

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of Camp Read,

The next two years are going to be extremely important years for both the Camp Read Association and the Boy Scouts of America. The Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary (60 years at Brant Lake) and the Boy Scouts of American will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. Our Tenth Year Reunion will be held at camp next July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The reunions were first started in 1979 in conjunction with the opening of the third decade time capsule. The tradition of the Time Capsule was first instituted in 1959. This coming reunion will feature opening of the time capsule that was buried at the end of the 1999 Reunion. I am looking forward to this weekend of awesome festivities, good food, and great fellowship and seeing fellow staff members that I have not been in contact with since our last reunion. Mark your calendars now (July 3 – 5, 2009) to ensure the weekend will be open.

Camp Read will be opening its doors the first week in July to a great summer of adventure for over 2000 scouts. Camp is almost filled with over one hundred and forty troops attending. A tremendously talented staff has been hired and trained under the direction of **Steve Hammonds**, Director of Support Services for the Council.

Steve will again serve as Reservation Director with **Dan Conniff** as Camp Buckskin Director, **Dave Griffin** returning as Waubeeka Director and **Owen Landrey** heading up the Summit Base crew. Besides the traditional scout units, the first week at Buckskin will house the Welebos Resident Camp under the direction of **Bob Rice**. The Cub Resident Camp will be held week six at Waubeeka with **Don Walsh** at the helm. The Association would like to thank the management staff for their hard work and dedication in getting Camp Read ready for an awesome season of fun, adventure, and advancement.

During the next three years the Westchester-Putnam Council will be making a two million dollar investment in the infrastructure of Camp. All of the shower houses and latrines are going to be replaced with modern structures. This financial commitment on the part of Council does not mean we no longer need to lend our support. Two million dollars does not go very far today and the Association can help supplement many needed items in the program areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Association Members who joined the *Friends of Camp Read*. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you want to be part of the growing list of these members please help us out by giving what you can. Contribution forms are available on the back page of this publication and on-line at CampRead.org. A great way to honor or remember someone is to take advantage of our Memorial and Tribute Fund also featured here.

I would like to share a few thoughts with our younger Association Members. You are a vital part of this important organization. The future of the Read Association is actually in your hands. I know you are now busy with school, starting a new job or relationships, and have little time for other things. As the years fly by Camp Read will remain in your memories, and as you go through life these memories and friendships associated with camp may become a dim flicker of the past, but participation in the Association can re-ignite them.

The Association will become an important means of getting together with your fellow staff and an avenue to relive some of those awesome experiences you enjoyed during your time at camp. Stay in touch through the Association by reading our Newsletter, which can be found on our website, and by attending the annual Spring Potluck supper traditionally held in March, if you are in the New York area. Mark your calendar for July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> of 2009 and enjoy a Reunion weekend up at camp. At our last Reunion, in 2004, we had over 175 Association Members in attendance.

Our current Board is mostly made up of members from eras prior to the 80's. There is room for your presence and input on our Board. If anyone is interested in joining this group of dedicated and hard working individuals please email me at [dfpisanello@aol.com](mailto:dfpisanello@aol.com). Our Board meets three times a year,

President

Denis Pisanello (914) 737-7485

Immediate Past President

Peter Oberdorf (518) 494-3366

Executive Vice President

Tim Haag (203) 393-3463

Treasurer

Bill Daley (914) 528-7413

Secretary

Ed D'Apice (845) 528-4043

VP Activities/Program

Jim Smith (732) 892-1805

VP Membership Records

Rich Okrasinski (914) 674-4425

VP Historian

Steve Sudak (914) 674-2055

VP Communications

Mark Sikora (914) 723-4578

Board Advisor

Bob Newton (518) 494-5474

Era Chairman – 1940's

Bob Johnson (845) 425-1931

Era Chairmen – 1950's

Rusty Borner (914) 960-9681

Mike Venuti (802) 288-9610

Era Chairmen – 1960's

Wayne Douchkoff (941) 755-3512

Era Chairmen – 1970's

Vacant

Era Chairmen – 1980's

Matt Terribile (919) 785-0628

Era Chairman – 1990's

Tom Chlupsa (860) 228-9805

Era Chairman-2000's

Joe Augusto (518) 590-0423

Members at Large

Ken D'Apice (407) 645-2950

Chris Fearon (315) 482-2013

Frank Graessle (845) 651-2838

Ron Green (614) 846-0749

Dave Miller (847) 234-2739

Tom Teel (908) 412-9157

Past Presidents

Tom Dietz (845) 628-4369

Tom Hunter (845) 279-0979

Founding Father

Joseph R. Cooke

President's Message continued....

