

# CAMP READ ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

## Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation

Spring 2004

For the friends of Camp Read

### President

Peter Oberdorf (518) 494-3366

### President Elect

Denis Pisanello (914) 737-7485

### VP Membership Records

Rich Okrasinski (914) 674-4425

### VP Activities/Program

Jim Smith (732) 892-1805

### VP Communications

Tom Chlupsa (860) 228-9805

### Secretary

Tom Teel (908) 412-9157

### Treasurer

Bill Daley (914) 528-7413

### Historian

Steve Sudak (914) 674-2055

### Board Advisor

Bob Newton (518) 494-5474

### Era Chairman – 1940's

Bob Johnson (845) 425-1931

### Era Chairmen – 1950's

Rusty Borner (616) 281-3700

Mike Venuti (802) 288-9610

### Era Chairmen – 1960's

Wayne Douchkoff (941) 755-3512

Rich Lutomski (914) 384-6577

### Era Chairmen – 1970's

Ed D'Apice (845) 528-4043

Steve Sudak (914) 674-2055

### Era Chairmen – 1980's

Tim Haag (203) 393-3463

Matt Terribile (919) 848-3606

### Era Chairman – 1990's

Tom Chlupsa (860) 228-9805

### Era Chairman-2000's

How about you?

### Members at Large

Ken D'Apice (631) 924-7000

Chris Fearon (315) 482-2013

Ron Green (609) 466-8448

### Past Presidents

Tom Dietz (845) 628-4369

Tom Hunter (914) 962-6372

### Founding Father

Joseph R. Cooke

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Campers:

Our most exciting news concerns the energy and enthusiasm that is building for the upcoming Sixth Camp Read Reunion. Just imagine that, a Sixth Reunion! Co-Chaired by Frank Graessle and Mike Venuti, planning is underway for a most exciting event for the entire family. Details and registration information are enclosed. We hope to see you all there!

The Guidebook to Camp memorials and tributes is nearing completion under the excellent guidance of Ed D'Apice, with assistance from Bill Daley and others. John Farley is spearheading a new project to collect and publish stories of the history of Camp Read, with major assistance from Chris Fearon, our former historian, and Steve Sudak, our current historian and archivist.

It is certainly impressive that this Association, (which had its original genesis twenty five years ago at the successful First Reunion in 1979, but did not come into formation as an active Association until after the Third Reunion in 1989), has survived and prospered. This is surely a tribute to the loyalty and hard work of the members of the Board over the last fifteen years (especially Rich Okrasinski with the roster, Tom Teel and Ed D'Apice with the minutes, and Bill Daley as Treasurer), as well as to the loyalty of the dues paying members of the Association.

It is with both some sadness and some joy that I address this, my last letter, to you all as the Association's third President:

Joy that I have at least adequately wended my way through my five-year stint as President, without too much agony for you or for me, and that I can pass on the baton [or, more precisely the Tom Dietz gavel] of responsibility into the most capable hands of Denis Pisanello, our President-elect.

Sadness that one of the main issues that has confronted us, both as a Board and as an Association, continues to plague us. To wit, our seeming inability to interest or encourage younger folks in becoming more active participants in the management of the Association.

While we have a most diverse group in terms of eras, from Chris Fearon and Bob Johnson from the Forties to Tim Haag in the Nineties, we are in short supply for active participants from the late Eighties, Nineties and the 00's. We regard this group as the future of the organization!

We have reached out... we have communicated [Tom Hunter and Bill Daley's excellent Newsletters, Dave Miller and Mark Sikora on the Web pages]... we have changed our name...all in an effort to broaden our base and the appeal of the Association. This then shall continue to be a challenge for the new team, under Denis' leadership, that will take over this July for the next five years.

And so I bid adieu as your President, and shall most willingly join the ranks of Tom Dietz and Tom Hunter, our past presidents, in offering my continuing services to Denis during his term as our next President.

