

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of The Red Trail.

If you would like to view the newsletter close to the way the print version looks that is mailed to members, follow the following instructions:

Go up to the menu bar and click: View

Then click : Page display

Then click: Two-up

You will then be able to view The Red Trail as it appears in print



THE RED TRAIL

May 1, 2012

Volume 12, Issue 1

SAVE THE DATES

2012

Spring Work Weekends

May 4-6; May 18-20

Family Camping Weekend

July 6-8

Fall Alumni Weekend

Sept. 14-16

2013

Spring Work Weekends

May 17-19; June 6-9

Fall Alumni Weekend

Sept. 20-22

2014

Fall Alumni Weekend

Sept. 19-21*

2015

Fall Alumni Weekend

Sept. 11-13*

2016

60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend

Sept. 16-18*

***While the dates for the fall weekends were chosen to give everyone a chance to plan ahead, the Theodore Roosevelt Council has confirmed our dates only through 2013. The dates for 2014-2016 therefore are subject to change, although it is highly likely they will be confirmed.**

FALL WEEKEND REUNITES FRIENDS AFTER DECADES APART

By Gabriel H. Gluck

The look on Mike Kelly's face said it all.

Returning to Onteora for the first time in more than 40 years—he thought OSR had closed and never reopened—it was a chance for Mike and so many others to reconnect after decades. While the Onteora Alumni Association hosts a fellowship weekend every fall to which all are invited, because so many alumni have moved considerable distances away, every five years a special effort is made to bring everyone together again.

And for this latest, 55th Anniversary Onteora weekend, held in mid-September, 52 former

staffers and campers returned, not just to reconnect with old friends, but to once again reconnect with the Land in the Sky, a place that has grown to mean so much to all of us.

Just about every decade of staff was represented, with photos of everyone posted on the Onteora Yahoo site run by Bill Cotter, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/onteora/photos/album/0/list>

“What can I say? It was absolutely wonderful to connect with so many old friends who I haven't seen in almost 40 years; it does the heart well,” Larry Starr wrote to all those who continue to connect through the Yahoo discussion board.

“The camaraderie among-

(Continued on page 6)

ONTEORA'S CAMP DIRECTOR PREPARES FOR SUMMER 2012

By Gabriel H. Gluck

As she prepares for her second summer as Camp Director at Onteora, Liane Richardson will tell you that she finds the whole experience “humbling.”

“Running the camp? It's humbling

to have the responsibility and the privilege to run the program that is molding our leaders of tomorrow—that is shaping the future of the camp—maybe even a future camp director,” she said.

Her staff of 65 last summer was

“awesome,” Richardson said. “They were very willing and they took on responsibility cheerfully. They were dedicated to the Scouts, encouraging them with their merit badges, accommodating them when they needed extra time.”

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The OAA Board

Bob Morse - Chairperson
 Rick Balla - Vice Chairperson
 Billy Graham - Registrar
 Brian Issing - Secretary
 Dave Blaushild
 Bill Cotter
 Anthony Eagan
 Gabe Gluck
 Howie Perlman
 Liane Richardson (non-voting)

Red Trail Editors

Gabe Gluck
 Howie Perlman



*Original Onteora Scout
 Reservation Summer Camp
 Patch, 1956*



*55th Anniversary Onteora
 Alumni Association Weekend
 Celebration Logo, 2011*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

By Bob Morse

I am very pleased to report that we completed another successful year of the Onteora Alumni Association. Through your generous support and efforts, we continued our mission to assist OSR in projects both large and small.

This past year we contributed funds to construct a senior staff housing unit in Erie, donated foundry implements for the Glaze (blacksmith forge), and assisted the Theodore Roosevelt Council via the Campership fund in

sending more than 16 scouts to summer camp who wouldn't have been able to afford camp on their own.

We also awarded a \$500 scholarship to one staff member to aid him in his pursuit of a college degree. We sponsored two Beaver weekends, participated at Scout Walk and joined the 412 Crew for a staff banquet at Chaminade High School.

The Fall '11 Weekend in September celebrated the 55th Anniversary of Onteora Scout Reservation. About 60 members, friends and

family attended a chocker block-full weekend. A special 'shout out' to Bill Throop and Russ Rensch for co-chairing the weekend reunion committee. Kudos for a job well done!

Once again Steve Shull outdid himself with a terrific menu that was delectable. With canoeing on Orchard Lake, shooting skeet at the shotgun range, hiking on the Red Trail and a road trip to Alder Lake, everyone had a great time.

Howie Kudler emceed the campfire

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LIANE RICHARDSON...

(Continued from page 1)

"It is an incredible experience, seeing your staff develop, maturing, and growing. You're really like a proud parent seeing that growth," she said, noting how pleased she is that many will be returning this summer.

Richardson, 56, lives in Canandaigua, which is Iroquois for "the chosen spot," in upper New York State's Finger

Lakes region.

She joined the staff in the summer of '08 as waterfront director, a post she returned to for the next two summers. But midway through the summer of 2010, she was moved into administration to serve as business manager and then as assistant director of personnel.

Richardson got involved in Scouting through her step-

son. But she soon found the program fulfilling for her as well. In 1998, she went on her first Blue-nose as part of Wood Badge, and has made just about every one since.

Her first summer experience at Onteora was in the summer of '98. As her troop had no other leaders who could come to summer camp, she and

(Continued on page 11)

REMEMBERING: VISITORS' SATURDAY!

By Steve Shull

Editor's Note: In the past two issues of The Red Trail, Steve Shull took a walk down memory lane, recalling Changeover Saturday and then heater stacks. In this, his latest essay, Steve recalls what that middle Saturday was like during, what was back then, two-week camp periods.