October, March, and at the June's Worker's Weekend. Your active participation is essential if our Association is to continue fulfilling its mission and goals. If you are in a position to take a more active part, please do not hesitate. We have had twenty successful years and I look forward to another twenty. Your support and determination will insure this.

Best wishes to all and if you are in the area of camp this summer stop in and say hello. There is always an extra plate at the camp table, an open tent, and a warm fire for visitors. Camp just doesn't have to be a memory!

Yours in scouting,  
*Denis Pisanello.*

## Friends of Read

*The Camp Read Association wishes to extend a sincere thanks to the following members who have made a contribution to the Association for 2008. Your financial support is greatly appreciated by all the scouts and leaders who attend Camp Read and benefit from your generosity.*

Charles Agro  
Brenden Boylan  
**Garrick Cole**  
**Dedrick Damato**

Michael Dietz  
David D'Lugin  
John Farley  
Doug Gamble  
**Tim Haag**  
Joseph Hipius  
Bill Huckabe  
Robert Johnson  
Edward Lacy  
Lee Madinger  
Doris Meduna

**Sean O'Donnell**  
Ricard Okrasinski  
Ronald Phillips  
Robert & Carol Powers  
Matt Sander  
Mark Sikora  
Cromwell Smith  
**Bill Tracey**  
Michael Tripodi  
David Wallick

Larry Bernhardt  
Matt Brauner  
John M. Coughlin  
Edward D'Apice  
Tom Dietz  
Wayne Douchkoff  
Christopher Fearon  
Joeseoph Goldreich  
Kenneth Hadermann  
Larry Houghtaling  
Tom Hunter  
James Jones  
Most Rev. Dominick Lagonegro  
Jack McBride  
John Michin  
Geoffrey Ogle  
Robert Ormiston  
Denis Pisanello  
**John Richmond**  
Kevin Schablein  
Dr. Harold Simmons  
James Smith  
**John Trenholm**  
Russ & Lanie Turner  
Ron Yaskovic

Russ Borner  
Robert Ciralli  
Bill Daley  
**Franklin Davis**  
Michael Dietz  
John J. Doyle  
Dr. William Flank  
Frank Graessle  
Gordon Hamilton  
John Hradsky  
Larry Iuzo  
Russell Kinaman  
Ward Lyke  
Michael McCabe  
Peter Oberedorf  
**Erik Oja**  
Ken Ott  
Greg Pitonza  
Colin Ringleib  
Bill Schiavo  
Christopher Simone  
**Matthew Terrible**  
John Tripodi  
Michael Venuti

**Very Special Thanks to Kevin Kinsella**

All donations to the Camp Read Association are tax-deductible

## POT LUCK DINNER 2008

The annual spring dinner was held once again at St. Joe's on March 29. A crowd of about 40 people were in attendance and a good time was had by all. Our special guests included Diane Walsh, the Council's Camping Secretary and Dave Griffin, the current Camp Waubeeka Director.



The evening started out with a selection of delectable appetizers and refreshing drinks. Once everyone caught up with old friends and made some new ones, the festivities began. We were blessed twice before dinner, first by Peter Oberdorf leading us in the traditional camp grace, then by the Most Reverend Dominick Lagonegro giving the benediction.

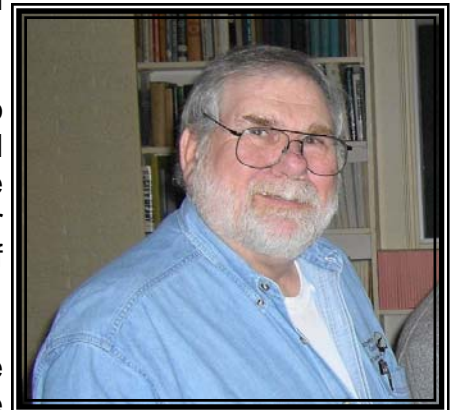
An outstanding choice of homemade dishes had everyone coming back for seconds. We had a break from the feast where Jim Smith and Chris Fearon led us in some camp songs.



The desserts came out with the main attraction being a layer cake specially prepared with the Association Logo.



Our President, Denis Pisanello addressed the crowd and acknowledged several key people and thanked everyone for their continued support of the Association.



Frank Graessle presenting the service award to Chris Fearon



Next was the presentation of the Thomas A. Dietz service award by last year's recipient, Frank Graessle. The award was given to Christopher P. Fearon for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Association. Congratulations Chris!

Peter closed the gathering with Scout Vespers and Taps. A fitting end to a wonderful evening.

# For Joys We'll N'er Forget

Thanks to a lot of help from many people, our book about the history of Camp Read from it's launch in 1920 up to the present is nearing completion! Former camper and staffer, Dick Ford is now hard at work editing the chapters, articles, and special features and inserting photos. With a bit of luck, *For Joys We'll N'er Forget* will be published and available at next years Camp Read Association Reunion.

*John R. Farley, Lead Writer & Designer*

**Editor's note:** *The following is an excerpt from the chapter entitled "1999 to the Present" by Leo Landrey from the upcoming book, "For Joys We'll N'er Forget," a history of Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation 1920-2008. The content in this excerpt occurred during week five of the 2007 Camp Read season. Leo Landrey spent all but one of his summers from 1994 through 2007 at the Read Reservation. He was a camper from 1994 to 1998, a staff member from 1999 to 2003, and from 2005 through 2007. In 2006 and 2007, he was Buckskin Camp Director.*

## Fire On First Brother

I'll describe the fire on First Brother, having seen it when it was being controlled and having been on hand to fight it once it had broken out again. On Thursday night of week five, if I recall correctly, Cush, my scoutcraft director, went up the mountain with his wilderness survival class. There was a wind blowing up from Brant Lake, and the forest conditions were very dry, so Cush instructed his scouts not to start a fire. The next morning the group came safely home, another fun wilderness survival overnight completed.

Only the scouts *had* started a small campfire that night, but hadn't had the water to properly put it out. When the fire broke out I sat down with two scouts who came forward to confess that they had started a fire. According to their story, deep in the night, around two in the morning, when everyone had gone to bed, they were not sleeping, and the bugs were bothering them in their shelters. One of them pointed out that a campfire would keep the bugs away, so they started it in an unestablished ring of their own making. I guess they didn't sleep that night, since, when dawn came, they put it out before any of my staff members had a chance to find out. Only, they didn't have the water one normally needs to put out a campfire, no matter how small, so they stomped out the fire with their shoes and scattered the ashes, some of which, they said, they kicked down the mountain. The fire started a few hours later, on exactly the side of the mountain where they had built their shelters and around the area the kicked embers would have ended up.

When it was first spotted, around 10:00 in the morning, there was uncontrollable excitement: here was a real, live forest fire in our backyard! This hadn't happened in camp since 1949, Camp Read's first year at Brant Lake. It was a small blaze, so Steve Hammonds coordinated a 'pick up' crew of over-18 volunteers to go up the mountain under the direction of a number of forest rangers. The rangers showed the crews how to use Council Rakes and specially designed half-shovel, half-pick axe tools (whose names I forget) to dig down to the mineral soil and break up roots so the fire doesn't spread through the earth. Before long they were fighting the fire until nightfall with the goal of surrounding the blaze with a trench dug down to the mineral soil so it could not advance. By Saturday morning it was believed that the fire was out, and I took a hike up the mountain with Stevie Thompson to bring a chainsaw and some water up to the DEC ranger who was keeping an eye on the fire. While there I inspected the burn zone, which the ranger said extended about five acres. The top of the mountain was like a gigantic fire pit, with ashes below your feet and the occasional smoldering branch. One tree had fallen down, and its trunk had been hollowed out by a fire that still roared within it.

That afternoon I decided to climb Mt. Stevens as something to do, and when I got to the top we could see a thick column of white smoke rising from the top of First Brother again. My hiking party radioed Steve Hammonds, and the fire was soon declared active. I hurried down Mt. Stevens (not before taking a few photos of the burning First Brother), marshaled a few Buckskinners and headed down to Waubeeka, where we were again coordinating an assault on the fire. Within an hour the first team of volunteers had reached the top, where we were met by Aidan Fio Rito, who had spent the whole day before fighting the fire. Aidan took us to where the DEC rangers were advancing the firebreak, and we got to work.

