

# Mattatuck Messenger

No.3

February, 2000

## Meeting February 27

You are invited to attend the Mattatuck Volunteers meeting on **Sunday, February 27 1:00 PM** at 49'er's Cabin (a heated cabin near the volleyball court) at Camp Mattatuck. You'll learn about the progress made so far and help us make plans for future work.

## Cabins Refurbished

Troop 102 Naugatuck and Troop 231 Wolcott each adopted a cabin and are in the process of repairing them. Wayne Malenda and Frank Rodrigues led Troop 102 for many hours working on the roof, chimney, and foundation at Mohawk. In the spring the interior will be redone. The men from Troop 231, sparked by Ron Plourde and Geno Monroe refurbished the interior and masonry at Hess Cabin

*Mohawk Cabin Photos by Joe Ascencao*



## 1999 Camp Season Report

The adventure of Scouting was offered to over 1440 Scouts and 440 Cubs at Camp Mattatuck this summer.. The Scouts hailed from 86 troops from as far away as Ithaca, NY. 83 scouts were challenged by the whitewater of the Farmington River while working toward Whitewater Merit Badge. 145 Scouts and leaders tackled the COPE course.



1<sup>st</sup> year Camp Director Alan Colangelo (photo at left) led an experienced, capable staff through a hot dry summer. The staff was courteous, energetic, and skillful. The only incident that marred the summer was a 24-hour virus that went through the camp, with 70 campers and staff getting sick. The council staff and camp staff reacted quickly, cooperating with the State to confine the illness. Hats off to all who made the summer a success!

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Held

Camp Mattatuck Staff Alumni and their families, 58 in all, enjoyed an active day 'neath the summit of Mt. Tobe Saturday, July 31. The camp staff made all facilities open to the alumni. Some enjoyed a swim in the 90-degree heat, others went sailing, canoeing, or kayaking on the lake, some shot archery and rifle. Others, like the 12-member contingent from the Fran and Dan Champion families, did everything! Some alumni hadn't been to camp in a long time, and visited the COPE course and the climbing wall for the first time, and learned about the whitewater canoeing and mountain biking programs now offered by the camp. Traveling farthest for the reunion was Terry Boulanger ('61-'62) who now lives in New Mexico! By 3 PM Paul Lukens had a buffet prepared with hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, and salads. Thank you Paul! At 4 PM Rob Reed and Marc Moody presented a wonderful slide show with pictures going back to the early years of camp. At 7:30 PM Brian Shannon led a short campfire program for the children. The highlights were Dan (or was it Fran?) Champion's "the wipers on the bus" song, Chris Moon's story of "Rinderella", and Camp Director Alan Colangelo's "Irish Laborer". It was a wonderful day. We know those who attended enjoyed it and hope we have another reunion soon.

*"Mattatuck Messenger"* is a publication of the Mattatuck Volunteers. Circulation 1000. Starting with this issue, the newsletters will drop the "Volume" numbers and simply have "Issue" numbers. If you have anything to contribute to the paper (articles, photos, etc) please contact Joe LeClair, 108 Chipper Rd., Waterbury, CT 06704 [ileclair@snet.net](mailto:ileclair@snet.net)

. If you enjoy reading about today and yesterday at Camp Mattatuck, please keep this paper coming by writing a check (suggested \$10 minimum) today to Mattatuck Volunteers, CT Rivers Council BSA 129 Scott Road, Waterbury, CT 06705.  
Thank you!

## Order of the Arrow

Chapter Chief Matt Plourde reports that the September 10-12 OA weekend went great. The largest group of candidates in a number of years, 43 in all, completed their Ordeal. 25 brothers worked alongside the army of candidates to accomplish the following:

- A 100 - 200 foot area behind Polaris Campsite was cleared to swing the site back away from the road.
- A 100 ft radius around the Polaris fire ring was cleared for a new campsite.
- The trail leading from Tobe's Well to the Point was cleared and made passable again.
- The fire road was also cleared so that the United Way could put up boundary signs made over the weekend.

