



Spring/Summer 2017

For the friends of Camp Read

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**Founding Father**

Joseph R. Cooke



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends of Camp Read,

As Camp prepares for the 2017 summer season, the Association is ready, willing and able to help where we can. Our hope is that this year they can be free of the many challenges faced in 2016, especially the widespread illness that caused the camp to close early. To that end the Council is focusing on many health and safety improvements that came about after reviewing some of the procedures and facilities that may have contributed to the problem.

Many of these physical improvements will be tackled this spring and the Association Board has voted to contribute \$1500.00 towards the purchase of any equipment required. In addition, there is long list of maintenance items and other projects to be completed this year. The Council counts on our support for the "Eager Beaver" work weekend, slated this year for June 9-11. As our Association motto states "many hands make light work", so please try be one of those hands by participating in this most important event. For more information and a list of projects please go to our web site, [CampRead.org](http://CampRead.org).

Returning as Reservation Director this year is Ed Theetge. To say Ed "got his feet wet" last year would be an understatement. I have worked closely with Ed and consider him a friend of the Association and of Camp Read. I'm confident that the Reservation is in good hands under his leadership. Long time Staff Members and full time WPC employees, Kris O'Conner and Monique Wicks have been assigned the position as "Assistant Reservation Directors" during the summer camp season. With their passion and drive to see the Camp prosper and grow, they have brought many new ideas and programs to Camp in the "off season." As they continue to serve the Reservation I have no doubt that their good work and enthusiasm will continue through the summer and beyond.

Mark your calendar for our annual Fall Hike Weekend scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for a fun filled weekend exploring the beautiful Adirondacks in the Fall with your friends. Although we're calling it a "Hike Weekend," hiking is not required as some come up to just relax and enjoy the scenery. Look on our web site and in your e-mail for more information as the dates gets closer.

If you have contributed this year to the "Friends of Read" campaign, thank you very much! Your contributions are much needed and appreciated by the many Scouts and Leaders that benefit from our support. If you have not contributed please consider giving what you can so we can continue to support *Our Camp*. Rest assured every dollar we collect goes directly to helping Camp Read.

I hope to see you at the Eager Beaver or the Fall Hike weekend and would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Daley, CRA President

**Read "Eager Beaver" Work Weekend June 9 - 11, 2017**

# Friends of Read 2017

One of the primary missions of the Camp Read Association, as stated in our Charter, is to assist with camp promotion, staff development, program and financial support, and facility maintenance/development. In order to live up to this commitment your financial support is greatly needed.

Because of the generosity many of our members, the Association was able to make contributions towards a variety of projects and ongoing programs that have and continue to benefit the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in the areas of infrastructure, program, and staff support. The following are examples of how the Association provided this much needed support over the years: replacement of the roof on the Pearlman Building, major renovations of Boland Lodge (thanks to Peter Oberdorf for his most generous contribution), construction of the two lentos (in memory of Ken Haddermann and Chris Fearon), construction/renovation of the many camp signs throughout the Reservation, much needed program equipment, the annual Staff appreciation dinner, and Staff recognition awards.

To continue our commitment of service to the camp, the Association's assistance will be needed for the following upcoming projects: rebuilding the stone wall at the camp entrance, a new Summit Activities Center, construction of a lean-to for use by the Buckskin Camp Director, financial support towards the renovation Camp Waubeeka Office and program support for new activities such as mountain biking.

If you haven't joined this elite group of dedicated Scouters please give some thought to making a contribution. If you have donated in the past, our sincerest thanks and please consider renewing your support for 2017. Contributions to the Camp Read Association can be considered as a tax deduction. Another way to support camp is to send in a one-time donation either as a tribute to, or in memory of, an individual you would like to recognize.

Forms for donating to the Memorials & Tributes Fund or for The Friends of Read donations can be found in this Newsletter and on our website at [CampRead.org](http://CampRead.org).

*The Camp Read Association wishes to extend a sincere thanks to the following members who have made a contribution to the Association for 2017. Your financial support is greatly appreciated by all the scouts and leaders who attend Camp Read and benefit from your generosity.*

Charles Agro  
Richard Borner  
Richard Bosio  
Matt Brauner  
**Pete Ciacchi**  
**Ralph Colotti**  
Kent Cooper  
John M. Coughlin  
**Dedrick Damato**  
Ed D'Apice  
Michael Dietz  
Tom Dietz  
John J. Doyle  
Dr. William Flank  
Bruce Fusillo

Doug Gamble  
Jacob Gertstein  
**Ron & Kathy Green**  
Frank Graessle  
**Tim Haag**  
**John Hradsky**  
Tom Hunter  
Tripp Hutchinson  
Ted Kenyon  
**Albert Massimi**  
Michael McCabe  
**David Morris**  
**Peter Oberdorf**  
**Rich Okrasinski**  
Ron Phillips

