



REFLECTIONS

NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE



Formal Alumni Group Organized

Based upon feedback from the most recent **Sommers Alumni Questionnaire**, as well as many discussions held at the Reunion September 1, 1991, the **Sommers Alumni Association (SAA)** Organizing Committee was formed. Members include: **Dave Hyink**—President; **Blaine (Butch) Diesslin**—Vice President; **Lorri Hanson**—Secretary; **Zane Grey Beaton**—Treasurer; **Roy Conradi**—Newsletter Editor; and **John Christiansen, Jay Walne, Dave Greenlee, Barry Bain**—Members-at-Large.

The *purpose* of the Sommers Alumni Association is to provide a continuing interest in and support for the mission of the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base and the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, in keeping with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Consistent with the above purpose, the *objectives* of the Association will be to: (1) preserve and promote wilderness camping, high adventure, and training opportunities or other primary objectives of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program that may be authorized by the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee; (2) bring relevant needs and suggested programs to the attention of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee; (3) offer the time, talents and assets of the

Association's membership to the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base and the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, and to local councils of the Boy Scouts of America; and (4) spread the "Charlie" spirit throughout scouting.

Greg Kvam is helping the Organizing Committee with drafting such documents as (1) Articles of Incorporation, (2)

Constitution, and (3) By-Laws of the Association. We will also be investigating the possibilities for obtaining some type of "tax-deductible" status.

In addition to working on "organizational detail," near-term goals include: (1) publishing at least two newsletters per year, (2) organizing, updating and expanding the "alumni database," and (3) establishing and filling various national and

regional Association committees. Please complete the enclosed membership information form. Your feedback and ideas are welcomed and encouraged, as is your \$10 to help defray the costs of meeting our near-term goals. **Before completing the form, why not make some copies for other Sommers Alumni you know.**

Reunion at Sommers Draws 70 Past Staffers

The 1991 Sommers Alumni Reunion, held August 30-September 1 was attended by over 70 "Charlie Guides," Base Staff, family and friends. Among those attending were **Henry Bradlich, Roy Conradi, Jerry Cox, Kim Renner, Bob Renner, Nick Amen, Al Batterman, Grey Beaton, Bob Blanchard, Robby Burt, Tom Chalfant, Ray Tallent, John Christiansen, Paul Coler, Nigel and Cyd Cooper, Roger Dellinger, Butch Diesslin, David Foster, Jeremiah Gardner, Dave Greenlee, Tom Holleran, Dave Hyink, Christine Kolbe, Dick "Moose" Olson, John Oosterhuis, Chuck Rose, Roy Cerny, Mike and Bill Quinn, Barry Bain, Steve Schwen, Laurel (Rosene) Theis, Mike Tuttle, Jay Walne, Larry Whitmore, and Hal Wolfe.** In addition, the entire Cliff Hanson family—**Esther, Bruce, Dale, Lorri, and (grandson) Erick**—was present for the dedication of *Hanson House* (see related story).

In addition to the "reminiscing and story-telling," there were tours of the Base and discussions of current operations. Also, there was a gallant attempt to break the two-hour round-trip record for paddling to Prairie Portage in the 26-foot "du Nord" canoe. Mr. Charles Hann, newly appointed Chairman of the Northern Tier National High Adventure

Committee, was on hand to meet and talk with alumni and friends. On Saturday evening, Canoe Base promotional films of all vintages were shown, as were hundreds of slides of "trips and times past." Once again, it was a warm and wonderful event for those present, with many thoughts of those unable to attend.



Tidbits On The Sommers Clan

Lorri Hanson is a P.E. and health teacher and coach in Cottage Grove, OR. Brother **Bruce** is a paleontologist in Berkeley, CA, and brother **Dale**, works for the Bureau of Land Management in Montana. **Esther** is at home at 1860 Grandview Ave., Medford, OR 97504.

Nick Amen is a banker in College Park, MD.

Bob Blanchard is a log home designer in Traverse City, MI.

Paul Coler is a software engineer in Minneapolis, MN.

Jeremiah Gardner is a consulting engineer in Little Rock, AR.

Dick "Moose" Olson is an industrial arts teacher in Duluth, MN.

Steve Schwen is a farmer, carpenter and cabinet maker in Lake City, MN.

Laurel (Rosene) Theis is a certified occupational therapy assistant in Cold Spring, MN.

Jay Walne is a stockbroker in Memphis, TN.

Larry Whitmore sells sporting goods in Renner, SD.

George Franzen is with a software engineering firm in San Ramon, CA.

Joel Sheagren is a photographer in Edina, MN, as is **David Hupke**, in Pekin, IL.

Bob Banovetz is a membership representative with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in St. Cloud, MN.

Ben Bartlett is an insurance agent in Lufkin, TX.

Tom Beaton is a physician and surgeon in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Don Christiansen is a "parent/physician/gardener" in Washburn, WI.

Roger Clapp is an attorney in Florence, MS.

Mark deLinde is a cinematographer (for ESPN) and lives in Lonsdale, AZ.

Tom Grunwald is a teacher/principal in Lexington, KY.

Bernold Hanson is an independent oil operator in Midland, TX.

Michael (Mick) Hedrick is a dentist in Scottsdale, AZ.


Jim Hood is a State Representative and Speaker of the House in South Dakota. He lives in Spearfish.

Robert Knox is a geologist in Belvidere, IL.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm very excited to be a part of the effort to formally organize the Sommers Alumni. As we look into the future, the SAA can play a valuable role in ensuring that quality high-adventure experiences are available to Scouting's youth and adults. We have many challenges ahead of us—the least of which is to reestablish contact with several generations of "Charlie Alumni." We will do this by providing enhanced communication; both in the form of Newsletters, and by eventually publishing an Alumni Directory. I urge each of you to participate in whatever way you can. I look forward to hearing from you (2027 126th Ave. Ct. E., Puyallup, WA 98372).

I am prompted by Sandy's reference to the 20th anniversary of the Atikokan, Bissett and OKPIK programs, to note that Sandy himself has just completed his 21st year as Director. It's no accident that those anniversaries are nearly coincident. It would be difficult (if not impossible) to overestimate the significant and positive impact that he has had on the development and nurturing of the Northern Tier Programs. To Sandy: **Congratulations and Thanks for your superlative efforts!** To Cherie and family: **Thanks for your support and for the many sacrifices you made over the years as these programs took form.**



Alumni Organizing Committee

President	Dave Hyink	206-863-6406
Vice President	Buth Diesslin	218-365-6904
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Treasurer	Zane Grey Beaton	612-861-4930
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	Jay Walne	901-278-2633
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Canoe Base Laison	Sandy Bridges	218-365-4811
	Boy Scouts of America	
	Northern Tier National High Adventure	
	Box 509—Moose Lake Road	
	Ely, MN 55731-0509	

Committee Volunteers Needed

The Sommers Alumni Association needs volunteers to serve on committees. Please contact President Dave Hyink or Sandy Bridges at The Canoe Base.

Hanson House Dedicated

At each reunion, we take time to pause and remember our friends and companions who have departed our earthly band. In 1987, **Voldi Welch**; in 1989, **Bill Stigler**; and **Cliff Hanson**. Cliff, who passed away in October 1989, was Base Director for 14 years during the late fifties, sixties, and early seventies. The log cabin (and addition) which was occupied by Cliff and his family during those years—and which has had numerous informal names

throughout its existence—was formally dedicated “Hanson House” on August 31, 1991, to commemorate his contribution and service to the Base.

During the memorial service, Cliff was remembered as “. . . a people person. He implicitly understood the power, importance and value of the ‘human relations’ aspects so essential to Scouting’s success. As both external ‘ambassador’ and internal ‘cheerleader,’ Cliff’s personal style was an

essential element in the tremendous growth of the Canoe Base during his tenure. He left a lasting impression of his values on those of us fortunate enough to have known him and worked with him during those years, and was thus responsible for nurturing a generation of ‘Charlie Guides’ who are deeply committed to the Base, its programs, and its valuable contributions to both youth and adults.”



