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Dave Miller (847) 234-2739
Jim Smith (239) 257-4561
Matt Terribile (919) 785-0628
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Past Presidents

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Tom Hunter (845) 582-0882
Peter Oberdorf (518) 494-3366
Denis Pisanello (914) 737-7485

Founding Father

Joseph R. Cooke

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of Read,

I have heard it said that the only thing that remains constant *is change*. With the change of seasons come changes to the Camp and in our organization.

The Director of Support Services for the Westchester-Putnam Council, Steve Hammonds has accepted a position in another council. Steve has served the council, and in particular Camp Read, faithfully during his tenure. He has been instrumental in bringing about many positive changes in all aspects of camp; from the modernization of the physical infrastructure, to exciting program changes and developing an amazing Camp Staff. I have worked closely with Steve in various capacities and can say from my own experience that he is a true "Friend of Camp Read." To recognize his many accomplishments and dedication to the Camp, the Executive Board of the Westchester-Putnam Council has decided to name the Reservation Office (aka Central Office) in his honor. The Association fully supports this resolution and has offered to help with the proceedings, financially or otherwise.

On a sadder note, Association board member, John Farley, had passed away on August 31, 2015. John was one of the first scouters to set foot on the Brant Lake property and was a co-author of the book about the history of Camp Read, "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget." He and Bob Johnson first blazed the route from Chub Pond (Buckskin Lake) to Pharaoh Lake and Whortleberry Pond and a section of the trail is appropriately named after him, "Farley's Gap." This rugged passageway between No. 8 Mountain and Little Stevens has challenged many a young scout carrying a full pack for the first time. It was working through that ordeal, and the sense of accomplishment that it brings, that became one of the "joys I will never forget." He will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

Speaking of Bob Johnson, the Summit staff area lean-to built in his memory was completed in time for the camp's opening. The lean-to was fully funded by the Association and the majority of the work was accomplished during the June "Eager Beaver" weekend by our work crew including Dedrick Damato, Tom Dietz, Bruce Fusillo and Tim Haag. Thanks guys for all your hard work! The dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place during next worker's weekend in June, 2016. See the article and photos on page 7 of this Newsletter.

As stated in my previous letter, we need more of our friends to get involved in the Association. We still have some key positions on the Board that need filling and we would like to see some of the younger people play a more active role. Please contact me if you want to help out.

Please continue to support the organization with your generous donations. We are in the planning stages for next year's events; the annual spring potluck dinner, the Eager Beaver weekend in June and the Fall Hike. Look for details in upcoming Newsletters, the Camp Read Association Facebook page or our web site CampRead.org. Hope to see you at one or all of them.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for health and prosperity in the New Year!

Yours in Scouting,
Bill Daley
CRA President

*Current Staff Reunion Dinner
December 27, 2015*

Friends of Read 2015

One of the primary missions of the Camp Read Association, as stated in our Charter, is to assist with camp promotion, staff development, program and financial support, and facility maintenance/development. In order to live up to this commitment your financial support is greatly needed.

Because of the generosity many of our members, the Association was able to make contributions towards a variety of projects and ongoing programs that have and continue to benefit the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in the areas of infrastructure, program, and staff support. The following are examples of how the Association provided this much needed support over the years: replacement of the roof on the Pearlman Building, major renovations of Boland Lodge (thanks to Peter Oberdorf for his most generous contribution), construction of the two lentos (in memory of Ken Haddermann and Chris Fearon), construction/renovation of the many camp signs throughout the Reservation, much needed program equipment, the annual Staff appreciation dinner, and Staff recognition awards.

To continue our commitment of service to the camp, the

Association's assistance will be needed for the following upcoming projects: rebuilding the stone wall at the camp entrance, a new Summit Activities Center, construction of a lean-to for use by the Buckskin Camp Director, financial support towards the renovation Camp Waubeeka Office and program support for new activities such as mountain biking.