Denis Pisanello  
Greg Pitonza  
Bailey Pitonza  
Michael Price  
**Ted C. Robinson**  
James Smith  
**Mark Sikora**  
**Matt Terrible**  
**David Terrible**  
**Bill Tracey**  
**John Tripodi**  
Michael Tripodi  
David Wallick  
Don Walsh  
Ron Yaskovic

## A Very Special Thanks to David Terrible

*Shown in bold above are those who have given most generously*

**THANK YOU!**

All donations to the Camp Read Association are tax-deductible



## 2017 Camp Read Workers Weekend

### Friday - Sunday, June 9 - 11

### Camp Read

**Hello Fellow Scouters!**

**We are very excited about the annual Camp Read Worker's Weekend! Come join your fellow alumni, staff & campers from Camp Read in getting the camp ready for the 2017 summer season!**

**Projects will of course include painting, staining, repairs/maintenance to tent sites, platforms, clearing debris & dead fall from a harsh winter and so many other projects. Please bring up your work gloves, painting shoes, your trade skills and your great attitudes!**

**We'll be meeting in camp Friday evening for registration & fellowship and continuing Saturday morning when the work really begins.**

**There will be plenty of beds available in camp, and meals Saturday & Sunday will be provided in camp for all who participate!**

**The flyer & full information form is on the website at:**  
**<http://www.campread.org/workweekend2017.pdf>**

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

➤ *This issue was sent to anyone who gave to the Friends of Read. If you want to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter, please send in your contribution!*

#### ➤ UPCOMING EVENTS

- Eager Beaver Work Weekend up at Read—June 9th - 11th. For more info and registration form visit: <http://www.campread.org/workweekend2017.pdf>
- Annual Fall Hike Weekend—Sept. 15th -17th - Save the date with more info to follow.
- Anyone wishing to contribute Newsletter articles, anecdotes, pictures, event postings, or general Camp or Scouting info should please send any correspondence to: Tom Hunter - [hunteto@gmail.com](mailto:hunteto@gmail.com)

➤ The Association web site is [campread.org](http://campread.org). Please visit our site for latest information..



## **The Aquatics Staff aka The Bronzed Gods**

By Tom Hunter

Although I never quite got bronzed, nor considering myself godlike in any way whatsoever, “Bronzed Gods” was traditionally a term of endearment, or maybe derision, regarding the Aquatics staff. I had the privilege of being waterfront director my last two years on camp staff (1974-1975). The first as director at Tomahawk (which turned out to be its last year as a traditional camp and now known as Summit Base Camp), and my last year on camp staff as director of the Buckskin waterfront at Roger’s Lake.

Before I could become an official waterfront director I was informed by Reservation Director Ken D’Apice, that I would need to go through a week long course at a BSA National Camping School and get my Aquatics Instructor certification. The course was being given at the legendary Schiff Scout Reservation (opened in 1932, closed in 1979) in Mendham, New Jersey. This turned out to be both a very challenging and rewarding life experience for me.



**Large Snapper laying eggs on beach**



**Lester Lake now is used for Zip line –Summit**

Upon arrival at Schiff you are put into troops and patrols with other Scouters to learn your respective fields (Program Directors, Field sports, Camp Administration and of course Aquatics). Most course work was intensive but none as much as the Aquatics Camp. On top of doing in-site patrol type cooking for breakfast and dinners Aquatics persons were required to start their day in the water at 7am. It was a whirlwind throughout each day mastering your swimming strokes, lifesaving, rowing and canoeing skills, then back to help prepare dinner, followed by a lecture for the remainder of the evening. Whew!

Each course segment was graded everyday on a color coded scale. Red meant get going, green meant keep going and yellow signified good going. In order to pass the week you were expected to have yellows in each category. One category might be throwing a ring buoy toss perfectly at a target some 40 ft. away then rewinding, repeated three times in less than a minute. You did it till it was done right. I know this all sounds a bit like basic training. You were sore at the end of each day but by the end of the week you knew your aquatics skills perfectly and how to teach them to the scouts. I never felt so prepared to take on a new job.

Once back at Read my staff and I could get our area ready for the summer. Probably a good time to mention that the two camps had radically different waterfront areas. Tomahawk (Summit) had a small pond named Lester Lake (some calling it Lester Puddle). Lester was man-made, mountain stream, spring fed and usually ice cold. What I particularly like about this area was its staff quarters. We had an actual cabin supplied with actual electricity. We had a small refrigerator, electric lights and a stereo. Literally the only spot in camp where staff had such posh living accommodations. Some of the cons were the aforementioned cold water and lack of a boating area.