**Next OA weekend...April 14-16, 2000 (Note change of date!)**

The full slate of officers elected were:

Chapter Chief- **Matt Plourde**      Vice-Chief - **Justin Clair**      Treasurer - **Joe Barbour**      Secretary - **Brice DeAlessio**      Lodge Representative - **Josh Sedlock**

Good luck to these young men in their important roles. **Paul Lukens** continues to do a fine job as Chapter Advisor.



## Trail Blazer Norman Baril

A pattern maker is a skilled woodworker who makes a wooden form used to sand cast large machine parts out of molten metal. The wooden form must have the proper taper or "draft" so it can be removed from the sand without disturbing it. The form usually would include elaborate curves and blends to strengthen the finished part. From this pattern many cast parts could be produced, so the pattern maker's hours of careful shaping and finishing were well spent. Norman Baril, a pattern maker for his working life, helped shape the Mattatuck we know today with his strong hands and dedicated heart. Old-time Scouters often say that of all the people who worked at camp, Norman Baril was among the most devoted, but least recognized.

In the early years of Mattatuck the most prominent troop at camp was Troop 13 of Sacred Heart Church in Waterbury. With Napoleon Charbonneau and Alfred Baril on the Council camp committee and a good active troop under Mr. Jack Kearney, Troop 13 was among the first to camp at Mattatuck, was instrumental in many projects at camp, and had numerous members on the camp staff.

Norman Baril worked on the camp staff in the 1940's when he wasn't serving in the Seabees in World War II. He founded and led the original Order of the Arrow dance team, and was Order of the Arrow Chief in 1950-51. Much of what he created we take for granted. In the 1950's Mr. Baril led the camp staff in the construction of the trading post, teamed with camp ranger Ed Lovrinowicz in building Hirsch-Cole Lodge, which serves as the ranger's home, and was instrumental in getting the Seabees to do the site work for the original amphitheater. When he wasn't out camping with Troop 13 or Explorer Post 13, for which he was Post Advisor, he was at camp working.

Norman Baril passed away in 1964 at the age of 43, six years after receiving the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to Scouting. His work lives on as people he influenced strive to emulate his dedication.

*We thank Gene Baril, Norm's younger brother, for information on this article. Gene worked at camp three summers, succeeded his brother as O.A. chief, revived the dance team in the 1950's, and years later brought his troop to Camp Mattatuck when he was a Meriden Scoutmaster.*

### Mattatuck Volunteers Officers

(Elected April, 1999)

Chairman...David Monckton 203-263-2361  
Vice Chairman/Treas...Paul Lukens...203-758-9541  
Secretary...Robert Reed...860-593-5977

## Where Is He Now?

Richard Lorenz... Waterfront '68-'69

After graduating from Rensselaer Poly Tech in 1973 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering Richard Lorenz worked for North American Rockwell in California. For over three years he worked on the Space Shuttle. From there he went to Boeing, where he's worked in their Propulsion department ever since. (737, 747, 767, 777...) Currently he is the Propulsion Requirements and Compliance Chief Engineer, an Associate Technical Fellow, and a Designated Engineering Representative to the FAA. Dick and his wife Marcia have two daughters(Chris - 17, Kate - 14) and one son(Joe - 11).

### The Lorenz File Part 1

### "What am I doing Here?"

*The following is the first in a series of memories from Richard Lorenz(Waterfront '68-69), who now lives in California...*

Golly Mr. Peabody, lets get in the "wayback" machine. 1968. Bobby and Martin had been shot. Hot cars are in vogue and yet to be snuffed by "Naderites". Student unrest is prevalent. Vietnam hangs over the heads of the youth and around the neck of the country. Atomic war is never far away. Woodstock happens next year and Kent State the following spring. And here I am, a youth of 16, high on hormonal overdose and full of idealism.

Where does a young man go for the summer? At 16, the sandlot baseball games in the neighborhood have lost some luster. (can already hit the ball out of the 'park', so what else is there?) The neighborhood boys (the ones I used to play baseball and pop-gun wars with) are now playing poker. I don't gamble. I'm the one who comes back from Vegas in a barrel. Few employers give more than a passing glance at a 16 year old's resume (presuming you know how to write one). Working at the grocery store seems like a pretty lame job. You haven't gotten your license yet, so the girls pay you little attention (presuming you know how to approach them or that they'd give you a second glance if you DID drive.) So what do you do? >

John (Brother) seems to like counseling at camp Mattatuck. I vaguely remember this place. I had a court of Honor (and to date, my only standing ovation) there at an 'end of the week' campfire in '67. I have never been there before as a camper. Money means little to me (Did I really believe that once??). So why not ask for an application? So what if you know no one and have no job experience. Fill it out in your best handwriting. (how do you spell exemplary again??)

They've deigned to give you an interview. Holy smoke, did I tell them I'd never been to camp before in my life?? Who is Harold Jackson anyway? But he's the one I remember from the interview. During the interview, I swear the first words out of Harold's mouth (which I hear again and again over the next two summers) are, 'Get a haircut!'.(1968 styles run against this advice) The next discussions revolve around my desire to work on waterfront. I'm told they usually don't give this assignment to first year counselors.(truth or not, who knows) They talk to me about working in Scoutcraft. John does this and likes it. I don't. I grew up with boats and swimming and this is what I love and want. Sun, surf, Beachboys, girls, bronze skin.( the ozone layer and skin cancer are far in the future) They say they'll let me know.

As you guessed, I'm accepted. 10 weeks for \$50. Six days a week, essentially 24 hrs a day. And all you can eat?(Well it sounded good at the time...) \$50 for the summer??? I suppose that's why college gave me a scholarship. They viewed the camp as charity work! I pack dad's sea bag (a leftover from his time in the service) putting in all the neatly folded clothes mom gives to me. She knows that in six days she'll get an ugly pile back.

OK so now I'm at camp. Show me to the Waterfront, and I'll show them how to do it!! So why have they got me riding on a trailer full of old tents, pulled by a tractor, driven by some skinny guy who smokes a pipe? This guy never knows the meaning of, "you can't do that with a tractor". (Now how the heck did he get that through those trees. And who's going to get the chainsaw to get it out?) The sun is here, I'm here, the water is here (and looks inviting). Why am I putting up tents??

A day later I find out "the grand plan". The rain starts to fall and now we get to wade into the cold water to put the docks up. The trailer and tents look pretty good now. The other counselors on the trailer laugh as they drive by. I'd make some smart remark if I could just get my teeth to stop chattering. I see John every so often. He has his work to do and is as busy as I, so we can't fraternize. But he's there just the same. An important touchstone in this new world with unfamiliar people.

The docks. I'm never sure how these actually go up. By the laws of physics, they cannot be put up properly. By all rights, new campers should walk down the causeway, buckle over laughing at the katty whompus docks and die. End of camp, end of story. But they do go up, and don't look half bad at the end. At this time, both sets of docks (beach and boat) are supported by the lake bottom. The metal beach dock goes in first, and we spend lots of time digging in the footings to achieve a passably level dock. By the end of our efforts here, I'm sure that any compass carried over the docks would go haywire due to the number of bolts we drop in the water.

I swear the boat docks are as heavy as the row boats. It's here I learn the two most valuable tools on the waterfront. The 'fid' is one. It is used for levering holes and footings where they don't want to go. The second is a handy list of expletives. The expletives are used as a heavy footing drops on your toe, or as you dig up a load of stinking muck from the lake bottom. The Water covers a lot of our sins.

