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Founding Father

Joseph R. Cooke

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of Camp Read,

I arrived home from work the other day and picked up the mail. A new issue of *Adirondack Life* magazine! The cover immediately caught my eye – it was a story about Noah John Rondeau, the famous Adirondack hermit, told by an elderly gentleman who had visited him many times decades ago. I sat down and read the story, fascinated by the author's words. It brought back memories of a dear friend – Chris Fearon – who passed away a few short weeks ago. Chris was a founding member of the Camp Read Association, and one of the major contributors to the book, *For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget*. I always enjoyed Chris' stories of Camp Read and the Adirondacks, always told with a twinkle in his eye and a huge smile. One in particular always fascinated me – Chris' tale of camping with a buddy in the Adirondacks many years ago. It was rainy and cold, and they were short of food. Suddenly a small grizzled man appeared from the woods – it was the hermit Rondeau. He treated Chris and his friend to a welcome warm meal and campfire, still warm in Chris' memory and heart after 60 years! Chris' stories and memories of Camp Read and the Adirondacks will certainly live in my heart for years to come. Please be sure to read a beautiful tribute to Chris later in this newsletter.

In late March we held our Annual Potluck Dinner. It was a wonderful gathering, with nearly fifty people attending, our largest attendance in recent years. A special note of thanks goes to Matt Terrible for his outstanding job coordinating the dinner arrangements. Matt also put together a Camp Read trivia game for the dinner; it brought back many fond memories.

It is hard to believe the summer of 2010 will be here so soon. Camp will be bustling with Scouts in just two months. Camp has seen many changes over the past couple of years – there are improvements in all areas of camp. Our Properties and Maintenance Committee has done a fabulous job of overseeing a variety of construction projects that will serve our Scouts for years to come. Combined with a top quality program and outstanding food, camp is again destined for success. While I always look forward to visiting Read in the summer, this summer will be a special one for me as my son has accepted a position to serve on the staff.

As many people prepare for the 2010 summer season, please consider how you can help out. There will be two work weekends this year, scheduled for June 4-6 and 11-13. There is always much to do before camp is ready for Scouts; the "Eager Beavers" have always lent a hand on these weekends and that has taken a huge burden away from the staff. Please send in your reservation to help out today! Also, if you are available during the summer, the senior staff would appreciate help in supervision over weekends so that they can get some much needed time off.

Now that winter is finally over, it is wonderful to see trees and shrubs turning green all around. That means camp is rapidly approaching. I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the Eager Beaver Weekends in June.

Yours in Scouting,

Tim Haag



On Sunday, March 28, 2010, after the Annual Association Pot Luck Dinner, our close friend and long time Camp Read supporter, Chris "Kit" Fearon, passed away in his sleep. Chris was a very active staff member and long time supporter and member of the Camp Read Association and a major contributor to the recently completed history of Camp Reads, "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget".

Chris worked for the FBI for a year and for the Department of the Army as an investigator for two years. He began his career in teaching at the Hackley School in Tarrytown, New York, teaching English for five years. He spent the next 23 years, until his retirement in 1985, at White Plains High School, teaching English and Journalism. He also served as a scoutmaster and later as Chairman of the Sea Scout Committee. He had also been a Provisional Scoutmaster and Camp Director at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation.

Ken Hadermann remembers: For three years I led an April expedition of 3 - 5 scouts to camp to mark new trails and campsites for troops in the forest north of Camp Tomahawk. The Summer following one of these expeditions, Kit Fearon decided to take his provisional troop to a new campsite, Spring Hill Ponds.

He asked me to show him the trail so I led them about three quarters of the way there when we got hit by the edge of a hurricane. Kit devoted himself to assisting his scouts, helping them get settled, getting fires started and made sure they had a hot meal through the severe storm. Yes, he was strict, but it was the strictness from caring.

Ken's story is just one example of the type of dedicated and brave person Chris was. Kit was so proud of how the boys went right to work and how they survived such a challenging ordeal. (The complete story of this adventure is in the "For Joys" book).

Jim Smith writes: It was with much mixed sorrow and joy that we had heard of Chris' passing. Sorrow at the loss of such a good friend, and JOY that he had the opportunity to have done so much that was important to him and that he had been with good friends just prior to his passing.

He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Memorials And Tributes

1/1/10 Thru 4/30/10

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DIETZ

Eugene Byrne

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER FEARON

Robert & Ada May Fearon

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.

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 2009. Your financial support is greatly appreciated by all the scouts and leaders who attend Camp Read and benefit from your generosity.

