

Camp's Open!



**Final
Campfire
August
18th**

Greg Gubitosi and his staff will provide expert instruction at the improved archery range this summer.

No.8

Mattatuck Messenger

Summer, 2001

As this is written, the first campfire program of the season is complete and was a great success. Troops from throughout Connecticut and one from Ithaca, New York are in camp and are enjoying perfect camping weather. Guiding the staff are experienced leaders, including Camp Director Alan Colangelo, Assistant Camp Director Chris Moon, Jeromy Nelson, Rob Reed, Ranger Bob Herbert, Archery Director Greg Gubitosi, Rifle Director Ray Hanley, Chef Amy Lukens, Program Director Scott Slater, and Waterfront Director Brian Dabkowski. The staff welcomes long-time Scouter Dick Lenkowski, who will serve as Commissioner and counsel Fishing Merit Badge.

Judy Sergey Retiring July 31

A freezing rainstorm had pelted the area, making the Klondike Derby at Camp Mattatuck a treacherous venture. Many Scouts stayed home rather than risk injury on the frozen Klondike route. Up the trail in mid-morning come the Sergeys, Judy and Chet, dressed for the weather, complete with instep crampons for traction. How many Scout administrative staff members would come out for an outdoor activity on such a miserable day, just for the fun of it? Judy Sergey is no ordinary employee.

Judy Sergey was a Scout volunteer long before joining the professional staff. She followed her son Philip into Cub Scouts and became a den leader. When Philip advanced to Webelos women weren't yet allowed to be Webelos leaders, so that's when Chet got involved. Upon Philip's graduation to Boy Scouting Chet became a troop leader while Judy moved on to the commissioner staff.

In 1987 a job opened up in the Waterbury Field Office. Judy took the job and made an immediate impact. For new leaders she was a source of information and encouragement. Experienced leaders relied upon her for the latest news from Council. She may be the most effective commissioner we know. The Mattatuck Volunteers, the Order of the Arrow, and virtually any Waterbury area Scouter are indebted to her for going "above and beyond the call of duty".

When asked what the most difficult part of her job is, Judy responded, "nothing is difficult. You just need to be friendly". What she'll miss most is the people, and she says she's worried she'll start talking to herself around the house! But she won't be around the house that much. She's still an Assistant District Commissioner, covering Wolcott, a Camp Mattatuck Campmaster, and is an Emergency Medical Technician with Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance.

District Executives come and go (it's the nature of the job), but the constant you could always count on is Judy. We'll miss her friendliness, helpfulness, and courteousness at the Waterbury Scout Shop, and look forward to seeing her on the trails of Mattatuck.

Remarks made by people upon learning of Judy's retirement include:

A Scoutmaster said "Judy is always willing to help, has a smile on her face and cares about getting things done the right way"

A professional Scouter commented, " Judy always gave me excellent advice when I worked in Waterbury as a new DE. I owe her a big debt of gratitude."

A Scoutmaster remarked, "a quality and class act".

A retirement party will be held Saturday, August 4, at Camp Mattatuck. Gathering at 5:30PM, Buffet Dinner at 6:00PM, Campfire Program at 7:30PM. \$15 per person includes dinner and gifts. Respond by July 25. Make checks payable to CT Rivers Council Account #1-2305-000-00. Send to CT Rivers Council, BSA, PO Box 280098 East Hartford, CT 06128-0098.



The house and barn at the Christmas Tree Farm were torched by the Plymouth Fire Department as a drill this winter. The Council's Long Range Plan calls for Mattatuck to become a true 'reservation' and have a second camp area (tree farm/Lost Lake) so that two major activities can run simultaneously. The Mattatuck Volunteers invite you to become a part of this exciting project.

Photos by Robert Reed



Mattatuck Volunteers Officers
Frank Rodrigues, Chairman 203-723-2168
Chris Moon, Vice-Chairman (Projects) 203-723-2305
Robert Reed, Secretary/Treasurer 860-583-5977

Project Update

Done:

- ?? **Waterline**...Under the direction of Camp Ranger Bob Herbert the frost-proof water line was installed this winter. The line connects the well near Hess Cabin to Lovett Lodge, and connects Lovett Lodge to the Rotary Dining Hall and the Babson Health Lodge. The kitchen and health lodge must be heated properly to protect the line. Once this is done we will have a year-round water supply in these two buildings. This project was paid for by the Mattatuck Volunteers at an expense of approximately \$15,000. Thank you to everyone who supports the Mattatuck Volunteers.
- ?? Memorial Day Weekend a crew of workers fixed the subflooring at the entrance to **Tuttle Lodge**, poured new footings for the leaning **Joe George Nature Pavilion**, put new rough siding on the **Cook's Cabin**, and used a loaned 'bobcat' with jackhammer attachment to rid the camp of annoying stones in campsites and pathways. All this work was done in the pouring rain. The prize for "furthest traveled" goes to Vin Ferri, who drove from Long Island for the day.

To Do:

- ?? **Mohawk Cabin**...While the exterior work was completed by Troop 102 Naugatuck, the interior has not been reworked as planned. This is a priority before taking on any new projects.
- ?? **Barnum Cabin** needs major work, including roof, flooring, siding, windows, and cosmetic work to the interior. We need a carpenter to step up and take charge. If you have fond memories of time spent in good old Barnum (Hickory) Cabin, why not send a donation earmarked for this special use?
- ?? The old Director's Cabin, AKA Tobe's Lodge, is in equally bad shape. The camp staff is doing some work during the summer, but a more work will be required.
- ?? The front lawn of the dining hall needs major landscaping work. New larger gutters were installed on the building to prevent further damage. The large stump must be removed.
- ?? **Volunteers Vice-Chairman (and Assistant Camp Director) Chris Moon** works at camp throughout the year. If you have a free weekend to work contact Chris to see if he has anything going on that weekend.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to support camp and this newsletter. If you haven't sent a check, it's not too late. You can support our work by sending a contribution to: *(note change in address)*
 Mattatuck Volunteers, PO Box 257, Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

Within a two week period we heard from two people either asking about or supplying a photo of the camp cook William F Corbin, known as "Bassie". If anyone has information about or more photos of Bassie please loan it to Joe LeClair so we can write a full story and about this cook, musician, and pioneer staff member.

"Every time I push a wheel barrel I think of Dick Giacini..."

We have a new address. So if you hit the Lotto, make sure you send the check to the right place...
 Mattatuck Volunteers, PO Box 257, Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

Where is He Now?

Harold Jackson

Harold Jackson served as the District Executive of the Blue Trail District of the former Mattatuck Council from 1963 to 1969 and while in that capacity, was Program Director and then Camp Director of Camp Mattatuck:

"My first exposure to Camp Mattatuck really began in the late 1950s when by chance I met Tom Horan in Massachusetts where he was a student at Fitchburg State Teachers College and I had just accepted my first professional scouting job as a District Executive in the Mohegan Council, Worcester, Massachusetts. We met at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation where I was the Program Director and he was visiting. I remember him saying how much he liked Treasure Valley but he hoped someday that he could show me Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth, Connecticut. Little did I know then that within a few years, I would leave the Mohegan Council and move to Waterbury.

I do recall meeting Tom again at the scout service center when I arrived to start my new job in the Blue Trail District and we became friends and associates from that time to the day of his death. I talked with Tom on the phone about a month or so before he died; what a loss! The Mattatuck Council and Camp Mattatuck meant a great deal to me during some wonderful years of my life. My wife and I met and married during those years. At that time, we lived in Woodbury and met so many wonderful people in the Mattatuck Council and particularly at Camp Mattatuck; great camp, great staff!

We left Connecticut in 1972 for another Scouting assignment in Massachusetts and then on to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and finally upstate New York. We retired in 1993 after 35 years of professional service and moved to Piedmont, South Carolina in retirement but still very active and busy.

Throughout all those moves and new places to serve, we have never forgotten Camp Mattatuck and every once in a while, we pull out our slides of the closing campfire and torch ceremony at Camp Mattatuck and just think back of great people and great days in Scouting.

I still remember so many fine Scouters of those days and often wonder what happened to so many of them.

Yours in Scouting,

Harold and Nancy Jackson {hcjcksn@juno.com}

Like to make a specific donation instead of cash? Here are some ideas...

- A new Zuma sailboat is \$2700...
- backpacking tent \$150.
- Sliding seat scull rowboat is \$1650
- Rowboat oars are \$46/pair.

Would you like to receive the next issue in color? Go to our website and subscribe to our e-mail mailing list. Then send an e-mail to ileclair@snet.net asking for your name to be removed from the hard-copy mailing list. You will receive all future issues in PDF format in color, viewable using Adobe Acrobat Reader downloadable free from Adobe's website. You'll save money and paper, and get a color version faster via the internet. Everybody wins. In addition, by subscribing to the e-mail list, you'll receive frequent historic photos from Rob Reed, and notification of work parties.

Visit our website, built and maintained by Marc Moody... <http://matwreck.org/volunteers>

Have a story to tell? Have a suggestion for a future article? Your input into this newsletter is most welcome. Contact Joe LeClair, 108 Chipper Road, Waterbury, CT 06704 ileclair@snet.net.

Order of the Arrow News

Blair Albrecht of Bethlehem is now serving as the Mattatuck Chapter Advisor. The camp staff was extremely grateful for the quality and quantity of work done by the OA at the June weekend. Next event: Sept.7-9, 2001.

Camp Mattatuck Reunion...Summer of '02.

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Mattatuck Volunteers
PO Box 257
Plymouth, CT 06782-0257
<http://matwreck.org/volunteers/>

News from Camp Mattatuck for: