June 1, 2008 Volume 1, Issue 1

# **The Red Trail**

#### **Mark the Dates**

2008 Spring Work Weekend: June 13-15

Family Camping Weekend Aug. 15-17

Fall Alumni Weekend Sept. 12-14

#### 2009

Fall Alumni Weekend Sept. 11-13\*

#### 2010

Fall Alumni Weekend Sept. 10-12\*

#### 2011

55th OSR Reunion Weekend Sept. 16-18\*

#### 2012

Fall Alumni Weekend Sept. 14-16\*

\*While the dates for 2009-2012 were chosen to give everyone a chance to plan ahead, Teddy Roosevelt Council only schedules camp dates for the current year, so while, these are anticipated dates, they are subject to change.



The Onteora Alumni Association Newsletter

# **OAA Endowment Nearing \$70,000 Mark**

The Onteora Alumni Association's Endowment Fund. which is used for improvements at Onteora, is now just about \$2,000 shy of hitting the \$70,000 mark.

A portion of membership dues and direct contributions have all helped build the fund.

Interest from the boats

endowment fund. together with a portion of annual dues, challenge grants, contributions, patch sales and other fundraisers are all used to improve the camp.

So what has all your generosity made possible? - 6 fully outfitted kayaks (kayak, paddle, life

preservers) - 4 fully outfitted row  Mountain biking program area lean-to - Full size bucket truck (for electrical and phone line maintenance, **COPE/Climbing facility** operations, tree trimming, etc.)

- Completion of Phase I renovations to create a Summer Camp Staff Center at the former Long Island Trading Post

- Complete equipment

# Legends of Onteora: Class of 2007

Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes several Scouts and Scouters for the outstanding contributions they have made to Onteora. This tradition began in 2002, when Ken Heim, Leland Tuttle, Rick Balla, Dave Barkstedt, and Jim Kent were the initial honorees.

In 2007, four of our colleagues were selected by the OAA Advisory Committee to be inducted. Three of these individuals were honored on Sept 15 at our Fall Alumni Weekend: Ralph Foster, Jim Shields, Sr. and Ken South. Chris Wieczkowski was inducted at the 2008 Winter Gathering and Marc Ryan was truly surprised at his goodbye dinner, when he learned that he too was to be honored ...

Ralph Foster joined the

OSR Staff in the late 1950's. He was initially responsible for creating and running the conservation program. Ralph eventually became the Assistant **Reservation Director** under Ken Heim and remained on staff through 1969. He was responsible for Special Programs, including Alder Lake, Canoe Trips, JLTC, Staff Training, Conservation,

(cont'd on p.9)

# The Red Trail

# Page 2 of 12

OAA Leadership 2007-2008

#### Chair: <u>Rick Balla</u>

Vice Chair: Bob Morse

Secretary: Brian Issing

Treasurer: Billy Graham

Advisory Board: Bill Cotter Dave Blaushild <u>Gabe Gluck</u> Michele Moffit Victor Varonier

Ex-Officio: Don Smith

Staff Advisor: Reggie Butt

To reach any of the above via email: http://www.trcbsa.org/ OAA/Leadership.htm

Red Trail Editor Gabe Gluck



# **Endowment Grows, cont'd**

(cont'd on p.2) (cont'd from p. 1)

outfitting of the Onteora Bear Claw Junior Leading Training Program -Complete equipment outfitting of the John Hunter Trek program - Four \$500 Scholarships to four outstanding members of the Onteora Camp

#### Staff

Construction of the new waterfront latrine and washstand
Council Ring audio system
Contributions to summer camp promotion efforts
Contributions to Pre-Camp Worker (i.e., "Beaver") Weekends

This is just the start. As

our membership and endowment grows, we aim to keep up with the times and make sure that the best Boy Scout Summer Camp in America has the best facilities, staff, and programs in America. *--Rick Balla* 

## From the Editor's Desk...

Welcome to the first edition of The Red Trail, the official newsletter for the OAA.