If you haven't joined this elite group of dedicated Scouters please give some thought to making a contribution. If you have donated in the past, our sincerest thanks and please consider renewing your support for 2015. Contributions to the Camp Read Association can be considered as a tax deduction. Another way to support camp is to send in a one-time donation either as a tribute to, or in memory of, an individual you would like to recognize.

Forms for donating to the Memorials & Tributes Fund or for The Friends of Read donations can be found in this Newsletter and on our website at CampRead.org.

The Camp Read Association wishes to extend a sincere thanks to the following members who have made a contribution to the Association for 2015. Your financial support is greatly appreciated by all the scouts and leaders who attend Camp Read and benefit from your generosity.

Charles Agro
Marc Andreo
 Russ Borner
 Matt Brauner
Ralph Colotti
 Justin Cooper
 Kent Cooper
Dedrick Damato
 Martin Diehl
 Ed D'Apice
 Michael Dietz
 Tom Dietz
 John J. Doyle
 Dr. William Flank
 Bruce Fusillo
 Doug Gamble
 Frank Graessle

Tim Haag
 Scott Hartman
 John Hradsky
 Tom Hunter
 Tripp Huchinson
 Ward Lyke
 Albert Massimi
 Adam McKechnie
 Richard McKim
 Ed Mills
 David Morris
 Geoffrey Ogle
Peter Oberdorf
 Richard Okrasinski
 Denis Pisanello
 Greg Pitonza
 Bill Riesz

Christopher Simone
 William Simone
 Steve Sudak
 Matt Terrible
 David Terrible
Bill Tracey
Richard Trier
John Tripodi
 Michael Tripodi
 Michael Venuti
 Gary Wiesendanger
 Ron Yaskovic

Shown in bold above are those who have given most generously

THANK YOU!

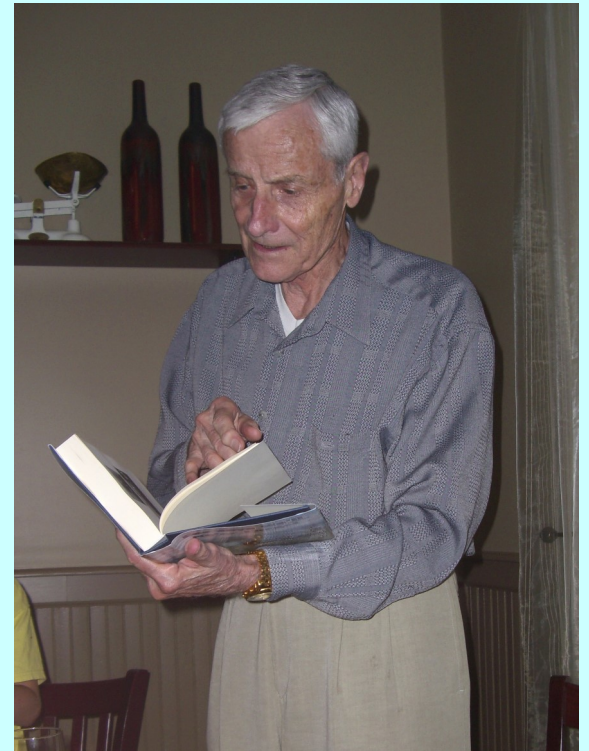
All donations to the Camp Read Association are tax-deductible

John Farley—1926 -2015

It is with much sadness and regret that the Association shares the news of John Farley's passing on August 31, 2015. John was a pioneer in establishing the "new" Curtis S. Read Camp at its present location in the Adirondacks. He was instrumental in establishing many of the trails surrounding the property still used today. Farley's Gap (between Number 8 and Little Steven's), the rocky gateway starting the trail leading out to Appachedotte (Crab Pond), Whortleberry and Pharaoh Lakes, was founded by John. He had helped shape the lives of countless campers, fellow staff and all others who knew him throughout the years. Over the last 15 years or so John had reconnected with Camp through the Camp Read Association, participating in many events and was the driving force in publishing "For Joys We'll Ne'er Forget," a history of Camp Read and the people that have helped shape it. John choose this title from a line in a camp song that goes back to Read's earliest days. Here's the first stanza:

**Camp Curtis Read we honor thee
For joys we'll ne'er forget
We love the lakes, we love the hills
Where memories linger yet!**

Our memories will certainly linger for you John, a true gentleman and ultimate scouter, the association proudly salutes you.