Yours in Scouting,

## SPECIAL PRE-REUNION ISSUE

July 2nd, 3rd & 4th

*Check out the flyer insert for all the details!*

## The Adventure Continues .....

The trails were old, worn and covered with new growth. Our mission was to follow partially hidden forest traverses of ages past. One such path was the "Rile Bee-Line." It had been many moons since any of our group had ventured on this route. A challenging adventure was all the motivation needed to push into action our small contingent, comprising of Chief Hunteto, Tomto, Teheco, Ronway Greentree, and our new trusty guide, Trailblazer Bill.

Teheco ensured the group was well stocked with provisions, and after a hearty breakfast we advanced to the trailhead by the overflow of Roger's Lake. The day was still, the temperature moderate for late-September, and the wildlife abundant (a total of 27 Red Eft sightings were recorded). The group made fine progress for the first part of their journey through the Gap, and out to Whortleberry Pond.

The water level at Whortleberry was typically diminished for that time of year. The adventurous part of the group decided to tempt fate and accept the challenge of the low water trail at the west end of the pond. A string of ancient fallen logs outlined the path over the water. By taking this way the group could save some time, but more importantly, enable us to reach our lunch spot at the opposite end of the lake ten minutes sooner. The way looked deceptively easy. At about the halfway mark the Chief discovered that the surface of the old waterlogged wood was very, very slippery. A false step would mean ending up in mud and gunk to the knees. Fortunately the nimble trio made it across unscathed, in part due to senses sharpened by the clean Adirondack air.



Tomto, Chief Hunteto, Teheco & Ronway at Doc's old tent site

After lunch, with full bellies, and weary calves rested, our next objective was a side-trip to the shores of Pharaoh Lake. After a brief stay at Pharaoh we negotiated around the swamps at the east end of Whortleberry and reached the old D prime campsite. D' was the site where Doc Rile's Wyandotte troop would always camp. A remnant of Doc's jetty was still visible. Doc would have Scouts throw stones on the jetty leading out to the lake, as a form of mild punishment. This natural dock was very substantial in the early 70's when, as Doc's assistant SM, I would often swim off of it. We all gathered at Doc's tent site and thought fondly about this Read pioneer.

Up till now the trail had been moderate and relatively straightforward to follow. We easily found the beginning of the "Rile B-line" located about halfway around the south end of the pond. Trailblazer Bill and Tomto started to orient their map and take compass points over the right shoulder of Mt. Stevens. Of course we all anticipated that a compass wouldn't be necessary to actually find Camp; but just in case.....

As remembered the trail started as a steady climb up the hillside that banked the small lake. The ascent led over moss carpeted streambeds and through a Beech/Maple climax forest. At about the halfway point we stopped for a quick breather. Tomto unknowingly leaned up against a dead tree. Within seconds the upper third of the tree came crashing straight down, missing Tomto by inches. The rest of us stood awestruck counting our good fortunes that no one was injured. Soon after this near-miss our luck ran out.

We traveled for perhaps another hundred yards and encountered the first of a long series of blow downs and deadfalls. We would maneuver around one set of fallen trees, briefly regain the trail, only to befall an even more extensive string of woody obstacles. They were everywhere, and we then realized that the trail was permanently lost to us. Which way to go? Luckily Trailblazer Bill knew the compass heading to follow that would successfully guide us back to Camp. The only problem was this heading went straight up steep slippery slopes, through very dense undergrowth.

Teheco kept insisting that we should go to our right on a flatter contour, and gradually work our way around the uphill sections. The majority of the group wanted to follow the pre-determined compass heading. In hindsight Teheco's suggestion was probably the more correct and certainly easier path.

As a united group we ultimately headed to our left up the steep bramble laden nearly impenetrable corridor. Our footfalls were obscured and balance precarious. At one point, by the edge of a particularly steep section, Teheco lost his balance. Instead of falling he did a delicate ballet type pirouette, completing a full 360-degree turn, and avoided falling down the hill. This was a graceful effective maneuver and quite a spectacle to witness.

Not only was the way congested with assorted vines and pricker bushes but also blocked by more large fallen logs. At one of these encumbrances Trailblazer Bill ripped open his loincloth, leaving no doubt to the imagination what color undercloth he was wearing. As always, good-natured T-Bill took this in stride and was the first to joke about it.

“Trailblazer” Bill on Mount Stevens.



