



the LANTERN'S LIGHT

by The Many Point Alumni Association



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Winter, 2021

Happy Holiday's Everyone! For over 75 years, Many Point has been committed to developing the character of youth, and it continues to be a majestic place where people can come to learn and grow while having a great time! This year, the 75th Anniversary was celebrated all summer. We saw staff at Granny's Banquet, at the July camp celebration, and again at the Staff Alumni Campout. Like Many Point, the MPSAA has done some outstanding work this season, and is continuing to move forward to support the staff, the camp and the Scouts.

At the 75th Anniversary, we heard Meme Benson, daughter of Boot's Hanson, speak and share her story. The Friends of the Many Point History Center helped curate a more detailed version included in the letter.

In addition, the story of Atman, a Scout, helping show us why the Many Point Heritage Fund is important.

In January, we're going to have

monthly pop-up events where a time and place are set for folks to meet for happy hour, go curling, work through a disc golf course etc. Event details will be posted on our website and social media. We will also have more details on the in-person Spring Fling to be hosted this upcoming April, along with other events such as a MPSAA Pre-Summer Celebration. Stay tuned!

Lastly, hear from Isaac Swift who put an immense amount of thought and time into growing the Many Point Mountain Bike Outpost. The MPSAA is committing to focus its energy this season to provide the proper bikes, tools, and materials to make this well thought out dream become a reality.

We continue to be strong and keep acting on ideas to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be engaged. Cheer's to another exciting year. Keep your wicks trimmed, your Spirit high, and your Lantern's bright.

-Mike Kuklok, MPSAA President

Upcoming Events

January 12th, 2022
Board Meeting
Virtual—All welcome . Contact Mike Kuklok

March 23rd, 2022
Board Meeting
Virtual—All welcome . Contact Mike Kuklok

April - Spring Fling!
Stay Tuned!

May 12th, 2022
MPSAA Work Party

May 20th, 2022
Board Meeting
Virtual—All welcome . Contact Mike Kuklok

June 26th, 2022
First week of Scouts!

August 26th-28th, 2022
Alumni Campout Celebration
www.mpalumni.org/campout

Check out our Events on mpalumni.org and on our Face-

MOUNTAIN BIKING OUTPOST @ MPSC

Learn more about how you can support the Mountain Biking Outpost, see the trails, and watch a quick video on the program so far.

The 2021-2022 contribution will be to help Many Point grow the Mountain Bike program with new Trek Marlin 6 bikes, quality materials to create obstacles, maintenance tools for bike upkeep, safety equipment and more.

You can contribute towards naming a bike by yourself or with a team. Learn more at mpalumni.org/bikes/



Concept of the Bike Badge that will have Bike Names engraved on them, and then placed on the bike. Premium keychain for donations \$40+ will also look similar.

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MPSAA - Many Point Staff Alumni Association
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GROWING UP AT MANY POINT: PART I

Meme spoke at the 75th Anniversary. Here is an article Jean, her sister, wrote for the Friends of the Many Point History Center. Jean Hanson-Benson, daughter of Boots and Olga Hanson and sister to Barbara and Meme, recollections on 11/07/19.

This is the way I remembered my years at Many Point. Sometimes it is hard to go back to Many Point because it is not the same. And I expect it to be the same. Recently going back to our house, oh, my gosh, we all lived in this little house.

Before moving to Many Point, our family lived in the Minneapolis neighborhood of Lake Street and Bloomington Avenue. We drove from the busy, noisy city, across the Prairie, and into the deep woods. It was December of 1946, and I was three years old when we moved into that house. Meme was only six-months-old. My clear memory was going from the Prairie into the woods and walking into our unfinished home. It just had a subfloor, and I could see the light coming from the basement through the floorboards.

A noisy, small gas generator located at the nearby Maintenance Shop also provided our house electricity. Two large generators operated during the summer. The power supplied by the generators ran our refrigerator. Our kitchen range worked on Low-Pressure gas while our house heat came from a big coal-fired furnace in the basement. Coal entered the basement by way of a chute through a window to the coal bin. We had indoor plumbing, a bathtub, but no shower. Mom had a wringer washing machine, with lines strung in the basement to hang the clothes to dry. In the summer, she had a clothesline outside.