The middle Saturday of each two-week period was the day when OSR was open to visitors. Entire families would pile into the family sedan or wagon and head for Onteora to visit their son(s) at camp.

Friends and family of staff members were also welcome into camp on those four Saturdays each summer. The first time I set foot on Onteora soil and rock was an August Saturday in 1961, when my Parents, Grandmother, younger Brother and I visited Brother Dave and Troop 90 at Sitting Bull.

Visitors would start arriving shortly after breakfast. A cou-

ple of staff members would be in the parking lot to direct parking and provide maps of the camp. Into the early '60s, the upper parking lot had not been built, so it didn't take too long before cars would be parked up the side of the road back to the ranger's house.

Most visitors came equipped with coolers and bags of food containing snacks for their sons in camp and food for their own lunch and dinner.

Beginning in the late '60s, there was a refreshment stand that was set up at the site where the Tuttle House once stood, across the road from Orchard Lake. John Giamannco, Jr. ran the stand that offered burgers, franks and sodas throughout the day.

Some first-time visitors would haul a couple of lawn chairs and other gear, a mistake that few would repeat on subsequent visits to Onteora. No first-time visitors were ever quite prepared for the length and steepness of the hill to get to their son's campsite.

Besides seeing their sons, there were two main attractions each and every Saturday: Water Carnival and the campfire. Afternoons were spent at the lake, where most troops participated in the Water Carnival, an Onteora tradition that has survived across the decades.

There were swim races for white, red and blue taggers all. There were also wild and wacky row boat and canoe races. The grand finale was the Beauty and Beast contest, in which each troop would costume a pair of Scouts for the competition.

Beasts were generally covered in mud and ferns. The beauties were often outfitted in bikinis and made-up by visiting sisters or Moms. Points were awarded to troops who finished at the top of each event, and the winning troops got watermelons to celebrate their victory back at their campsite.

As far as the staff was concerned, one of the best parts

(Continued on page 4)

OAA'S FACEBOOK PRESENCE EXPANDS . . . TREMENDOUSLY!

Membership of the OAA Facebook group has exploded in the past few months from just under 200 to 500 as of this writing.

If you haven't joined yet, you can go to the Onteora Alumni Association's Facebook page and become a member so that you can keep up to date on Onteora news and reach out to friends. While you're on Facebook, you can also join the general Facebook group for Onteora Scout Reservation!

We've created a way, using Facebook, to have an ongoing memory page to honor the Legends of Onteora, those who have given so much of themselves to the Land in the Sky. The next time you're on Facebook, you can make a friend request

to "Legendsof Onteora" to access this awesome tribute.

Once you gain access to the page, click the photos tab and then click "See All: Photos" to see the albums that have been created for each Legend of Onteora. Feel free to add a story or memory in the comments sections. If you have any photos you would like to add, please send them to Steve Shull via e-mail at stoner348@aol.com

The OAA's Facebook presence is in addition the OAA group on Yahoo, through which you also can keep up to date on Onteora news and reach out to friends.

VISITORS' SATURDAY...

(Continued from page 3)

of Visitors' Day was the presence of females in camp. Through the 1970s, the only females on the reservation were the nurse and the wives and daughters of the few older married staff, and they were not permitted across the bridge except for Sunday breakfast.

Having teenaged girls in camp was eagerly anticipated by the staff. Staff looked their best and went out their way to be congenial to the elder sisters of the Scouts in camp.

The grand finale of each Saturday was the camp-wide flag ceremony at the Parade Ground, followed by the campfire at the amphitheater. Shortly after dinner, troops would report to their respective dining hall in their Class A uniforms and march down the hill to the Parade Ground. Each troop would try to outdo the others by being the smartest marchers and the loudest chanters of their unit's cadence, while proud families scrambled down the hill at their side.

Troops would form a huge circle around the flag pole, while family and friends would form an outer circle. It was truly an emotional time, when Taps was bugled as the flag was lowered in the rapidly cooling air and setting sun overlooking the lake.

Through the early '60s, the Order of the Arrow Ordeal tap-out was conducted while the troops were gathered in the field. (In 1965 or '66, the OA Ordeal tap-out was shifted to Sunday nights at the program area campfires.)

A group of Indians would approach the field on horseback. Allowat Sakima, the chief of the fire, would take center stage and give a brief explanation of the OA and tap-out that was to occur.

The Indians would begin to run about the inside of the circle to the accompaniment of a tom-tom, grabbing a Scout who was identified as an OA candidate by a fellow OA member holding a sash over the head of the Scout. The Scout would be roughly hauled over to Allowat, who would tap the shoulder of the inductee, again accompanied by a loud thump on the tom-tom.

The OA Ordeal candidates would head back to their site to change into long pants and grab a sleeping bag, canteen, poncho, bit of rope and pocket knife to prepare for the pre-Ordeal ceremony that followed the camp-wide campfire.

The campfire amphitheater was hollowed out of the woods between the parking lot and the lake and made-up of hundreds of split-tree benches. The Scouts and staff would file into the amphitheater first, filling in the front benches, and visitors would take the benches to the sides and rear.

The amphitheater was huge - there must have been somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 people at some of those fires. The stage was at the foot of the hill by the lake, and there were two very large campfires on either side. In my day, Don Wright was renowned for building some of the finest campfires ever seen.

There were lots of fun skits, songs and cheers, mostly led by staffers. Indian lore has always been a big part of the Onteora experience, and there were always a couple of Indian dances towards the end of the campfire that were a highlight of the evening.

A number of staff belonged to Explorer Post 1876, and Jim Shields along with staffers like Bob Voorneveld, Jim Van Tassel, and others held the audience rapt with attention. Charlie Ruiz was among the performers who danced the Flaming Hoop Dance which always brought down the house.

Throughout the night, cheers of Teddy Roosevelt's famous "bully" echoed across the lake and through the surrounding mountains.

The campfire ended with the staff on stage, led in song by our own Ken South. Southie had the staff practicing our songs every night during Staff Week, and every staffer took pride in singing the songs to the very best of his ability, enunciating every syllable.

The songs generally included "The Happy Wanderer," with its chorus of Valderi Valdera, "Tell Me Why," which chokes me up even now as I write these words, "On My Honor," and "Hear Hear Us Cheering," which meant it was time to go home.

Camp Director Ken Heim would come front and center as the staff hummed through a couple verses of "Tell Me Why" and give his famous "Up Here at Onteora" speech. Everyone who was in camp for the day and attended one of these campfires couldn't help but be filled with the true spirit of Scouting and the magic of Onteora Scout Reservation.



LEGENDS OF ONTEORA, 2011

Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes several Scouts and supporters for the outstanding contributions they have made to Onteora. This tradition began in 2002, when Ken Heim, Leland Tuttle, Rick Balla, Dave Barkstedt, and Jim Kent were the initial honorees.

Twelve of our colleagues were selected by the OAA in 2011 to become recognized as Legends of Onteora — Grady Aronstamm, S. Ben Barley, Bob Cancro, Dick Franz, Tom Haldeman, Dick Hunter, Sr., Pete Jacobs, Bob Oldmixon, Sr., Paul Plate, Tom Quick, Russ Rensch, Sr., and Don White.

As of 2011, there are 46 individuals who have been recognized as Legends of Onteora.

Extended biographies of 2011's Legends, as well as biographies of all individuals recognized as Legends of Onteora, are available online via Facebook (see the Facebook article on Page 3 for more information).

(Biographies written by Steve Shull:)

Grady Aronstamm: Grady instilled the Onteora Spirit in the waterfront staff and ensured that the swimming and boating programs were an integral part of the OSR experience. It is fitting that in 2011 Grady became the first "career" waterfront staffer to be honored as a Legend of Onteora.

S. Ben Barley: In 1955, Ben was Chairman of the Nassau County Council Camping Committee and a Council board member. Ben was instrumental in acquiring the land that became Onteora Scout Reservation, and worked with Ken Heim to plan the camp.

Bob Cancro: Bob was a key member of Onteora's summer camp staff throughout the 1960s. He is probably best known for developing Junior Leader Training (JLTC) into one of the premier programs of the camp. He helped establish the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood Ring on Rattle Hill and had a big influence on OA ceremonies.

Dick Franz: Dick Franz was the first in a group of four (Dick Hunter, Sr., Bob Oldmixon, Sr., and Dick Horn being the others) who installed and maintained Onteora's original telephone system and power grid. Dick and his crew spent numerous weeks of their vacations climbing ladders to run the electric lines and then telephones throughout the camp. As the camp grew, these men kept up with all the infrastructure needs.

<u>Past Legends of Onteora</u>			
<u>2002</u> Ken Heim Leland Tuttle Rick Balla Dave Barkstedt Jim Kent	<u>2003</u> Bill Donaghy Glenn Gabbard <u>2004</u> Les Cox	<u>2005</u> Al Ehl Joe Grupp Dick Horn Sturges Shields	<u>2006</u> Eric Anderson Bill Cotter Jimmy Hammond Charlie Ruiz
<u>2007</u> Ralph Foster Jim Shields, Sr. Ken South	<u>2008</u> Rev. Ben Bartel Mark Ryan Steve Shull Chris Wieczkowski	<u>2009</u> Niles Fairbairn Don Heiberg Joe Laratondo Tony Marren Russ Rensch, Jr. Don Smith	<u>2010</u> Tony Joseponis Bob Oldmixon Jr. Bob Pearles Kasper Schei James Van Tassel

Tom Haldeman: Tom was a program maven whom Ralph Foster came to rely on as his representative throughout the camp. He was also a mainstay at the Visitors' Day campfire and brought Indian Lore into the camp program and Native American dances to the campfire. Tom was in many ways the pre-cursor of Explorer Post 1876.

Dick Hunter, Sr.: Dick Hunter, Sr. was instrumental in installing Onteora's telephone and electric systems and keeping them running. He spent weeks of his vacations climbing ladders and affixing miles of wires to trees and poles, and was always on call during the summers should any repairs be required.

Pete Jacobs: Pete Jacobs was a key program staff member of Onteora during the camp's first decade. He worked his way up through the program ranks to become the assistant reservation director in 1964 and 1965. Pete was also the Onteora songmeister before Ken South assumed that role.

Bob Oldmixon, Sr.: Bob Oldmixon, Sr. was one of the trio (with Dick Hunter, Sr., and Dick Franz) who installed and maintained the electric and telephone systems as Onteora was being built. (As Dick Horn went on to join that trio, you can only wonder why Bob wasn't named Dick as well.) These men spent hundreds of hours of vacation and weekends building, extending and maintaining the camp's core infrastructure.

Paul Plate: Paul became the assistant commissary director in 1968 and was commissary director in '70 and '71. He was responsible for supervising an extensive dining

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55TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND...

(Continued from page 1)

the old timers and the many new "Old Onteora" folks we met was a delight. The campfire and the rededication ceremony were truly heartwarming – even though the feet might have been a bit cold," Larry said.

There are some special thank you's that must be said for making the weekend the success that it was. Bill Throop and his reunion committee started working in early 2011 to make sure everyone would enjoy themselves, while Steve Shull assumed his regular role in the kitchen and made sure that everyone ate well.

Larry Starr ran the auction, raising \$800, which together with another \$1,200 raised that weekend will go towards projects to improve the camp.

Howie Kudler put together the evening campfire program, while a special rededication ceremony, produced by Dave Blaushild, brought together three former Buckskin Lodge Chiefs—Bob Cancro, Paul Plate and Tom Reinhart—as all joined in remembering so many good friends and times shared at Onteora.

The mood of the weekend was certainly not lost on Steve Shull.

"The feelings of shared experiences and brotherhood seemed to me to be more intense than at any previous reunion," he said. "The warmth and camaraderie was pervasive and tangible. As we get older, we place greater value on the people and meaning of Onteora and we urgently want to 'pay it forward.' At least that's what I saw and felt."

While the weekend was a success, it was not without some glitches and fortunately, Ranger Glenn Gabbard is always there to save the day.

Saturday morning started with a 911 call to Glenn that the drains in the Health Lodge were backing up.

As Mike Brenner noted, "It looked like Glenn had to dig up half the yard behind the building, but he had the drains flowing in time for showers before dinner."

It was a yeoman's effort and greatly appreciated by one and all—not the least of whom were those who went on Charlie Ruiz's now traditional hike to hell and back, or, at least that's the way it feels as the hills get steeper.

One of the great coups of the weekend was the return of former staffers who had not seen or heard from each other for decades.

"It was an awesome experience to be back on the Reservation again, and to reconnect with so many friends from such a very important period of my life," said Mike Kelly. "To think that 10 weeks ago, I didn't

know that Onteora had reopened, or even that this group existed!"

If you're in the neighborhood, or want make it your business to return to Onteora this fall, the OAA's weekend is set for Sept. 14-16. And if you really want to plan ahead, the upcoming fall fellowship weekends are as follows:

2013: Sept. 20-22 2014: Sept. 19-21

2015: Sept. 11-13

2016: 60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, Sept. 16-18



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE...

on Saturday night and was almost upstaged by a spectacular rising moon. Recognition of the Heritage Legends set the nostalgic mood of the reunion weekend with the solemnity of the OA rededication ceremony bringing the evening to a perfect close.

As Chairman of the OAA, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the superb efforts and contributions during the past year of the executive board members. Working with limited resources, Rick Balla, Brian Issing, William Graham, Gabriel Gluck, Dave Blaushild, Bill Cotter, Anthony Egan and introducing our newest member – Howie Perlman, we accomplished much and kept the OAA moving forward.

Working closely with OSR Camp Director Liane Richardson, we hope to continue to provide support to OSR in the years ahead. We also wish to thank retiring Scout Executive Dave Richardson for all his good works in keeping Theodore Roosevelt Council one of the premier councils in the country and to welcome Jay Garee as he takes over the reins as the new scout executive.

We need your help more than ever this year!

Onteora Service Weekends 2012

May 4-6, 2012 and May 18-20, 2012



Please join us for all or part of one or both of our scheduled pre-camp Work Weekends :
May 4-6, 2012 and May 18-20, 2012

There are many important projects to do at camp and our dollars can go a lot further buying materials & supplies if we have dedicated volunteers to provide the labor and skills! If you (and friends and family members) have carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, roofing, painting, floor installation, tree cutting, or auto mechanic skills, we can certainly put them to good use. We also need "strong backs" to move, clean, and dig. Please RSVP as early as possible (but preferably no later than the Monday before the weekend) so we can help plan meals & projects in advance and are sure to have the necessary materials & tools on hand so you're ready to go.

We need your help to get a lot accomplished before the start of the summer camp season. It takes lots of hands, backs, hearts and minds to get a lot done, so when the camp staff arrives they can focus on finishing touches, setting up tents and cots, and polishing the program. Please join us if you can on one or both Service Weekends. Come early on Friday (bring a bag lunch for the day and join us for a "pay on your own" dinner out) if you can, and help set stuff up, and work a full day on Saturday, and into Sunday if that's possible for you. We provide meals from a snack Friday night to breakfast on Sunday. Join us for a great weekend of fellowship and service!

In the Spirit of Onteora, Rick Balla

What You Need To Bring

Personal gear for overnight "camping" on work weekends, work gloves, tools to help with projects (if you have them), and an appetite for good food and fellowship. The Health Lodge (which is heated) will be available for sleeping.

The Project List

Projects for 2012 can be found at the TRC BSA website at www.trcbsa.org/OAA and the website maintained by Bill Cotter www.billcotter.com/onteora/ or by contacting Rick Balla. Follow us on Facebook: In the Facebook search bar, type "Onteora Scout Reservation" and "Onteora Alumni Association" and request to join today.

RSVP/Need More Information??

Help us by registering by the Monday before the weekend. If you have questions or for last minute registration, please call Rick Balla at 516-678-0032 (please no calls after 9:30 pm) at rpb11570@yahoo.com or at 91South Lewis Place, Rockville Centre NY 11570.

Please bring a completed Annual Health & Medical Record, see <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf> (complete sections A & B (i.e., a doctor's signature is *not* required))

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail:

_____@_____.

Phone: () _____ - _____ home

() _____ - _____ business

I can bring the following tools:

I'll be there with _____ persons and plan to attend on (check all that apply)

___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 May 2012

___ 18 ___ 19 ___ 20 May 2012

Include me/us for Breakfast on:

Sat. ___ ; Sun ___

Sat. ___ ; Sun ___

Please Sign Me (Us) Up for (list project or projects):

Note: These weekends are intended for adults (ages 18 and up) and for past, present or prospective camp staff members (including those under the age of 18). Scouts under the age of 18 may attend under the supervision of an adult to assist in carrying out approved projects. These weekends are NOT intended as troop events – if you want to schedule a separate service day or weekend for your troop, this can be arranged by contacting Rick Balla or the Council Service Center.

Mail or Fax to: OSR Service Weekends RSVP c/o Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA - 544 Broadway - Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone 516.797.7600 Fax 516.797.9765

(This form was last updated on January 4, 2012)

GROUP PHOTO - THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI WEEKEND!



ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION — LAND IN THE SKY

ONTEORA
55th ANNIVERSARY
ALUMNI BANQUET
16-18 SEPTEMBER
 2011

RICK BALLA	Ralph Martinez
ED PAPPROCKI	Bob Morse
CARLOS KOBE	MIKE BARNER
Dan Talright	EUGENE MESMER
Jim Van Tassel	PAUL CLAWKE
Dave Grace	PAUL L PLATE
Paul Beth McDonald-Grace	MIKE DERMIE KELLY
Hunter Grace	Brian Messmer
Bob Wilson	Les Cox
ERIL PANETTA	ERIC ANDERSON
Brian Run	Russell Haab
CHARLES RUIZ	CHRIS CANCRO
Clubs Bennett	Bob CANCRO
JEFF BALM	LIUHC SVETC
HUJE KUSLER	AL FUCHS
JOHN PASCARI	FRED THORNLEY
Diane Kuttel	LARRY BRUSSELL
Dave Blomquist	Steven Nerfi
HOWARD KACANAN	DOUG DAVIS
JOHN STEINMULLER	'REV' Billy Graham
Brian D. Issing	Salvatore Ciampo
GARY WILSON	Lina Glenn Grubel
Bruce Bauer	Conor P. Closs
DAVID RICHARDSON	JOE PEZZINO
TRACY DIQUARDI	Gabe Gluck
Bill Throop	Liane Richardson
Cady Slue	Clm Grubel
Larry Slue	George Carlin
Yasushi Takeeda	EMERSON
Phil Caroncin	
RUSS RENSCH	



Membership Application



Highlights! Rolling Dues year, pay by credit card, campership fund...
 - "Rolling Dues Year" - pay your dues for a one year period starting when your payment is received (like a magazine subscription).
 - Pay by credit card and make monthly, quarterly, bi-annual or yearly payment(s).
 - Give specifically on the campership line to help send a needy Scout to Onteora.
 - Stretch your gift by taking advantage of employer matching gifts (if applicable).

The Onteora Alumni Association was established in 2001. It promotes the aims and methods of Boy Scout Camping through support of Onteora Scout Reservation by:

- Financial support to the camp endowment for programs and capital projects administered by the Theodore Roosevelt Council, BSA.
- Participation of members in camp work weekends to improve camp facilities and programs
- Providing social opportunities for members, who are former campers, Scouters, parents, staff, and individuals who support the operations and traditions of Onteora Scout Reservation.

Membership Categories	Dues	Membership Categories	Dues
Individual - Basic (under 21 years of age)	\$ 10	Individual - Basic (21 plus years of age)	\$ 30
Individual - Silver	\$ 50	Individual - Gold	\$ 100
Individual - Platinum	\$ 200	Millennium Member – Onteora Millennium Society	\$1,000
Individual - Life (payable over 4 years)	\$2,000	Corporate	\$ 100

-All paid members receive an annual commemorative patch. Join at the \$100 level and above to also receive an annual commemorative neckerchief. Millennium or Life memberships may be paid over 2 or 4 years, respectively.
 -Following the full contribution of \$1000 towards a Millennium or Life membership, you can be recognized as a Council J.E. West Fellow.
 -The Onteora Alumni Association awards at least one academic or vocational scholarship a year to a current OSR staff member. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please include the amount in the form below.

 Cut here and enclose with dues.

Name: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Address: _____

Occupation/Expertise _____ **Phone:** () _____ - _____ **home**
 (circle one) **Youth(11-20) or Adult (21+)** () _____ - _____ **business**

Membership Category Requested: _____

Please check here if this is a new or an installment towards an OSR Millennium Membership _____ or life membership _____

Please enclose address changes with dues remittance.
 Make checks payable to: *Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA*
 Account# 1-2306-943-00
 OAA Membership

Dues Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
OSR Staff Scholarship Fund Donation: \$ _____
Campership Contribution towards our \$3,000 annual goal: \$ _____
I'm already a life member _____; here's an annual contribution \$ _____

New: Contribution to Annual OSR Maintenance Fund ("Ranger's Fund"): \$ _____
Contribution to OAA endowment or capital campaign(s) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed/Contributed: \$ _____

Credit Card (circle): MC VISA DISCOVER AMEX

Credit Card No.: _____ **Sec. Code:** _____ **Signature:** _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

For Credit Card Payments	
Total Contribution	\$
Payment	\$
Balance Due	\$

For Credit Card Payments	
Number of Payments (Check One)	Start Month (Circle One)
Bill One Time	January February March
Bill Two Times	April May June
Bill Quarterly	July August September
Bill Monthly	October November December

TRC Office Fax: 516-797-9765

My employer makes matching gifts _____
 Please list any special skills, abilities or contributions you can make to Onteora on the reverse of this form. Mail to:
Onteora Alumni Association c/o Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA – 544 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758 (516) 797-7600

LIANE RICHARDSON . . .

(Continued from page 2)

her seven Scouts shared the Geronimo campsite with another troop.

“That arrangement continued for the next 10 summers because neither of us had enough adult coverage,” Richardson said.

If there is a downside to being camp director, it is that “you don’t get to interact with the youth as much.”

“I miss that,” she said. But on balance, serving as camp director is “an honor and privilege,” she said.