BITS AND PIECES

- *This issue was sent to anyone who gave to the Friends of Read. If you want to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter, please send in your contribution!*
- UPCOMING EVENTS
 - **Staff Appreciation Dinner:** Sunday December 27, 2015—Council Service Center, 41 Saw Mill River Rd., Hawthorne, NY 10532 @ 5:30 PM fellowship, 6:30 PM Dinner. Reunion of 2015 Read Staff sponsored by the Camp Read Association.
 - **Spring Potluck Dinner:** April 2, 2015— Mark your calendar, location to be determine. Keep an eye out for a mailing and e-mail notification in mid-February.
 - **Camp Read Eager Beaver / Worker's Weekend:** Friday June 10th—Sunday June 12th. Come help get cam ready for the summer. Look for more information by mail, e-mail or on the website or Facebook page.
- Anyone wishing to contribute Newsletter articles, anecdotes, pictures, event postings, or general Camp or Scouting info should please send any correspondence to: Camp Read Alumni Association, c/o Westchester-Putnam Council, B.S.A., 41 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532, or e-mail hunteto@gmail.com
- The Association web site is campread.org. Please visit our site for latest information..

Hiking Pharaoh Mountain – Then and Now

By Tom Hunter

Then

My first hike up Pharaoh Mountain, in fact my first ever mountain climbed, occurred while I was a scout in Wyandotte back in the late 60s. Dan Rile was the scoutmaster and he routinely took a group from Whortleberry Pond up Pharaoh during hike periods. Armed with my Kodak Instamatic, and needing to take a much needed break from endless swimming in the lake, I decided to join this optional hike. This was truly the beginning of my awe and wonder for the magnificent Adirondack grandeur.

It begins after breakfast on a beautiful summer day. Doc Rile is leading a group of about 10 hikers wanting to experience the mountain. Doc was a tireless and avid hiker having established many of the “newer” trails surrounding camp at the time (Rim Trail and Bee-line, all but unused and grown over now). His pace was quick and in no time we had started on the spur trail leading up the mountain. Now Pharaoh is no “high peak” (2556’) but I felt as if I was on a direct Everest ascent. Exact hike details are fuzzy after 50 years, but I was young then, and trail tough, so I imagine it wasn’t too arduous a trek. What I do recall was how magnificent the view was from the summit. I felt as if I could see forever. The top was all rock with a fire tower (long since removed) still there to be climbed. Somewhere I still have my pictures of this hike and if I feel ambitious enough I’ll try and share.

Some mountain history/lore: according to what I had heard over the years Pharaoh is so named because when viewed from the south lake side it looks like a giant Egyptian sarcophagus. If that is not the true origin of the name please don’t shatter images with the real story, but I still maintain my version is correct.....maybe.

More Recent

Flash ahead about 35 years; now as an adult I get the chance to hike the mountain once again. This time with my old staff member/friend and now professional scouter Ron Green, and his friend, also a scouting professional, from Rhode Island. This time we are staying at a local motel and drive in via the Pharaoh Road as far as we can, then hike the remaining way to the lake and trail leading up the mountain. Ron had warned me that a recent storm had left many deadfalls on the trail that would need to be skirted. This was definitely true and forced several detours on the way. I remember the trail being a bit more difficult then when I was 14, but still doable. The top as fulfilling as ever, but no fire tower this time. There were remnants of the base still present but that was all. After a brief stay and a few cell phone calls made by the busy scout execs we were back on our downhill trudge...again much harder than remembered, especially on the knees.

