



# REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

## 1995 — An Event-filled Year

1995 is destined to be a big year for the SAA — with many opportunities for members and friends to participate. Beginning on Memorial Day Weekend, **John Christiansen** will head a volunteer effort to build two new "First Night" cabins at the Ely Base. **Erling Hegg** is busily seasoning, preparing and pre-cutting the materials, and plans to have them on-site and ready to go. Plan to bring your carpentry skills, your "can do" attitude,

your appetite, and the desire for a great time, to the Ely Base beginning May 26.

The following weekend, June 3rd, Staff Training begins. **Sandy Bridges** is always looking for help in this area, and would welcome Alumni with an interest in this activity. The dates for the "First Night" cabin construction were moved from mid-May until Memorial Day to accommodate those individuals who inquired about partic-

ipating in both activities.

And, of course, the "biggie" — **The 1995 Sommers Alumni Reunion**. Organizing committee **Dave Greenlee, Dave Sitzer, Ray Mattson, Mark Nordstrom, and Roy Cerny** would like some help in planning — especially in estimating numbers. All signs point to his being the biggest and best Reunion ever!

In addition, the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee is sponsoring two very special events: The

Churchill Polar Bear Adventure, September 8-11; and the Fishing Invitational, September 15-18. Proceeds from these events will be used to fund "scholarships" for returning Northern Tier seasonal staff members.

Please return the "mail-back" form at the end of this newsletter as soon as possible, indicating your interests and intentions, so that all of these events may be properly planned. Thanks.

### Crossing Portages Goal Set at \$100,000

At the February 11, 1995 meeting of the SAA Executive Committee, Directors approved a five-year fund development goal of \$100,000 under the "**Crossing Portages — Sharing the Load**" campaign. Based upon past giving, constituent numbers, and our membership profile, this "stretch" (but achievable) goal will give the Association approximately \$20,000 per year to finance projects at the three Northern Tier Bases. While membership dues and fees are sufficient to run the day-to-day business of the SAA, funds raised under this campaign will allow us to undertake capital projects that amplify, augment, and leverage an ever-increasing level of capital support by the BSA. On the slate for 1995 (and reported in the last issue of *Reflections*) is the construction of two "First Night" cabins at the Ely Base. At this writing, this is currently a \$12,000 "under-funded" mandate! We are confident, however, that this will change as members and friends begin to make their pledges and forward their 1995 contributions. Also on the list for 1995 is further work on the Hedrick

Library.

In a few weeks, Campaign Chairman **Jay Walne**, and Association President **Dave Hyink** will be contacting each member on the SAA mailing list regarding their participation. Prior to doing this, however, they believed that it was important to secure the commitment of the Directors, Officers and *ad hoc* committee members of the Association; along with members of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA. They are very pleased to report that these "early bird" contacts have resulted in pledges nearing \$25,000 — an average of over \$1,000 per person, and one-quarter of the way to our goal.

Another important goal of the campaign is to have everyone involved at some level. Please consider making your participation a priority, and know that your contribution will make a difference! To join the committed list of "early birds" (not to mention help reducing our administrative costs), please use the mail-back form at the end of this newsletter.

### Commemorative Giving Program Established

Director **Jay Walne** has designed a pre-addressed envelope to facilitate making gifts to the SAA as *memorials* to — or gifts *in honor of* — individuals who are important to members, friends, and their families. Each gift, regardless of size, will be acknowledged via a letter to the family of the deceased, or by a letter to the recipient of the honorarium. The acknowledgment letters have a short description of the SAA and the

activities of Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, BSA. Memorials and Honorariums will also be published in each issue of *Reflections*. While the above-mentioned memorials and honorariums may be made by simply sending your check with the appropriate notation, you may order a supply of the pre-addressed envelopes by returning the form at the end of the newsletter.

