



the LANTERN'S LIGHT

by the Many Point Alumni Association

Vol. 32, Issue 1

Fall, 2017

Happy Holiday's to everyone. With the new year around the corner, the MPSAA is continuing to stay busy. This year was a huge success for our organization. Thank you for your generosity.

The Spring Fling was a huge success at Utepils. We plan on returning the event to Utepils in the Spring of 2018. Mark your calendars now for April 20th!

We're also excited to see our membership consolidation project come to an end. Thanks to the work of Matt Mencke and Al Boyce, we now have everyone on staff in our database, and all of the position information for each person. We request that you use the return envelope or email to update any

information that isn't current AND look at our website for all missing members.

Along with the membership project, Al Boyce is kicking off a "Decades Project" where Alumni will take the lead on finding folks from their era. More information will be coming soon for this project.

We continue to be a strong group that delivers an avenue for everyone to get together, and to give back to the place which has shaped many of our lives.

Thank you for being a part of the Family!
Cheers to a successful 2018!

- Mike Kuklok,
MPSAA President

CIT BASECAMP – IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED!!

Many of you have fond memories from your Counselor in Training (CIT) experience at Many Point. You may remember working with your favorite staff member, your first experiences teaching Merit Badges and assisting with program, or weekends at basecamp with your friends. Over the years, with the guidance of some amazing CIT directors, the CIT program has evolved and improved. Today's CIT's are integral parts of the program at Many Point and each year the staff are excited to lead them down the path of becoming a valued member of the Many Point Staff.

Scouts become CIT's for many reasons. Perhaps they sign up because they want to see how MPSC works from the inside. Maybe they hope to one day be on staff. Sometimes they simply want to get away from everything and live in the woods for 5 weeks. Regardless of the reason, each of them finds a place where they belong, a place where they can be themselves, and a place they can grow. Sound familiar? Being a CIT at Many Point is a life changing experience for Scouts. I will always remember Mark Richardson saying that every

CIT, whether they are hired or not, is a better person when they leave than when they arrived. CIT's are truly the future of Many Point. They are the next program counselors, commissioners, aquatics directors, camp directors, and alumni. It is vital that we foster their growth and strive to ensure a positive experience.

Many Point hosts two sessions of CIT's each spending five weeks at camp. The first week at Base Camp and then the following four weeks rotating between Flintlock, Ten Chiefs, Voyageur, and Buckskin. Gone are the days of spending nights in the gate lodge or running the switchboard, but the spirit of Many Point is strong in every CIT who looks forward to one day getting that special call from a camp director.

During the first week at base camp, the C.I.T.'s receive training on the Mission of Many Point, our traditions, and how to best grow into a future Many Point staff member. They learn how to assist staff with every

- continued on page 4

Upcoming Events

Wednesday January 10th, 2018
Board Meeting

Wednesday March 14th, 2018
Board Meeting

Friday April 20, 2018—Spring Fling
Tentatively—Utepils



Weekend—May 16-20, 2018
Alumni Work Party

More Dates?
Check out your Calendar!

Contents

- Beavers - 2
- Rock's Staffer for A Week - 3
- Summer of 2017 - 3
- CIT Basecamp Gift Cont.— 4
- Doug Palmer - 5
- Thank You - 6

Premium Gift

MPSAA Lapel Pin



Beavers: MP Chronicles

Tales from the Many Point History Center

For most present and former Many Point staff members Beavers are large furry rodents with big teeth, with an appetite for aspen trees, who likes to build dams that wash out roads. It is hard to comprehend that this creature was a major factor in the western exploration of North America, a cause of inter-tribal warfare, a major contributor in the formation of the United States and a major fashion statement for over three centuries.

The story of the North American Beaver goes back to the 1600s in Europe. In 1661, the famous English diarist Samuel Pepys spent 4.25 pounds for a beaver hat. This hat cost Samuel more than one percent of his annual income. This hat was no ordinary piece of head gear, but a prized and prestigious “beaver”. From the 1660s to the early 1800s hats made from processed beaver hair were the rage for European Kings, generals and men of fashion.

The Dutch were the first major player in the North American fur trade followed by the French, British and the United States. From their headquarters in what is today French Canada the French had the largest trading system in the beaver trade. French explorers and traders traveled the great lakes in search of beaver pelts. While the French Voyageurs provided the transportation in large cargo canoes they recruited the native peoples to do the actual trapping. After a winter of trapping they would meet with the native peoples and exchange the beaver pelts for various European trade goods. The Grand Portage in

Minnesota was one such trading post.

A good question to ask, “Why were Beaver Pelts so sought after, that this trade was as major cause of inter-tribal warfare, the various French/British wars and the politics of the new United States?”. The answer goes back to the basic biology of the beaver. As an aquatic rodent the hair of the beaver evolved an ability to both repel water and to form a tight mat to preserve heat. The hair of a beaver has barbs that will interlace with each other to form a tight mat. This matting ability of the hair made what is called a “felt” that could be shaped into a hat. Part of the process of converting the beaver hair into a “felt” involved the use of mercury. The “mad hatter” character from Alice in Wonderland had real people who were also part of this story.

Today the fur trade legacy lives on. The treaty that ended the American Revolution established the northern border of Minnesota. This treaty preserved the right of United States and Canadian citizens to use the Rainy River fir route.

Today in the Many Point History Center there is a beaver pelt displayed, along with a beaver hat and other artifacts from this period of history.

By Douglas Palmer, MPSAA Historian



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ROCK'S ROCKIN' WEEK AS A STAFFER

Every summer since my last on staff at MPSC (1992) I've been keenly aware of the camp season from the start of staff week to closing banquet. There's nothing quite like a summer on staff at Many Point.

When my boys were old enough, I was fortunate to be able to come back for a week with our Troop and experience Many Point from a dad and Scoutmaster perspective which was also pretty amazing.

But this summer I experienced the wonders of Many Point in another way, as the All-Star Scoutmaster for a provisional Troop of 15 scouts (and three camping adults) during week one.

With a collection of scouts from Troops far and near and just a few days to prepare I was excited but not sure what to expect. I

decided to treat this Troop as I would my own.

The first few hours on Sunday were super busy! The boys arrived one by one and made their way to the All-Star site just up from Buckskin Beach. Once in camp, they selected tent partners, got moved in, they selected tent partners, got moved in, signed up for merit badges, ranked group activities and elected an SPL.

The week flew by with great food, morning advancement sessions, ga-ga ball, aqua tramp, archery, nature center, climbing tower, disc golf, fire tower, history museum, Huck Finn raft, tree houses, vespers, iron man, skits, mile swim, campfires and our canoe snorkel trip into Buckskin Bay.

During our troop reflection on Friday afternoon several scouts shared how much fun the week was for them. It was fun for sure, but I had also enjoyed seeing them work as a team, lead, challenge themselves and conquer fears.

It was a great week for me too and added plenty to my bank of cherished Many Point memories.

Special thanks to Evan Yingst for helping make it happen, to Kurt Wallgren and the rest of the 2017 Buckskin staff for the warm welcome and to "Granny" Arlene Arvola, Tracy Olson and "Big" Joe Glaccum for the coffee, rolls and conversation at the dining hall.

If you have ever considered participating as staffer for week, I would wholeheartedly encourage you to do it. It's hard to accurately articulate the emotions, but The spirit of Many Point is alive and well and there's something about that place that is so good for the soul.

by Matt 'Rock' Mencke
87-90, 92



SUMMER OF 2017

The summer of 2017 was one to remember. Our opening banquet featured one of the most talent filled skits and songs put on by our summer staff. Highlights included the Flintlock Staff re-writing the words to "Scotty Doesn't Know" to be a song around the premise "Scotty Needs to Know," and a comedy bit by Harrison McCormick (Buckskin) about hard truths and stereotypes within our sub-camps.

New features and improvements at camp were a hit for the over 6500 people that joined us this year. The most well received improvement was moving the merit badge schedule to have all four sessions in the morning. Units were skeptical about the

change, and had worries that would be hungry, and that the lake wasn't going to be warm enough. However, worries were soon forgotten as units enjoyed better cohesion throughout each day, and Scouts weren't as conflicted when choosing between older Scout programs and the afternoon merit badge session that used to conflict.

Another highlight of the year was celebrating Ranger Scott Hollermann's 25th summer at Many Point Scout Camp. Twenty Five is also known as the "Legacy Year," in recognition of the legacy you've created at Many Point. In celebration of his milestone, Ranger Paul performed a song he wrote to the tune of "Rhinestone Cowboy" and the chorus included the phrase "He's a Many Point Ranger." He received a hand carved loon with a plaque recognizing his tenure,

and Ranger Ron attended and presented Scott with a rare hat with the words "Many Point Ranger."

Ultimately, Many Point had a fantastic summer in 2017. We are looking forward to another strong summer in 2018. Plans are in the works for exciting adventures for all who come. We have some exciting tenures to celebrate, including Arlene "Granny" Arvola reaching 30 years, Kevin Mies reaching 25 years, and Dave Casella reaching 20 years.

Thank you for your continued support of Many Point through the Many Point Staff Alumni Association. Camp continues to grow through your generosity.

Evan Yingst
Many Point Camping Director



C.I.T. - CONTINUED - THE 2017 / 2018 MPSAA PROJECT

aspect of Many Point – from classroom management to lifeguarding, First Aid and CPR to knot tying, and fitting harnesses at the tower to running program on Huck Finn.

In addition to program, all C.I.T.'s are taught that Many Point has high expectations. We expect exceptional guest service, excellent experiences, and quality equipment for our participants both on program and in the campsites. We teach them that program areas must be neat and tidy, not only for safety, but also to provide a top-notch environment that sets Many Point above all others.