“To not only to be a part of the future, but to be part of the past, of being a camp director and following in the footsteps of many great camp directors. I have a great respect for those who volunteered from ’98 to ’02, not only giving of their time, but their families’ time.”

And now that she is part of that legacy, she wants to make sure that OSR is around for far more than another 55 years.

The view from the parade field, looking out over Orchard Lake, is one of her favorites, as is a spot not too far from the dam, where she did her Vigil Honor.

“It was a moonless, starlit night; it could not have been any more beautiful,” said Richardson, who was given the name, Manetu Mpi Tachaunke, meaning “Spirit of Water and Mountains.”

She is looking forward to the 2012 summer camp season, with plans to include a canoe trip through the Adirondacks in Week Six and a possible arrangement with a nearby camp to offer horseback riding so that scouts can get their horseback riding merit badge.

When Richardson is not working at Onteora, she is an adjunct instructor at Finger Lakes Commu-

nity College, where she teaches Health, Red Cross RTE First Aid, and Beginning Swimming.

Wherever she is, thoughts of how to improve the summer camp experience are always percolating.

She would like to see the Council House re-opened, although not necessarily as a dining hall.

“I honestly don’t know that we’re going to get the interest in Scouting that we once had, that we would need a second dining hall. But I would like to see the Council House revitalized, if not as a dining hall, then perhaps as a training center,” she said.

Even if there are not enough campers to sustain a second dining hall, heater stacks are no longer an option under current health codes.

“Food must be delivered at the same temperature as it leaves the oven and that would be a challenge when

you’re going from the Long House to Sioux,” she said.

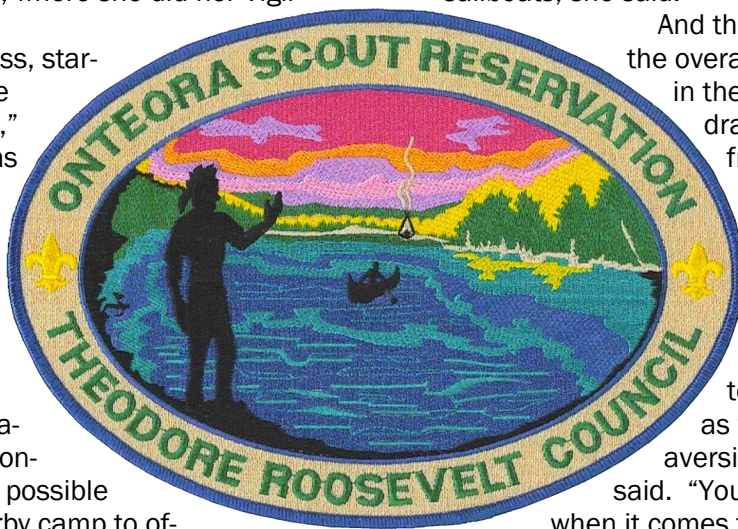
When it comes to improving health services, Onteora could use a Gator-type vehicle that could better help the health officer get all over camp, she said.

While the waterfront is in good shape as far as canoes and rowboats, it could use another one or two sailboats, she said.

And then there is the question of the overall experience at the Land in the Sky. As some troops are drawn to camps with more frills, there is always the challenge to find that balance at Onteora.

“It would be nice to have three or four spots in camp, centrally located, with flush toilets to accommodate the adults, as well as youth, who have an aversion to pit latrines,” she

said. “You’re betwixt and between when it comes to amenities. Units that have been faithful to Onteora have an appreciation for the rustiness and the beauty that has been given to us.”





Onteora Scout Reservation & Onteora Alumni Association

Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America

2012 Onteora Family, Friends and Alumni CAMPING WEEKEND APPLICATION

July 6-8, 2012 - Onteora Scout Reservation, Livingston Manor NY

Check-in Friday after 6pm and before 9pm, or after 9am on Saturday. Check-out Sunday by 10 am.

Registration Deadline: No later than Tuesday, July 2, 2012

Please note:

-A **completed Annual Health & Medical Record** (see: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf>) **is required at check-in.** This includes Sections A & B (note: doctor's signature is *not* required).

-All meals provided by camp; we do not want any food in campsites as it attracts unwelcome and dangerous wildlife.

-Cars must be left in the parking lot by the Administration Center; the camp staff will transport your gear to and from your campsite.

-Campsites will be assigned; 9'x9' wall tents and cots will be provided. Some campsites may have one or more lean-tos.

-Weather permitting, the rifle and archery ranges will be open from 9:30-11 am on Saturday. You must be 12 or older to use a rifle and 14 or older to use a shotgun in New York State.

- Weather permitting, the waterfront will be open 2-4pm on Saturday. Anyone wishing to go boating will be required to take a swimming ability test administered by the waterfront staff.

-Camp office telephone: 845-439-5239; Other Questions? Contact Rick Balla at 516-678-0032 or rpb11570@yahoo.com

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Participant 12 years and older (\$35.00) Includes camp activities, tent/cot, 3 meals Saturday& breakfast Sunday

Participant under 12 years old (\$25.00) Includes camp activities, tent/cot, 3 meals Saturday& breakfast Sunday

Special Food – A note stating restrictions must accompany this form and be received by the council office by **July 2, 2012**

Please enclose a check for the appropriate amount, makes check payable and mail to:

Theodore Roosevelt Council, BSA; 544 Broadway; Massapequa, NY 11758-5010

PLEASE NOTE: It is the Council policy that anyone (youth or adult) leaving camp ***MUST SIGN OUT*** before leaving camp and sign in again upon return.

The Theodore Roosevelt Council, BSA standard refund policy is in effect for this activity.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Onteora Scout Reservation will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at their activities. Please call the council service center (516-797-7600) with your request.

Provide the following info for each participant; to be filled out by parent or guardian for minors. Please print in INK

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Sex _____

(For minors) Name of Parent or Guardian _____ Telephone _____

If person named above is not available in the event of an emergency, notify

Name _____ Relationship _____ Telephone _____

Name of personal physician _____ Telephone _____

PARENTAL STATEMENT: To the best of my knowledge, this information is accurate and complete, I the undersigned parent of above named minor, do hereby authorize the adult leadership, as my agent(s) to consent to any diagnostic procedures or medical care which is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any licensed physician and/or surgeon at 1) Catskill Regional Medical Center – Harris, NY or: 2) Crystal Run Urgent Care Center – Middle Town, New York, when such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at said hospital or doctor's offices. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific need for treatment but is given to provide authority on the part of the aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment, or hospital/office care which the physician in the exercise of his or her best judgement may deem advisable. This authorization shall remain in effect until one year after the signed date below, unless sooner we deliver to said agent(s).

Date _____ Signature of parent/guardian or adult _____

THE PROJECTS KEEP COMING/THE OAA KEEPS GIVING...

With the Onteora Alumni Association now going into its 10th year, we will be proudly working to enhance Onteora's programs and facilities beyond our significant accomplishments over the past decade.

In 2011, the OAA achieved many fundraising and project goals.

Last year, more than \$6,400 was provided for a staff-housing unit to upgrade accommodations for summer staff. In addition, more than \$1,600 in camperships was distributed to enable scouts to attend summer camp at Onteora.

Since 2008, the OAA has raised more than \$1,600 annually to help Scouts attend Onteora for summer camp. And since 2004, the OAA has awarded a \$500 scholarship to a deserving staffer to help with college expenses. The member of the 2011 Onteora staff who earned the OAA's annual \$500 scholarship was Michael Dioguardi, who in the summer of 2011 served as a commissioner.



Also in 2011, \$250 was allocated for the purchase of blacksmith forge foundry implements for use at The Glaize program area. For many years, The Glaize has offered blacksmith programs to Scouts, and this purchase will enhance the ability of the staff of The Glaize to educate Scouts in the fine craft of blacksmithing.

Going into 2012, the OAA executive board has agreed to contribute \$5,000 toward the construction of a Scoutmaster center to be located close to the Long House near the flagpole by the door. Another \$2,000 was set aside to purchase old telephone poles to be used to rehabilitate the Power Line trail.

Over the past decade, the OAA has funded nearly \$84,000 in projects and acquisitions for the camp, ranging from kayaks and rowboats to a bucket truck. During this time, the OAA's Endowment Fund has grown to more than \$113,000, so that it now provides an additional source of revenue to help the camp.

With nearly every penny of OAA dues being used to help the camp, other projects in recent years have included a new stage and audio system at the Ken Heim Council Ring, a craft lodge, a weather station, and a latrine at the waterfront – which was needed so that the camp could maintain compliance with state health codes.

In addition to the ongoing fundraising, members of the OAA continue to volunteer for the Spring weekends to help make needed repairs and help get camp ready for the summer.

Thanks for a decade of great spirit, and we're looking forward to all the good times and good efforts ahead.





The Onteora Alumni Association 56th Anniversary Fall Reunion Weekend September 14-16, 2012

The Annual OAA Fall Weekend, this year celebrating 56 years of camping at Onteora, will soon be here. Come hang out, camp out, hike and re-explore our home away from home. The registration fee includes meals (dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch, & dinner on Saturday, and a light breakfast and lunch on Sunday) & a patch for those who register by August 14, 2012. And yes, we will have an OSR campfire Saturday evening. If you're in the mood to perhaps help with some trail maintenance as you hike along a portion of the Red Trail, bring work gloves and a bow saw/loppers (if you have them) – but this is strictly voluntary. **New:** For those who have attended past fall weekends, just a reminder that the weekend registration fee now includes dinner Friday night, served from 6:30-8pm at the Long House. Register by August 14th and take advantage of the early bird registration fee.

Housing options include camp sites (bring your own tent), lean-tos (we can provide cots), and bunks in the Health Lodge (access to toilet, shower & electricity) as well as limited private rooms in the Health Lodge & the Admin Building (intended for those attending with a spouse or under 18 year old child who needs to stay in a building). Even RVs can be accommodated. We will attempt to honor all timely submitted requests. Information on lodging options outside of camp will be posted on Facebook & websites (see next paragraph).

Stay on top of who is coming & what is happening & other information: Follow us on Facebook - In the Facebook search bar, type "Onteora Scout Reservation" and "Onteora Alumni Association" and request to join. And don't forget to keep watching the TRC web page: <http://www.trcbsa.org/OAA/> and <http://www.billcotter.com/onteoara/>

Any income in excess of expenses from this weekend will be used by the Onteora Alumni Association to support projects at camp. The Registration Deadline is Friday September 7, 2012. After that date, please contact Rick Balla (rpb11570@yahoo.com & 516-678-0032) to find out if there is still room.

Bring a completed Annual Health & Medical Record, see: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf> (you need only complete Section A & B of the record (i.e., no doctor's signature is required))

----- cut here -----
Registrations received by August 14, 2012: I am registering ___ person(s) 22 years old or younger @ \$20.00 each and ___ persons over 22 years old @ \$40 each, so I have enclosed \$ _____.

