



# THE RED TRAIL

Dec. 1, 2014

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5



**SAVE THE DATES**  
**2014**  
 Advance Registration for  
 2015 OAA Membership  
 Oct. 1-Dec. 31

**2015**  
 Bluenose Winter Camping  
 Feb. 14-16

OSR Spring Work Weekends  
 Apr. 24-26 & May 29-31

Fall Alumni Weekend  
 Sept. 11-13

**2016**  
 60th Anniversary Reunion  
 Weekend  
 Sept. 16-18

## Timeless Friendships, Enduring Spirit of Service Energize 2014 Fall Alumni Weekend

The 2014 Fall Alumni Weekend at Onteora Scout Reservation not only was one of the largest gatherings of Onteora alumni since the founding of the association in 2001, but was an invigorating opportunity for many alumni to experience the reopened Council House and other major facilities improvements for the first time.

More than 45 members of the Onteora community attended the weekend, which other than the 50th and 55th anniversary weekends was surpassed in attendance only by the association's first two reunion weekends, respectively in 2001 and 2002, said Steve Shull, vice chairman of the Onteora Alumni Association.

The reunion weekend, which occurred from Sept. 19 to 21, also was indicative of progress for the association because about 15 Onteora alumni under 30 years of age attended, a record for this demographic, Shull said.

ATV riding, shotgun shooting, and most importantly, fellowship among friends occurred during the weekend.

Among the alumni who attended the weekend was John Brown, a member of Onteora's inaugural staff in 1956 who joined the Onteora Alumni Association this year and officially revisited Onteora for the first time during the 2014 Fall Weekend. Brown worked as a member of the Onteora Staff until 1962.

"I felt that I had never left," Brown said in an interview for *The Red Trail*. "The camaraderie and friendliness of my fellow alumni was very moving and at the same time exciting. This core group, which has so many experiences over all those decades, truly has saved the camp and enabled it to have new levels of success. What better response from alumni could you have than that: protecting the history and the future of Onteora through loyalty."



The 2014 reunion weekend had record attendance of OSR alumni under 30 years of age; staff who started working at OSR after its reopening in 1998. Photo: fellowship of recent alumni near Orchard Lake on Sept. 19.

The OAA Board

Bill Cotter - Chairman  
 Steve Shull - Vice Chairman  
 Billy Graham - Treasurer  
 Bill Throop - Secretary  
 Howie Perlman - Registrar  
 Rick Balla  
 Doug Davis  
 Eric Panetta  
 Mike Raia

Staff of The Red Trail

Howie Perlman - Chief Editor  
 Doug Davis - Reporter  
 Steve Shull - Reporter  
 Charlie Ruiz - Reporter

**Bailey, Gluck, Graham Inducted As Legends of Onteora***By Steve Shull*

Three individuals were selected by the Onteora Alumni Association Executive Board in 2014 for recognition as Legends of Onteora. They were honored with this accolade during the 2014 Fall Alumni Weekend's closing campfire Sept. 20.

Alumni are recognized as Legends for distinguished service to OSR.

**Walt Bailey**

There has been only one OSR staffer who had a bumper sticker with his name on it. "Walt Bailey is a Nice Guy" adorned the bumpers of many cars beginning in 1967.

Walt served on staff from 1965 to 1967 as an assistant business manager. He had a quick wit, a resonant voice, and great comedic timing.

He was greatly respected by the entire staff and often was the target of good-natured pranks. On numerous occasions, his VW Beetle was transported onto loading docks of the kitchens and the Central Commissary by our fun-loving maintenance staff.

Walt was an adviser of Post 348 and worked as a lighting and electrical specialist on the sets of television shows, first in New York and later in California. We unfortunately lost Walt to lung cancer several years ago.

**Gabe Gluck**

There is only one man who worked at all three of the Nassau County Council's summer camps. Gabe Gluck started in Camp Wauwepex in 1968, moved to OSR in 1969, and was the camp director of Alder Lake in 1971.