When we made it down and to the west end of Pharaoh Lake by the dam spillway, my two companions wanted to take a side trip to Whortleberry Pond (probably about a mile round trip). Since exhausted and very thirsty I declined. My cohorts scampered off like gazelles. I have no idea how they still had any energy at all. While waiting on the overflow on this perfect day I took off my boots and soaked my aching feet in the clear and refreshingly cold lake water. To my surprise, while sitting there resting, a flock of about 15 Mergansers swam by in the quiet pool just after the spillway. If you don’t know what a Merganser is look it up, I had to. They are duck-like birds brightly colored with sharp beaks and a tuft on the top of their heads. Truly unique and a real gift to see literally right at my feet.



Now

October 3, 2015 – The Read Association’s annual hike weekend. Guess where this year’s group wanted to hike to? Yep, Pharaoh Mt. for my third time, and the first time making the approach from the northern Crane Pond side. My hiking memories are sharp for this one and I can very accurately describe the hike and my feelings. First off the group I was hiking with is the best. My old friend from hike two, Ron Green, was here, also Bill Daley (current Association Pres.), Tim Haag (past Association Pres.) and his son Ben. These fellows are all enthusiastic hikers and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this adventure.

My first surprise is what a sensational trail this is. It’s not nearly as steep as a southern lake ascent and treats us to more varied scenery including several lakes/ponds, streams, climax forest, pine forest and moss covered rocks (a lot of the slippery variety). The steep sections reminded me of hiking on slick rock in the southwest. Our first real view, after a prolonged uphill gain, was perhaps only a

hundred yards from the top. Once on the summit we got to enjoy a beautiful fall day and beautiful views to the west and north towards the high peaks. Foliage was not quite 100% but still breathtaking. Once we rested and ate lunch it was time to explore. The summit, as most remembered, had grown in. Expansive rock plateaus were replaced by sections of thick growth. It took us a couple of attempts to even find Pharaoh Lake. None of us could locate any trace of the old fire tower or where it had once stood. Nature was definitely reclaiming this peak....forever wild!

The moral of this story is clear; anytime is the right time to hike in the Adirondack Mountains with your friends or family. It just doesn't get any better!



Almost to the summit—Tim Haag pointing out landmarks to Ben



Ben Haag catching some rays after lunch on the summit

Looks like a Boy Scout Camp

By Jim Smith

When I first arrived at Read in the 1950s it was quite a trip before you actually saw something to tell you that you were really in a Camp. When you entered the property, outside of seeing the Ranger's house and garage, you still had a long way to go before you saw anything that resembled a Boy Scout Camp. First you saw the Old Farm house (now Boland Lodge – the original Ranger's home), but that didn't look like camp. Then you saw stone pillar gates with a sign that said "Don't give up Hope." This sign meant to indicate that you still had to drive a fair distance until reaching anything Camp like.

The next landmark on the long road was the Doll House (the original Health Lodge), and right after that was Lester Lodge (a log cabin "mansion" that housed the camp office, staff lounge and trading post), and the old carriage barn (the original dining hall), and you knew you were finally in to camp. This area at the end of the road would eventually become Tomahawk and its provisional troop sites.

As attendance grew Buckskin was created with troop sites named after pioneers (Tomahawk sites were named after Native American tribes). A new dining hall was added for this camp (now known as Newton Lodge). Of course when traveling the road a waterfront or swimming area wasn't readily apparent. Where was the lake that said "camps?"

Eventually (late 60s) even more space was needed and sites were planned for home troop patrol cooking style camping, so a new camp opened, which for several years was called Camp Proposed (now Waubeeka). At that time the Camp Administrator, Joe Cooke, saw the need for a waterfront at this newest addition to the Read Reservation. Using both aerial views and topographical maps, Joe came up with a place for the new lake following natural contours and water flow. Lots of work was needed to clear an area so local contractors (the Remington Brothers) were hired to do the heavy work. The remaining work was left to the Order of the Arrow and its candidates to finish the substantial cleanup of the area.

While the Remington Brothers were working they came upon a very unusual rock which had a very smooth hole in the middle of it. They wanted to save it so Joe let them take it. It is now located on the lawn of one of the Remingtons and can be seen as you drive on Rt. 8 and go around the corner past Susie Q's restaurant.

Today as you drive into camp and start up the road, the lake and waterfront can soon be seen, with a spectacular view of Mt. Steven's. This all thanks to Joe Cooke, the OA, the Remingtons and of course Mother Nature. Now it really looks like a Boy Scout Camp!

Memorials And Tributes

In Memory of Charles Lutomski, Sr.

*For a Lifetime of Service to the
Boy Scouts of America*

Denis Pisanello

In Memory of Charles Lutomski, Sr.

Albert Massimi

In Honor of Steve Hammonds
*For His Outstanding Leadership & Dedi-
cation to Camp Read & the Westchester
-Putnam Council*

Dr. William Flank

If you would like to make a donation to the Camp Read Association or to the Camp Read Improvement Fund for a memorial or tribute to an individual please fill out the form below. The tribute or honor can be for recognition of birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, awards, or in memory of a departed relative or friend. Acknowledgement letters will be sent to you and to the person being recognized or to the family (if the donation is in memoriam).

Your name: _____ [] I would like to remain anonymous.

Your Address _____

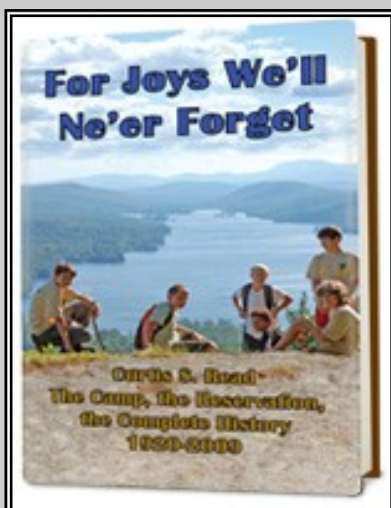
Your telephone: _____ Your email: _____

Name of individual or group being remembered or recognizes: _____

Reason: _____ Donation amount \$ _____

Name and Address acknowledgement should be sent to: _____

*Please make your check payable to Camp Read Assoc. Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA.
Mail it to Bill Daley, 3220 Mohegan Ave., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547.*



“For Joys We’ll Ne’er Forget”, relates the story of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation from its opening day in 1920 to the present. For most part, “For Joys...” was written by staff who were in camp. Chapters features two legendary Camp Rangers, the launching of Camp Waubeeka, the impact of Read on professional Scouting, profiles of outstanding camp leaders, the story of the Order of the Arrow in camp, history of the Camp Read Association, and much more.

Travel through time as this nearly one hundred year old camp grew from its beginnings on 33 acres and 20 campers on Long Pond, in Mahopac, New York to a 1000 acre scout reservation in the Adirondack Mountains. Today the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation is made up of three camps, one traditional scout camp, one patrol cooking camp, and a High Adventure Base.

“For Joys We’ll Ne’er Forget” was commissioned by the Camp Read Association to preserve the history of this very special place. If you were ever a camper or staff member at a Scout camp, you’ll find yourself right at home in the pages of this book. It is a story worth telling and one worth reading.....!!

To Order: Go to www.CampRead-ForJoys.com

Copies also available at the Council Service Center

All proceeds from “For Joys We’ll Ne’er Forget” will go to the betterment of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation, Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA

Eager Beaver Weekend – 2015

With the arrival of each Spring, the anticipation grows for another Eager Beaver Weekend at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation. June 12th came fast and that meant it was time to return to “good olde” Camp Read to join a work crew and help get the Camp ready for the 2015 Summer season. As always, we would relive old camp stories and of course create new adventures and tales to add to the list.

Each year the number of participants seems to dwindle in numbers but the quality of work still represents the efforts of a dedicated Camp Read staff. Joe Cooke and the many Reservation Directors that followed would have been proud of the work accomplished.

A crew of “seasoned” past staff members took on building a new lean-to in the staff area at Summit Base Camp. This crew was led by our illustrious President Bill Daley and included Tim Haag, Bruce Fusillo, Dedrick “Deeter” Damato, and Tom Dietz. In between kitchen duties, one of the Pre-Staffers, Jeremy, came up to haul lumber from the cut station at the Butler Building to the construction site. We didn’t find any splinters or wood chips in the food so he did a good “clean” job. Despite the many years of construction experience possessed by the crew, a bit of trouble was encountered in trying to square up the platform. Luckily, a come-a-long was obtained by chance the day before from Peter Oberdorf which allowed us to “persuade” the frame into “squareness” and saved the day.

