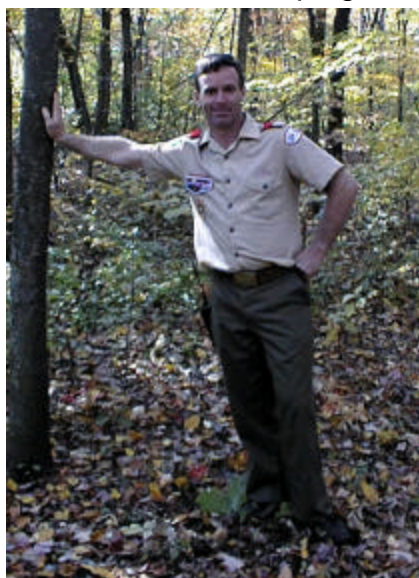




Chris Moon Named Camp Director

Few camps in the country can boast of having a Camp Director with the experience and credentials of Chris Moon. A member of the camp staff for over 30 seasons, Chris worked on the waterfront staff before becoming Program Director, then Waterfront Director, then Assistant Camp Director. He is a fixture on the National Camping School staff and is a



member of National committees on Climbing and the soon to be published Scout Fieldbook. Beyond what can be listed on the resume, however, is the unceasing drive and devotion to camp and the scouting program.

Throughout the off-season he works to improve the buildings and grounds. He even sells Christmas trees. Chris will be an outstanding Camp Director, and deserves everyone's support.

Paul Hoffman (860-274-0593) is our new Campmaster Chairman, who recruits and trains people to act as on-site resources for troops using camp in the Fall, Winter and Spring.

Camp Mattatuck Reunion...Summer of '02.

Saturday, July 27, 2002 from 2:00pm to campfire time. Bring yourself, family, photos and stories and relive a great part of your life. Swimming, Boating, Archery and other program areas of camp will be open for you and your family to use. A hot dog and hamburger barbecue will be running during the afternoon. Campfire at 7:00pm.

Thank You, Alan Colangelo

Alan Colangelo served an important role at a critical time. After the death of Tom Horan, he led with a calm steady hand. Like Tom, he delegated authority to the various department heads in camp, and let them lead.



Throughout his years, he and his staff rose to the occasion and met any challenge.. In the Spring, Fall, and Winter, Alan established and lead the successful Campmaster program.

Camp Directors:

1939-1951: David Babson, Camp Chief and Director
1941: Sandy Donohue, Resident Director
1944-1947: Edward Butler, Resident Director
1948: Arol Charbonneau, Resident Director
1949-1950: Edward Butler, Resident Director
1951: James Hennessey
1952-1954: Douglas Crichton
1955-1956: Edward Tomasi
1957-1958: Liudas Koncius
1959-1960: Richard Bielefield
1961-1962: Liudas Koncius
1963-1965: A.J. (Gus) Bosio
1966-1969: Harold Jackson
1970-1972: Robert Udell
1973-1998: Thomas Horan
1999-2001: Alan Colangelo
2002- : Christopher Moon

Scouts Do Not Hibernate in Winter !

What happens at Camp Mattatuck in the winter? Well, the docks are out of the water, the wall tents are stored away, but the fun doesn't stop! Actually about as many (or more) Scouts enjoy camp in the months of January and February as in July and August! The camp hosts Klondike Derbies from three districts (Nathan Hale, Mattatuck, CT Yankee, and Blue Trail) plus Mattatuck District's Cub Blizzard. Add in the many Troops and Packs that use the six cabins, plus a few hardy tent campers, and it totals well over 2,000 Scouts!

Klondike Fever by Joe LeClair III

When I bump into men who were Scouts with me years ago, the most common question asked is "Do you still have the Klondike Derby?". It shouldn't surprise us that the Derby is the activity people remember best. To a young Scout, it is the ultimate challenge. Patrols practice skills and prepare their gear and sled well in advance. It is a test of physical stamina, teamwork, and skill. The Klondike is an activity that exemplifies the adventure of Scouting.