Gabe was lodge chief of the Buckskin Lodge in 1971, and as such also spent many hours "working" at Shelter Rock.

Gabe has served on the OAA board, is a fixture at Reunion and Beaver Weekends, and was the first chief editor of the OAA's newsletter, The Red Trail. Today,

he is a valued member of Jim Van Tassell's Red Trail Wanderers, who are re-energizing OSR's hiking program.

**Billy Graham**

"Reverend" Billy Graham was on OSR's staff from 1970 to 1973, toiling in the kitchen, vacationing as the Long House's heater stack director, and directing Central Commissary activities.

He attended OSR as an adult leader of Troop 40 for many years.

He has been the OAA's treasurer for most of the past decade and has attended all of our annual Reunion Weekends.

**The Legends of Onteora also include:**

**2002:** Rick Balla, Dave Barkstedt, Ken Heim, Jim Kent, Leland Tuttle  
**2003:** Bill Donaghy Sr., Glenn Gabbard  
**2004:** Les Cox  
**2005:** Al Ehl, Joe Grupp, Dick Horn, Sturges Shields  
**2006:** Eric Anderson, Bill Cotter, Jimmy Hammond, Charlie Ruiz  
**2007:** Ralph Foster, Jim Shields Jr., Ken South  
**2008:** Rev. Ben Bartel, Joe Laratondo, Marc Ryan, Steve Shull, Don Smith, Chris Wiczowski  
**2009:** Niles Fairbairn, Don Heiberg, Tony Marren, Russ Rensch Jr.  
**2010:** Tony Joseponis, Bob Oldmixon Jr., Bob Pearles, Cap Schei, Jim Van Tassell  
**2011/2012:** Grady Aronstamm, S. Ben Barley, Bob Cancro, Dick Franz, Tom Haldeman, Dick Hunter, Pete Jacobs, Bob Oldmixon Sr., Paul Plate, Tom Quick, Russ Rensch Sr., Don Wright  
**2013:** Glenn Greubel Sr., Bishop Robert Gueglione, Fred Thornley



If you would like to nominate an Onteora alumnus to be recognized as a Legend of Onteora in 2015, you can e-mail Bill Cotter ([bcotter@socal.rr.com](mailto:bcotter@socal.rr.com)), chairman of the OAA, by Aug. 1, 2015, with details regarding the nominee's service to OSR. In general, three to five nominees per year become Legends.

## Council House, Health Lodge and Administration Building Enhanced With Further Upgrades, Increased Functionality

In the weeks following the end of the 2014 summer camping season, Onteora experienced three major completed upgrades to its facilities, compounding the progress that was made earlier in 2014 through numerous other major upgrades to OSR, which were detailed in the Sept. 1, 2014, issue of *The Red Trail*.

The Council House, which in 2013 reopened as a program facility following renovations to the building's foundation, on Sept. 30 acquired a new 300-foot well that not only supports water demand for a new bathroom that is being developed in the building, but enables the Council House to be reopened as a dining hall if the need arises because of potential future increases in camping demand or in the event of an emergency that would prevent usability of the Long House.

Because of the strategic value of the well, the Onteora Alumni Association fully funded its creation, which cost \$9,800. The Onteora Alumni Association Executive Board during its Oct. 15 meeting voted to approve this funding, enabling the project to be fully funded within its 30-day financing period.

"Every effort we've undertaken for the Council House has helped ensure that nothing could preclude the building from being a dining hall if we need it, while enabling it to be immediately used for program functions," Sal Ciampo, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Council and a Life Member of the Onteora Alumni Association, said Nov. 23 in an interview for *The Red Trail*.

Equipment to drill the well was transported to the Council House on Sept. 29 and the drilling took one day to complete. The last 200 feet of the drilling was, unsurprisingly, through solid rock, and the well can provide 15 gallons of water per minute, said Ciampo, who was co-camp director of Onteora for 2014.