Craig Aberle

Larry Bernhardt
Matt Brauner
Catherine Dietz
Christopher Fearon
Frank Graessle
John Hradsky
Larry Iuzo
Most Rev. Dominick Lagonegro
John Michin
Richard Okrasinski
Greg Pitonza
Christopher Simone
Peter Tamalonis
David Terrible
Michael Tripodi
Don Walsh

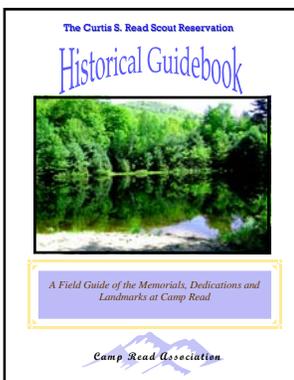
Charles Agro
Denise Boland
Edmund Dalio
Tom Dietz
James Finneran
Tim Haag
Tom Hunter
Robert Johnson
Michael McCabeWard
Ed Mills
Denis Pisanello
Theodore C. Robinson
Cromwell Smith
Tom Teel
John Trenholm
Michael Venuti
Gary Wiesendanger

Louis Agro, Jr.
Russ Borner
Ed D'Apice
John J. Doyle
Bruce Fusillo
Gordon Hamilton
Tripp Hutchinson
Ed Lacy
Warren Messner
Geoffrey Ogle
Bailey Pitonza
William Simone
James Smith
Matthew Terrible
John Tripodi
David Wallick
Ron Yaskovic

A Very Special Thanks to Peter Oberdorf

All donations to the Camp Read Association are tax-deductible

HISTORICAL GUIDEBOOK



The Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Field Guide contains seventy pages of Memorials, Dedications and Landmarks found at Camp Read. The 2009 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 \$24.00 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 or contact :

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

Spring Potluck Dinner

The Association's annual potluck dinner had a great attendance this year, with 45 current and former staffers, Scout leaders, friends, and family. The food selection showed that Boy Scouts know how to cook! From the antipasto, through the eggplant, chicken, and meatloaf, to the cobbler, brownies, and cheesecake, it was a great spread! A lot of time before and during dinner was spent reacquainting with old friends, and especially with a number of people who had been 'incognito' for a few years.



The Ed and John Table

After dinner, we saw a video on improvements happening at camp. A lot of work is going on at camp to replace older infrastructure such as shower houses, latrines, and cots. A new feature this year was the Camp Read History quiz. Winners were Ed D'Apice and Chris Fearon, both of whom were significant authors in the recently published 'For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget' history of Camp Read. Finally, the Tom Dietz Service award was presented to the lead authors of the book, John Farley and Dick Ford. Although neither could be present, they were with us in spirit as we closed with Scout Vespers and Taps!

Thanks to all who cooked, came, and helped fill the evening with great memories of the joys we shared at Camp Read!



Bob Johnson , Chris Fearon & Frank Graessle

2010 THOMAS A. DIETZ SERVICE AWARD REICIPENTS

MARCH 27, 2010

JOHN R FARLEY

John Farley began scouting in 1939 as a member of White Plains Troop 6. He served on Camp Read staff in 1943, 1944, and 1947 through 1950. On March 27, 2010 John received the Dietz Service Award not only for his tenure on staff at both Long Pond and the Brant Lake camps, but for his extraordinary leadership and editorship of, "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget", the history of Camp Read.

John has recounted how it all started with his and Bob Johnson's attempt to preserve the memory of their friend Ken Taft's wonderful leadership qualities after Ken died in combat during the Korean War. Then realizing that few would read Ken's story, if it stood along, John decided to put Taft's contributions into context by telling more of the Read story. Quickly the project grew and other scouters were recruited to help. Chris Fearon and Dick Ford joined the project for the "five minute job" of covering the years 1894, Curtis S. Read's birth, until 2009.

The job of writing, "For Joys", took almost five years and John's extraordinary dedication to the job and his persistence and patience, enticing many other Read staff alumni into the dream of preserving Camp Read's history, stands out as one of the greatest contributions ever made in the service of the Curtis S. Read Scout Association and the future of Camp Read itself.

As the 2010 recipient of the Thomas Dietz Service Award, John R. Farley was recognized for his outstanding leadership and editor of the history of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation—"FOR JOYS WE'LL NE'ER FORGET".

