



# the LANTERN'S LIGHT

by the Many Point Staff Alumni Association

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Spring, 2018

Spring is almost here.....what a long winter. We hope everyone is had a great new year and are looking forward to the coming months.

Our Spring event was moved from the previously posted place. It will now be held at the Black Forest Inn where we will have our own private room and patio to enjoy fellowship. The MPSAA will be hosting a variety of activities including some door prizes, yard games, guitar music later in the evening, and our annual slide show. Please be sure to come down and visit us for a while. The place is easy to get to, has a great

menu, and is also near some other food options if you would like to come early for supper.

We also have some other events and opportunities to get involved. First - the MPSAA will be hosting a work party at Many Point in May. Details are in the article if you'd like to escape for the weekend. Many Point will also be hosting a work party. Details also follow.

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous summer.

Mike Kuklok

President, MPSAA

## Growing up In Dawson: Many Point Scout Camp

*Many Point Scout Camp, that's the place to be.  
It's where the best in Scouting goes, and that's the place for me.  
You hear the loon a-callin; and the Little Beaver roar.  
And you'll come again the Legend says, like all good scouts of yore.*

These are the words that I sang around a campfire for the first time over 50 years ago. I was a new scout in those days, with only the Second Class rank. I had worked hard to get my new badge so I would be allowed to go to scout camp. I had heard a lot of about it from the older guys, and I was anxiously anticipating going to Many Point for the first time. That was in 1966.

We established our camp at the Fond du Lac campsite in Voyager Camp on Round Lake. There were about 20 of us, along with T. O. Vaala and Marv Nelson as our leaders. They assigned each patrol our areas and gave us vintage wall tents that we weren't sure how to set up. Then, we had to set up our cook boxes and the dining fly. It took all day. Finally, we had our camps set up, made our supper, and we could explore; checking out the lake and the nearby Otter Tail River.

That night after bed check, we all snuck out of our tents to explore further, spending most of

our time on the on the pioneering bridge made out of logs over the Otter Tail River.

Over the next two weeks, we would learn to get up to revelry, build a fire, cook our meals, and clean up after ourselves. We were also required to go to various classes for scout skills and merit badges that were taught by the camp counselors. I was so impressed by them that I wanted to become a counselor someday myself. We did a lot of swimming in the lake, went for a canoe trip, shot on the rifle range, and I learned how to shoot a bow and arrow for the first time. The evening campfires we had were a lot of fun too. The camp counselors always had the best skits and could lead us in singing campfire songs. At the end of the day, when Larry Thoen blew Tapps on his bugle, all of us were in our sleeping bags and ready for to go asleep. We were exhausted.

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### Upcoming Events

**Friday April 20, 2018**

Spring Fling  
Black Forest Inn

**Weekend—May 17-20, 2018**

Alumni Work Party

**Weekend— June 1-3, 2018**

Work Party

**Weekend August 24-26th**

MPSAA Campout @ Ten Chiefs

Check out our Events  
on [mpalumni.org](http://mpalumni.org).

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### Premium Gift

MPSAA Lapel Pin



[mpalumni.org](http://mpalumni.org)

# Keeping your lantern burning bright...

Many Point's key tool in getting Scouts to camp in this technological world is our website, [www.ManyPoint.org](http://www.ManyPoint.org). Scouts and units that are shopping which summer camp to attend each year tend to google "Find me the best Scout Camp" or "Summer Camps that are fun." They tend to find Many Point in their search results.

Many Troops will have a meeting in which the main topic is choosing a summer camp, and Scouts often utilize their mobile devices, and we have a limited time window to excite them enough to choose Many Point.

The past website Eric Erfanian (MP Staff, 2008-2012) built when he was in college nearly ten years ago has been great. However, it was built using a web software that isn't "mobile responsive." What this equated to is, when Scouts were seeing information about Many Point – they weren't finding all the adventures that are possible because it wasn't being displayed in a friendly manner.

When Eric learned this, he didn't hesitate before building a structure in a new, modern web software. He researched themes, layouts, and visited other camp websites to get a feel for the market, and then wire framed a new Many Point website.

Throughout the development, beginning April 2017, Eric served as technical support, as well as content editor, and helped develop the vision taking into consideration who the website was for and

making sure we had a solid structure. He photo mined, made suggestions, and worked hard to ensure that Many Point has the best web presence we possibly can.