(The picture had to be cropped above the waist)

The upward climb finally eased a bit as we reached a ridge that followed the desired compass heading. After another 20 minutes on this ridge we started to get amazing views of Brant Lake’s Horicon Valley. It was then evident that we were finally on the Southwest ridge of Mt. Stevens. The fantastic views started coming up at every turn and it was just a matter of time till we hit the Steven’s Yellow Trail. At the Yellow Trail junction it was estimated that we were at least three quarters of the way up the mountain.

I can’t say how the rest of the braves felt, but my major concerns were feet and ankles hurting from all the tortuous twists they had experienced over the last couple of hours. The trail down the mountain was quick but painful. By now we were already late for a dinner at the “Big Chicken” with Ranger Bob, so proper time management was essential. I wish I could tell the reader that it was smooth going at this point, but unfortunately I can’t.

Here’s the kicker! We were in a hurry but had made earlier arrangements to have a mode of transport waiting for us at the Summit parking area when we came down off of the Mountain. Earlier that day we had parked Ronway Greentree’s car (I know, back to the real world) up in the Summit parking lot, and took Teheco’s car down to Rodger’s Lake to start our journey. Exhausted from our arduous adventure Ronway’s car was to be a welcome sight. Unfortunately, prior to our hike, Ronway left all his valuables, including car keys, in Teheco’s vehicle. Only when Ronway reached for the keys as we were descending, did he realize his faux pas and started laughing to himself. Luckily, like the Energizer Bunny, Ronway can go all day and still keep going. He cheerfully hit the mile plus road to the Buckskin Waterfront and retrieved his keys as well as the other vehicle. Young Trailblazer Bill kept him good company on his journey. Meanwhile back at the Summit Gazebo, The Chief, Teheco, and the ever-faithful Tomto rested and waited.

All in all this was a very exciting trip. It was a beautiful day, we pushed ourselves to the limit (at least some of us), and no one got hurt or injured. A shower back at the five bedroom Teepee never felt better.

### Camp Read: Its’ Past and Its’ Future

To the lovers of Camp Read,

The Association has decided that there is a real need to produce a book about our beloved Camp Read (CSR). The objective is to cover the history of the camp from its inception at Mahopac to the present, with thoughts on what is envisioned in its future. Determining content is a little like blazing that first trail to Pharaoh. We know where we want to get, but we still are trying to find the best way to get there. To do that well, we need your input.

We also need written contributions. At the moment sections are contemplated on what happened during each era (40s, 50s, 60s, etc); Bios of leaders (Joe Cooke, Tiny, Bob Newton, and many, many more); songs sung through the years; the OA and Wood Badge at camp; impact of camp on Staff who chose professional Scouting careers; terms peculiar to CSR such as Chief Fong, The Plumbers Union, Schavone, The Heaving Bar, and so on. To give this book life, we need your memories, your camp stories, and your thoughts about camp. Don’t worry about style or spelling, just get your stuff to us – we’ll take it from there.

Our goal is to collect all your thoughts, ideas, memories, write-ups, etc. before this summer’s reunion. That material in hand, we’ll attempt to have drafts for publication before Camp opens in 2005. (Red Finn Press has expressed interest.) Please send your material by e-mail, if possible, to Dick Ford ([RFord@clarku.edu](mailto:RFord@clarku.edu)), to Chris Fearon ([cfearon@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cfearon@twcny.rr.com)) or to me ([FARLEYVIEW@AOL.com](mailto:FARLEYVIEW@AOL.com)). Or, if you remain committed to snail mail, send your material to my home address: 28952 Wellington St., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. We’ll take it from there.

There was an old Camp Read song we sang in the ‘40s and it was popular in the ‘30s, as well. It was titled *Cheer Cheer For Old Curtis S*, and it contained a line that said “we’re the lovers of old Camp Read.” Well, that line applied to all of us *then*, and it applies to all of us *now*! We hope to hear from you soon.