Speaking of Peter, he and Ed D’Apice took a “camp inspection” hike and even cleared the dam at the Buckskin water front. Mo led a crew that cleared a bike path for the new program offered at camp, and Kris O’Connor and crew re-modified the old Tomahawk water front cabin for bike repairs and washing. The never ending tent platform repair was performed by Jerry Wiggers and John Hradsky. Many miles were logged going from campsite to campsite throughout the Reservation. They probably could have had it easier if they “volunteered” to “test” out the bikes.

Dedicated volunteers Barbara “Babs” Conciatori & Roger Spencer put the finishing touches on the newly renovated mountain bike repair and storage shop. The Summit “Voyageur Cabin” (aka the Tomahawk “Waterfront Cabin”) was repurposed again, fulfilling the ever changing needs of the camp. That Saturday afternoon, Babs had an unexpected visit from “El Presidente” and used her medical skills to tend to a mishap with a nail gun. Fortunately, it wasn’t serious and everyone soon went back to work. Of course none of the work would have gotten done without fueling the crews. Will Shanahan, assisted by Jeremy, did an outstanding job in the kitchen providing “first class” eats at every meal. Thanks boys for keeping us full and energized!

Our new Ranger, Kris O’Connor, delivered materials in support of the various projects, and came to inspect the projects periodically offering words of encouragement and appreciation. Steve Hammonds also did some end of day inspections and offered thanks for the progress made to the various crews. As always, all were left with a sense of accomplishment and the warm rewarding feeling one gets from working with a Camp Read team again.

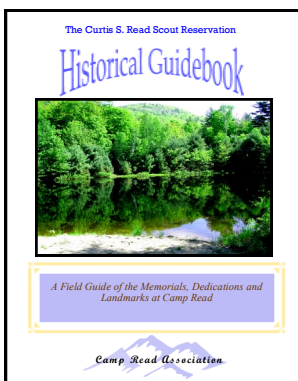
A great experience was enjoyed by all who came. We missed those who couldn’t attend but hope to see them next year! Remember, “many hands make light work” and more tales to tell.



The Boys “gaining” on framing—Bruce, Bill and Tim



L to R— Bill Daley, Bruce Fusillo, Dedrick Damato, Tim Haag & Tom Dietz



HISTORICAL GUIDEBOOK

The Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Field Guide contains seventy pages of Memorials, Dedications and Landmarks found at Camp Read. The 2014 edition of the Guidebook is now in its sixth printing and has all the recent additions. This unique Field Guide, Published by the Camp Read Association, can be purchased for \$24.00 which includes \$3.00 postage and handling. All proceeds from the sale of the Guidebook will go to the benefit of Camp Read. If you would like one or more copies please visit our website at campread.org or contact :

Ed D’Apice
Phone: (845) 612-3151 or
E-mail: entropy2@earthlink.net



c/o Westchester Putnam Council, BSA
41 Saw Mill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532



Dues Policy:

Annual dues are requested by the end of March each year (We will however gladly accept dues anytime throughout the year). **For those that supported the Association in past years, our most sincere thanks. Members who enjoy this publication, and wish to continue to hear from us, your financial support is needed.** The Board of Directors feels strongly that membership in the Association NOT be tied to dues payment. However, those not making an annual contribution will only receive major mailings for reunions etc. The only qualification for membership is your dedicated interest in Camp Read. As such, dues may be considered a tax-deductible contribution.

Dues 2015/2016 Change of Address

Name:		E-Mail:	
Address:		Phone:	
City:		Contribution: \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$15 ___ Other \$ _____	
State:	Zip:		
<input type="checkbox"/> check here for change of address			

Make Checks payable to: Camp Read Association, Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA
Send To: Bill Daley, 3220 Mohegan Ave., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547