



Mattatuck Messenger #26

Spring, 2017

Camp Mattatuck Volunteers

PO Box 257

Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

www.campmattatuck.org

Patrick Malin, Ranger!

Former Assistant Camp Director is moving from the office to the workshop this summer. Pat's experience and skills, combined with his passion for camp, will help him be a great ranger.

New and Old Programs Make Camp a Summer Adventure

When we think of Camp Mattatuck, we remember the traditional Scouting programs we enjoyed in our youth. These activities still exist and remain popular, but camp now offers so much more. Here are a few examples:

The Blob. The Blob is a huge balloon of air that floats on the water. A special tower was constructed so when a person is seated at one end of the Blob, a second person can jump from the tower, land on The Blob, and send the first person flying. Little Scouts have been known to soar 20 feet in the air!

Mountain Boarding Introduced to camp in 2016, Mountain Boarding requires a special "skateboard" with large tires for rugged terrain. The staff constructed a special course on the hill that separates Arrow Campsite from the Archery Range.

Blueberry Matts... Simple pieces of gym matts transform into fun "islands" on the water.

Metalworking... Led by a local craftsman, Scouts use furnace and hammer to create wrought iron implements.

Chess... Really? Chess? In camp? Made more 'visual' by an oversized chess set on the Trading Post lawn, chess is a very popular activity and merit badge.

Paddle boards... this popular sport came to camp in 2015, and is a relaxing way to enjoy our beautiful pond.

Expanded merit badge program... A greater variety of Merit badges is now available morning, afternoon, and evening for Scouts seeking to advance.



Mattatuck Chapter, Order of the Arrow

The "OA", under the leadership of Advisor Ray Work and Chief Matthew Beres, continues to flourish and grow. The officers and Troop OA Representatives, along with any interested members, meet each month at the same time and place as the district Roundtable meeting. Attendance is great and the Scouts are enthused. In September former two-term chief and Camp Mattatuck Staff member Noah Cross was recognized by the Lodge with the Vigil Honor, the highest honor the lodge can bestow. The Chapter continues to provide essential service to Camp Mattatuck. On December 28th, they hosted their annual banquet at Leever Lodge, featuring Asian cuisine and their favorite card game, "Magic".

Save the date:

Sunday, July 2, 2017...Camp season opens

Saturday, August 5, 2017...Final Campfire

Saturday, November 18, 2017...2nd Annual Camp Mattatuck Volunteers Gala

1st Mattatuck Volunteers Gala a Success!

After seven years, our cozy fund raising dinner at Rotary Lodge failed to grow, and didn't produce the revenue we hoped for. Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported it, and special thanks to Joe Ascencao, Brian Turner, and their staff for making the dinner happen each year.

At the January, 2016 Mattatuck Volunteers meeting, it was voted to make the bold move of going to an outside venue for a bigger event with an open bar. Would our membership support it? Would the new format attract enough new participants?

Gala Chairman Gabe Rinaldi and his committee met each week for months before the event, to be held at Villa Rosa in Waterbury. Using Facebook, e-mail, and website posts, the Gala was promoted with enthusiasm. The 150 guests enjoyed wonderful food, open bar, music by a disc jockey, and a spectacular silent auction. Net income was over \$10,000! The 2017 Gala will be held on November 18th at the Crystal Room in Naugatuck. Check Facebook and campmattatuck.org for updates.



Recent Mattatuck Volunteers Projects

- Tom's Way was rebuilt in the spring. (labor and funding)
- Cub Scout Changing area, labor and split funding between MV and CT Rivers Council
- New Kitchen Stove - Funding
- Golf cart Repair - Funding and Labor
- New Leever Road - Funding
- New Locks - Funding and Labor
- Pat Sheridan met with unit leaders all summer and gave out a gift from us.
- Pistol and shotgun range built in November (labor by Jon Andrew, Brian Shannon, and Chris Moon. Funded by NRA)



To support us, send a tax-deductible check to:

**Camp Mattatuck
Volunteers**

PO Box 257

Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

www.campmattatuck.org

Chairman	Patrick Sheridan	pat@matwreck.org
Vice Chairman	Erik Dey	erik.s.dey@gmail.com
Treasurer	Robert Reed	rob@matwreck.org
Secretary	Vincent Pietrorazio	vjpietrozio@gmail.com
Scholarship Chairman	Chris Perkins	chriscpp78@gmail.com
Gala Chairman	Gabe Rinaldi	gaberinaldi@gmail.com



Bill "Bones" Meo is in his 49th year as Troop 3, Waterbury Scoutmaster! Troop 3 will be back in 49'ers campsite during Week 5.

Hats off to Camp Director Jeromy Nelson, Assistant Camp Director Pat Malin, and Program Director Peter Gotti on a very successful first year managing our camp. Chris Moon helped make a smooth transition, and this may be our best senior staff ever!

A Nighttime Adventure

Tommy, a first-year Scout, was excited to have the first turn to lead his patrol with a flashlight. He and his buddies followed the beam as it slowly drifted from left to right until, "THERE!" someone cried, as they spotted a pair of reflective "wildcat eyes" on a tree. The eyes mark the trail, and the patrol's goal is to trace the meandering trail through the dense woods to a gathering place. Once at the end, the Scouts silently waited for the other patrols to appear and swap stories about their adventure. Sometimes the night will conclude with a campfire in this mysterious spot, complete with a story about camp legends, or a fitting "Scoutmaster's Minute". The Wildcat Trail was a very popular activity in the '80's and '90's, and troops occasionally bring it to life to this day.

Former Mattatuck Volunteers chairman Jon Andrew continues to work his magic at camp. The driveway and parking lot at Leever Lodge no longer require four-wheel-drive! Jon made a raised driveway with drainage and then topped it with crushed stone. It's a fitting entrance to the most beautiful building in camp.

In Memoriam David Monckton, Terry Moody

Scouts growing up in Woodbury, Connecticut were fortunate to have Scoutmasters like David Monckton of Troop 54, and Terry Moody, of Troop 480. Two of the finest gentlemen you will ever meet, both had a huge impact on many young men's lives. David also served as Order of the Arrow Advisor and as Mattatuck Volunteers Chairman. Terry was a talented trainer and roundtable commissioner. Both exemplified the Scout Oath and Law on a daily basis. Our condolences to the Monckton and Moody families.