While we were working, a helicopter arrived, dumping water in coordinated drops on the edge of the fire to prevent its spread. Gallons on gallons of water fell on the forest, sometimes not more than a hundred feet from where we were working. It was shortly before nightfall, around 7:30, that we completed extending the firebreak around the conflagration until we had it surrounded; the fire had burned another two acres. When we got down off the mountain, Joe Augusto was waiting for us in the Waubeeka commissary with twelve trays of his pizza cooked especially for us. Boy were we hungry, and I enjoyed no meal on Camp Read quite like I enjoyed that one. The fire was, after two long afternoons of fighting, contained.

# Eager Beaver Weekend 2008



Tom Dietz hanging his handcrafted sign for Long Pavilion

**Many hands make light work** is our motto. "Many hands" from the Association we present on the work weekend at the beginning of June.

Projects big and small were completed with the help of the many dedicated volunteers (and some professionals too) that took part in this annual event.

Joe Augusto (The Camp's Chef) volunteered his services and prepared delicious meals for the workers.

While Camp benefits from all the hard work done, everyone who attended had good times shared with great friends. Maybe YOU could be one of the "many hands" and join us next year?



Installation of the new sound system in Newton Hall was a major project that was completed by the Association on worker's weekend.



New Lean-to Construction at Camp Buckskin



Marc Andreo, the Council Executive shows he is not afraid of getting dirty



Chris Fearon, Frank Graessle and Bob Johnson putting their carpentry skills to work

## *Update.....Read Support.....Update* *Spring 2008*

As previously reported, \$580,000 has been allocated by the Properties and Maintenance committee for 2008 Camp Read capital projects. Peter Ciacci is serving as Camp Read Project Manager under the watchful eyes of Steve Hammonds, Director of Support Services, and Per Hellman, Chairman – Properties and Maintenance Committee.

Projects in process or planned for 2008 include: renovation of the Buckskin swimming area, final grade work and an additional retaining wall at the Waubeeka Waterfront, replacement of the exterior and kitchen doors on Newton Hall, repairing the floor and replacing the tiles in the Newton Hall kitchen, electrical upgrades in the Farm House, a new sound system for Newton Hall, major upgrades to the phone system, replacing the Butler shower facilities, building and installing six new latrines in Waubeeka and Buckskin, and addressing the weed issue in Rogers Lake.

Tom Barnes, Camp Read Ranger, reported that we lost the small metal garage attached to the large white barn across from the Farmhouse from the heavy wet spring snow. Thanks to Tom, the main road is in great shape showing very little wear from runoff.

To keep in touch between Newsletters with what's going on at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation, check out the Westchester-Putnam Council website [www.wpcbsa.org](http://www.wpcbsa.org).

## Memorials And Tributes

11/1/07 Thru 7/1/08

IN MEMORY OF CAPT. KENNETH TAFT, USMC  
 "Outstanding leader of Boy Scouts and Marines"  
*Robert T. Johnson*

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL "DOC" RILE  
 "In honor of a great Scouter and Teacher"  
*Laurence Bernhardt*

IN MEMORY OF WALTER CLINTON BEDDER  
*John Michin*

IN TRIBUTE TO DENIS PISANELLO  
 "For his continued dedication to CSR"  
*Michael McCabe*

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HUGH LILLY  
 "Dedicated Scouter and friend of Camp Read"  
*Gordon Hamilton*

If you would like to make a donation to the Camp Read Association or to the Camp Read Improvement Fund for a memorial or tribute to an individual please fill out the form below. The tribute or honor can be for recognition of birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, awards, or in memory of a departed relative or friend. Acknowledgement letters will be sent to you and to the person being recognized or to the family (if the donation is in memoriam).

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] I would like to remain anonymous.

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual or group being remembered or recognizes \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address acknowledgement should be sent to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Camp Read Assoc. Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA. Mail it to Bill Daley, 3220 Mohegan Ave., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547.