We hope you enjoy it and that you will consider contributing to future issues with some of your favorite recollections of Onteora. Steve Shull, who worked at OSR from 1968 to '73 is the first contributor to this series and hopefully more of you will be inspired. To maximize the amount of money we have to invest in camp, the OAA board

(Cont'd on p. 12)

## Steve Shull Wanders Down Memory Lane: Changeover Saturday

First in a Series One of the unique aspects of Onteora Scout Reservation was that each two-week period began and ended on a Saturday. While most camps would have check-out on Saturday and welcome incoming Scouts on Sunday, the program at OSR called for all this to take place in one day. This gave the Scouts an extra day in camp and optimized the use of buses and vans to haul Scouts and their gear 150 miles in each direction. It was also the time when Onteora's staff pushed themselves to the limit. In peak years, there were an average of about 1,200 Scouts and their gear moving in opposite directions.

Changeover Saturdays began at the crack of dawn in three or four Long Island locations -Valley Stream, Garden City, Hicksville and Massapequa. Scouts and their gear would descend on a shopping mall parking lot, where an 18-wheeler was waiting to transport their gear. Buses were lined up for the trip to Livingston Manor. Ken Heim cut a great deal with Schenk Bus Lines. My recollection is that in 1963, it cost \$4.00 per person round-trip, including the gear. For many years, the trip up to camp would include a stop at the Red Apple Rest in Harriman, at the foot of Bear Mountain. In the early years, the route ran up old Route 17 (before it was improved and christened the

"Quickway"), and the Grooville Road was paved only up to the Welles House, so the last 1.5 miles to the Ranger's house was dirt road. It was a four-plus hour ride; plenty of time for a couple choruses of "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall".

Meanwhile at OSR, outbound Scouts were cleaning their sites and packing their gear. Each troop would pile their gear by the roadside at the entrance to the site. All gear bore a colored tag, indicating the L.I. shopping mall destination for the returning gear. Program Staff would inspect the site and clear the troop to leave. The Scouts would then head to the water tank, where they'd receive a couple hot dogs and drink for lunch, and wait there till the buses were ready to receive them for the ride back to Long Island.

The parking lot was already teeming with activity. By this time, the vans had arrived and were being offloaded. Waterfront staff got the assignment of unloading and loading all the gear from the vans. Most staff members joked about how the guys at the waterfront didn't have to work very hard, but they sure made up for it on changeover Saturday. Through all the grunting and sweating in those vans, the staff developed a tradition of shredding one another's tee shirts. As the day progressed, the tees gradually disintegrated until they were tattered rags and there was

barely enough material left to make a headband.

Paper plates nailed to the fence on the west (lake) side of the parking lot served as markers for each troop/site, and incoming gear would be piled in the appropriate location. Once the vans were unloaded, they were ready to receive the gear of the outbound campers.

There were typically four or five crews of three to five staffers who were responsible for getting the all the gear moved from the sites to the parking lot. Each crew was assigned to a truck which was driven by a staff member of the maintenance crew. In my era, a typical Saturday would see Mike Brenner driving the Blue Rack, Phill Clark in the Yellow Dump, Gary Cryan in the Grey Dump and Leland Tuttle driving Leland's Ford. On very heavy Saturdays, Ranger Bill would have a crew on the Green Rack, a vehicle that was normally reserved only for out-of-camp destinations. I worked on these crews for two summers. and was most fortunate to often find myself on Leland Tuttle's crew. Not only was Leland great to be around, but because his truck was the smallest, his crew got assigned most of the smaller sites. Leland must've been over 70 in those years, but he

(cont'd on p.5)

## In memoriam, Steve Miller (Feb. 4, 2007)

Some months after Steve Miller died, the letters went out to OAA members reminding one and all that it was time to renew their memberships. Not knowing Steve had died, a note went to his Kirkwood, NY home as well.

His widow, Dorinne, sent a note to Rick Balla, explaining how Steve, who was 54, had suffered a fatal heart attack.

"I cannot begin to express how much Steve valued and loved being a part of the OAA," she wrote. "He often shared stories of his time at Boy Scout Camp when he was a child. Every fall, he so looked forward to the annual camping trip. "

Mrs. Miller said she was sure Steve was with us in spirit on the last fall fellowship weekend and went on to wish the members of the OAA the best of luck. "Thank you," she wrote, "for playing such a positive role in Steve's all too short life."

