and electric lines down to the Fire Circle. Not an easy task with the solid rock our camp is built upon.



Water and electric now accessible at the circle.





Additional work included building a retaining wall above the benches of the visitors' section. This will allow a flat, skybox view of the Saturday night ceremony, and provide handicap access from the road. While the construction vehicles were still at camp, Lee helped regrade the road down to the underwater bridge, smoothing out the ruts and potholes that have developed.

The HSR Alumni have continued to make significant contributions both financially and in time and effort on this project and many others. Our funding for these projects that goes directly towards improving the camps is built completely from membership dues. Are your 2020 dues paid? Go to www.HSRAA.org, click on "Who Are We", and then go to "Membership List".

The Ballad of Bill Grubb by Mark Siegle

(From the theme song of the Beverly Hillbillies, sung to the tune of the Ballad of Jeb Clampett)



Let me tell ya little story 'bout a man named Grubb, Had a band of boys in the Weed-A-Whackin Club, Every year around about the 5th of June, He loaded up his truck and headed to the saloon, (Buck's that is, Susquehanna Inn, Oxford Hotel, you name it he'd been there)

Well the first thing you know ole Grubb's a sitting there, Waitin on his boys, showin up from who

knows where, Had a couple pops and sang a fateful tune, Then they headed up the road, With his Weed-A-Whackin platoon.

When they pulled up to camp, there's a lock upon the gate. There's a sign on the post sayin' You Must Hesitate! "Don't you come inside boys, there's some evil lurkin' round. Well Ole Grubby and his boys, they don't wait around. They head off in to the woods where they knowed they can't be found. Armed with picks and axes and weed-a-whackin machines. They hacked and whacked and cut a wide path to every tent and latrine.

The next thing you know that Rangerman's standing there. Eyes a flamin red and bird nests in his hair. Says "Can I help you boys? You know you can't be here! The governor shut us all down, at least until next year!"

Well Ole Grubby and his boys, they don't pay no mind. They start up their machines and head off in to the pines. Clouds of smoke and dust and whacked weeds everywhere. So much noise and racket Corona virus said "I'm out of here!"

The legend of that band of Whackers still echoes through these hills. Of how they saved this camp from the likes of the Corona Flu. No virus, no weed, no ranger can stand and block the way. Cause the Weed-A-Whackin Outlaws have come to save the day!

Because of the pandemic, HSRAA's Annual Reunion. Scheduled for July 18 2020 has been scratched. Our

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annual board meeting typically held during the reunion has been rescheduled for July 22. At this meeting old and new board members are elected to the HSRAA Executive Committee. If you have an interest in participating please reach out to a board member for information.

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