**John Farley**

**Dick Ford**

**Chris Fearon**

*Watch for an excerpt of “the Camp that moved” in the next edition of the newsletter.*

## WHO'S WHO IN THE ASSOCIATION

*This is a new feature to the Newsletter where we recognize our fellow Association member's achievements.*

### Joe Augusto, Personal Chef



Joe Augusto has been food services manager at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation for past 6 years and has turned it into a very successful operation. During that time, the attendance at Camp has been steadily rising with numerous praises for the quality of the food and the efficiency of the service due in no small part to Joe's efforts..

**Joe was awarded the Pacesetter Personal Chef Award by the Personal Chefs Network, Inc. and has been nominated for the Pacesetter Personal Chef of the Year.** Joe's awards are for excellence as a personal chef, which is a service that involves, as Joe exclaims, "cooking for the rich". His plate is quite full (no pun intended) as he runs the summer camp food operation, cooks for the winter ski camps, is the chef for a fraternity at RPI and has his own personal chef business in the Albany area. Joe also volunteers his services for the work weekends and will be cooking for the upcoming reunion.

Joe's culinary career began with the Marriott Corporation in his hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts . This first job, filling the salad bar, would lead to 20 year career in the food service industry. He worked as a banquet chef at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency and as sous chef with Marriott Hotels, as well as many position in private clubs. Approaching 40, Joe decided to make some changes in his life and career and left the hotel industry. Joe joined VESID, a New York State vocation program and started pursuing a paralegal degree. During that time he took a summer job at the Curtis S Read Scout Reservation. "I figured I'd go in there, spend one summer, and get the heck outta there." Joe recalls, "but something just clicked for me there as I had fond memories of going to camp as a kid. They really seemed to like my style and approach, and their treatment of me was just dynamite. Every once in a while, things happens that will just click together and my relationship with Camp Read is one such event." Joe returned to camp the following summer, and took over the food service operation.

By the time Joe completed his paralegal degree, he didn't want to leave camp. He thought to himself, "I loved the camp so much that I didn't want to give it up, but what exactly was I going to do for the rest of the year?" He answered this question by accepting a position as chef for the Rensselaer Society of Engineers, a fraternity at RPI College. This was another one of those perfect fits for Joe. The final piece of the puzzle came when Joe started his own Personal Chef business. "Today, I really love what I am doing. Camp Read has hired my services to manage the food service operation for the foreseeable future, and the fraternity continues to be a great source of support and inspiration". Joe's Personal Chef Service continues to offer a truly personal approach whether you are looking for meals for a week, an intimate dinner party for two, or a weekend gathering of friends for meals. When asked what his favorite part of being a personal chef is, Joe responds, "Oh, easily it's the people that I have the opportunity to work with. This is the personal touch that was missing from my previous life in the hotel industry."

## EAGER BEAVER WEEKEND



June 11 thru 13, 2004

We need your help in getting Camp Read ready for all the Scouts and Leaders who will be attending this season's Summer Camp. Fun, Fellowship and lots of Work will be available, as well as 5 free meals (three Saturday and two Sunday), and a wonderfully comfortable camp cot. If you have hand tools, it would help to bring them along. Do your part to help out even if you're coming up for the reunion too. We'll see you there!

To Make Reservations or obtain additional information contact:  
WP Council Office at (914) 773 1135, e-mail - [camping@wpcbsa.org](mailto:camping@wpcbsa.org)

## POT LUCK DINNER 2004



On Saturday, March 27th, forty-five Association members gathered at St. Joseph of Arimathea Church in Elmsford and participated in this year's Pot Luck Dinner. The event, chaired by Tim Haag, was a tremendous success, with all having a great time sharing old stories and catching up on current events. Tim welcomed the group and Jim Smith (in his usual style) led the program. A few songs were sung and the gang followed Jim in his traditional "Lion Hunt." Peter Oberdorf called upon Ed D'Apice (the last recipient) to honor this year's Thomas A. Dietz Service Award recipients. The 2004 Service Award was presented to **Ann Hammonds**, Westchester-Putnam Council's camping

secretary, and to **Steve Sudak**, Association Historian and 70's Era Chair, for their outstanding service to the Curtis S. Read Association. Following a delicious smorgasbord of foods prepared by those who attended, Peter acknowledged Tom Teel and presented him with a get well card signed by the group. Tom, "a man of few words," spoke to the group thanking them for their calls, cards, and prayers during his illness. With too many deserts under their belts, the group sang taps and said their goodbyes until the next gathering, which will be the Workers' Weekend (June 11-13) and the sixth Reunion (July 2-4), both at Camp Read.



