



Mattatuck Messenger



Vol. 1 No. 2

Summer, 1999

Mattatuck Volunteers

Come to the Reunion!

Once again Staff Alumni and Friends of Camp Mattatuck are invited to venture up to 'neath the summit of Mount Tobe and join your friends for a day of fun on July 31, 1999. Arrive anytime after 1:00 and plan on staying for the afternoon and evening until campfire time. We will offer swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and field sports as well as continuous tours of the property so that you can see the few new things at camp that have evolved but mostly to reminisce about how things are still the same. "Camp is exactly the same -- only different!" Bring your family and to let them experience a little bit of what you once did at camp. They can experience all those stories you tell and they didn't believe.

There may be a nominal charge to cover the cost of hot dogs, hamburgers, and refreshments, which will be available throughout the afternoon and evening.

We would also like to mention that the closing ceremonies will take place on Saturday evening, August 21, 1999. Plan to arrive early to assure a parking place. The Court of honor starts at 7:30pm and the campfire will start at 8:00 PM. The night will conclude with the traditional torch light ceremony and canoe rosettes. See you soon. *Camp Mattatuck Staff*

PS. "Oh we're the staff of Mattatuck.....you know the rest."

Monckton Elected Chairman

Longtime Scoutmaster and former Order of the Arrow Advisor David Monckton of Woodbury was elected chairman of the Mattatuck Volunteers at the April 18 meeting at camp. Other officers elected were Paul Lukens of Middlebury, Vice-Chairman/Treasurer; and Robert Reed of Terryville, Secretary. The Volunteers are in good hands. Please lend your support to these men for the good of Scouting.

Totem Pole Refurbished

The camp totem pole, a creation of the late Ken Conrad, is repaired and is on display in the dining hall after a long absence from camp. Experts from the Carousel Museum in Bristol repaired the pole and gave it a professional painted finish that will last for years. It will be kept out of the weather to preserve it.

Order of the Arrow News

Chapter Vice Chief Matt Plourde reports the "O.A." welcomed 17 new members at its April weekend, and 25 more in June. Three small off-season campsites were built during the April weekend. The plan is to put all off-season sites numbered on a map, identify the sites with numbered signs, and issue the maps with reservation forms. The O.A. has now built five new campsites, which should not only give troops more variety, but will spread out the wear-and-tear. Also in April, the east side of the lake was cleared of brush from the path to the water's edge to make the lake more accessible to fishermen, and the Lost Lake dam was cleared of trees and brush.

In June the O.A. set up camp for the upcoming season. United Parcel Service visited to see first hand the type of volunteer work that is done at camp and to present a check for \$5,000. A family barbecue was held prior to leaving on Sunday. Brian Dabkowski serves as Chapter Chief and Paul Lukens Chapter Advisor.

Spotlight on...Jeremy Nelson



One of the many outstanding young men serving on the camp staff this summer is Jeremy Nelson of Troop 109, Naugatuck. Jeremy got started in Scouting when a neighbor who was a Webelos leader invited him to join. Since then Jeremy has risen to the rank of Eagle Scout and as Service Committee Chairman of the Order of the Arrow he is in charge of all work done at camp by the O.A. After a couple of years as office clerk Jeremy is moving to the commissary as dining hall steward. A graduate of Naugatuck High School, Jeremy is headed to Keene State College in New Hampshire to study Technical Education. When asked what he gained most from Scouting, he answered "project management". The more you get to know the staff of Mattatuck, the more you're impressed by them.

Upcoming Events

- July 31, 1999 60th anniversary staff reunion
- August 21, 1999 Camp Closes (torchlight parade)
- Sept. 10-12, 1999 Order of the Arrow Ordeal Weekend

Trailblazer

Arthur Z. "Pop" Hirsch retired reasonably young, moved to Connecticut, and became a volunteer Assistant Scout Executive in the Mattatuck Council around 1940. Mr. Hirsch was a terrific program man, and during his years in the area pageants and shows were special events. Probably his greatest contribution to Scouting was the formation of Mattatuck Lodge, Order of the Arrow. According to "A History of the Mattatuck Lodge" (1967, Paul Hadzima)... *"On a night in July, 1942, the first induction ceremony was held. A spot was chosen on the eastern side of the lake; it was a small knoll along the shore--a little below the present Whip-Poor-Will campsite. The ceremonial officers were: Pop Hirsch, David Babson (Scout Exec.) and Zak and Chuck Hirsch (Pop's sons)."* Mr. Hirsch earned the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope for his outstanding service to Scouting. The ranger's home is named the Hirsch-Cole Lodge. In the late 1950's Mr. Hirsch moved to California. His son Zak became a professional Scouter and rose to the national program staff. Think of how our camp and our Scouting program would have been different had not Arthur Hirsch come along.