Registrations received after August 14, 2012: I am registering ___ person(s) 22 years old or younger @ \$25.00 each and ___ persons over 22 years old @ \$50 each, so I have enclosed \$ _____.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone Number(s) _____

E-Mail (please write *especially* legibly) _____

Housing Request: ___ cot in the Health Lodge; ___ campsite lean-to (cot NOT requested) ; ___ campsite lean-to (cot requested); ___ my own tent; ___ my own RV; ___ private room in the Health Lodge or Admin

Return this information with your payment (checks made payable to Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA)

We accept: VISA / MC / AMERICAN EXPRESS/ DISCOVER
(circle card type)

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to :
Onteora Alumni Association
Attention: 2011 Fall Weekend
TRC- BSA
544 Broadway
Massapequa, NY 11758
FAX: 516-797-9765

LEGENDS OF ONTEORA . . .

(Continued from page 5)

operation, as in those days, commissary consisted of two kitchens, two country stores, the bakery, and a central commissary staff that provisioned all of the above plus special programs (JLTC, canoe trips, Alder Lake and offsite hikes).

Tom Quick: Tom cleared and built the roads in the camp and had a hand in construction of all of Onteora's original buildings - kitchens, dining halls and program shelters. Quick Pond on Hunter Road is named for his family, who were pioneers of the Catskills region. Mr. Heim named the first site in the camp — directly below the ranger's residence — in honor of Tom Quick. This is the site that was used by the canoe trips.

Russ Rensch, Sr.: Russ Rensch, Sr. was perhaps the most influential and respected Scoutmaster who ever

has or ever will pass through Onteora's front gate. Over the objection of all the experts at Council, he insisted that winter camping would be worth pursuing and well attended. Operation Igloo (today Bluenose) was his brainchild and he made it one of the annual highlights of every troop's camping calendar.

Don White: Don White was Onteora's program director for three years, although his impact on the program and the staff was and is far out of proportion to the short time he spent on staff. Those who worked for him consider him to be one of the father's of the Onteora spirit, and he deeply influenced all the program staff of the early 1960s. In addition, he introduced the canoe trips to the OSR program.

OAA 10TH ANNIVERSARY FLASHBACK: LEGACY STORY FROM THE ONTEORA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2001

WELCOME HOME!

We are glad so many of you could join us for the first "official" ONTEORA Reunion Weekend. You have become part of "OSR History in the Making," an adventure that began forty-five years ago when the Nassau County Council first purchased this land in the sky.

It was an adventure that some thought had ended in 1991, when the OSR summer program was closed due to declining camp attendance, Scout enrollment and Council funds.

Some intrepid Scouters never gave up—their troops continued to camp over summer weeks and winter weekends, introducing new generations of Scouts to the magic that is ONTEORA.

With the blessings and support of the Theodore Roosevelt Council, an amazing team of volunteers (OSR alumni & friends) came together four years ago to reopen our summer camp. And for the 4th consecutive year, ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION has been recognized as a fully accredited camp by the Boy Scouts of America. A visitation team of volunteer Scouters from five area Councils and a representative of the Boy Scouts Regional Office rigorously surveyed the camp facilities and programs, and measured them against over 100 written standards. We passed on each and every one!

As you tour the Admin Building, take note of the pennants proudly displayed—ONTEORA Buckskin Camp consistently achieved an A rating, garnering incredible praise from the visitation team.

"Outstanding" and "Excellent" were common words used by the team to describe the camp's staff, programs, and the experience campers were having in the various program areas. The team remarked that ONTEORA offers the "best program we have ever seen in the Northeast Region."

Camp Commissioner Dave Barkstedt stressed that an important part of the process of reopening the camp has been the volunteer staff. "We have been very fortunate to have people who staffed OSR summer camp years ago return from around the country to staff again!" Camp Director Jim Kent adds: "Our success as a camp is due to teamwork among the staff, troops, and all the others who made this work."

The adventure continues thanks to the support of interested Scouts and Scouters throughout Nassau County—and beyond, as attested to by your attendance this weekend!

More than 10 years later, the Alumni Association continues to honor Onteora's legacy and empower its future through endeavoring to make our home the best it can possibly be. Thanks for the many memories, and looking forward to many more.

**ONTEORA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
Theodore Roosevelt
Council
Boy Scouts of America
544 Broadway
Massapequa, NY 11758

**If undeliverable,
please return to:
91 S. Lewis Place,
Rockville Centre, NY
11570**

Membership Status: Expired _____

Current Thru: _____

Join the OAA: _____



**ONTEORA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

Theodore Roosevelt Council
Boy Scouts of America

544 Broadway
Massapequa, NY 11758

Phone: 516.797.7600

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trcbsa.org/OAA/index.htm

BONUS FACTS:

- The name "Onteora" was chosen as a result of a naming contest, won by a Scout who had researched the lore of the Catskill Mountains region, according to Les Cox.

- The series of OSR summer camp patches from 1959 to 1965, which featured a teepee in the center of each patch along with the year of the camping season, was revived in 1998 and was used through 2004 for summer camp. In a way, the revival of the patch series in 1998 symbolically represented the fact that Onteora again became a fully-accredited BSA summer camp in that year.

- The current Onteora Scout Reservation Staff Class B uniform, a blue shirt featuring a logo similar to the one to the right, was based on the Staff Class B predominantly

worn during the Volunteer Years from 1998 to 2002. In 2003, many Class B's were misprinted with the Native American facing rightward.

- The 1957 Onteora map indicates a campsite called "Apache." By the early 1960's, this campsite became known as "Adoette."

- Ken Heim, who served as OSR's reservation director through the great majority of the '60s until 1969, was known by many as "The Boss," in recognition of his ardent dedication to Onteora and its core mission of enabling Scouts to have memorable fun while becoming stronger leaders and more capable individuals. Onteora's current main campfire ring is named in his honor.