### New Base Administrative Office Completed and Operational





## Tidbits On The Sommers Clan

**TORBEN ANDERSON** ('80-81) was back - from Denmark - for part for the winter on the OKPIK staff at Sommers.

**MIKE BREEN** ('73-77), wife Anna Marie, and daughters Alyssa (5) and Amy (5 mos.) recently moved into a new home at 3100 Above Stratford Pl., Austin, TX 78406., (512) 329-9984. Mike is a Physician with Austin Diagnostic Clinic and enjoys snowskiing and sailing.

**CHARLES CARTER** ('75-77) Was the first designated contributor to the "CROSSING PORTAGES, SHARING THE LOAD" fund raising program. His contribution was closely followed by one from TIM HUEMILLER ('70-73).

**BLAINE "BUTCH" DISSLIN** ('61-79) is on sabbatical leave from teaching physics at Vermilion CC in Ely. He is spending three months as a guest participant in a nucleon decay experiment, going on down at the 27th level of the Soudan Mine State Park.

**DICK DOOLITTLE** ('56-58) is in sales management of the Andrews Corporation, lives in Lockport, IL.

**BOB DOPP** ('65-66) is a Chemical Engineer for Rayovac in Madison, WI.

**J. P. FASSBENDER** ('93) is a student, majoring in Secondary Education.

**JOHN GRAHAM** ('68-70) is a Investment Manager for Rogge Global Partners in London, UK. John would like to investigate sending a crew to the base. John says he is able to organize for visiting alums.

**JIM KUHNS** ('62-65, 68) is a Firefighter/Paramedic for the St. Paul, MN Fire Department.

**JUHA LEHTINEN** ('85), his wife Satu and year-old son Rasmus are now living in Turku, Finland; where he is a Lt. Commander in the Finnish Navy. Juha is active with Finnish Sea Scouts, and is a sailing coach and manager for a Soling-class olympic sailing project.

**STEVE NIEDORF** ('69-71) operates Niedorf Photography in Minneapolis, MN.

**KRISTEN OILO** ('80-81) is on a parenting leave from teaching as she and her husband wait for their third child to be born in May. Both are active in scouting along the Norwegian coast, south of Oslo.

**LEE "LITTLE MOOSE" OLSON** ('63-65), is a Customer Service Engineer for Xerox, living in Mounds View, MN.

**DICK "MOOSE" OLSON** ('61-64) is using his Industrial Technology teacher skills by designing and building their "dream retirement home" near Duluth. His wife Carol hopes it is done when Dick retires.

**JACK OLSON** ('94) is planning on coming back for another season after being a 1st year Interpreter at age 59. Grandpa Jack and Grandma Una are awaiting the birth of their 8th grandchild.

**KEVIN PETERSON** ('68) has co-authored a history of the patches of the Florida Sea Base and is contemplating doing the same for Sommers/Northern Tier. Kevin is a grain merchandiser.

**CRAIG "FUZZY" REICHOW** ('66-72) is the National Capital Council Northern Tier Liaison, plans on being a crew advisor in 1996. A acute M.I. forced a year's postponement.

## Alumni Association

Director/President (1)*	Dave Hyink	(206) 863-6406
Director/Secretary (1)	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Director (1)	Roy Conradi	(404) 496-0920
Director (3)	Zane Beaton	(612) 861-4930
Director (3)	John Christiansen	(417) 646-8526
Director/Vice President (3)	Barry Bain	(612) 944-5178
Director (2)	Lorri Hanson	(503) 744-2814
Director (2)	Jay Walne	(901) 278-2633
Director (2)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 371-2209
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 Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Sandy Bridges	Director, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Mr. Robert LaFortune	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee 427 S. Boston #2104 Tulsa, OK 74103-4132
Mr. G. Charles Hann	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee 435 Peavey Building 730 Second Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 338-9019

## 1995 Dues Requested

Dues statements are being prepared for both *Annual* and *Sustaining* members of the Association. Unless the alphabetic code on the attached mailing label contains an L or an N, chances are that you can give Membership Chairman **Zane Beaton** a hand - not to mention saving the SAA some money - by remitting your 1995 dues today. We rely on income from

our *Annual* (\$10) and *Sustaining* (\$25) members to help us meet the day-to-day expenses of communicating with both members and friends of the Association. Please forward yours today - or better yet, why not upgrade to a Life membership? Whatever your choice, we are very grateful for your support.