Camp Director's Corner

"By the lake at golden sunset, hiking on the trail . . .". Words familiar to all of us. For some, echoes of a long ago forgotten campfire; to others, a melody we still hum from a recently attended outing. Whether it has been two months or two decades since we last enjoyed the fellowship of our brother scouts around the campfire, all of us are filled with fond memories.

For fifty young men (and those of us young in heart), a tradition that has spanned six decades is once again rapidly approaching. On June 24th, the 1999 Mattatuck staff will unroll the canvass, float the docks, and fire the imagination of program to offer what only camp can to an expected 1450 scouts who will walk our trails over the seven weeks of this year's season. With the Cub Day Camp included, Camp Mattatuck will service the needs of almost two-thousand boys this year! As you may already be aware, 1999 marks the sixtieth anniversary of Camp Mattatuck, a camp rich in tradition and purpose. From the first day that Chief Babson set foot on the property that was to become Mattatuck, to the vigilant guidance of Tom Horan, this camp has become home to countless scouts; each of our memories filled with treasured images in time, and each of our lives forever altered by the goodness, care, and direction shown by the camp's staff. I think that for many staff alumni, camp is a magical realm where the problems of everyday life were cast away, and the friendships made became some of our most prized possessions.

Camp is more than just 500 acres of woodland, it is made from the talents and generosity of so many who have served as her staff, as leaders who give of their time, as benefactors who contribute so that she may continue. We are all family in Mattatuck. It is my hope that each staff alumni who reads this will make an effort to return to camp to relive some of their memories, to share their stories, for all of her staff of the past sixty years to mingle and laugh together.

Having worked at Mattatuck for the past fifteen years, I have made so many friends, encountered so many new realizations, learned from some of the best scouters to be found. Now, serving as her newest Camp Director, I find myself picking up the torch carried by my predecessors. These men have led camp on a wonderful path that has enriched so many lives. I am thankful for the guidance and reassurance from so many of you as I build for this year's season. Many of you have been my strength and inspiration, and for that I am grateful. Among the many I would like to acknowledge are Chris Moon, my Assistant Camp Director, Bob Herbert, the camp's Ranger, Rob Reed, my Business Manager, and Paul Lukens, my Commissary Director. I could go on to quite a lengthy list, for each of you have given some small part in helping me through this change. Thank you.

Camp is looking great, and a renewed energy and concern for the well-being and care of the facilities has taken place this spring. I'd like to thank the many staff and adults, the Order of the Arrow, and the Mattatuck Volunteers for their combined efforts in improving Mattatuck, making her one of the best camps in the Scouting program. This summer is shaping up to be a very positive and exciting time. I am anxious to start and to see the smile on every scout's face as they walk away at week's end, having shared in the same spirit that each of us has at some point during these past sixty years. I look forward to seeing all of you at camp this summer.

Yours in Scouting,
Alan T. Colangelo,
Camp Director

Can You C.O.P.E.?

From the Camp Mattatuck Website
Photo courtesy of Robert Reed



Project COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) is an exciting outdoor activity that can attract and hold older boys in the Scouting program. It is designed to meet the needs of today's scouts who are seeking greater challenges to their physical and mental abilities. The seven goals of COPE are Teamwork, Leadership, Communication, Trust, Self-Esteem, Decision Making and Problem Solving. The value of teaching 14-17 year old scouts these objectives in this day and age cannot be overstated.

The Project COPE program consists of three types of activities: initiative games, low elements and high elements. Initiative games help everyone to get to know each other a little better, as the program will involve scouts from as many different troops as possible, and to begin to develop the concepts of teamwork and problem-solving which are at the heart of COPE. Standard initiative games include the Tangled Knot, name games, and many others which you may have encountered. Low elements take place during the middle portion of the program and strengthen the group as a whole. Some examples of low elements are Mohawk Walk, Nitro Crossing and "The Wall". The program concludes with the High Course. The classic example of a high course element is the Zip Line. It is amazing what one learns about oneself after stepping off a 2 ft by 2 ft wooden platform perched 40 ft up a telephone pole and "zipping" 685' 3½" through the air on a cable and pulley. The initial anxieties and fears are swept away and replaced by the exhilaration and self-fulfillment achieved as a result of one's own courage. This is just one illustration of a program where the participants learn through their own personal and team adventures. We've added 4 new high elements for the '99 season. These include the Centipede, Giants Ladder, Vertical Playpen, Free Rappel. The program is open to all scouts 14 and older with their parent's permission, and after counseling with their Scoutmaster and the COPE Director. The program runs 9-12 AM Monday-Friday with the possibility of a separate afternoon program running from 1-4 PM if the number of interested scouts warrant it.

A Project COPE course provides an opportunity for each participant to achieve success as an individual and as a member of a team. The activities are not designed to be competitive or to be a race against time. More important objectives include building confidence, developing leadership skills, and attaining a sense of common cooperation among team members. The course is designed to build more self-confidence in a shorter length of time than anything most people have experienced. How good is the experience? General Electric sends 70 young professionals annually to Mattatuck's C.O.P.E. course as a team-building exercise. Be sure to visit the course when you come to the **Staff Reunion**.

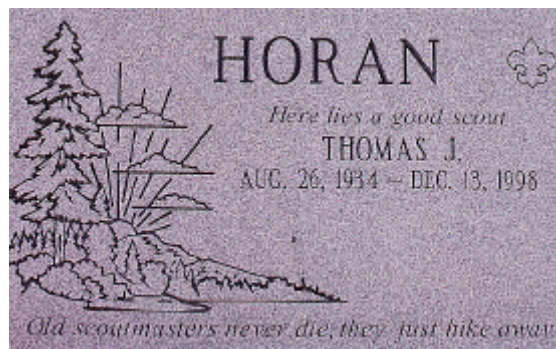
Honors & Awards

Connecticut Rivers Council presented the Silver Beaver Award to **James Doback** and **Elio Gugliotti** Of Mattatuck District and **Joseph Marcques** of Blue Trail District at the Aqua Turf on May 4.

On May 11 the leadership of Boy Scout Troop 102, Naugatuck received the Raymond Foley Award for service to youth. Recognized were: **Frank Rodrigues**, Scoutmaster; and Assistant Scoutmasters **James Doback**, **Charles Doback**, **Bruce Monahan**, and **Joe Ascencao**.

Receiving the District Award of Merit from the Blue Trail District was former Camp Mattatuck staffer **Newell Hill** of Washington, Connecticut and **Bill Morris** of Middlebury, while **Suzanne Rodrigues** and **Christopher Moon** of Naugatuck and **Albert Notation** of Cheshire were recognized by the Mattatuck District.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers.