## Chriswish List

*Italics* = done    underlined = whodunnit

### See anything you'd like to do? Anything you'd like to provide funds for?

- *Toms' Way (trail from Day camp to grove)* - completed by Toms' family, staff members, volunteers and the scouts and leaders of Troop 102, 52, 109
- *Mohawk Cabin - repair stone work of chimney, relocate wood stove, replace roof, shingles, replace worn ceiling, repair hole in floor, move coat hooks, reset pillars, replace worn siding, install new thresholds* - Wayne Malenda, Frank Rodrigues and Troop 102.
- *Hess Cabin - Updating the electrical wiring indoors, adding outlets and switches adding outside porch lighting, new paneling on walls, ceiling boards replaced, fireplace stonework, new steps on back door, reset pillar on front door, remove old counter, wood stove relocated* - Ron Plourde, Geno Monroe and Troop 231 Wolcott, Troop 230 Wolcott
- *Repair light below trading post* - Kevin Parkhurst of Parkhurst Electric
- *Replace Amphitheater Light* - Bob Herbert
- Gesner Cabin
  - *Fix Railings At New Cabin* - rangers staff
  - *Install gutters over back steps of Gesner cabin*
- *Replace Wiring To Trading Post* - Kevin Parkhurst of Parkhurst Electric
- *Rebuild The Canoe Funyak And Kayak Racks* - summer camp staff
- *Cut down the tree in front of the Dining hall* - Bob Herbert, Darryl Andrews
- *Cut down tree over Polaris latrine* - Bob Herbert, Jim Doback, Charlie Doback and a bucket truck from Lauretano Sign Co.
- Build latrines and showers at Arrow South, Cedar, Mohawk and Maple
- Replace support pipe on water line in front of health lodge
- Rebuild the northern portion of the shower house to add toilets
- Add handwashing facility to outside of dining hall near bell
- Handicap access to office
- Build a new office across from Lovett Lodge. Convert the old office into a trading post and a museum. Remove the old trading post
- Replace foam in the swimming raft
- Repair the hole in the wall near the mixer
- Replace the toaster in the dining hall kitchen
- Add to the Northeast corner of the Dining hall and add public flush toilets, remove the old bathroom and improve the storage area
- Install anti siphon valves on all latrines and install short garden hoses
- Barnum cabin - seal chimney leak, repair holes in ceiling, repair hole in floor, repair door latches, remove kitchen sink, rebuild kitchen counter
- Reset pillars at nature center
- Bury waterline to health lodge and dining hall
- 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
- Rebuild the wooden canoes
- Acquire 3 sailboats
- Spray poison ivy

- Grade road
- Gravel the path to the activity pavilion
- Lengthen gutter at pavilion
- Fill and grade the ledge on the lumber yard road to archery
- Spray and kill plant growth at rifle in may so it will be dean for june
- Install water fountain at archery
- Repair road and drainage on road from arrow s to archery
- Make and install campsite signs for all summer sites and program areas
- Make and install campsite signs for off season sites
- 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
- Acquire and install diving board
- Replace the swimming log seats
- Screw the sagging ceiling in the kitchen
- Re-grade hill above swimming area
- Fill worn spots below parents section in amphitheater
- Cut down rotten tree next to Barnum
- Rebuild the stone wall below the spillway



New interior of Hess Cabin. Photo by Rob Reed



More Mohawk Cabin photos by Jose Ascencao...





## Tom's Way

The footpath to be known as "Tom's Way" is complete, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and gravel generously donated by Mr. Bob Thatcher of Cheshire. A routed sign at each end of the trail and small tree identification markers will be added. This is to be the only physical monument to Tom Horan in camp, per his request. *Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project.*

**Cyberscouts Visit the Camp Mattatuck website: <http://matwreck.org/mattatuck/>**

**While there you can subscribe to the Mattatuck Volunteers Electronic Mailing List so friends of camp can communicate with each other.**

**Anyone subscribed can post to the list by sending an e-mail message to [mattatuck-volunteers@matwreck.org](mailto:mattatuck-volunteers@matwreck.org). Everyone on the list will then get your message.**

*Footnote to Dick Lorenz...* At the end of the summer of '73 a sand castle appeared on the beach. Waterfront Director Bob Kiessling added to it. Then others joined in. Within a short time half the camp staff was on the beach building sand bowling alleys and football stadiums. Curious campers were jokingly told, "We're having a contest with Camp Worcoeman. Winning camp gets a new dock". Dick, you'll be happy to know the old metal swimming dock was replaced with a floating wood and foam dock in 1974. The floating dock is still in use.

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

*News from Camp Mattatuck for:*