Dietz Service Award recipients  
Ann Hammonds & Steve Sudak

### BITS AND PIECES

- **Congratulations to Denis Pisanello as the newly elected President of this Association.** Denis will begin his five-year term when Peter "passes the gavel" to our new President in a ceremony during the Reunion.
- ***If you want to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter starting in 2005, pay your dues in 2004!***
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**
  - Eager Beaver Weekend: **June 11-13, 2004.** Come help get Camp ready!
  - Alumni Reunion: **July 2-4, 2004** at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation.
- Anyone wishing to contribute Newsletter articles, anecdotes, pictures, event postings, or general Camp or Scouting info should please send any correspondence to: Camp Read Alumni Association, c/o Westchester-Putnam Council, B.S.A., 41 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532, or e-mail [Thomas.Hunter@ge.com](mailto:Thomas.Hunter@ge.com)
- **The Association web site has changed to [campread.org](http://campread.org). Please make a note of it.**

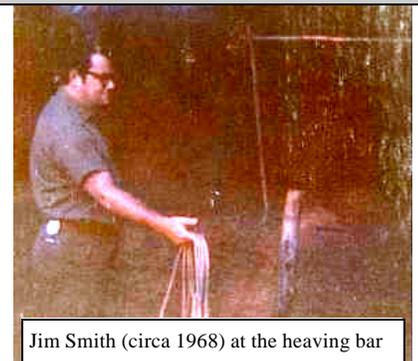
## Update.....Summit Support Project .....Update Spring 2004

About the time this *Newsletter* goes to press, representatives from the W-PC Properties & Maintenance, Camping, and High Adventure Committees, together with the Scout Executive and Council President will be venturing up to the Read Scout Reservation. The purpose of this trip is to survey all facilities as part of the annual Spring inspection. This team will also use this information as input to the "Read Master Plan" that will list and prioritize the facilities and infrastructure that needs to be raised, fixed, repaired, re-built or built from scratch to support the growing scouting programs at Read and Clear Lake. The Summit support requirements, documented in 2001 and updated annually, will be used as input to the Master Plan. The Master Plan is due to be completed by September 2004. Stay tuned .....

## 2004 HEAVING BAR CHALLENGE

If you can throw a rope twenty feet over a set of uprights, and tie both a timber hitch and a clove hitch quickly, you have the makings of an expert heaving bar competitor. The challenge has been issued. Tom Hunter, as the current holder of the "Camp Read Heaving Bar Championship," says he will gladly take on all challengers to defend his title. Along with the title goes a very special trophy hand crafted by Tom Dietz.

The actual competition takes place every five years at the reunion, and has steadily built up a loyal following of impassioned fans. We have an official regulation size Olympic style heaving bar venue set up near the Buckskin dining hall. What do you think? Are you up for the challenge? Start practicing now and then join us for the fun at the Reunion in July (2-4).



Jim Smith (circa 1968) at the heaving bar



c/o Westchester Putnam Council, BSA  
41 Saw Mill River Road  
Hawthorne, NY 10532



**Dues Policy:**

Annual dues are requested by the end of March each year (We will however gladly accept dues anytime throughout the year). **For those that supported the Association in past years , our sincerest thanks. Alumni that enjoy this publication, and wish to continue to hear from us, your financial support is needed.** The Board of Directors feels strongly that membership in the Association NOT be tied to dues payment. However, those not making an annual contribution will only receive major mailings for reunions etc. The only qualification for membership is your dedicated interest in Camp Read. As such, dues may be considered a tax-deductible contribution.

**Dues 2004 / Change of Address Form**

**Name:**

**E-Mail:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**City:**

**Contribution:**  
\$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**State:**

**Zip:**

check here for change of address

Make Checks payable to: Camp Read Association, Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA  
Send To: Bill Daley, 3220 Mohegan Ave., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547