Eric continues to give back to Many Point in other ways, too. He knows that technology can significantly improve the business operations of camp. Over the last few years Eric has donated many routers, wires, computers, monitors and other operational items that help us function more efficiently.

He has developed and created a "Many Point Adventure Log" for units to capture their week in a cloud based service. Moving forward, every year units visit the History Center they can track attendance, upload a group picture, and write about their Many Point experience. One day,

Scouts will be able to look back through the generations of their units experience and learn from those that came before them. Many Point is lucky to have Eric and his continued efforts and support of Many Point are very much appreciated.

Thank you Eric!

Evan Yingst

Many Point  
Camping Director



## 2018 Spring Fling Black Forest Inn

**When:** Friday April 20, 2018 6:30pm

**Where:** Black Forrest Inn– 1 East 26th Street,  
Minneapolis MN 55404

The MPSAA will be hosting the Spring Fling at the Black Forest Inn in Minneapolis. An authentic establishment with excellent German food and beverages, the Black Forest Inn is embarking on its 50th year, and the MPSAA couldn't be prouder than to celebrate with the Inn.

Minutes from 35W and Uptown, the Black Forest Inn offers plenty of free street parking, a parking lot, and multiple connections to mass transit.

- Escape into this unique atmosphere and hangout with your favorite people.
- Easy to get to, plenty of space inside, and also a nice outdoor patio.
- Great patio games, guitar music, slideshow and fellowship!
- The MPSAA has reserved the entire place, so it'll just be us.
- \$10 cover at the door - includes soda and excellent German appetizers. All ages welcome.

We'll see you there!

Visit

[Mpaluni.org](http://Mpaluni.org) for more detail on the event.

UBER and Lyft are great ways to get there without having to worry about parking.



## Dawson- Continued

By spring of 1968, I was all gung-ho about Boy Scouts and couldn't wait to get back to Many Point the next summer. I convinced Mom and Dad that I should go to Junior Leaders Training Camp (JLTC) the week before our troop was scheduled to go to Many Point. They agreed, and I spent a week learning how to be a senior patrol leader.

JLTC gave me a different perspective of scouting other than what I had learned at home in Dawson. Besides the rigors of regular day-to-day camp life, the counselors took us on all day canoe trips and hikes. They taught us how to pack our gear and cook when we were on the trek. I learned how to work with other boys that I'd only met a day or two earlier, and by the end of the week, we were a tightly knit team. The counselors were wonderful. Every evening, they taught us how to put on a campfire with singing, skits, and storytelling. It was the first time I heard the poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert Service. I was also exposed to much more of the culture of Many Point Scout Camp by the counselors. I wanted to become one of them.

I had set a goal to become a counselor, so I signed up to be a Counselor in Training (C.I.T., aka "Lad") the next summer. I spent half the summer of 1969 as a lad in the CIT program. The CIT training program required that entry-level counselors be exposed to the various jobs in the service areas, as well as the program areas where the scouts were. My first week was spent in the main area dining hall, and guess what my job was? I was the dishwasher. The only cooking I was allowed to do was to make toast for breakfast and fill the hot stack thermoses with food that was distributed to the various camp areas. When the empty hot stacks were returned, I had to wash them. I hated it, but I realized I had to pay my dues. I also got to meet a lot of great people. The next week I was assigned to the trading post where I was either bagging ice, mowing the grass, or selling candy to the scouts. I didn't like that job very much either, but I was learning how Many Point Scout Camp functioned.

Finally, I got to go to a program area at the Pioneer Camp. Everyone on the staff was older than me, ranging from high school seniors to college students and older. Nobody knew that my name was Paul.

Instead, I was referred to as "Lad," but I took it all in stride. Being at the bottom of the totem pole, I was assigned various mundane tasks such as sorting the mail and cleaning the outhouse, where the staff Playboy library was stored. I also had to perform the "Morning Ritual." It required me to get up 30 minutes before everyone else, put water on the stove for dishwashing, set the table for breakfast, then pound on an old metal Pepsi sign like it was a Chinese gong, recite a ritual poem; and then imitate a moose in heat as loud as I could. That was the alarm clock for everyone else. I also helped teach younger scouts their knots and plant identification, and I was even the counselor for the fishing merit badge. I was now starting to feel like a real Many Point counselor.