The patrols register and are inspected before they hit the trail. The sleds are checked for required gear, and the boys' clothing is reviewed. Each patrol is given a map and instructions, and the race is on! Along the way they encounter Alaskan 'towns' which present challenging obstacles that test skills such as fire building, first aid, map and compass, and lashings. A good score at a town can earn a patrol 'gold nuggets' which will be turned in for a final score at the end of the day. The patrol is also judged on the lunch it cooks. Scouts must be wary, for bandits are known to stalk travelers. In recent years wheels have been added to sleds when there is insufficient snow.



Cabin Trips by Joe LeClair III

The cold freezes your nose hairs and mustache the moment you get out of the car. Snow crunches under your rubber soles as you ready the sleds and toboggans to make the trip to your weekend destination. When you approach the dam you feel the wind on your face and you tug on the zipper of your parka to protect your neck. A million stars are overhead as you make your way past the boat docks and up the hill to the cold dark cabin that awaits. The rustic cabins (Barnum, Mohawk, Hess, Lions) provide our modern video-game-players with a glimpse of life years ago, when homes were heated with wood. Like the Klondike Derby, teamwork and skill are essential to be successful. A good team will make a cabin warm and comfortable, and leave some firewood for the next group to follow.

On one trip I remember arriving in a freezing rainstorm. All the trees were coated, and footing would have been treacherous if it wasn't for the twelve inches of snow on the ground. When we got to Barnum Cabin to light the stove there wasn't a stick of firewood to be found. Along the edge of the pond we found dead witch hazel that could be broken loose of its clump of trunks. Once cut into stove lengths the ice fell off and soon we had a warm cabin. Another memorable trip was when we made a mini-bobsled run for our sleds on the hill between Arrow and Baden Powell. By evening it froze to a somewhat dangerous but exhilarating level.

Cabins (cont'd from page 3)

We usually get the Scouts up and out early in the morning for firewood while the cooks are preparing breakfast. Food can make or break the weekend. You know, lumberjack food. Pancakes and sausage and hot maple syrup, ham and eggs, grilled cheese sandwiches with soup, beef stew, and meat loaf. Last year I taught some Scouts how to prepare homemade meatballs and sauce. Sometimes it seems that you finish one meal and it's time to start the next one. But there's a great deal of learning done. Cabins are a change of pace from the monthly tent campouts troops go on. They give the opportunity to Scouts who don't have a lot of expensive gear to enjoy winter. Imagine how these 21st Century "video game Scouts" enjoy sledding and skating and Capture the Flag on a star filled winter night!

In the late evening when everyone is in for the night, I often go "to fill that empty water jug" or some other unnecessary task as an excuse to walk alone, with only the crunch of the snow beneath my feet to keep me company. We're so fortunate to have a camp like Mattatuck.

Our cabins are as follows:

Rustic cabins:

Barnum Cabin, built in 1953, is in the old Hickory Campsite and is dedicated to Congressional Medal of Honor winner H.Curtis Barnum, a staff member and Order of the Arrow Chief in the 1950's. This cabin, which sleeps 15 and is heated by a wood stove, is in extremely bad shape and is on the Mattatuck Volunteers list of projects for a complete renovation in the coming year.

Mohawk Cabin, on the hillside on the east side of camp, was a gift of the Thomaston Rotary Club in 1954. This rustic structure heated with a wood stove has undergone many renovations the past two years, and is in fine shape once again. It sleeps 15.

Hess Cabin, behind the dining hall, was upgraded last year with a new roof, interior, and exterior paint. It has electricity but is heated by a wood stove. This cabin was given to us by Mr.Frank Hess in 1965.

Ground was broken for **Lions' Cabin**, at the South end of camp near the COPE course, in the early 1970's. It was originally supposed to have garage doors so it could be a Cub Day Camp shelter in the summer and a sleeping cabin in the winter. After sitting idle for years it was converted to a fine winter cabin, heated with a wood stove, that sleeps 25. A well nearby provides drinking water.

Modern cabins:

49'ers Cabin is a hop, skip and a jump from the parking lot. Suitable for handicap groups, it has gas heat and electricity, and sleeps 32.

Gesner Cabin, which reminds some people of the cabin at Beaubien Camp at Philmont, is located at the north end of the camporee field. It sleeps 30.