## Revised Member Directory Mailed

The 1995 alumni membership directory was mailed in February, 1995. If you are a member and did not receive your directory please contact the alumni association. If your directory entry is incorrect

please let us know of the necessary changes.

There are additional copies of the directory available for those who want one. Send us your membership and we'll send you a directory.



## Directors Meet — Report on Activities

The alumni association directors met at the Minneapolis Athletic Club on February 11, 1995 at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Northern Tier Committee meeting. The directors and officers present were: **Barry K. Bain, John Christiansen, Blaine Diesslin, Dave Greenlee, Dave Hyink and Nigel Cooper.** Others present were: **Parvin Bishop, Clyde Bridges, Charley Hann, Larry Hanson, Ray Mattson, Bob Renner, Paul Schlieve, Dave Sitzler and Bill Spice.**

Secretary **Blaine Diesslin** reported that the minutes of the 1994 annual meeting had been sent to the directors, and were approved as printed. Copies of the revised membership directory were distributed to those present, copies will be mailed to the other members. The "Invitation to Join" pamphlet had been reprinted and a copy sent to all non-member former staff, with some new memberships generated. More of these pamphlets are available to go give to potential members. The mailing list data base contains about 1,300 names, about 900 with good addresses. The current status and whereabouts of approximately 300 former staff members is unknown.

Treasurer **Nigel Cooper** presented the association's 1994 Statement of Revenues and Expenses. Our expenses exceeded our revenues, primarily due to the Lodge renovation expenses. We must generate income to meet our financial obligations.

Membership co-chairman **Barry Bain** reported that as of February 1, 1995 the association has 266 members: 137 Life, 78 Annual, 17 Sustaining, 2 Staff and 32 Honorary members. Dues payment reminder letters are being mailed to the annual members.

**Dave Hyink** reported for publications chairman **Roy Conradi** that we met our 1994 goal in terms of the number of editions of the *Reflections* newsletter. Some of the writing and editing duties need to be delegated to others. We need to consider some streamlining changes in the process of producing the

newsletter.

In his president's report, **Dave Hyink** said that one of the gifts to be received by **Jim Cowan**, outgoing president of the Ontario Council, Scouts Canada is a life membership to the alumni association. The membership will be presented April 8, 1995.

**Dave** requested volunteers for a director nominating committee for the 1995 vacancies. Nominating committee members are **Nigel Cooper** (chairman), **Barry Bain, Ray Mattson and Dave Sitzler.**

The first item of old business was a report on the Lodge Renovation Project by **Blaine Diesslin.** Most of the track lighting in the interpretive portion has been installed. The insulated roof was finished in November, 1994. New wiring for lights in the main room and the loft was installed within the insulated roof. Cast iron radiators for the main room were purchased, sandblasted and repainted. Most of the light fixtures have been installed. The Lodge Renovation fund has been depleted. Yet to be done: Installation of the heating system, storm windows or new window units, furniture and furnishings. It is estimated that the remainder of the renovation will cost about \$50,000.

**John Christiansen** project coordinator for the First Night Cabin Project. A motion was passed to contract with **Erling Hegg** for specialty materials and materials preparation per his quote. A \$2,000 deposit for the specialty materials has been made so the lumber has time to season and be milled. Volunteers are being sought to construct the two cabins, tentative dates are May 27-June 3, 1995. Those interested in helping should contact **John Christiansen.**

**Dave Hyink** reported that Staff Training at Sommers will be June 3-7, 1995, and will be conducted by volunteers from the Northern Tier Committee and the alumni association. **Mike Holdgrafer** is the coordinator again this year. A letter has been sent to all alumni who have indicated a willingness to assist with staff training on their member information sheet.