***The Aquatics Staff—cont.***

The Roger's lake aquatics area was the absolute opposite of Lester. This spot was beautiful, surrounded by mountains, with a great boating area. The swimming area was slightly segregated from the main lake and stayed relatively warm (it is after all the Adirondacks where august morning temps could still dip in the thirties). The staff quarters was a cabin nestled in patch of tall evergreens with a gorgeous view of the water. Unfortunately no electricity here but still very nice. Another benefit of working at either waterfront was if the weather was rainy we basically had the day off.

Day to day life at the waterfront could be routine, filled with merit badge training, instructional swimming, general swims and boating. Each period we would also host a water carnival for all the troops to compete in and the occasional water polo patrol activity or mile swim. What really mixed things up for the Aquatics staff occurred during fourth period of my final year when we conducted an Aquatics Camp. This was for a limited number of scouts where they had the opportunity to earn all of the aquatics merit badges (swimming, lifesaving, rowing and canoeing) and culminated with a 4 day canoe trip through the Saranac Lakes region. This adventure had us going from lake to lake in the high peaks area, portaging when needed or going through locks to access the other lakes. We stayed on islands in the lakes at night and of course cooked our own meals. Scouts got the opportunity to utilize all of their scouting skills during the trip and I even got a bronze glow to my skin with all of this outdoor activity.



**Roger's Lake view from boating area**

Thankfully we never had a real emergency at either of the waterfronts although the potential for trouble was always on my mind. There were a couple of instances where buddy tags were left up on the board but the forgetful scouts were found quickly and OK, usually at the trading post or their troop site. This was due in no small part to the excellent staffs I had which included Larry Bernhart, Ferd Ryder, Warren Messner, Steve Costello, Paul Jarvis and Andy Velichko.



One of my more vivid memories on the waterfront occurred while fishing in the Roger's lake swimmers area during off hours. It was of course prohibited for campers to do but I just needed to try it. I cast out an artificial lure into the water and almost immediately a large fish hit it. It turned out to be about a four pound small mouth bass. I was thrilled. Pictures were taken and the fish released.

To this day I still visit both of my old areas when up at camp. Standing there always brings back a lot of cherished memories. Thankfully I got to experience them and hopefully helped a bunch of scouts in improving their aquatics skills!

## Memorials And Tributes

### In Memory of Ken & June Smith

*"Great Champions and Stewarts  
of Camp Read"*

Ed Mills

### In Honor of Peter Oberdorf

*"A Devoted Scouter and  
Friend of Many Years"*

Mike Venuti

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 \_\_\_\_\_

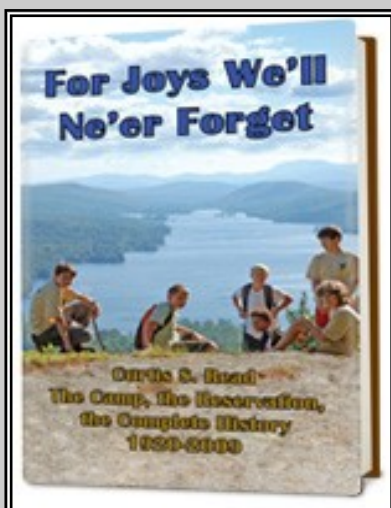
Your telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

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.*



**"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 the 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 Order 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](http://www.CampRead-ForJoys.com)**

*Copies also available at the Council Service Center*

**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**



## SPRING POTLUCK-2017



Ted & Tripp



Our annual potluck dinner was held on Saturday, April 1st at St. Joseph of Arimathea Church in Elmsford. While the gathering was small, with only about 20 attendees, the food and fellowship were amazing as usual. Tripp Hutchinson on the ukulele and Ted Kenyon on guitar provided an enjoyable program consisting of Scout songs and folk songs. The crowd joined in on some old favorites! This annual event is always a wonderful opportunity to catch up with some old friends and get to meet some new folks, while enjoying the culinary skills of many of our members. Hope to see you there next Spring!

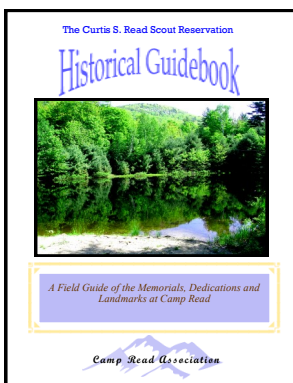


Enjoying the music!

## HISTORICAL GUIDEBOOK

The Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Field Guide contains seventy pages of Memorials, Dedications and Landmarks found at Camp Read. The 2014 edition of the Guidebook is now in its sixth 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](http://campread.org) or contact :

**Ed D'Apice**  
**Phone: (845) 612-3151 or**  
**E-mail: [entropy2@earthlink.net](mailto:entropy2@earthlink.net)**





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. Members 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 2017 Change of Address Form**

Name:

E-Mail:

Address:

Phone:

City:

Contribution:

State:

Zip:

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

☐ 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