Order of the Arrow News

The adventurous officers of the Mattatuck Chapter held their Holiday Banquet at a restaurant in Wallingford, then moved to an indoor rock climbing center. Vice Chief Sam Papale was in charge of planning this popular activity. In March, Matthew Plourde was recognized by the Lodge with the Founder's Award. The Mattatuck Chapter now looks forward to the April 19-21 weekend at camp. Blair Albrecht serves as Chapter Advisor. Devin Krevetsky is Chapter Chief. The year 2002 marks the 60th anniversary of the Mattatuck Lodge and Chapter. Our summer issue of *Mattatuck Messenger* will feature a history of the O.A. at Mattatuck.



The Exchange Club of Naugatuck named Mattatuck Volunteers Chairman **Frank Rodrigues** the Citizen of the Year for the town of Naugatuck at a banquet held February 19th. This recognition was given based on Frank's 32 years of service to youth in Scouting in the town of Naugatuck. Congratulations, Frank!

Where Is He Now?

Raymond Sullivan

Camp Staff 1950-1961

If you were at Mattatuck in the 1960's you probably spent some time at the Handicraft Lodge, located in Lovett Lodge, the current ranger's workshop. Probably the finest piece of workmanship in the lodge was a large relief carving of the Scout Badge (see photo). While we admired the carving for years, little did we know the woodcarver went on to use his dexterity to help others as a surgeon.

Raymond Sullivan grew up in the east end of Waterbury and was a member of the troop at St. Peter & Paul Church. He has great memories of trips to Scoutmaster Pete Marcil's house on the old Pierpont farm. Later Ray joined Post 11 in Bunker Hill, headed by Norman Hole Sr.

Yes, Ray was the young man whom Tom Horan always talked about, the one who

collected cow bones at the farm and reassembled them under his bunk at camp. The one who went on to become an outstanding surgeon and Chief of Staff at Waterbury Hospital. Ray never forgot his roots, and is a frequent visitor to camp.

Some of his memories include: putting the facing on the dam with Pop Carozza, Pinnacle Rock, a favorite site for a scavenger hunt; the flood of 1955, when he saw the old Scotty's break from the foundation and smash against the mountain below; then the tough part, taking the kids home who lived along the river and had no houses left. "Champs", the large turtle that was cooked by the chef, Basie (You guessed it, turtle tastes like chicken). The shell was then used as a prize for the water carnival champions. The Order of the Arrow met on the 2nd Island and Troop 9 had a campsite in the cove of the first lake. The waterfront was converted to its present location about 1950. Prior to that, non-swimmers were at the boat area, beginners to the right of the concrete pier where the diving boards were located.

People who influenced Ray include David Babson, Lou Konsius, Tom Horan, who started on staff at the same time as Ray, Ranger Ed Lovrinovicz, "and all the non-swimmers who learned something from me about loving the water and not fearing it". He describes Tom as "a dear friend and totally dedicated Scouter. Humble, intelligent, and kind to a fault". He remembers David Babson as "a stern, business-like and dedicated leader". Ray Sullivan had one of the longest staff tenures at Mattatuck, and contributed greatly to the quality of the program.

Ray has been recognized by both the Boy Scout council and the Boys' Club of America for distinguished service to youth. Now retired, he and Joan split their time between Connecticut and Cape Cod. They have four grown children (daughters Lisa, Jackie, and Katie; son R.J.) and ten grandchildren. R.J., an Eagle Scout, is now an Orthopedic Surgeon.

Yeah, Rah Rah, Sully!



Cutting Ice on Tomlinson Pond

Was the icehouse a carry over from the camp's prior life as a farm or was it a camp building? The answer is given in the 1940 Mattatuck Council Camping Committee report, which lists the \$121.30 icehouse as one of the many accomplishments of that year. The icehouse provided ice to refrigerate food in the early years of camp, before centralized cooking or the dining hall. There were several docks along the shore of the pond, and boys would take turns rowing to the icehouse to retrieve ice for that day. At Troop 9 site, the peninsula to the East of the 2nd Island, you can still find the remains of the ice box built into the hillside. When Mattatuck pioneer Arol Charbonneau visited camp a few years ago he recalled cutting ice as a young man.

This building, while important enough to be one of the first buildings constructed in camp, had a very short life. In the early 1950's it was long out of use but was a favorite setting for telling ghost stories, and by the late 1950's it was considered a hazard and dismantled. Since then the foundation has been a spot for ice fishermen and skaters to build fires.