The Viking Council hired me to be a program aide the next summer. My pay was the princely sum of \$200 for the summer. I was happy. I knew I wasn't going to be called lad like when I was a CIT, but I didn't want to be known as Paul either. I wanted to be called "Guber," so I had my name tags made that way. I don't think most people ever knew my real name.

As a program aide, my duties were to be a lifeguard for troop swims, guided canoe trips, and teach various scouting skills. I also had to learn how to be a team player along with the rest of the camp staff; a valuable skill that I have put to use the rest of my life. In that summer of 1970, I got to know many magnificent people. I also learned how to teach scouting skills to the scouts, and I further improved my own scoutcraft skills by teaching them to others. I was only 15 years old that summer. The next year, I wanted to go back to Many Point to work with the same crew that I had been with the year before. My wish was granted. I got to work with many of the same group, but only this time in the Flintlock Camp. Lee Cornell was our camp director, Ron Renko, the program director, and Dan Keiser was one of the commissioners. I had worked with all of them at Pioneer the year before. There were also another dozen great guys, some I had known from previous years; others were new.

It wasn't all work. We did get some time off. If we didn't have an overnight canoe trip, a campfire, or a night sky lecture, we were allowed to leave the camp after 9 PM. We called it "going south." Our usual

destinations were either the Ice Cracking Lodge on Ice Cracking Lake or the Tamarac Resort on Round Lake. They both had taverns where we could get a hamburger, a soda, listen to a jukebox, and play pinball. There would be other staff members from Many Point there as well. It was also where I bought my first cigarettes.

Every two weeks we got a day off when the scouts left camp on Saturday morning. The new scout troops arrived on Sunday noon. We could take the camp bus to Detroit Lakes to spend the day and evening. Some of the things I remember doing were playing putt-putt golf, walking up and down the beach looking at the girls in bikinis, eating a restaurant meal, and go to a movie. If our weekend coincided with the Fourth of July, Detroit Lakes put on a great fireworks show over the beach. Little did I know back then that I would eventually be living in the Detroit Lakes area now.

The final summer I worked at Many Point was 1972. I was one of the counselors at the Junior Leaders Training Camp. I was working with Steve Baine, a program aide, who I had gotten to know when I was a CIT. This time, our staff was much smaller, consisting of only four of us. My job now was to teach leadership skills to older boys and be a role model, but they were not too much younger than me. I learned a lot myself from teaching those leadership skills. I use those same life skills myself today.

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.

- Paul Gubrud





# Remembering Orlin Bonstrom

Orlin O. Bonstrom, born in Buffalo, Minnesota on July 12, 1931, died on January 2, 2018, peacefully in his home in Minneapolis. After an extensive career in education, he became Director of Special Education for the Anoka School District where he worked until his retirement. After his retirement, he led an active life including teaching in Japan and biking throughout Europe. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Mary; his children, Dana, Kim and Kristine; daughters-in-law, Kim and Louise; and his 3 grandchildren, Alex, Sophie and Lindsay. Tragically, their oldest son Dana passed away 2/22/2018. Orlin and his wife managed the Family Camp at Many Point in 1960.



## The Many Point Work Party

Each year the Many Point Properties Committee hosts a Work Party the weekend following Memorial Day. Traditionally, we have 100 – 150 volunteers come to camp for the weekend.

Throughout the weekend, projects such as building repairs, facility cleaning, trimming overgrowth, painting, roofing, and a whole lot more are accomplished. These projects are crucial to preparing for our Scouts each summer.

We have many projects in the works this year and appreciate all the help we can get. We have projects that accommodate all skill sets.

This year's dates: June 1-3, 2018  
Camp Provides: Food, lodging,

fellowship, and a special recognition gift!

Come, connect with your camp and Scouting friends, while helping make Many Point an even better place for Scouts and Families.

For more information and to register your group, please head to [www.ManyPoint.org/work-party](http://www.ManyPoint.org/work-party).

I look forward to seeing many returning faces and new ones too! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Evan Yingst  
Many Point Camping Director  
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651-254- 9183

## The MPSAA Work Party

Just a quick note to remind you of the 2018 Alumni Work Party scheduled from Thursday May 17th through Sunday May 20th.

Our projects this year will be to repair Family Camp lawn chairs and continue the update of the "History Center" back wall.

Hope you can join us! If you are interested, food and lodging are provided. Please contact Doug Palmer at 952-931-5006.



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