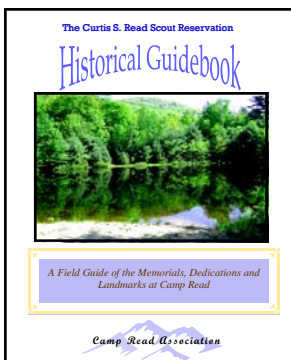
## BITS AND PIECES

- *If you want to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter starting in 2008, pay your dues!*
- UPCOMING EVENTS
  - Potluck Dinner **Spring 2009**. Date to be determined.
  - **CAMP READ ASSOCIATION REUNION: JULY 3-5 2009, put this important date on your calendar. Details to follow in upcoming newsletters and on the website.**
- 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@momentive.com](mailto:Thomas.Hunter@momentive.com)
- **The Association web site is [campread.org](http://campread.org). Please visit our site for latest information..**
- John Farley (*see story pg. 4*), along with Dick Ford, Bob Johnson and Chris Fearon, are currently writing a book on the history of Camp Read. If you have any information to contribute to the book contact John at (248) 626-3115 or e-mail: [farview@aol.com](mailto:farview@aol.com).

## HISTORICAL GUIDEBOOK

The Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Field Guide contains seventy pages of Memorials, Dedications and Landmarks found at Camp Read. The 2008 edition of the Guidebook is now in its third printing and has all the recent additions. This unique Field Guide, Published by the Camp Read Association, can be purchased for \$20.00 which includes \$3.00 postage and handling. All proceeds from the sale of the Guidebook will go to the benefit of Camp Read. If you would like one or more copies please visit our website at [campread.org](http://campread.org) or contact :

**Ed D'Apice**  
**Phone: (845) 528-4043 or**  
**E-mail: [entropy2@earthlink.net](mailto:entropy2@earthlink.net)**



## Heaven at Camp Read

By Matt Terribile

Denis Pisanello assumed the Waubeeka Directorship in 1981 with the mission to build up the program at a camp that had seen several years of declining attendance. Denis was able to recruit a number of qualified and colorful program leaders.



Perhaps the most colorful was Stephen J. Lake, whose specialty, appropriately, was aquatics. I was a second year waterfront staff member, the only staff member from the previous season. Steve immediately set out to revamp aquatics at Waubeeka. The sagging fences were replaced, and a new buddy board made. Boats were rearranged.

Most notably, the aquatics area became known as “heaven.” All the staff members became known as either “saints” or “rabbis,” depending on their own religious affiliation.

Saint Stephen ran a tight ship at heaven. Staff swam laps. The inside of the tower was cleaned up. What the

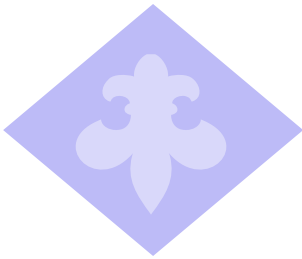
Scouts saw was a vibrant and enthusiastic program and staff. They were greeted with a hearty shout of “welcome to heaven.” Patrol activities and water carnival events had heavenly names. For example, here is a list of patrol activities:

- St. Stephen’s Delight - A patrol swim
- St John’s Regatta - A patrol vs. Patrol canoe swamp
- Rabbi Mike’s Diving Expedition - Diving for colored rocks using snorkeling gear
- St Christopher’s Travels - A canoe race
- St. James Arena - A swimming relay race
- St. Peter’s Reflection - Stargazing at night on the lake



Steve was also “colorful” behind the scenes, not always in the best ways. He drove fast in and out of camp, far exceeding any speed limit on Rt 8. He was also verbally dominant with younger staff that were more “trusting.” Steve also did not “walk the talk.” Although he blew the whistle for staff to start laps, I never saw him swim one himself. He also had a well honed skill during camp setup and take down of just doing enough heavy work to give the appearance of working. His gusto attitude did not extend to doing heavy work himself!

Despite his faults, I learned a lot about leadership and inspiring teams, both positive and negative from Steve. He returned for a 2nd summer in 1982. Within a few years, he had “vanished” from any contact with fellow staff members. Even a police search could not locate him. Makes me wonder: Was “Lake” really his name?



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 most sincere thanks. Member who 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 2008/ Change of Address Form**

**Name:**

**E-Mail:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**City:**

**Contribution:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

\$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_

check here for change of address

**Other \$**

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