RICHARD FORD

Richard Ford began scouting in Scarsdale's Troop 8. As a provisional scoutmaster and bugler, at both Camp Reads, Dick consistently inspired the younger staff and campers through his hard work and dedication to camp. Chris Fearon, while on Army leave, worked as a volunteer under Dick for a week at camp. Chris described Dick as a "master provisional scoutmaster inaction!" In the early stages of writing "For Joys", John Farley recruited Dick to assist. Dick accepted the position of Editor and Formatting Designer. Dick brought professional experience to the task of editing the camp's history. As an academic, Dick has published several books and many articles, mostly related to community-based development in Africa's rural communities. During the past forty years Dick worked with 25 African, 8 Asian and a number of Eastern European nations. Dick's outstanding camp leadership qualities, scouting spirit, and scholarly skills not only made him an outstanding model for scouts and staff at Camp Read but lead to Dick's exceptional abilities in teaching local community leadership to people in developing countries all around the world.

As editor, Dick took the many decades of Camp Read's history and melded them into a coherent story from camp's earliest beginnings on Long Pond in Mahopac, New York to the present Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation at Brant Lake, New York. Any individual who worked with Dick on staff at Camp would never have doubted that once John Farley had "twisted his arm", Dick would stick with the task of putting together the book, "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget", in the highest style.

As the 2010 recipient of the Thomas Dietz Service Award, Dick is honored as an outstanding editor and humanitarian. While helping people around the world to achieve a better life, Dick found time on planes and in airports, before and after presentations abroad, to design and edit a book about the history of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation, a camp he once served so well as a young staff member.

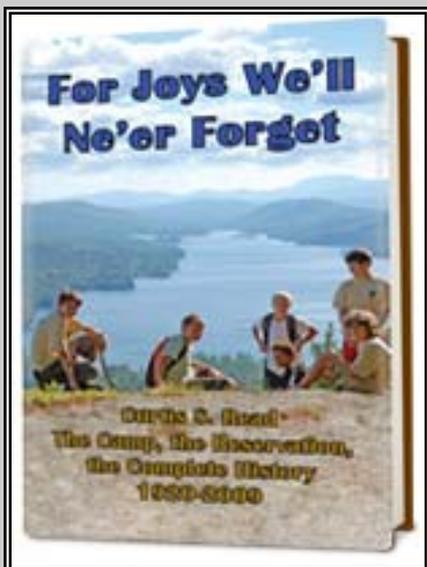
"For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget", relates the story of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation from its opening day in 1920 to the present. For most part, "For Joys...." was written by staff who were in camp. Chapters features two legendary Camp Rangers, the launching of Camp Waubeeka, the impact of Read on professional Scouting, profiles of outstanding camp leaders, the story of the Oder of the Arrow in camp, history of the Camp Read Association, and much more. Travel through time as this nearly one hundred year old camp grew from its beginnings on 33 acres and 20 campers on Long Pond, in Mahopac, New York to a 1000 acre scout reservation in the Adirondack Mountains. Today the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation is made up of three camps, one traditional scout camp, one patrol cooking camp, and a High Adventure Base.

"For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget" was commissioned by the Camp Read Association to preserve the history of this very special place. If you were ever a camper or staff member at a Scout camp, you'll find yourself right at home in the pages of this book. It is a story worth telling and one worth reading.....!

To Order: Go to www.CampRead-ForJoys.com

Copies also available at the Council Service Center— see Diane Walsh

All proceeds from "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget" will go to the betterment of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation, Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA



Help Improve Our Camp At The **EAGER BEAVER WEEKENDS**

Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation June 4-6 & June 11-13, 2010

Each year hundreds of hours of volunteer labor are needed to open our camps. Please consider taking another weekend of your busy schedule to ensure that the Read Scout Reservation is the best it can be for our Scouts this summer.

Visit the council website at www.wpcbsa.org for a list of the projects. If you see a project you are interested in, please e-mail readsupport@wpcbsa.org.

Lodging and meals for the weekend are offered at no cost. Please send in the registration form below by May 28th so we can accurately prepare for both meals and projects. For safety reasons, we ask that all participants be at least 18 years of age.

Please respond by May 28, 2010

2010 Read Eager Beaver Weekend

_____ June 4-6

_____ June 11-13

Name: _____ Scouting Position: _____ (Camp Read Assoc.)

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (H): _____ (B): _____

E-mail: _____

Time of Arrival: _____ Friday PM _____ Saturday AM

Meals Attending: _____ Sat Break _____ Sat Lunch _____ Sat Dinner _____ Sun Break _____ Sun Lunch

Check one or more skills: _____ carpentry _____ mechanics _____ equipment operator _____ electrical _____ plumbing _____ painting

_____ just plain old work _____ other _____

Please send to: Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA, Attn: Camping Dept.
41 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532

Update.....Read Support.....Update Spring 2010

Under the direction of Peter Ciacci, Chairman of the Properties and Maintenance Committee with the support of Steve Hammonds, Director of Support Services, and numerous volunteers the camp is improving at a rapid pace.