Coordinator **Jay Walne**

reported via letter that the 1994 Greeting Card Sale was a break even proposition, with a carry-over of cards. **Dan Wangerin** had contacted the association about assisting with the greeting card sale. Dan's written offer to take over the greeting card sale, effective 1995, was accepted by the directors.

The alumni association's Annual Giving Campaign CROSSING PORTAGES, as announced in the Winter, 1994 newsletter, will be coordinated by **Jay Walne.** There is a 100% participation commitment to CROSSING PORTAGES by the association's directors.

**Jay Walne** has designed an envelope for making memorial donations to the association, which will be made available to the members.

Northern Tier Committee chairman **Charley Hann** presented a draft of the proposed Northern Tier Staff Scholarship Endowment Trust. The proposal names the alumni association as the fiscal agent for the trust. The directors agreed to accept the draft proposal without objection, and gave approval to proceed with the development of the proposal.

Members of the Reunion Planning committee — **Dave Greenlee, Dave Sitzler and Ray Mattson** gave a status report of the plans for the Alumni Reunion, September 1-4, 1995. Some possible ideas for commemorative clothing were shown. More information will be included in the April newsletter.

**Dave Hyink** requested that the members of the association think about things which might be done to celebrate the Scout Canoe Programs 75th Anniversary in 1998. There will be more discussion at the annual meeting in September.

The first item of NEW BUSINESS was a report by **Dave Hyink** on the 1995 Northern Tier Fishing Trip, September 15-17, 1995 at Nelson's Resort on Crane Lake, MN. Alumni members are invited to attend and/or encourage others to attend this committee sponsored fund raising activity. Invitations are available from the canoe base. The cost is \$1100 per per-

son, approximately \$500 of which is tax deductible.

**Dave Hyink** will be one of the Northern Tier representatives attending the National BSA Meeting, May 17-19, 1995 in Chicago, IL.

Alumni member **Kevin Peterson** requested permission from the association to allow him to use the "CROSSING PORTAGES" insignia as a alumni association patch. **Kevin** proposed that he underwrite the production and sale of patch, with any proceeds going to the alumni association. The directors denied **Kevin's** request in part because the "CROSSING PORTAGES" art work was commissioned specifically for a symbol of our annual giving campaign.

**Bob Renner** is making a new frame for the pre-1950 miniature paddle brand display. **Bob** proposed creating a similar display of miniature paddle brands available to all former Northern Tier staff. **Bob** requested association cost underwriting support for the project. The directors are supportive of the concept. **Nigel Cooper and Barry Bain** will work with **Bob.**

Some informational items presented included **Dave Hyink** informing the directors that a lawsuit challenging the BWCAW Management Plan, which includes the group size limitation, has been filed. The lawsuit has been filed in an effort to rescind the new restrictions over previous management plans. We should be alert for developments.

Discussions are ongoing on the US Forest Service's proposed Guide — Pack — Outfitter licensure and related fees. **Sandy Bridges** is a member of the group working on the terms of the agreement.

A summary of the status of the building projects at Northern Tier bases was given.

As the association grows it will be essential to involve more members in doing the work of the association. We are to evaluate our tasks and bring recommendations for change to **Dave Hyink.** This topic will be discussed at the annual membership meeting.



# Message From The President

It hardly seems possible that we have just entered the last-half of the 1990's! It's a particularly significant period that not only marks the end of the twentieth century, but holds many exciting things for our Association and the Northern Tier High Adventure Program. If all goes according to plan, the next five years will witness the Diamond Anniversary of the wilderness canoeing program, significant expansion of existing programs in wilderness canoeing and winter camping (particularly north of the 49th parallel), and at least three Sommers Alumni Reunions.

The first half of this decade saw the Association's "strategic architecture" put in place by our formal incorporation as a Minnesota [501 (c) 3] non-profit corporation; by successfully undertaking renovation of the Charles L. Sommers Lodge; by our proactive involvement and intervention in the Superior National Forest's BWCAW Management Plan; by establishing a "first-rate" newsletter — *Reflections*; by continuing and enhancing the tradition of holding biennial Alumni Reunions; and by attracting an active membership of alumni, supporters and friends numbering nearly 300. While these baseline activities must (and will) continue, it is now time for us to move up to the next level.

What is the next level? Now that we have the ability to "keep the door open on a day-to-day basis," we must develop a funding base which allows us to carry-out projects which are aimed at extending and enhancing the "capital support" provided by the National Council of the BSA. The Lodge project was a significant first step for us, but there is more to be done. And, we believe that by stepping up to the next level, we can make a real difference. Hence the launching of our five-year annual giving campaign. Crossing Portages —

## Sharing the Load.

Embarking on a fund development program meant "crossing new portages and paddling new lakes" for myself and the other Directors. Committed to "making it happen" we studied the fund development literature, consulted some experts, and put a lot of thought into the campaign's design. *From Fundraising: Hands-on tactics for nonprofit groups* by Edles (McGraw-Hill) I reproduce their list entitled "Six Requirements Your Drive Cannot Do Without."

1. The goals of your organization must be compelling to ensure intense donor commitment.
2. Your organization's growth patterns must be easily perceived.
3. Your organization or its key leaders must be strongly visible to the people whose support you expect.
4. Your . . . volunteer leadership must be highly competent, totally committed, and be proven, excellent fund-raisers.
5. Your campaign's needs must be specific, attractive, people-oriented, and have a sense of urgency.
6. The results of your campaign must be measurable.

A thorough audit of SAA's "assets" led us to believe that we sufficiently met all six requirements. We then "stepped up to the plate", painted the number \$100,000 on the center-field fence, and committed to develop ourselves as proven, excellent fund-raisers. I invite each of you to judge our efforts by those criteria, and then to join us as we swing for distant fences and an even more exciting future.

A philosopher — I think it might have been Yogi Berra — once stated that he didn't " . . . make predictions, especially about the future." Unlike Yogi, most folks are continually making predictions about the future — particularly those individuals and organizations involved in creating a preferred future. I spend a considerable amount of time thinking about the future:

My family's future, my company's future, my country's future, and yes — the SAA's future. I seem to be drawn to it, as evidenced both by my life's work in producing a product whose manufacturing cycle is decades-long, and by my work with youth development through the Boy Scouts of America. In a more academic pursuit of this subject, I recently studied a fascinating work entitled *Competing for the Future* by Hamel and Prahalad (Harvard Business School Press) and was intrigued by a concept they called "strategic intent" or "the dream that energizes the organization."

They contend that " . . . as the distilled essence of an organization's strategy, strategic intent implies a particular point of view about the long-term, and hence conveys a sense of direction. A strategic intent is differentiated; it implies a unique point of view about the future, and holds out to its members the promise of exploring new territory, and hence conveys a sense of discovery. Strategic intent has

an emotional edge to it; it is a goal that members perceive as inherently worthwhile, and hence imparts a sense of destiny."

I believe that a variant of the statement emblazoned on the back of SAA's Holiday Greeting cards captures the essence of our strategic intent. Sommers Alumni strive . . . to promote character development and outdoor skills through wilderness canoeing and winter camping programs at Northern Tier National High Adventure, BSA. While it is the task of Directors, Officers and members of our Association to develop and implement the strategy that will take us in the direction of our preferred future, it is our strategic intent that gives us the emotional and intellectual energy for the trip. Let's continue to make the '90's our decade of direction, discovery and destiny.



## Corporate Donations Match

Does your employer match your contributions to non-profit organizations? Pat Cox's ('82-'86, '88) donation to the lodge renovation fund was matched by his employer, the Kemper Insurance Companies.

Pat sent a donation to the alumni association along with a note requesting a copy of the Internal Revenue Service's Letter of Non-Profit Determination [letter 1045 (DO/CG)]. A short time after sending Pat a copy of the alumni association's letter, we received a matching amount check from Kemper, Inc.