Steve grew up on Long Island and remained active with the Boy Scouts for more than 40 years. After graduating from Hofstra University, he went on to work at several TV stations, including WICZ-TV40, where he worked for over 21 years as the chief broadcasting engineer.

Anyone wishing to send a note to Dorinne Miller should address the note to 194 Haskins Rd, Kirkwood, NY 13795.

## In memoriam, Thomas Antos (Feb. 3, 2005)...

Sad news does not always travel quickly so in this issue, we also share the news of the passing of Tom Antos, formerly of Carle Place and an Onteora staff member.

Tom was 57 when he succumbed to cancer. He served for 23 years in the US Navy Submarine Corp before retiring to Summerville, South Carolina.

## In memoriam, Sturges Shields Jr. (Jan.15, 2008)

Sturges Shields was a legend in Stewart Manor, where the community honored him some years back for his decades of selfless service to the Boy Scouts of America and especially Troop 134. Sturges, a resident of Stewart Manor, was 91. He was active with the Boy Scouts for more than 50 years, starting in 1953 as treasurer for Pack 134. He volunteered in numerous positions with Nassau County Council(as Teddy Roosevelt Council was known for much of its existence) and served on the executive board four terms. He also served as Onteora's Reservation Director in 1978.

He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 1969 and the Chairman's Award from the Shelter Rock District in 2002. In 2001, the Village of Stewart Manor bestowed the community service award for his years of service to Boy Scout Troop 134. The OAA named him a Legend of Onteora in 2004. In his professional life, he served for 30 years with the United Nations, his postings including

Jamaica, Jerusalem, the Congo, Mexico City and Geneva.

Sturges was predeceased by his wife, Joan, who died in 1999. He is survived by his sons, Lawrence and Bradford.

(If you know of someone connected to Onteora who has passed on, please send the information along to be included in a future issue.)

### **OAA PROJECTS & PURCHASES**



Staff/Alumni Center (the old Trading Post)

New waterfront latrine & washstand





Bucket truck & Rick Balla

# 2008 Membership Application

What's new? Rolling Dues year, pay by credit card, campership fund...

- "Rolling Dues Year" - pay your dues for a one year period starting when your payment is received (like a magazine subscription).

- Pay by credit card and make monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or one time payments.

- Give specifically on the campership line to help send a needy Scout to Onteora.

Membership Categories	Dues	Membership Categories	Dues
Individual - Basic (under 21 years	of age) \$ 10.00	Individual - Basic (21 plus years	of age) \$ 25.00
Individual - Silver	\$ 50.00	Individual - Gold	\$ 100.00
Individual - Platinum	\$ 200.00	Millennium Member – Onteora N	Aillennium Society \$1000.00
Individual - Life ( payable over 4 y	years) \$2000.00	Corporate	\$ 100.00
Stretch your gift by taking advar	ntage of employer matcl	hing gifts (if applicable).	
annual commemorative Following the full contribution of \$10 The Onteora Alumni Association a	neckerchief. Millennium of 000 towards a Millennium o awards at least one aca	commemorative patch. Join at the \$ r Life memberships may be paid over or Life membership, you can be reco demic or vocational scholarship a	er 2 or 4 years, respectively. ognized as a Council J.E. West Fellc a year to a current OSR staff
,	contributing to this fund,	please include the amount in the	form below.
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My employer makes matching gifts

Please feel free to list any special skills, abilities or contributions you can make to Onteora on a separate sheet. Mail to: Onteora Alumni Association, c/o Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA-544 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758



# **Onteora Service Weekend** June 13-15, 2008



Please join us for our second scheduled pre-camp Work Weekend. There a	-
important projects to do at camp where our dollars can go a lot further buying mater	r ersonal gear for overnight camping on work weekends, work
supplies if we have dedicated volunteers to provide the labor and skills! If you (and	appetite for good food and renowship. The health bodge will be
and family members) have carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, roofing, paintin	ng, floor available for sleeping.
installation, tree cutting, or auto mechanic skills, we can certainly put them to good	use. We The Project List
also need "strong backs" to move, clean, and dig. Please RSVP as early as possible	Projects identified for 2008 can be found at the TRC
preferably no later than the Monday before the weekend) so we can help plan proje	website maintained by Bill Cotter. See
advance and are sure to have the necessary materials and tools on hand so you're	ready to www.trcbsa.org/OAA
go. We need your help to get everything accomplished before the start of the summ	ner camp RSVP/Need More Information??
season. It takes lots of hands, backs, hearts and minds to get a lot more done, so w	when the Help us by registering by the Monday before the weekend. If you have questions or for last minute registration, please call
camp staff arrives they can focus on finishing touches, setting up tents and cots, an	Rick Balla at 516-678-0032 (please no calls after 9:30 pm) or at
the program. Please join us if you can on one or both Service Weekends. Come ea	ırly on
Friday (bring a bag lunch for the day and join us for a dinner out) if you can, and he	Ip set stuff
up, and work a full day on Saturday, and into Sunday if that's possible for you. We p	provide
meals from a snack Friday night to lunch on Sunday. Join us for a great weekend o	of
fellowship and service!	
In the Spirit of Onteora, Rick Balla	
Name:	E-Mail:@
Address:	Phone: ( )home
I can bring the following tools:	( )business Please Sign Me (Us) Up for (list project or projects):
I'll be there with persons Include me/us for	SatBreakfastLunchDinner
	SunBreakfast

# The Red Trail

# Page 8 of 12



#### "Jim Shields saw to it that the OA used more authentic costumes in its ceremonies"

"Ken South is also remembered for his contribution to the Visitor's Saturday campfire."

Ralph Foster had a passion for teaching and working with staff

Not just for his two years as OSR director, but forl his years of support of Onteora, Marc Ryan was chosen

Chris Wieczkowski has lived the spirit and traditions of Onteora

Legends of Onteora, contd.

(cont'd from p.1) Indian Lore and the horses. Ralph had a passion for teaching and an amazing ability to develop the staff. He gave his staff responsibility. sometimes beyond what they felt capable of achieving. But Ralph was always there to coach, encourage and challenge. Everyone who worked for Ralph will be forever indebted to him for helping them to develop leadership skills and a positive, can-do outlook on life.

Jim Shields, Sr. was the primary driver behind the Indian Lore Program which to this day remains a vital and unique part of Onteora's program. Jim was never on staff although his sons Jim and Tom both worked at OSR in the late 60's and early 70's. Jim was a founder and adviser to Post 1876 which was dedicated to Indian Lore and contributed so many of its members to our staff. One of the highlights of the Visitor Saturday campfires was was a most moving the Indian dances, performed by various staff and/or members of 1876 and directed by Jim. Jim also saw to it that the OA used more authentic costumes in

its ceremonies. Jim is now deceased but the mark that he left on Onteora's program and many staff members is a great legacy.

#### LEGENDS

Eric Anderson '05 Rick Balla '02 Dave Barkstedt '02 **Bill Cotter '06** Les Cox '03 Bill Donaghy '03 AI Ehl '04 **Glenn Gabbard '03** Joe Grupp '04 Jimmy Hammond '06 Dick Horn '04 Jim Kent '02 Charlie Ruiz '06 Sturges Shields '04 Leland Tuttle '02

Ken South was on Onteora's staff from 1962 until 1970. Ken is also best remembered for his contribution to the Visitor's Saturday campfire, leading the entire staff in the songs that we sang at the end of the campfire. This experience for the many thousands who attended those campfires. not least of all for the staff. We rehearsed the songs each night of staff week until Ken was satisfied that the staff would perform as close to a trained choir as was humanly possible. Those of us who were on staff in those years will undoubtedly recall rehearsing "On My Honor", and enunciating the "d" at the end of the line "...do my duty to God". Ken worked in several program areas, including JLTC, and was Program Director in 1969 and Director of Special Programs in 1970. Ken left his imprint on many a Scout and staffer and will always be remembered for infectious enthusiasm and high level of energy. In February, 2008, Marc Ryan, who served as OSR camp director for two summers, '03 and '04, was recognized for his contributions to summer camp, but all of his support over the years to Onteora. Marc was inducted at his going away dinner, marking his move from the TR Council staff to a Philadelphia area council. At the Winter Gathering

in March, 2008, Chris Wieczkowski, an OSR staffer from '99 to '06, was recognized as someone who truly lived the spirit and traditions of Onteora. -Steve Shull and Rick Balla

## **Recent Accomplishments:**

#### 2007

Opened up the Long House dining room and kitchen for the 2007 season \* Thoroughly cleaned the Long House Kitchen reach-in and walk in units (racks, walls, floors) and rolling salad bar \* Trimmed trees back from the road from the water tank to Dan Beard Shelter (and removed the dying tree hanging over Forry Cabin) \* Removed and replaced front steps to A-4; removed and began replacement of rear deck to A-4 \* Installed drop in ceiling (including light fixture) in

Health Lodge ward bathroom \* Installed surface mounted light fixture in Health Lodge aide's room \* Installed base molding in Long House cook's quarters \* Removed old reach-ins and refrigerator from the Staff Alumni Center for future disposal \* Floated and connected 2 dock sections in the lake to facilitate initial bathing water sampling \* Constructed 10 complete platform deck halves \* Installed 95% of the ceiling insulation in the Staff Alumni Center \* Straightened up/cleaned out Staff Alumni Center to facilitate upcoming interior work \*

Thoroughly cleaned out A-1 \* Completed electrical service upgrade at Maintenance Shop (including main panel and 2 auxiliary panels \* Replaced ballasts in Maintenance Shop and Long House light fixtures \* Painted Staff Alumni Center porch doors and applied polyurethane to wood door in Long House cook's quarters \* Repaired damaged A-4 roof shingle \* Repaired Trading Post "in" door and Long House dining room door (fireplace end, porch side) \* Unboxed 10 new camper tents, rolled 5 with ridge and uprights \* Installed ceramic tile around shower house utility sink \* Re-secured Council House door

## Memory Lane. cont'd

Loaded and unloaded as many footlockers as anyone on his crew.

As the footlockers were finding their way down to the parking lot and onto the vans, buses would finally be pulling into the parking lot and unloading hundreds of Scouts, all eager to be at OSR and wearing their nice clean uniforms lot where they would with a bathing suit underneath. The Scouts would line up and march Meanwhile, the truck down to the nurse's office. In the early years, Nurse Anderson's office was on the upper level of the Manor House, which sat begin the reverse near the top of the parade ground just below the parking lot.

Once they were checked out, it was on to the waterfront to take their swim test. A few of the waterfront crew would leave the van loading assignment to man the docks and facilitate the swim tests.

At about mid-day, the outbound Scouts were released to the parking board the buses and head for home. crews were finally finished getting all the outbound gear down to the parking lot and onto the vans and would now process of bringing gear up to each of the sites. Scouts leaving the

waterfront wearing wet swimwear and with their uniforms in a ball would climb the hill to their site, where with a little luck their footlockers and gear would be waiting by the side of road.

By about 5:00 p.m., all the gear was hauled up to the sites. Staff would return to their normal duties, bearing a few bumps and bruises but proud to have worked together as a team to accomplish such a monumental task.

(Have a memory you would like to share? Please send it to: ghgluck(at)Verizon.net

"The Scouts would line up and march down to the nurse's office."

0	Robert Adams
	Eric Anderson
Å	Mark Anderson
Å	Jonathan Ansbacher
	Rick Balla
	David Barkstedt
	Robert Batchelor
Μ	Bruce Bauer
	Andrew Belger
E	Donald Belger
	Gregory Benoit
Μ	David Blaushild
D	William Bottenhofer
B	Michael Brenner
E	Stuart Bricker
	Thomas Brucia
R	Reginald Butt
11	Chriss Cancro
S	Robert Cancro
~	Peter Carioscia
	Christopher Carroll
	Charles Casey
2	Patricia Casey
	Salvatore Ciampo
0	Bill Cotter
	Leslie Cox
0	Roger Csajko
	Doug Davis
7	Michelle DelPietro
	Art DiMatteo
	Alan Ehl
	David Ely
	Robert Faber
	Eric Fesselmeyer
	Dave Fisher
	Joseph Fredericks
	Jack Friedman
	Michael Fusco
	Peter Fusco
	Lucas Galman
	Steve Gershowitz
	Vincent Giacalone
	Gabriel Gluck
	Billy Graham
	Michael Greubel
	Glenn Greubel, Jr.

Glenn Greubel, Sr. Carl Gullans Ralph Hochuli Brian Issing Lawrence Jindra Andy Johns **Thomas Kane** William Kelly Steven Kirsch Steven Kroll Howard Kudler Glenn Kugler Mark Kupferberg Paul Lagas Joseph Laratondo Robert Lohne **Bill Mackey** Fred Mandelbaum William Maron Patrick Marzano John McGrory Michael McInnis **Robert Meiselas** William Meiselas Brian Messmer Eugene Messmer D. Minaricik Art Mittelstaedt. Jr. Kate Moffitt Kenneth Morgan Robert Morse Daniel Morson Ted Muellers Gregory Naccari Wayne Olson Edward Paprocki Brian Petrowski **Bob Pollack Donald Prendergast** Marilyn Prendergast Kevin Regan Russell Rensch Eric Rosen Amos Rosenstein Dwight Rosenstein Ruth Rosenstein

**Charles Sadler** John Sadowski Joseph Scalise Eric Schoch John Schroeder Jerome Schwartz Jim Sergison Robert Sherman Stephen Shull Donald Smith Ira Solomon William Somerville Joseph Spohrer Mark Steiner Matthew Steiner Alan Swantek Lawrence Syriac William Throop Robert Topping Frank Tucker III Anthony Turner James Van Tassell Victor Varonier Peter Visconti, Esq. **Bob Voorneveld** Christopher Wieczkowski Garv Wildung Eric Witschi Don Wright

Editor's Note: So why are we listing last year's members six months into 2008? Well, to say the least, the newsletter has had a long birthing process and the plan is to have the first issue of the year memorialize the previous year. So please bare with this somewhat tardy start...and if you would like to help out with the newsletter, your help is more than welcome. ghg

## Onteora Alumni Association

Theodore Roosevelt Council Boy Scouts of America

> 544 Broadway Massapequa, Ny 11758

Phone: 516.797.7600

We're on the Web! See us at: www.trcbsa.org/OAA/index.htm

To see The Red Trail online: <u>http://www.trcbsa.org/OAA/RedTr</u> <u>ail.htm</u> or <u>billcotter.com/onteora/newsletter.</u> <u>pdf</u> All OAA forms are available on the internet

#### ONTEORA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Theodore Roosevelt Council, BSA 544 Broadway Massapequa, NY11758

If undeliverable, please return to 91 S. Lewis Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 "My favorite thing about Onteora is the people."

Note From The Chair...

I just received a OAA membership application from a past staff member who, across the top of the form, wrote the words above in huge letters. Those eight words really brightened my day. I'm actually sitting in the Long House right now thinking about what a great place Onteora is, and how Onteora has been, is, and will always be about the people who come here and then are drawn back. I hope you are able to return to camp sometime soon and see how Onteora is still making a powerful positive impact on the lives of scouts. So at whatever membership level you can, please join our association. And to Bill, my favorite thing about Onteora is the people too.

--Rick Balla

# From The Editor's Desk. cont'd

(cont'd from p.2) decided that only the first issue of the year will be hard copy, printed and mailed to all members. The other issues will

be web based and available on the Internet, so please, if we don't have your email address, please send it along. The web issues, including this one, will also be in color. So enjoy and pass along your thoughts. My email address is: ghgluck(at)verizon.net Take care, Gabe

Your Membership Status: Expired:\_\_\_\_\_ Current Thru:\_\_\_\_\_ Join the OAA:\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership:\_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY, ST 22134