Chriswish List

Items in *italics* are complete. Names underlined did the work

- *Toms' Way* under construction by Volunteers
- *Build Latrines and Showers at Arrow South, Cedar and Mohawk and Maple.* First two under construction by Don Lamy Builders. Council is paying for one, Don is donating one.
- *Visitors Latrine Leeching.* Bob Herbert, Camp Ranger
- Replace Support Pipe on Water Line In Front Of Health Lodge
- Rebuild the Northern Portion of the Shower House to Add Toilets
- Add Hand Washing Facility To Outside Of Dining Hall near Bell
- Handicap Access to Office
- Handicap Access and Improve Step Out Of Trading Post
- Repair Ditch Light
- Replace Amphitheater Light. Acquired by ranger from CL&P. Not yet installed
- *Replace some amphitheater seats.* T-52 Oakville committee replaced some and in October will regrade eroded areas.
- Replace Foam in the Swimming Raft
- Repair the hole In the Wall near the Mixer
- Replace the Toaster
- Upgrade the Bathroom behind the Fireplace
- Install Anti Siphon Valves on All Latrines and Install Short Garden Hoses
- "Keep Off Runway" Sign
- Barnum Cabin...
 - Seal Chimney Leak
 - Repair Holes in Ceiling
 - Repair Hole in Floor
 - Repair Door Latches
 - Remove Kitchen Sink
 - Rebuild Kitchen Counter
 - New Cabin
 - Fix Railings at New Cabin
 - Install Gutters over Back Steps of New Cabin
 - Replace Wiring to Trading Post
 - Reset Pillars at Nature Center
 - Bury Waterline to Health Lodge and Dining Hall
- Hess Cabin...
 - Repair Door Latches
 - Replace Light Switches
 - Repair Pillars on porch
 - Replace Drainage Pipe at Cub Beach
 - Rebuild Cub Swim Fence Entrance
 - Get Sand to Cub Beach
 - Install Stained Glass Window in Peak Of Chapel
 - Install Vents In Back Room of Chapel
- *Paint And Patch The Kitchen Bathroom.* Alan Colangelo, Matt Plourde, Justin Claire
- *Spray Poison Ivy.* 25 gallon sprayer purchased, Rob Reed working on it
- Rebuild the Canoe and Kayak Racks
- Rebuild the Wooden Canoes stored at Tom's House
- Acquire 3 Sailboats
- Grade Road annually
- *Wood Chips For Cope Trails.* Donated by Asplundt Tree Service & Mario Chiovitti. Need to be spread
- Gravel the Entrance to the Activity Pavilion
- Lengthen Gutter at Pavilion
- Fix Hickory Latrine
- Fill and Grade the Ledge on the Lumber lumber road to Archery
- Spray And Kill Plant Growth At Rifle In May So It Will Be Dead For June
- Run Water Line and Install Water Fountain at Archery
- Repair Road and Drainage on Road from Arrow S to Archery
- Mohawk Cabin...
 - Repair Stone Work of Chimney
 - Seal Chimney Leak
 - Repair Holes in Ceiling in Kitchen and Main Room
 - Repair Hole in Floor
 - Replace Coat Hooks and Molding in Main Room
 - Repair Pillars
 - Repair Door Latches
 - Make and Install Campsite Signs for All Summer Sites and Program Areas
 - Make and Install Campsite Signs for Off Season Sites
 - The Following Items Will Cost No Money
 - Reset Pillars at Chapel So Doors Open
 - Fill In More Shooting Area at Archery
 - Remove More Stumps and Rocks to Enlarge Shooting Area at Archery Range
 - Remove More Stumps and Rocks to Enlarge Shotgun Area at Rifle Range
 - Repaint the Walk in Cooler Floor
 - Install diving board
 - Replace the Swimming Log Seats
 - Screw the Sagging Ceiling in the Kitchen
 - *Move the Kitchen Staff Plaques Out Of the Eating Area.*
 - Paul Lukens
 - Regrade Hill above Swimming Area
 - Plant grass around Dining hall
 - Fill and plant grass at worn spots near parents section in amphitheater
 - Cut down rotten tree next To Barnum

Some feedback from Vol.1 No.1... "Scouting was the key that got me where I am today. Never does a day go by when I don't think back and appreciate boy scouts and the efforts of those who made it possible"....and...."Mr. Horan's professionalism and focus on service, while maintaining the respect of his entire staff is what I try to emulate in my current job."

We'd like to hear from you. If you have a story to tell, mail it or e-mail it. Have an old photo you'd like to share? Need a copy of Vol.1 No.1?

Need to locate an old friend? Contact: Joe LeClair, 108 Chipper Road, Waterbury CT 06704 ileclair@snet.net

Where is He Now?

One of the most prestigious Camp Mattatuck Alumni, Colonel Barnum earned the Congressional Medal of Honor while a Lieutenant in Viet Nam in 1965. His citation reads:



H.C. "Barney" Barnum
Life Scout, Troop 51, Cheshire
 Provisional Troop Staff, 1955-56
 Mattatuck Lodge O.A. Chief, 1959



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. When the company was suddenly pinned down by a hail of extremely accurate enemy fire and was quickly separated from the remainder of the battalion by over 500 meters of open and fire-swept ground, and casualties mounted rapidly. Lt. Barnum quickly made a hazardous reconnaissance of the area, seeking targets for his artillery. Finding the rifle company commander mortally wounded and the radio operator killed, he, with complete disregard for his safety, gave aid to the dying commander, then removed the radio from the dead operator and strapped it to himself. He immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the midst of the heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come. His sound and swift decisions and his obvious calm served to stabilize the badly decimated units and his gallant example as he stood exposed repeatedly to point out targets served as an inspiration to all. Provided with two armed helicopters, he moved fearlessly through enemy fire to control the air attack against the firmly entrenched enemy while skillfully directing one platoon in a successful counterattack on the key enemy positions. Having thus cleared a small area, he requested and directed the landing of two transport helicopters for the evacuation of the dead and wounded. He then assisted in the mopping up and final seizure of the battalion's objective. His gallant initiative and heroic conduct reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.