If your employer makes corporate donation matches to qualifying non-profit agencies and entities, such as the alumni association, and you need a copy of the association's non-profit determination letter, just let us know and we will send a copy to you or your employee.

Special thanks to Pat for going the extra few steps needed to increase the alumni association's effectiveness in supporting and promoting the Northern Tier High Adventure Programs.

## Director Nominations Needed

Nominations are being sought for positions on the board of directors. If you would like to serve or know of someone who would, please

contact the nominating committee chairman Nigel Cooper, 9147 Sequoia Road, Woodbury, MN 55125 (612) 738-1242.



# What a Winter!

## Message from Sandy

The popular OKPIK Holiday stay was canceled for the first time ever. We just didn't have the snow or ice necessary for a safe winter program (sounds backwards, doesn't it?). The lack of the snow and severe cold has been a blessing in disguise. All of the construction projects have been completed or are well ahead of schedule. The new outfitting building is really something to see, it's right out of Old Fort William or Grand Portage. What a pleasure it will be for crews and staff this coming summer. By the way, the summer season looks great. All programs are going full steam. The National Council has come through again in supporting your program to the hilt.

### 1995 Capital projects include the following:

**ELY** — A new well. This also includes the upgrading of much of the existing plumbing. Upgrading of the electrical service. Geotechnical work for phase two of the outfitting system (there are three steps).

**ATIKOKAN** — New well

and septic system plus the preliminary requirements for an emergency radio system.

**BISSETT** — Relocation of the outfitting building.

I have said this before, but each of you need to know how the support from **Chuck Buenger** and **Bill Spice** (past and current National Directors of High Adventure) really makes a difference. We are also fortunate to have the support of **Parvin Bishop**, National Director of Program and **Grant Robinson** of his staff. **Haynes Harbaugh**, National Director of Properties for the BSA and **Paul Kalvaitis** of his staff work closely with architect **Don Melander** in seeing that projects are appropriate and done with safety and quality as major watchwords. Those of you that have been members of the Order of the Arrow will also be pleased at the support from that national organization as well as the National Eagle Scout Association. The support from **Al Morin** and the Staff of the International Division is really appreciated. There are many

more to thank for keeping the Northern Tier running in the front. What a pleasure to see the dedication to the youth of the future in the best outdoor canoeing and winter camping program the BSA has to offer.

Challenges? Thank goodness yes!! We still have some, but they are all part of the fun. The recruitment of key seasonal staff is still one of the most important.

### Some Updates

Starting the 1st of October, 1995, all crews using BSA trained Interpreters (Guides to most of you) will be charged 3% of the cost of the guiding service by the United States Forest Service. The Northern Tier will have a USFS Outfitter/Guide permit or license.

Yes, you are right if you heard that Prairie Portage Canadian Customs and Immigrations will be closed for the summer season. NO it didn't fly. PRAIRIE WILL BE OPEN FOR 1995! A challenge for the future — what do we do? Let's

hear your ideas. No, it won't close the use of the Quetico from Ely but creative thinking and innovative solutions we do need.

**Invitational Fishing Trip** — Nelson's Resort on Crane Lake, 15-18 September, 1995. Drop Sandy a card, Fax or call or an invitation. Filling up fast!

**Churchill** — 8-11 September 1995. Awesome experience! Polar bears, whales, etc. Limited number, get your request in as soon as possible. No you don't have to go by canoe. Ride Canadian Airlines full-size aircraft from Winnipeg to Churchill. Trip includes airfare, lodging, tours, several meals, etc.

**Ultra OKPIK** — Adventures North — A trip to Northern Scandinavia (Sweden and an opportunity to visit Finland as well) in April 1996. Let us know if you are interested. 120 miles North of the Arctic Circle but a "piece of cake." A trip of a lifetime. Anyone for several thousand reindeer?