If you hit the Lotto, make sure you send the check to the right place...

Mattatuck Volunteers, PO Box 257, Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

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.

Upcoming Projects:

- Our next project is to completely refurbish good ol' Barnum Cabin this Spring. It needs flooring, siding, windows, counter top, roof, and shingles. We need a carpenter to step up and take charge. Notification of the exact weekends will be announced by e-mail, so be sure to sign up for our e-mail list on our website. If you are unable to get to camp, why not send a donation earmarked for this special use?
- The Old Director's Cabin, AKA Tobe's Lodge, will be painted Memorial Day weekend. We need to replace the load center breaker box, and the front and back steps.
- Camp Director Chris Moon works at camp throughout the year. If you have a free weekend to work contact Chris (860-945-6970 or usagymct@aol.com) to see if he has anything going on that weekend. Memorial Day work parties will take place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We will be painting the dining hall, Cook's cabin, and the new latrines. Come for a day or stay for the weekend. Bring your family and camp with us.

Do you know where the camp could get a grant or donation for any of the following?

- \$5,000 for new doors in the dining hall.
- \$20,000 for a "bobcat" or tractor with attachments
- \$150,000 for a storage building and new ranger's workshop.
- \$600,000 to buy the airport

Printing donated by the Elm Press, Inc. of Thomaston, CT and Mailing Operations donated by Accurate Mailing Services of Waterbury, CT

Recent Work Projects:

- In November Jon Andrew, Mike Andrew, and Chris Moon spent 13 days at camp preparing the ground for new latrines and showers at Arrow South and Cedar campsites. Jon brought his normal assortment of toys....excavator, tractor, dump truck and every tool you ever needed. They cleared the sites, scraped off the top soil for use later, dug the holes for the vaults, laid crushed stone in the holes, leveled and compacted the stone. Bob Herbert helped place the cement privy vaults in their holes. The holes were back filled and compacted. More fill and crushed stone were placed around the foundations for the latrines. They were leveled and compacted again. Forms were made for the foundation. Plumbing was set and rebar installed. (Oh, this foundation is not moving). On Thursday November 15, the cement was poured. On Friday November 16, Chris Start, Scoutmaster of Troop 54, Woodbury, brought his collection of toys so that the mom's dads, scouts and scouters of Woodbury Troops 54 and 480 could construct the latrines. They started on Arrow South and worked all day and into the night on Saturday. The 4x 4 uprights were bolted to the foundation and the headers raised into place with the excavator. Braces held everything in place and the trusses were installed and braced. The plywood was nailed on and the tar paper and shingles installed. While this was going on in Arrow South, the other latrine in Cedar was also being done. It was erected in a similar way and stopped with the plywood installed. On Monday, November 19, Jon Andrew and Chris Moon finished the trim and tar paper. On Wednesday, November 21, the roof was shingled. More work was done during the holidays. February 23rd Jon Andrew, Mike Andrew, and Matt Downey installed plumbing. The latrines are almost complete!
- Mohawk Cabin...Jon Andrew led a few workers in the construction and installation of new counters, an oak bench, and a stainless steel stove table to complete the renovations. Materials were generously donated by Jon.

Project	Estimated Value of work	Actual Cost to Mattatuck Volunteers
Dining Hall Landscaping, tree cutting, etc.	\$18,000	\$1,050
Mohawk Cabin...kitchen counters, landscaping, grill with slab	\$2,500	\$0
Hess Cabin...finished capping the roof	\$750	\$0
Dining Hall- replaced wavy edge pine siding	\$200	\$0
Dining Hall- currently replacing gutters	\$1,000	\$0
Old Directors cabin...replaced floor joists and siding, wiring, lighting, cabinets.	\$1,300	\$0
Tuttle Lodge (office) Replaced and reinforced the floor joists.	\$400	\$0
Winter water line to the Dining Hall, Health Lodge And Well #2	\$16,000	\$9,000
Activities Pavilion-Finished steps	\$500	\$0
Added a bridge from the Memorial Pavilion	\$400	\$0
Nature Center-Replaced the frost-heaved pillars	\$1,250	\$0
Total	\$42,300.00	\$10,050.00



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

News from Camp Mattatuck for: