

MASSAWEPIE

STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Providing Spirit, Service and Support

Founded 2000

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Association Presentation To Council Executive Board

President Kathy Elliott, Vice-President Mark Pulvino, Treasurer David Lippitt and Executive Committee member Peter Collinge made a presentation about the Alumni Association to the Otetiana Council's Executive Board at its January 13, 2003 meeting.

Kathy told the Board about the history of the Association, its membership and its raising \$22,000 for the Loren R. Hakes Memorial Campfire Circle at Massawepie. Mark talked about the Association's support of Massawepie projects, including providing the largest contingent of volunteers at Beaver weekend the last two years. Mark also talked about the Association's assistance with training summer camp staff. Peter talked about the Association's fund-raising in support of Massawepie, including its highly successful special 50th anniversary patch. He also told the Board about the Association's contribution to the Massawepie square foot/square yard endowment, which will be used for the maintenance and purchase of equipment at Massawepie. David talked about the Alumni Association's efforts in organizing and running Massawepie's highly successful 50th anniversary celebration. He also thanked our staff advisor, Don DeClerck, for his many years of hard work as the Council's Property Superintendent.

Finally, the Association presented Council President Dick Leo and Council Executive Larry Pritchard with a \$1,000 check from the Association for the construction of the new Meyering Rifle Range at Massawepie.

Membership Renewal

Membership in the Association runs from June 1 through May 31. If you are a current or past member, it is time to renew your membership. You can renew at our Annual Meeting at Beaver Weekend or send back the enclosed form with your \$10 membership dues (\$20 for two years).

Please note that if you make a contribution of \$50 or more to the Meyering Rifle Range at Massawepie the \$10 membership fee for 2003-2004 will be waived. Important Note: If you are a past member who has not paid your dues for 2002-2003 this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you pay your dues for 2003-2004 (or make a contribution of \$50 or more to the Meyering Rifle Range).

The Ray and Addy Meyering Rifle Range at Camp Pioneer

By Peter Collinge

The Alumni Association's mission includes “Support” for Massawepie. In 2002, we finished raising \$22,000 for our first “Support” project, the Loren Hakes Memorial Campfire Circle. For 2003, we've agreed that our next “Support” project will be the planned new rifle range for Camp Pioneer.

When Pioneer reopened in 2000, budget constraints prevented the construction of a rifle range. Since then, Scouts have been walking or getting rides to the old Camp Mountaineer rifle range. The limited size of this 8-point range, and its distance from Pioneer, have prevented many Scouts from participating in the camp's safe shooting program.

Now, plans are underway to build a new 16-point rifle range on the northwestern edge of Pioneer, diagonally across the Mountaineer Road from the Pioneer Air gun Range. The project is particularly appropriate for Alumni Association help, since the range will be named for two long-time Massawepie staff members, Ray and Addy Meyering. Ray served on the original 1952 Massawepie staff before beginning a distinguished career in the New York State Police. After retiring, he directed the Forester rifle range for 15 years, and has directed the Mountaineer rifle range with Addy's assistance since 1995. (See separate article.)

New buildings at Scout camps are often funded by a single large donation, and named for the donor. Since no large donor has been identified yet for the rifle range, and since the range will be named for the Meyerings, the Otetiana Council leadership has chosen to try to raise the needed funds from many smaller donors. In order to make this project a success, we will need help from current Massawepie leaders and troops, friends and associates of the Meyerings, and staff alumni, along with shooting sports groups.

The current estimated cost of the rifle range is \$90,000. Of that, approximately \$55,000 is needed for the plans, site work (including a large berm), and foundation. The plans are completed, and have been reviewed and approved by the Meyerings. If the initial \$55,000 can be raised before summer, then the site work and foundation will be finished during 2003. That will allow the many volunteers who have already come forward to complete the construction of the range before the opening of camp in 2004.

At the January 2003, Otetiana Council Executive Board meeting (see separate article), the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association donated \$1000 from our 50th anniversary patch and concession proceeds toward the new rifle range. Also, three former staff members have each pledged \$5000 toward the range. This \$16,000 in cash and pledges from staff alumni represents over 95% of the funds raised to date for the range!

On the dues renewal form in this newsletter, you'll find an opportunity to make a gift to the Ray and Addy Meyering Rifle Range at Camp Pioneer. Donors at the \$10,000, \$5000 and \$1000 levels will be recognized on a bronze plaque at the new range. Donors of \$500 or \$100 will be recognized elsewhere at the range. Every gift, regardless of size, is important and will be included on a list of donors to be given to the Meyerings. Please pledge generously, to whatever extent you can. Your gift will help support the Massawepie program while providing a tribute to two fine staffers!

Massawepie's Grand Couple: Addy and Ray Meyering By Peter Collinge

Try this Massawepie quiz:

Which Massawepie Staff Alumni Association (MSAA) member served on both the original 1952 staff when Pioneer opened, and the 2000 staff when Pioneer reopened?