## Construction of New Outfitting Building Under Way





# An Open Letter to Sandy Bridges

I'm sorry I missed you on our recent (1994) canoe trip to the Quetico. This year's crew included my children Tad, Chet, and Meghan, nephew Nathan, and their friends Tod, Jen, and Pam. We all had a great time in the woods. We entered at Nym Lake and spent about six days on the trail. From the Ely Base, we borrowed a canoe, two frame food packs, and two of the Carlisle paddles, all of which functioned very well. For the benefit of you and for other alumni who may be interested, I want to share some of my observations concerning this experience.

As our trip was coming together, I realized that we would need some gear we didn't have. In the past, I have been reluctant to rent or borrow gear from the Base because I didn't want to burden the staff with custom outfitting requests during the busiest time of the summer. I have talked with other alumni who have told me they have similar feelings. Nonetheless, with your repeated assurance that I should make use of the Base, I called and subsequently borrowed the gear. I was happy to make a donation to the lodge fund as a token of my appreciation.

When I called the base, I talked with Judy about my plans and our needs. Judy was friendly and helpful. She advised me that she would pass our request on to the people who know the status of trail gear. In a subsequent call, Joe told me that they could fulfill my request and that I should stop by the Ely Base and pick up what I needed. We enjoyed our brief stop at the base, and I think we slipped in and out with a minimal amount of disruption. Joe also gave me directions to the Atikokan base on Perch Lake, so that if we had time, I could stop by.

We did stop by the Perch Lake base on our way to camp

at the Atikokan city park or the French Lake campground. Our entry at Nym was to be the following day. When we got there, we found no crews on the base, and we were met by Kevin, a trail staff person who was temporarily on base. The Perch Lake base is a very special place, with a primitive but very functional set of facilities. The woodburning sauna, a win/win relationship with a Canadian resort who caters meals to the crews, a simple but functional set of cabins and outfitting facilities, all strike me as quite resourceful and very much in time with the wilderness. My kids and their friends especially enjoyed talking with Kevin, who had spent much of the summer in the woods. They gave him a synopsis of news from "the civilized world" and he told them stories from the woods. Although we had not prearranged the visit, we felt welcome and decided to stay the night. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset and shared maps and stories about northern trips by the light of a lantern. The next morning we repacked our trail gear, had breakfast in Atikokan, and then went on to Nym Lake. It was a great way to begin a trip.

On the way home, it got late by the time we arrived in Ely. We had intended to drop the gear off and then camp near Duluth, but found that with tired campers, the late hour, and a couple of wet sleeping bags (not all tents stay as dry as the base issue), we needed to reevaluate our options. As we sat in Vertin's cafe and considered our situation, I called the base, and then called Joe at his home. Although there were several crews on base, Joe offered us a place to bunk, and even sleeping bags (including his own!). This was clearly above and beyond the call of duty, and I applaud his helpful attitude. As it turned out, we didn't need to take him up on

the offer, as a waitress at Vertin's found us a newly opened "Bed and Breakfast" called the Miner's Inn, so we stayed the night in Ely. The next morning I returned the gear and went on our way rested, relaxed, and full of warm feelings. We will long remember the places we went, the people we met, and all the things we did.

I could tell you more about the moose and the eagles, the great weather and the quality of our wilderness experience, but that would be another story. Mostly, I wanted to let you know how great it is to be a part of the canoe base family, and how grateful I am for the people who reached out to us as we visited this very special place.

## Summer Canoe Trip Opportunities

LEE SESSIONS ('82-86) [(505) 898-8914] has room for two experienced paddlers for a 18 day trip, August 2-27, 1995, from just south of the Arctic Circle (66 10'N, 94 25' W) to Chesterfield Inlet off Hudson's Bay. The group will fly scheduled air to Baker Lake, NWT, charter a Twin Otter to the starting point. Expect class 2-3 rapids, exploring tundra, fishing, and seeing wildlife and Inuit archeological sites.

Approx. cost \$2,000 from Winnipeg.

BUTCH DIESSLIN ('61-'79) [(218) 365-6904] and his wife Lucy welcome up to 7 others to join them July 17-24, 1995 on a canoe trip from Nym Lake to Moose Lake. Plan on fishing and seeing how the Quetico has changed since your last trip. Share the permit, food and transportation costs.