Projects by the Properties and Maintenance Committee for 2010 include:

- Two new shower houses are currently being built, one for Buckskin and one for Waubeeka.. These will be ready in time for this summer and will have 12 individual showers with changing areas and a handicap shower room.
- New latrines and camp site lean-tos are completed in Buckskin and Waubeeka.
- The Health Lodge and Central Office have been re-sided.
- New bunk beds and mattresses for the farm house.

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

"The meeting place of two waters" – A Fort Ticonderoga Rambling

By Tom Hunter & John Farley

Art Boland, the legendary first Ranger at Camp Read, used to remind us occasionally that Camp Read's corner of the Adirondacks wasn't "just some little, out of the way place where nothing much ever happens." That would be the lead in to one of Art's great stories about the Adirondacks. One of those stories might well have been about Fort Ticonderoga and Lake Champlain. Only 15 miles from Camp Read, Fort Ticonderoga saw action during the French and Indian War and was a stronghold throughout the Revolutionary War from 1775 to 1783.

My earliest exposure to the Ticonderoga name was, for like many of us, off a number 2 Ticonderoga pencil. Although not actually made in Ticonderoga, the name for the pencil was inspired by Fort Ti.

For many generations, Ticonderoga was one of the great strategic points in North America. It was the key to a long chain of rivers and lakes that linked the St. Lawrence to the Hudson. The Iroquois called it "the meeting place of two waters" - "tekonontaro:ken" which Europeans pronounced Ticonderoga. The name came from two large bodies of water – Lake George to the south and west and Lake Champlain to the north.

Knowing a little about the history and reputation of the legendary Fort Ti, imagine how thrilled I was to find out that a visit to the Fort was a traditional activity scheduled for scouts during stay-over weekends (The time between camp periods for scouts staying for more than two weeks. I typically went up for the entire summer.). Not only was I in for a fascinating history lesson, but also after two weeks of relatively primitive living conditions, I would be thrust back into some of the conveniences of the real world.

The trip took about 45 minutes. In those days the Town of Ticonderoga had a rather unpleasant distinction. To reach the fort it was necessary to go through the village. At the north end of the town's main street was a paper mill. This mill, originally built on the La Chute River in the 18th century, actually assisted in supplying construction materials for the fort.

When we went through town you could see huge white and gray clouds of billowing smoke coming out of numerous stacks right there on the main drag. The worst part was the overpowering gagging sulfurous odor emanating from the smoke. This acrid smell would burn the eyes and leave everyone on the bus gagging. I don't know how residents of the town could tolerate the smell, but they did for a couple of hundred years. The plant was eventually moved to a remote spit of land outside of town in 1970, and now the original site is a beautiful waterfall, covered bridge and park.

Another mile or so down the road we came to the gatehouse and long driveway leading up to the fort. Signs indicating revolutionary battle lines and historic encampments were observed as the road went past wooded areas and fields. At the end of the road, a parking lot and small building marked the official entrance to the fort. This small entrance building housed several great attractions including the ubiquitous gift shop, a snack bar and a very special treat, flush toilets. The camp food was OK but nothing when compared to the burgers, French fries, fried clams and milk shakes available here.

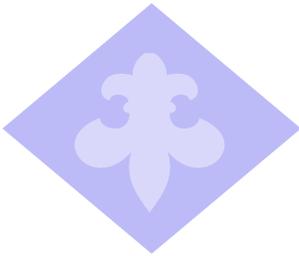
The French built the fort between 1755 and 1759, named it Carillon, and made it a base from which to attack their English rivals. It is at this point that the waters of Lake George enter Lake Champlain via the La Chute River. Control of this strategic narrows meant control of the north-south waterway.

However, the Fort was calling out to me. Our Staff leader dutifully led us past the ticket counter into the Fort itself. We were given a time and place to meet and could then explore this wondrous place at our own pace. The walkway leading in was lined with cannons, old fortified walls, a beautiful view of the southern end of Lake Champlain and numerous flags depicting countries that once claimed ownership here. This led to a large archway tunnel into the fort. What impressed me most was a sign there stating that "through these gates have passed George Washington, Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen" and many other luminaries in American history. Wow!!

TO BE CONTINUED.....

BITS AND PIECES

- *If you want to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter starting in 2010, pay your dues!*
- UPCOMING EVENTS
 - Eager Beaver weekends **June 4-6 and June 11-13 2010.**
- 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 hunteto@gmail.com
- **The Association web site is campread.org. Please visit our site for latest information..**



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 2010/ 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