Which MSAA member has served the most total summers on staff (25), under 15 different camp directors, and is planning to return for 2003?

Which MSAA member is married to another staffer who has (probably) the 3rd highest total of summers on staff (18)?

Which MSAA member remembers helping to move camp equipment including boats from the former Camp Eagle Island in Sodus Bay to Massawepie in 18-wheelers?

Which MSAA member would, if asked, be able to tell his fellow 2003 staff members about working at the original Camp Cutler (in Webster) waterfront, and about helping with the legendary Dewey Sawyer's trail program at Massawepie?

If you answered "Ray Meyering" to all five questions, you're right! Anyone who has been at summer camp at Massawepie since 1995 has probably met Ray and Addy Meyering, since together they've directed Massawepie's only operating rifle range (at Mountaineer) since then. But both (and especially Ray) have a much longer history at Massawepie. Here's a brief synopsis of their combined 43 years on camp staff to date.

Ray is an Eagle Scout from Troop 82 in Rochester. He first worked on the waterfront staff for original Camp Cutler (now Webster Park) in 1951, Cutler's last year as a Boy Scout summer camp. He was then hired to stay on the Cutler ranger staff over the winter, while Harley Burgdorf was directing the initial construction work at Massawepie. In the spring of 1952, Ray helped load and transport boats and camping equipment from Camps Cutler and Eagle Island to Massawepie in 3 tractor-trailers arranged by Kenny Kemp.

During the summer of 1952, Ray served on Massawepie staff doing driving and maintenance work. After a winter stint as a milkman, he returned to Massawepie in 1953 as the Provisional Scoutmaster.

His provisional troop camped in what later became the area in front of Cabin #11. During his spare time, Ray helped with canoe training and treks under Dewey Sawyer's renowned trail program. One week before the end of the summer, Ray left camp to become a New York State trooper trainee.

During Ray's years in the State Police, he remained active in Scouting. He was Explorer Advisor of Senior Unit 82 in Rochester before he and Addy married in 1957. After the wedding they lived in Brockport. Ray served on the North Star District Committee, assisting with health and safety issues. When their sons Tom and Don joined Pack 186, Ray and Addy got involved, and then followed the boys to Troop 111 starting with Tom's crossover in 1969. Ray and Addy both still serve as Committee Members for Troop 111, where both Tom and Don became Eagle Scouts. Ray also began a weekly swim program for Scouts in 1970, first using the SUNY Brockport college pools and later the high school pool. After running the program for more than 20 years, Ray turned it over to Rick Beyrle who continues it today.

After retiring from the State Police, Ray rejoined the Massawepie staff in 1980 and brought along Addy and Don. (Tom had previously worked on camp staff, and returned in 1981 and 1982 as Mountaineer Camp Director.) Ray directed the Forester rifle range and Addy ran the Forester Trading Post. Ray continued as rifle range director for 15 years until Forester closed after the 1994 season, while Addy ran the Trading Post and the Handicraft Program each for four years (and spent a few summers at home) during that era before becoming the Ray's assistant at the rifle range for 1993 and 1994.

With Forester closed, Ray and Addy moved their "mobile staff cabin" (trailer) to the Mountaineer rifle range in 1995, and have run that range ever since. (They did take a day off in 2002 to celebrate their 45th anniversary.) They spend the off-season in Clarkson, with winters in Florida. Now, they hope to make one more camp move, to direct the inaugural season of the Ray and Addy Meyering Rifle Range at Camp Pioneer in 2004!

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 31st marks the date for the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's Annual Meeting; held during Beaver Weekend at the Loren R. Hakes Campfire Circle immediately following dinner. The focus of this years meeting will include discussions regarding the implementation of Rules of Operation for the Alumni Association and induction of new officers. Copies of proposed Rules of Operation will be sent out to members by either e-mail or regular mail for their review prior to the meeting date. The proposed Rules of Operation will also be posted on our web site in the near future.

Beaver Weekend is an outstanding opportunity for Alumni members to volunteer time and support Massawepie; a day of hard work and a lot of fun is enjoyed by all! In addition it is the perfect setting for Alumni members to meet and review the past year and look forward to another year of support and fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

Still Need Summer Staff

One of the most important parts of a successful summer program at Massawepie is a quality staff. The Council is still looking for summer staff, particularly those who are 18 years of age or older. If you know someone who might be interested in working at camp this summer, please encourage him or her to contact the Massawepie Camp Director, Steve Weisenreder at (585) 241-8530.

Alumni Association Executive Committee And Volunteers

The Alumni Association is still looking for new members for its Executive Committee and for members who would like to help out with leading specific activities and events. If you would be interested in being considered for an Executive Committee position or helping the Association out in some other way please contact us by e-mail at MassAlumni@aol.com or write us at: Massawepie Staff Alumni Association, c/o Don DeClerck Camp Cutler, 7131 Gulick Rd., Naples, New York 14512.