In recognition of his heroic actions, Camp Mattatuck honored "Barney" by renaming Hickory Cabin "Barnum" Cabin. After serving in the Marines with distinction for 27 years, Colonel Barnum was Principal Director, Drug Enforcement Policy, Office of The Secretary of Defense. Since 1993 he has been Corporate and Community Affairs Advisor for a hotel management firm in Virginia. He and his wife Martha live in Reston, Virginia.

Of the late Tom Horan Col. Barnum wrote, *"I'm one of those young men who Tom Horan affected most positively. He was a true role model...He truly was instrumental in the success I've attained in life. Where do we get such men?...how fortunate we were to have Tom amongst us."*

Memories of Scouting include the 1953 National Jamboree at Irvine Ranch, California, and the 1956 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Indiana State University, both of which he attended with Tom. Camp memories are of the people he knew. Among them were Ranger Ed Lovrinovic, Chief Babson, "Pop" Carozza, Bailey the cook, Liu Koncius, Ray Sullivan, Ed Tomasi, Tom "Toot" Horan, and "all my O.A. brothers".

Camp Family Album

By Rob Reed

Camp is trying to gather and hold onto its roots by gathering pictures, images and newspaper clippings of so we have something to pass to the next generation of "Camp People". What we are doing is taking these pictures etc and scanning them into a computer, then returning the originals. We've got some great stuff already from George Lynch and Joe LeClair Jr. Were looking for more stuff like pictures of the Ice House, early years at camp, the "Polish Farm" when it was a farm, the building of Tuttle and Lovett lodges etc. So if you have something to share with us please send it to:

Camp Mattatuck Pictures
 C/o Robert Reed
 10 Orchard St
 Terryville, CT 06786

We'll return them after we finished scanning them. Of course if you're coming up to camp this summer, bring them with you. We can scan negatives, slides or photos. Don't forget to tell us what the pictures are of (when, where, who) and where to return them.

Project #1: "Tom's Way"

Chris Moon and his tractor did the work of 20 men June 5 when work commenced on the trail to be known as "Tom's Way". The trail, requested by Tom Horan in his last days, will be lined with timbers and filled with gravel and stone to make a safe and dry footpath for the Cub Scouts. Working on the trail were Chris Moon, Joe LeClair Jr., Allen Rebman, Joe LeClair III, and Matthew LeClair. Working in other parts of the camp were Paul Lukens, Matt Plourde, Alan Colangelo, Rob Reed, Ryan Donovan, and Jim Miller.

Through the efforts of Judy Sergi of the Scout Shop, Bob Thatcher of Pack 114 Cheshire, and Paul Hoffman of Troop 52 Oakville we have 35 yards of gravel, 600 feet of reinforcement bar and 100 railroad ties. The Naugatuck Valley Railroad has agreed to give us railroad ties from their stock pile in Thomaston. They are sorting them now and as soon as they are ready we will pick them up and begin laying them on the trail. In exchange, we'll need to cut some brush for the railroad.

Thank You to Marc Moody for setting up a very professional Camp Mattatuck Website and a Mattatuck e-mail list. Visit the website at <http://matwreck.org/mattatuck/>. Subscribe to the e-mail list by sending a message to mattatuck-volunteers@matwreck.org.

Like to keep this newsletter coming for another year? Support the Mattatuck Volunteers. Send \$10 or more to:

Mattatuck Volunteers
CT Rivers Council BSA
127 Scott Road
Waterbury, CT 06705

If you contributed to the Volunteers in memory of Tom and/or Barney please ignore this request.

**Mattatuck Volunteers
CT Rivers Council, BSA
127 Scott Road
Waterbury, CT 06704**

News from Camp Mattatuck for:

Reunion July 31!!