Message From Sandy

Greetings from Moose Lake. The pond in front of the house is skim ice this morning so OKPIK is not far behind. The lakes at Bissett are frozen over and snow is already on the ground.

1991 has been an excellent year. We were fortunate to have had over 2500 participants involved in the program. The Base hosted several special activities including a new BSA program called Outdoor Skills Instructor. The National Wilderness Education Association had its semi annual board meeting and colloquium here this fall. Another interesting special program that we shared with the local community college was an Elder Hostel gathering.

1992 is an anniversary year for the Base. The Charles L. Sommers Lodge was dedicated in May of 1942 so this is the 50th year of service. A rededication is planned for early summer. There are some BSA capital funds that will be used this spring for a good “house keeping” and remodeling. The Robert Hedrick Library will have a permanent home in a redesigned area upstairs. If you have an interest in helping with this project, please let me know.

The Atikokan, Bissett and OKPIK programs were all started in 1971-72 so it is the 20th anniversary for these programs.

The participant goal for 1992 has been set at 3000. We need your help in recruiting crews. Your help is also needed for quality staff.

Looking forward to seeing you in '92.

—Sandy Bridges
Director
Northern Tier Programs

VOLUNTEER STAFF OR TRAINERS NEEDED

Do you yearn for "the good old days" when you were on the staff at Sommer's? If so, you are invited to come back to the Base as a volunteer staff member or to share your expertise and canoe base experiences as a staff trainer. These are ways in which you can help strengthen the Base's program, learn about the changes in the program of the Base, and relive some of your memories of the past.

Former staff members—Bob Blanchard and Marshall Hunt to name a couple—have come back as volunteer trail staff members. They found that many things have changed, but many things have also stayed the same. To be a volunteer staff member, especially trail staff during the "crunch time" of late July and early August, is an opportunity to make a very positive contribution to the program of the base.

You don't have to guide a trip to be a staff volunteer. There is always work to be done. Maybe you want to

refresh your canoe riveting skills, assist in the kitchen, do some carpentry or work in the office. Coming to the Base as a staff volunteer is a form of working vacation that will also assist in the continued improvement of the quality of the ex-

perience for the participants.

If you are available to come up in June you can be an "expert" during the annual staff training. Coming back as a volunteer trainer is an opportunity to share your experiences and expertise in low impact

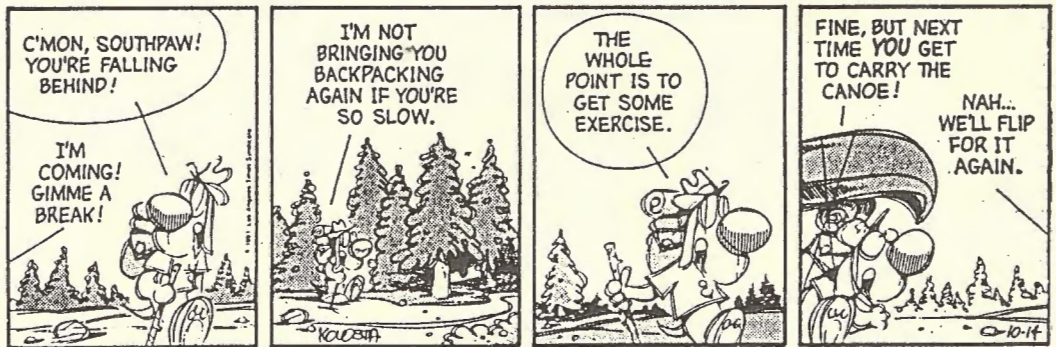
camping; and at the same time you can update your skills as to what's new and improved as far as the operation of the Base is concerned. If you are interested in assisting the Base as a volunteer you should contact Sandy and make arrangements.

Alumni Photos Available

For those who attended the 1991 reunion, photos taken by Roy Conradi are available from Roy. A xerox proof of the various groups will be sent upon request. Call or write Roy Conradi, 3882 Cedar Circle, Tucker, GA 30084. 404-496-0920

SOUTHPAW

By David Kolosta



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