## Lost Alumni

We continue to search for former Sommers staff members who we can't seem to locate. As newsletter space permits we will list names of the missing. If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing staffers, please send the info to Butch Diesslin at P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731.

AASEN, DOUG, 1968-69  
ADDY, ERVIN, TX, 1966  
AKINS, DON, GA, 1968-69  
ANDERSON, SCOTT, MN, 1975  
ARMIN, DAVE, SD, 1956, 63  
BABCOCK, JOHN, MN, 1966  
BACHMAN, JIM, MN, 1963  
BAILEY, BRUCE, 1970  
BAKER, ROBERT, TX, 1986  
BAKER, GREGORY, MN, 1956  
BARTEL, FIONA, AUSTRALIA, 1984  
BARTON, ROB, IA, 1966  
BASSING, TIM, SD, 1975

BAUER, LYLE, IA, 1956  
BELL, GREG, KS, 1975  
BENTSON, NELS, OK 1968  
BERNARD, GERALD, WI, 1955  
BESKE, JIM, MN, 1961  
BIGELOW, LEE, TX, 1955-56  
BILLS, DUANE, MN, 1955-56  
BISHOP, ERIC, 1980  
BLACK, ROBERT, IL, 1983  
BLACK, SCOTT, MS, 1963  
BLAIR, SCOTT, PA, 1977  
BLAUSER, DOUG, 1970  
BOEBEL, CHUCK, 1958  
BOLAY, RANDY, KS, 1972  
BOLAY, ROD, KS, 1971-73  
BONNEVILLE, CHRISTIAN, FRANCE, 1977  
BOWLIN, STAN, MO, 1975  
BOWMAN, TOM, OK, 1955-56  
BRASHEARES, BRUCE,



Event Participation Form

Participant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

First-Night Crew Cabin Construction  
May 27 – June 2, 1995

Count on me to help:

Contact:

John Christiansen

417-646-8526

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Week — May 27–June 27  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Day Weekend Only – May 27-29  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arriving Friday evening, May 26  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other, list dates \_\_\_\_\_

Other helpers attending? (Y, N)  
(please include names)

Northern Tier Staff Training  
June 3–11, 1995

Count on me to help:

Contact:

Sandy Bridges

218-3654811

\_\_\_\_\_ Full period — June 3–June 11  
\_\_\_\_\_ Continuing on from previous week  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arriving Friday evening, June 2  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other, list dates \_\_\_\_\_

I have training expertise in the following areas: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list areas, willingness to go on "guides trip," ...)

1995 Sommers Alumni Reunion Planning  
September 1–4, 1995

\_\_\_\_\_ Count me in. I'll be there along with \_\_\_\_\_ guests and/or members of my family. Please send me registration information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm not sure yet, but keep sending me information.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, not this year. (Please include any thoughts and ideas you have for the planning committee.)

Crossing Portages — Sharing the Load  
Five-Year Annual Giving Commitment

Add my name to the growing list of those who have committed themselves to **Sharing the Load** by crossing:

\_\_\_\_\_ Grand Portage (\$2,500 @ \$500/year, \$125/Quarter)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Horse Portage (\$1,000 @ \$200/year, \$ 50/Quarter)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Meadows Portage (\$ 500 @ \$100/year, \$ 25/Quarter)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Portage (\$ 200 @ \$ 40/year, \$ 10/Quarter)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bill me: (Annually, Quarterly)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visa/Master: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expire: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please specify)  
Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send more information: \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing Invitational — September 15-18, 1995  
\_\_\_\_\_ Churchill Polar Bear Adventure — September 8-11, 1995  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ultra OKPIK — Adventures North — April 1996  
\_\_\_\_\_ # of Commemorative Giving Envelopes \_\_\_\_\_



**Administrative Building**

**SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 428  
ELY, MINNESOTA 55731**



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