Charter Year Alumni Reunion Plans Set

The capstone of SAA’s Charter Year will take place at the Ely Base, Friday, September 3, through Monday, September 6 (Labor Day), as Sommers Alumni gather once again to renew old friendships and create new ones. Dates announced in earlier newsletters were off by one day, and we apologize for any inconvenience the error may have caused. This year’s event promises to be the biggest one yet, and we hope that you’ll be a part of it!

With the addition of the “first night crew housing”, overnight capacity at the Base is larger than in previous years. Because we are anticipating a big turnout, pre-registration is recommended, and housing will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. As before, participants must bring their own bedding if staying in Base housing. Arrangements for off-Base housing must be made directly with local motels or resorts. For information on the Ely area, please contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce at (218) 365-6123.

New this year on the Reunion Agenda will be time for alumni to participate in a service project for the Base. It will be coordinated by John Christiansen and supervised by that great taskmaster himself—Henry Bradlich. As in previous years, there will be Base tours, sessions describing various Base programs, and plenty of unstructured time for canoeing, fishing, visiting, and relaxation. Perhaps you’d like to put together a “crew” and take a shot at the two-hour round-trip record to Prairie Portage in the duNord canoe. Bring your slides and memorabilia — this will be a great one, with plenty of fun and surprises!

Join Alumni Canoe Trips

Alumni wishing to make a canoe trip in conjunction the 1993 Reunion, September 3-6, may outfit at the Base at a special rate of $10/person/day for food. Canoes and equipment will be provided at no charge. Please contact the Base (218-365-4811) to make arrangements and to obtain advice on obtaining the proper BWCAW/Quetico permits. Please inform SAA Director Zane Beaton (612-861-4930) of your intentions — particularly if you’re looking to join a crew or want to recruit additional crew members.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Bob Cary’s wife and canoe partner Lil. She was known to many Sommers guides over the years and we will miss her. Our sympathy to the Cary family.
Tidbits On The Sommers Clan

Dave Sitzer ('62-'65, '70-72) is a self-employed Medical Media Producer in St. Paul, MN.

Lee Christianson ('61-'62) is Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. Lee also established our Association's Alumni Database. Thanks Lee!

Doug Willets ('84-'92) is one of our newest Charter Life Members and lives in Littleton, CO.

Jim Sowell ('65-'69) is a real estate developer in Dallas, TX, and the Honorary Chairman of the SAA Lodge Remodeling Fundraising Project.

John Bergstrom ('58-'59) is a self-employed Prosthodontist in Peoria, AZ.

Henry "Hank" Linden ('72-'74) is a Special Education Teacher in the New York City Public Schools.

Charles Carter ('75-'77) is a Sales Support Manager for Electronic Data Systems in Plano, TX.

Dean Ran ('64-'65) is a physician in Willmar, MN.

Roy Conradi ('59-'63) is a self-employed photographer and writer for Conradi Communications in Tucker, GA.

Charter Life Member C.M. "Chuck" Buenger is the recently-retired National Director of High Adventure (and Philmont Director).

John Christiansen ('69-'74) is Property Manager/Ranger for the Heart of America Council, BSA, in Osceola, MO; and an SAA Director.

Philip Cady of Hibberts, WI lists himself as a "World Wilderness Traveler." He is the retired Executive Director of the Florida League of Anglers, and since his first Quetico trip in 1943, has led or participated in 212 trips! He lists as his former guides, such notables as Hanson, Bridges, and Cerny.

"Jackpine" Bob Cary (Committee Member '84-present) is Editor of the Ely Echo, as well as author, artist, and fisherman. Bob did all the drawings in this issue of the newsletter.

SAA Director Dave Greenlee ('66-'70) is a Physical Scientist (Remote Sensing) for the U.S. Geological Survey at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

Barry Bain ('58-'62) is a chemistry teacher in the Richfield, MN public schools, and lives in Eden Prairie, MN. Barry is an SAA Director.

J. William Munger ('73-'77) is an Atmospheric Scientist at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Joe Van DeRostyne ('72-'74) is a self-employed antique furniture restorationist at Prairie Woodworking in Aberdeen, SD.

Stephen Nold ('85-'87) is a graduate student in microbiology at Montana State University in Bozeman.

John C. Dailey ('58-'61) is a physician (ENT) in Jacksonville, IL.

Jack Osborn, member and former Chairman of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee (and long-time Base supporter) spends his summers in the Ely area, and in the "off season" lives in Lake Havasu City, AZ.

Mark Nordstrom ('70-'72) is a self-employed advertising consultant and free-lance writer in Cape Vinechster, OH.

Cynthia (Cyd Diesilla) Cooper ('75-'80) is a vocal music teacher in the Hastings, MN Public Schools.

James W. "Jamie" Lee III ('90) is in the food distribution business with W.S. Lee and Sons, Altoona, PA.

Jim Manning ('70-'71) is a self-employed Anesthetist in Hays, KS.

Craig Pendergraft ('68-'71, '74-'75) is a sales representative for Oracle (software) in Redwood Shores, CA.

Alumni Association Directors and Officers

| Director/President (2)* | Dave Hyink | (206) 863-6406 |
| Director/Secretary (2) | Butch Dieslin | (218) 365-6964 |
| Director (2) | Roy Conradi | (404) 496-9920 |
| Director (1) | Zane Beaton | (612) 861-4930 |
| Director (1) | John Christiansen | (417) 646-8214 |
| Director/Vice Pres. (1) | Barry K. Bain | (612) 944-5178 |
| Director (0) | Lorri Hanson | (503) 744-2814 |
| Director (0) | Jay Walne | (901) 278-2633 |
| Director (0) | Dave Greenlee | (605) 428-5967 |
| Treasurer | Nigel Cooper | (612) 738-1242 |

*Number in parentheses is years remaining in current term

Program Liaisons

Mr. Bill Spice
National Director of High Adventure
Philmont Scout Camp, BSA
Cimarron, NM 88714
(505) 376-2281

Mr. Sandy Bridges
Director, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program
P.O. Box 509
Ely, MN 55731-0509
(218) 365-4811

Mr. Robert La Fortune
Chairman, National High Adventure Committee
427 S. Boston #2104
Tulsa, OK 74103-4132

Mr. Charley Hann
Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee
435 Peavey Building
730 Second Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 338-9019

Charter Life Membership Deadline September 30

September 30, 1993 is the last day to join the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association as a Charter Life Member. This special membership class is offered at a reduced price of $100 to celebrate SAA's "charter year." Regular and sustaining members who have already paid 1993 dues, may convert their memberships by remitting the difference. After September 30, Life Memberships will cost $150. Obtain membership forms from P.O. Box 428, Ely 55731.
Annual Membership Meeting September 4

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. will be held on Saturday, September 4, 1993 at the Ely Base in conjunction with the 1993 Reunion. Among other business to be conducted at this meeting will be the election of three Directors. Directors Greenlee, Hanson, and Waine initially served a one-year term, and have been nominated by the Executive Committee for re-election to serve a three-year term. A Ballot and Proxy Statement will be sent to all members (in good standing) in late July or early August. Additional Director nominations are welcome, and must be received at SAA's Ely address no later than July 20.

Honorary Charter Life Memberships Conferred

At the February 13, 1993 SAA Directors meeting in St. Paul, Honorary Charter Life Membership were awarded to: Henry Bradlich - former guide, trainer, taskmaster, supporter and mentor to several generations of Sommers Alumni; Parley Tuttle - former guide and continuing supporter of the Base; Cliff Hanson (d - posthumously) - former Base Director from 1957-1970; and Joe Seliga - Ely canoe maker who built so many of the canoes paddled by Sommers Guides. They join Honorary Charter Life Members Dave "Voldi" Welch (d) and William "Bill" Stigler (d).

Alumni Directory on Hold

On the advice of several members, the Directors have decided not to publish an Alumni Directory (at least not yet). Concerns about unauthorized use of such data have not been resolved. In the meantime, it was decided to provide mailing addresses of individual members to other members upon specific request. If you are trying to locate someone's address, please forward your request to SAA — along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will attempt to honor inquiries as time allows. If you have thoughts on this (or any other) subject, please send them along to us.

Articles Accepted For Newsletter

Please forward any articles, comments, news, jokes, cartoons, songs, poetry, or announcements that you would like to consider for publication in upcoming newsletters.
President’s Message

1993 is very special year for the Canoe Base, the SAA and its members. As I write this I am still basking in the afterglow of a phenomenal BWCAW/Quetico trip. It had been 24 years since Dave Greenlee, Pete Vial and I (along with Wes Stone) paddled together to Hudson Bay. Last week the three of us were joined by Dave’s two sons — Chet and Tad, along with Marshall Hunt, V.R. Shackelford III, and Warren Hurlong for an eight-day “reunion” in the woods. The weather was great, the bugs were few, and the fishing was fine — a limit of lake trout on Argo before 8:00 a.m. It was good for the soul.

I hope that each of you will make such a trip happen for you soon. Perhaps in conjunction with the SAA Reunion? Regardless of whether or not you take that special canoe trip, I look forward to seeing you in Ely in September.

Fundraising for the Lodge remodeling project is coming along nicely — thanks to the generosity of SAA members. However, there are still a substantial number of Sommers Alumni who have not yet sent in their check or pledge. Please take a few minutes to do it right now. The remodel is progressing steadily, but we won’t be able to finish it without your help.