The OAA Board also voted Oct. 15 to approve the Theodore Roosevelt

Council Key Three's request for \$5,000 to fund the Council House's new bathroom, which is to be complete by the start of Bluenose 2015. After the allocation of \$5,000 by the OAA, the TRC allocated an additional \$3,000 to enable the bathroom to not only have Fiber-glass-Reinforced Panels (FRP) on the walls, but a heating unit that would provide hot water for the bathroom, increasing the Council House's utility as a winter camping facility for large troops. The FRP is to increase the durability of the facility, lowering upkeep costs.

A leach field will not need to be established for the bathroom in the im-

*(Continued on page 4)*

The Onteora Alumni Association would like to congratulate the members of the 2014 Onteora Scout Reservation Staff who earned awards in recognition of their outstanding service in 2014:

### 2014 Camp Director's Award

Mark Colson, Sales/Finance Program Dir.  
Jack Fishman, Dining Hall Steward  
Chris Roehler, Climbing Tower Dir.  
Rob Thompson, Shooting Sports Dir.

### 2014 Program Director's Award

Ryan Clifford, Assistant Field Sports Dir.  
Jesse Ferrell, Older Boy Program Dir.  
Ryan Goepfert, Assistant STEM Dir.  
Kevin Shea, OA Coordinator; Assistant Communications Dir.

### 2014 Services Director's Award

Kevin Lipman, Assistant Camp Commissioner  
Glenn Peters, Training Coordinator

### 2014 Rookie of the Year Award

Ryan Goepfert, Assistant STEM Dir.



*Drilling of the Council House's new well both commenced and finished on Sept. 30.*



*From left to right: TRC Executive Board Member Gary Maranga, TRC Scout Executive/CEO Jay Garee and TRC President Sal Ciampo, overseeing completion of drilling for the new well.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

mediate future because the expected level of use of the facility is such that a tank that can be emptied by a vacuum truck is to be used instead.

### Health Lodge Gains Winter Water System

Another part of the TRC's plan to expand Onteora's winter camping value was finished in early November, when the Blauvelt Health Lodge's pipe system was upgraded to enable water to be readily accessible at the facility in winter. The OAA Board voted to approve a \$4,500 allocation that fully funded this project to enhance Onteora's year-round usability.

The winterization process for the Health Lodge's pipes began in mid-October, almost immediately after the Delaware River District of the Hudson Valley Council's Catskill Camporee at Onteora from Oct. 10 to 12. As pipes at the Maintenance Building had enabled water to be readily available for that building during winter, a backhoe was used to dig a pipe path from the Maintenance Building to the Health Lodge, within which PVC pipe was installed to enable the Health Lodge to benefit from connectivity to the Maintenance Building's established winter water system.

One of the Health Lodge's three bathrooms shall be fully operational during the winter because of the upgrade. If additional demand arises, the building's other two bathrooms are to be upgraded to enable winter water to be readily available for them, Ciampo said.

The Health Lodge, which in the past had been available for winter camping, now is a more capable winter camping opportunity because Scouts staying in the Health Lodge no longer need to rely on hiking to the main parking lot to access a fully functional bathroom facility during the winter, which can be especially arduous in subzero weather.

### Administration Building Foundation Renovated

Slightly less than half of the Administration Building's foundation, mostly on the north and west sides of the building, was replaced in the period from mid-August to mid-September to increase the building's long-term structural integrity and to prevent further leaks into the building's basement, Ciampo said.

The project, which cost the TRC about \$11,000, also included installing new windows to replace the previous windows in the renovated parts of the foundation and installing 36-inch doors to replace the 30-inch doors on the west side of the Administration Building.

The foundation renovations helped secure the viability of housing a laundry machine and dryer for members of

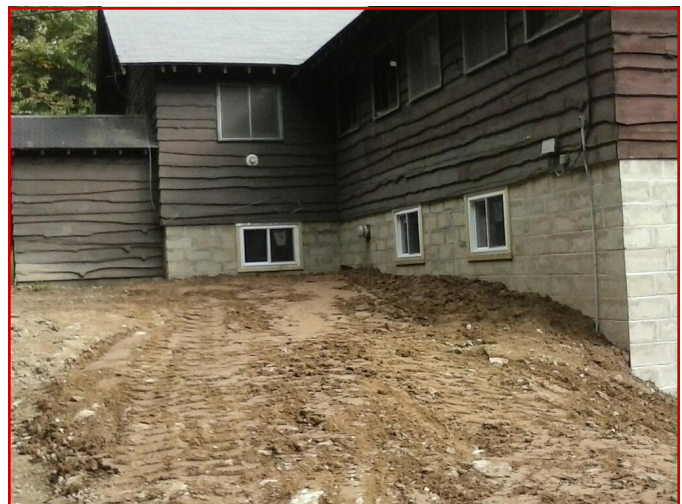


*The north side of the Administration Building experienced significant renovations in the month before the OAA's 2014 Fall Weekend.*

the Onteora Staff in the Administration Building's basement, an accommodation that began in 2013.

The Administration Building's pipe system might be upgraded to accommodate water flow in winter months if the new trio of Onteora's main winter camping buildings – the Council House, Health Lodge and Gate House – eventually becomes so frequently used that a fourth main winter camping building would be necessary for accommodating the demand, Ciampo said.

If the Administration Building's level of demand causes a fifth main winter camping building to become desirable, the Staff Alumni Center would become the fifth facility, although another well likely would need to be established to enable the building to have readily available water in the winter. Onteora's main trio of winter camping buildings is available starting with the 2014-2015 winter camping season.



*The completed renovations to the Administration Building's north side.*

## Onteora Achieves Modern First by Hosting Camporee for District of the HVC



*Canoeing was among the activities in which Scouts ventured during the Delaware River District's Catskill Camporee at Onteora in October.*

**By Charlie Ruiz**

From Oct. 10 to 12, Onteora Scout Reservation hosted the Catskill Camporee of the Hudson Valley Council's Delaware River District, which, as of Onteora's reopening in 1998, was the first event at Onteora organized primarily by a Scouting organization other than those of the Theodore Roosevelt Council or the Order of the Arrow.

What began as conversations with Matt Conlon, Program Director of the TRC, during summer camp at OSR and the Onteora Alumni Association's 2014 Fall Weekend transformed into the Delaware River District's fall camporee.

Ventures to Onteora by the Delaware River District are particularly advantageous because Onteora is located within the district's geographic territory. The district covers Sullivan County, a large area of western Orange County, and part of eastern Pennsylvania.

Onteora Scout Reservation is no more than two hours from any point in the district, and therefore is an excellent destination for short-term camping and hiking for Delaware River District units.

Ten units attended the camporee, including Troops 76, 101, and 102, the three HVC troops that attended summer camp at Onteora in 2014. In total, 58 youth and 28 adult volunteers attended the camporee. I staffed this event as an extension of my service as the district's Boy Scout roundtable commissioner, and I was honored to be joined by five fellow volunteer staffers.

The Scouts enjoyed using the canoes at Orchard Lake, practicing their marksmanship at the rifle range and exploring with metal detectors the ruins of the logging town



and homestead in the open field near the Al Nassau Shelter. In addition, Scouts had the opportunity to hike the Red Trail to the Lemon Squeeze, a rock formation north of the Council House.

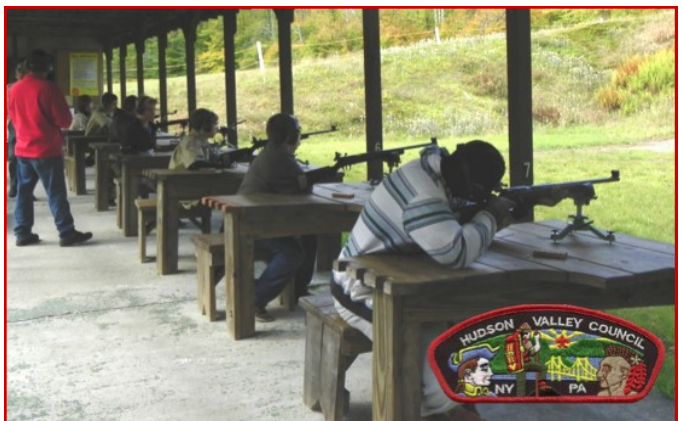
The Catskill Camporee's closing campfire was conducted at the Ken Heim Ring. Mother Nature provided clear skies and shining stars for the campfire, and Orchard Lake gave her voice to the Scouts' cheers of "Bully," which they cheered in recognition of the TRC's honoring of its namesake, the 26th president of the U.S.

In all, the Scouts of the HVC were able to experience Onteora the way we know her.

I wanted to especially thank fellow Onteora Alumni Association member Mike Messina for his outstanding work as a member of the Catskill Camporee's staff. Messina worked at the waterfront and rifle range, supervised the closing campfire, and helped fulfill maintenance needs. He was a great help for the event's success.

Additionally, on Saturday, Oct. 11, the TRC's Scout Executive/CEO Jay Garee, President Sal Ciampo, Vice President Gerald Kaiser, Esq., and Conlon departed the TRC's Fall Camporee at Schiff Scout Reservation to visit the Delaware River District's camporee at Onteora. Before returning to Schiff for the remainder of the TRC's camporee, they met with the leaders of Delaware River's troops and discussed the prospect of even more troops of the district attending summer camp at Onteora and the troops also using Onteora for weekend camping.

The TRC recently experienced success in this regard, as Troop 92 of Wurtsboro, NY, located in Sullivan County and affiliated with the Delaware River District, registered to attend its first summer camping season at Onteora. The troop is to attend Onteora in Week 3 of the 2015 summer camping season.



*HVC Scouts, practicing their marksmanship at OSR's rifle range.*

## Cold Weather Adventurers to Enjoy Winter-Fortified Council House at Bluenose 2015

By Doug Davis

The Onteora Alumni Association is excited to provide you with a preview of Bluenose 2015, which is coming up soon from February 14 to 16.

Bluenose, which is conducted annually at Onteora and is the Theodore Roosevelt Council's premiere winter camping event, is one for which attendees must especially "Be Prepared."

This three-day event is packed full of winter fun and competition, such as the famous Klondike Race with the "Best Sled" as a major component.

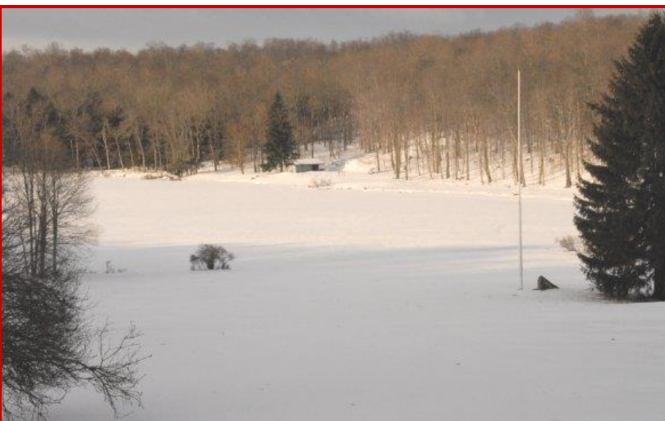
Additional competitive contests include cook-offs, igloo construction, snow sculpture building and searching for objects hidden throughout Onteora. There also are to be numerous opportunities for recreational sledding throughout the weekend.

The OAA is honored to announce a change from the norm for this year's Bluenose. The evening cracker barrel events are to be conducted at the newly renovated and reopened Council House, which was able to be reopened in part through a donation of \$10,000 by the OAA.

The TRC this year installed knotty pine wall insulation for the Council House that is to help Scouts remain warm inside the building. With the new insulation and burning wood in the fireplace, Scouts are to be able to use the Council House to more effectively warm up from the cold.

The Council House's newly completed well and its new bathroom, which is to have winter water access and is to be completed by Bluenose 2015, are to further enhance the building's usability for cold weather camping.

The members of the Bluenose Staff have outdone themselves again with a great planned program and a very interesting theme, "The Search for the Yeti". This means



*OSR, morphed from the Land in the Sky to the Land in the Snow (2010).*



*Bluenose helps prepare you for vacationing in Antarctica (2014).*

that when Scouts travel throughout OSR this Bluenose, they must look out for the "Abominable Snowman."

Bluenose 2015 is especially notable to attend because it is the first council-wide event at Onteora that will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Nassau County Council's purchase in 1955 of the land that became Onteora.

In general, Scouts who are interested in attending Bluenose must have completed a Bluenose training session within the two years before Bluenose to be able to attend.

Additionally, youth attending Bluenose must either have earned at least the First Class rank or be at least 13 years of age.

If you are interested in attending Bluenose 2015, you can register online by Feb. 13 using the TRC's registration page for the event (<http://www.trcbsa.org/Event.aspx?id=1386>). Registrations by Jan. 31 are \$25 per person; registrations after Feb. 13 are \$30 per person.

The Bluenose Guide 2015, which contains the agenda for the three-day event, information on the Bluenose competitions, details about how to build a Klondike derby sled, details about how to construct a snow shelter, a map of Onteora, and answers to frequently asked questions, is available online ([http://storage.trcbsa.org/event/docs/1386/bluenose\\_guide\\_2015.pdf](http://storage.trcbsa.org/event/docs/1386/bluenose_guide_2015.pdf)).

For additional information and to network with fellow Bluenose attendees, you can join the [official Bluenose group on Facebook](#).

See you at Bluenose 2015!

## OAA Chairman's Message: Recruit Members for 2015 and Earn Donor Credits

As 2014 draws to an end, let me start this column by wishing you and your families all the best for 2015. I hope you are able to visit Onteora next year and see how wonderful it looks these days.

Each year around this time, I write a holiday letter and try to identify the highlights of what has occurred over the year. I was recently thinking further back, though, and reflecting on how important Scouting has been to me over the years. I also was thinking about how Scout leaders can have a major impact on the youth they lead.

Back in 1968, I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life (well, I guess I still am, but in 1968 I was trying to figure out where to go to college.) One of my Explorer leaders was Dick Horn, who mentioned his college, Clarkson University, *way* in upstate New York.

I was very impressed that Dick, an OSR alumnus honored in 2005 as a Legend of Onteora, had worked on things like the lunar lander for the Grumman Corporation, so when Bill Throop, now the secretary of the OAA and a Life Member, mentioned that he was going to check out the school, I tagged along. I'm pretty sure I would never have heard of Clarkson or considered it without the Scouting connection, but I ended up going there and graduated in 1973.

I live in Los Angeles now, and trying to convince a kid out here to brave the winters in the Adirondack Mountains indeed is a hard sell, so I haven't sent any new freshmen off to Clarkson myself, at least so far. I wanted to find a way to encourage Scouts to consider the school, though, so I recently established a partial scholarship at Clarkson for Scouts who have shown leadership skills.

The scholarship is open to Scouts from any area, so if you know anyone interested in an engineering degree, please encourage them to consider Clarkson. You can check out the school at [www.clarkson.edu](http://www.clarkson.edu). And Dick, thanks again for the suggestion way back when!

Still looking back, I am amazed by the fact that I probably have only one picture of me as a young man at Onteora besides the staff photos. It was a shot taken back in 1973, when I was there briefly between college and my first real job.

Film and processing were expensive back then – especially considering the princely sums we were paid – so I don't have as many pictures of camp overall from my years then as one would today with digital cameras.

I have most of my pictures of Onteora on my website, and others have been sent to me over the years. You can see these pictures in the Photo Album section at <http://www.billcotter.com/onteora/photo-album/photos.htm>.

Please let me know if you have any of your own photos from that era to share. I'll even scan and restore them for you! Who knows – I might just find that elusive second picture of me at camp.

Finally, I'll end this trip back in time with a look at the future.

**It's the end of the year – a perfect time to sign up for another year in the OAA and to get a tax deduction at the same time. We want to increase our ranks, though, so I'll make you a special deal.**

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Orchard Lake, during the 2014 Catskill Camporee conducted Oct. 10 to 12 at Onteora by the Delaware River District of the Hudson Valley Council.*

(Continued from page 7)

- **If you recruit a new member for the Onteora Alumni Association, I'll pay \$10 toward your own annual donation for OAA membership.**
- **If you recruit a former member of the OAA to rejoin, I'll pay \$5 toward your own annual donation for OAA membership.**
- **Recruit as many members as you can! Mix and match any number of new and returning members, and you can earn a combination of \$10 and \$5 credits for a maximum of \$30 for 2015.**

Sounds too good to be true? Well, it's not. The offer is good from now through March 31, 2015.

Here's all you need to do:

- 1) Encourage your friends, family, and current and former staffers and campers to join the OAA and send a membership donation (pay dues) by March 31, 2015.
- 2) Send your own membership/donations form for 2015 with the names of individuals you recruited written at the top of the form. Take the appropriate credits for new members and rejoining members.
- 3) If the total of your credits is less than the annual donation amount for membership in the OAA at the

basic membership level, indicate the difference on the form and submit the corresponding donation. (The basic membership tier generally involves a donation of \$30, but involves a donation of \$10 for donors less than 21 years of age and donors with financial hardship.)

- 4) As soon as the TRC office and the OAA verify that your recruits have submitted donations for 2015 and therefore have joined the association for 2015, I'll pay the balance due for your membership based on the credits you claimed.

2015 looks like it will be a great year for Scouting at Onteora, and the OAA is proud to be a partner with the TRC in keeping Onteora alive and growing.

I hope you'll take advantage of this offer. The more members we have in the Onteora Alumni Association, the more we can together accomplish for Onteora.

Yours in Scouting,

*Bill Cotter*

Chairman  
Onteora Alumni Association  
Theodore Roosevelt Council



## New Hickox Hall Formally Opens at Schiff, Includes Indoor Climbing Wall

*By Doug Davis*

On Oct. 13, at the end of the Theodore Roosevelt Council's four-day 2014 Fall Camporee at Schiff Scout Reservation, Scouts reveled in the opening ceremony of the completed new Hickox Hall.

Construction of the building commenced in the spring



*Numerous Scouts already have enjoyed the new Hickox Hall at Schiff.*

of 2013, following the loss of the original Hickox Hall on Nov. 1, 2011, because of a fire. The new 7,100 square-foot dining hall has dimensions similar to those of the original Hickox while also sporting numerous upgrades.

A tapered-shaped, rubble stone chimney of the fireplace serves as the visual focal point of the building's exterior. A 10-foot-wide, three-and-a-half-foot-high fireplace pit is open to both the interior and the exterior. The interior includes a 3,500 sq.-ft. dining room, a 1,800 sq.-ft. commercial kitchen with a walk-in freezer and refrigerator, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, and a storage room.

The dining room features an 18-foot-high, 15-foot-wide paneled climbing wall, which was manufactured by Eldorado Climbing Walls.

The new Hickox Hall's first formal use by a troop occurred in November, when Troop 362 used the dining hall to host about 230 individuals for its annual family Thanksgiving dinner.