One quality that sets our staff apart from others is their resourcefulness. Many of you remember the days of straightening nails and 100-foot rope limits for program camps. While these experiences have taught us great lessons in stewardship, times have changed. Many Point has significantly improved facilities for Scouts and staff over the last 20 years. Unfortunately, one area that has not received the same level of attention is the CIT basecamp. Basecamp is where CIT's spend their first week on camp and every weekend of their program. The tents have seen better days, tent platforms are in disrepair, the latrine does not match the standards we have set for our scouts, and we're asking them to sleep on cots for the duration of their five-week program. Additionally, we would like to resume cooking our meals at basecamp instead of eating in the dining hall. Many Point has an expectation of treating our CIT's the same as any other staff member. Unfortunately, we aren't meeting that standard quite yet.

For these reasons, we are asking the Many Point Staff Alumni Association to financially support improving the CIT basecamp. Many Point has laid out

a \$20,000 plan that will improve the CIT experience and demonstrate to them that they are valued members of the Many Point team. The plan below outlines costs for improvements that will bring the CIT basecamp up to the same standards as current staff tent cities in the camps.

PROJECT LIST AND BUILD PARTY:

Project List	
Excavation & Leveling Site ..	\$2,500
Add Electricity	\$2,600
Tent Platforms.....	\$1,400
Eight (8) Staff Tents.....	\$8,000
Latrine	\$4,500
Cooking, Stoves, Lanterns,...	\$1,000
	\$20,000

How will it happen?

We're hopeful you'll join the MPSAA work party (May 17-21) and Many Point Volunteer Work Party (June 1-3) to help build and install tent platforms. More details to come soon. To RSVP or request information – contact Sean at sean.wachsmuth@gmail.com

Many Point will include vendors as necessary to help the project reach completion.

Our fantastic maintenance team will support and provide guidance to our volunteer workers.

We appreciate your support and look forward to answering any questions you have about the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Wachsmuth

MPSAA Board Member



KEEPING YOUR LANTERN BURNING BRIGHT...

Since we opened in 1946, Many Point has been on the cutting edge of Scouting and Adventure. An industry leader in facilitating Fun Experiences that develop Character, Citizenship, Fitness, and Family.

Sustaining Many Point's success in our industry isn't something that comes easy, it takes a lot of love and commitment from those that want to help.

Each summer a good majority of our Troops participate in a History Center tour and climb the Fire Tower.

Every year, the Administration Building has 2-3 new program staff that are charged with delivering the Fire Tower and History Center tours. They teach the Scouts this history of the land before Many Point, who Wint Hartman was, how to spot fires, and the decades of transitions that tell the story of how we got our start and how much we have accomplished to date.

It is a great deal of information steeped in rich history and tradition that's taught to our Scouts and adults alike.

How are these program staff, often freshman and sophomores in college that sometimes just stepped foot in camp for the first time, prepared for this program?

For the past 15 summers, a mentor named Doug Palmer (MP Staff 1954-1964, MPSAA Historian) has volunteered his knowledge. Doug makes it a priority to come for Staff Week to train our staff and teach them how to lead the tours. He does a very thorough example tour, and then has the staff practice and provides constructive feedback. He teaches the art of delivering the information, in order to ensure Scouts have time to engage at each exhibit, and have time to ask questions. Doug is also working on continually improving our History Center, and has been spearheading new ideas that visually guide Scouters through the changes of Many Point's history.

Many Point is fortunate to have Doug! We're extremely grateful he regards Many Point as a priority.

Evan Yingst

Many Point Camping Director

2017 STAFF ALUMNI WORK PARTY

Greetings from Many Point from your 2017 Alumni Work Party. We were greeted by a recently remodeled bathroom and shower facility at the Gaylord Lodge. This new facility will be a welcome change for future Gaylord Guests.

Through periods of sunshine, clouds, and light rain we were able to complete our twin goals of assembling and painting fire Adirondack side tables for Family Camp and completed an update of a section of the back wall of the History Center.

This update of the History Center reflects the early days of the Scouting movement up to the beginnings of Many Point. Next year our goal will be to complete the displays from the beginnings of Many Point and to show the achievements and history of the

camp to the present.

Today there is a Merit Badge called "Scouting Heritage" that traces the History of the Scouting movement. A major requirement of this badge is to visit a Scouting Museum. A visit to the Many Point History center fulfills this requirement. The Alumni Association should be proud of our contributions to the History Center as both a very popular program activity and now as a merit badge assist.

Many thanks to this year's participants: Geff Bares, Curt Cheese, Ray Davis, Roger Kuhn, Roger Halverson, Kal Schellenberg, Mark Yelich, Don Myers, Dan Trudeau, Al Bongaarts, and Doug Palmer.

A special thanks to Ranger Paul and Ranger Scott for their help and assistance.

Alumni Work Party Planning Committee: Curt Cheese, Dave Price, and Doug Palmer



SPRING FLING



Mark your calendars for Friday April 20th - 6:30pm
Food Truck - Year End Review - Games - Fun!



Thank you for the generous donations for 2016/2017

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Plus all of those who
volunteered and donated
their time and hard work to
keep the Spirit alive!

Thank you!