As 1993 marks the Charter Year of the SAA, it also marks another significant anniversary — the 70th year of operation of our wilderness canoeing program. Few of Scouting’s programs can boast that tenure, nor can they claim any greater positive impact on both the youth and adults involved. Thanks for your support.

Dave

Message from Sandy

1993 Marks the 70th anniversary of our program. Carlos Chase and a small group from the “Range Cities” made the first trip during the summer of 1923. The cancellation of the 1935 Jamboree helped put us on the map, but the first successful Jamboree held later was cause for concern. Well here we are again, another Jamboree year!! This Jamboree will be a great place to launch some of our future program proposals.

The support this year from the alumni has been outstanding. Your response to the BWCAW proposals was greatly appreciated. Several members of the alumni have been instrumental in staff training, new projects, computer help, library books (George Hedrick and his friend Jean have collected several hundred additional books) and just plain program support.

The construction of the six new “first night cabins” for the crews is almost complete. This is the first step in the implementation of the future strategic plan and the facility development plan. These will include the relocation of the office, a new staff center, and an updating of the outfitting building.

I am sure everyone will be pleased with the progress in the Lodge. It is so exciting that I don’t want to tell you too much — I hope that you will take the opportunity to see it for yourself during the reunion.

Bill Quinn has just completed the wainscot staining and sealing and does it look nice!!

A new program based on the fur trade history of the area will be started this summer. This will hopefully lead to an increase in quality participation.

Well there has never been a more challenging and exciting time in the history of the Base. The potential is only limited by our imagination. Recapture some of the “magic” and join everyone at the reunion in September.
Dorothy Molter Museum Opens

Many scouts and staff from the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base were friends of Dorothy Molter, the gracious lady of the Boundary Waters who lived 56 years on the Isle of Pines in Knife Lake. Known widely as the Root Beer Lady for her summer sales of ice cold root beer to canoe groups passing through, she was a favorite person of scouts and was visited by hundreds of crews.

In May of this year, the Dorothy Molter Museum opened in a grove of pines on the east edge of Ely adjacent to the Fernberg Road. Included is Dorothy's Winter Cabin — the one she lived in most of the time — which was located on the west tip of the Isle of Pines. This and other cabins have been restored to their original condition, handicap accessed, and contain the furnishings just as they were when Dorothy lived there.

Alumni wishing to visit the museum will find it open daily during the summer. Fees are $2 for adults and $1 for youngsters 12 and under. Why not plan to stop by during the Reunion?

Wolf Center Opens In Ely

On June 24-27, the new $3 million International Wolf Center officially opened in Ely. The newly expended 17,000-square-foot structure will house the "Wolves and Humans" exhibit, and shares space with the USFS Voyageur Visitor Center and the U.S. Customs Service. Visitor information is available by calling 1-800-ELY-WOLF. Admissions fees are $4 for adults and $2.50 for children. Don't miss it, when you attend the Reunion!
1993 Sommers Alumni Reunion Registration Form

Name: ________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _______________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________________________________________________________

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Total number of adults ________________

Total number of children ________________ Ages ________________________

Do you have any special dietary needs? If so list them, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

________________________________________________________________________

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Please remit total housing cost with this registration form to ensure your reservation. You may also remit the remaining costs, or pay them directly upon arrival.

Send reservation form to: Sommers Alumni Reunion Registration
P.O. Box 428
Ely, MN 55731

____ Sorry, I won’t be able to attend. Please give my regards to everyone. Changes to my member profile are attached.

____ I’m not a member of the Sommers Alumni Association. Please send me an application.
Pledges Still Needed  
For Lodge Remodeling

A few weeks ago, Sommers Alumni received a Special Lodge Remodeling Issue of Reflections in which we announced a capital campaign to raise $50,000 to complete the renovations on the Charles L. Sommers Lodge. As this issue goes to press, we are happy to report that contributions and pledges are coming in at a steady pace. In order to make our goal, however, we need the participation of as many alumni as possible. If you haven’t returned your pledge card and/or check, please take a few minutes and do it today. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and your donation is tax deductible.

Back Issues of Reflections

SAA will forward back issues of Reflections on request (while supply lasts). Issues available are: Winter 1991, Winter 1992, and the two Special Issues on BWCAW Group Size and the Lodge Remodeling Project. Please include $0.50 for each issue desired (to cover postage).

BWCAW Issue Update

As this issue of Reflections goes to press, the U.S. Forest Service has announced that due to the heavy level of response (over 4000 letters) to their proposed BWCAW Management Plan and Draft EIS, the final plan will not be released until late August. We will attempt to keep all SAA members advised of key developments, and we will likely devote some time to this subject at the 1993 Reunion. Thanks to all of you who took time to provide written comments.