

ONTEORA-
Land in
the Sky

ONTEORA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2001

**IT'S HERE!
AFTER ONLY 45 YEARS
IN THE MAKING!**

**ANNOUNCING:
THE ONTEORA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

designed to aid in the advancement of the aims & methods of the BSA by supporting OSR.

The "Association" will:

*provide funds for capital improvements & maintenance projects for OSR

*support the development of an endowment for OSR, administered by the TR Council, which principal will be maintained in perpetuity & interest will support capital improvements & maintenance projects at OSR

*encourage Association member participation in work days & other activities to maintain & improve OSR;

*provide social opportunities for Association members.

Membership is open to all who are interested in supporting the Purposes of the Association, whether actual alumni of OSR or not.

Membership Type:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Individual | \$ 25 |
| Individual Silver | \$ 50 |
| Individual Gold | \$ 100 |
| Individual Platinum | \$ 200 |
| Business | \$ 100 |

Join today!

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 impor-

tant 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!

WELCOME HOME!

This year be a part of the OSR Beaver Brigade



ONTEORA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



THE ONTEORA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

FAUN GUARINO, editor

Send news & notes to:
Fguarino@pobox.com

ONTEORA- LAND IN THE SKY

WELCOME HOME!

Catch us on the Web
WWW.TRCBSA.ORG
WWW.OSRCAMP.COM

CAMP ONTEORA YEAR-ROUND!
Scouts enjoy Summer camp & Bluenose (our winter encampment). July's Family Camping Weekend is our newest addition!

Willing to work? Two "Beaver Weekends" are scheduled for April and May 2002, and another is likely for July 2002.

The Camp Wish List for 2002 includes:

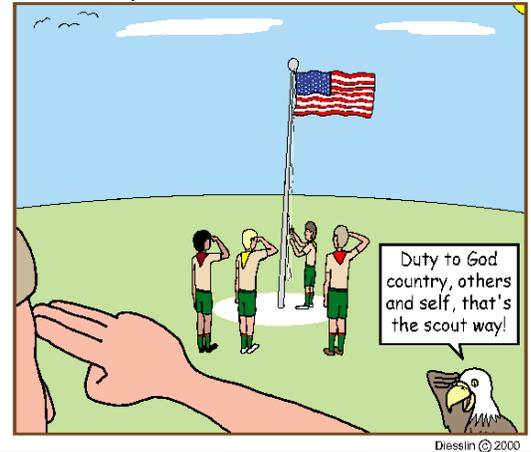
- *Replace TR Shelter
- *Replace Dan Beard Shelter
- *Replace Otter Shelter
- *7 additional Leader lean-tos (in campsites)
- *New kitchen for the long house
- *Climbing tower
- *10 dock sections
- *Replace Black Beaver latrine
- *New latrine at swimming

Check out www.osrcamp.com as well as the Council website for projects, descriptions, wish lists & Beaver Weekend registration forms & details.

The Star Spangled Banner - 4th Verse

O! thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their lov'd home, and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just.
And this be our motto - "In God is our Trust";
And the star spangled banner, in triumph shall wave,
O'er the Land of the free, and the home of the brave!

Knots LAW: Loyal



Reprinted with permission of Rich Diesslin 2001©
Second in a series celebrating the Scout Law.

We want to thank everyone for taking time away from your families and jobs to reunite with your friends at this very special place. The tragedy inflicted on our nation has served to unite many. Patriotism and prayer has returned to them. It never left us. For that we owe thanks to our families & scoutmasters who instilled in us the scout oath & law.

NEWS & NOTES FROM OSR 2001

This summer OSR welcomed home 481 Scouts and 127 Scouters from 36 troops, in addition to the 115 volunteer staffers who gave all or part of 3 weeks to ready the camp. (Bully to Order of the Arrow members for their phenomenal work weekend!)

When OSR reopened in 1998, 80 volunteer staffers welcomed 150 scouts from 14 units.

Even more important than the growing support and attendance is our staff development. The CIT program over the past four years has concentrated on training 16-21 year old staff members, the majority of whom now have 2-4 years experience working in camp program areas.

By 2003, when our full-summer camp program reopens, we will have many 21-year-old senior staff with 5 years of OSR staff experience! These male and female scouts are being prepared to take over for the core of adult volunteers who have spent the past four years training their replace-

ments while they serve as counselors for the campers!

By the way, this year's staff counseled campers to a record 1,225 merit badges (with 300 partials)!

MORE NEWS & NOTES FROM OSR 2001

And the awards continue!

Campers also earned:

- 2 Mile Swims
- 4 BSA Life Guards
- 11 BSA Snorkeling
- 12 Totem Chit's
- 14 Fire Chit's
- 3 Paul Bunyons
- 6 Scoutmaster (unofficial) Merit Badges
- 85 Box Burning "Merit" Badges—More of OSR History in the Making here—OSR is the only place Scouts can earn this Unofficial Merit Badge!)

In addition, those campers who didn't lean on the ropes got to fire:

- 5,439 22 Caliber Rounds
- 581 12 Gauge Rounds
- 650 20 Gauge Rounds