At night, we had favorite radio programs that we regularly followed. On March 9, 1954, we got our first television. Our television



1954 - Left to Right - Boots, Meme, Olga, and Jean.

was the first one in our area.

Neighbors came to watch and enjoyed whatever was on our tv that particular evening. Because at that time in history, programming was not an all-day event. I think most programs started during the early evening hours.

Dad spent a lot of evenings in his office with his paperwork. He kept a daily journal with the highlights of each day; weather, out of camp trips, projects being worked on in the Shop or around camp, the number of ice blocks in each ice house, etc. There were very few entries for the summer months. With no phone in the camp, his contact with the Minneapolis office was by letter. He kept three-ring binders of the letters he received from camp directors, scout executives, Mr. Gaylord, etc.

We had a phonograph, and as the story records played, we listened and followed along in our books. Reading was another favorite activity. We had lots of Little Golden Books, and back then, they only cost twenty-nine cents. The Detroit Lakes Public Library would

frequently send out a box of books, transported by the mailman to the country schools. When it was time for a new selection, the original box of books would go back to the Public Library, and a new box of books was delivered.

Activities we enjoyed as a family included playing games like Cootie, checkers, wahoo, Chinese checkers, and of course, card games. In the winter, we spent a lot of time outdoors, making snow tunnels, skating on the lake, and sliding down the hill on our sleds. If the conditions were right, we could start at the top of Ale's hill and slide down to the lake. Due to the length of the ride, it was lots of fun going down, but a long way back.

In the Fall of 1947, Barbara, my older sister, started school at Round Lake, District #130 country school, where she was the only child in the first-grade. The school was about ten miles from camp, so Dad took her every morning and picked her up every afternoon.

The next year the country school



needed a teacher. Being a certified teacher, and offered the job, Mom told them she would take the teaching position on the condition that I could start first grade at the age of five. So in the fall of 1948, Mom, Barbara, and I went to school. Dad was our driver, and my younger sister, Meme, went to stay with Mrs. Manners for the day. In the winter, Dad took us to school in the vehicle that had a snowplow on the front.

I went to District #130 country school for eight years and had my Mom as my teacher for six and one-half of those years. The school was about ten miles from camp. It was six miles to the edge of the woods, then about two miles South to Manners farm located on the West side of the road. Turning West from Manners farm going about one and one-half miles, then South about one-half mile to the school in the woods.

The Manners were our closest neighbors outside of camp. Their children were all older than us. A couple of their children did work at Many Point. Betty worked in the laundry, and Charles worked outside as a truck driver. Before we got a telephone at Many Point, Manners

had the closest phone. Calls would come to the Manners for the camp, and they would drive out to the camp with the information.

At first, Dad had to go to Ponsford to get our mail. Then I think for a period we had a mailbox by Manner's house and then at the edge of the woods. The mail was delivered to the camp in the summertime.

Round Lake School was a one-room school with one teacher and all the students in that room. The school was a square building. You would go up a few steps to a little porch, and inside the front door was a small room with two doors. The one straight ahead went into the classroom; the one on the left went into the cloakroom, which also had a wood box, a water cooler for drinking water, a washbasin for hand washing, and another door into the Park Rapids.

To Be Continued.....Or read the whole story at

mpalumni.org/2020/jean-benson-hanson/



1998 - Left to Right - Wayne Benson, Jean Hanson Benson, Meme Hanson May

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75TH ANNIVERSARY, “WHAT CAMP MEANS TO ME” ADDRESSES HELP TO LAUNCH THE NEW “HERITAGE FUND”

This summer’s 75th celebration’s banquet featured numerous speakers with deep ties to camp. Among them was current scout, Atman Jahagirdar, Edina High School Senior and member of Troop 3048.

Atman is an accomplished student, civic volunteer, and entrepreneur, launching two non-profit organizations before the age of 17. One, Omnisight International which provides vision screening and glasses to orphanages in Tanzania and the other, “The Global COVID Guide” www.covidedu.org an informational resource to combat vaccine hesitancy in diverse populations.

In Atman’s entertaining and heartfelt camp address he describes himself as, “painfully mediocre at Scouting” but that he joined for the sheer joy of camping saying, “My ode to Many Point this evening is nothing more than thank you, and a sincere display of gratitude for the camp where I made the bulk of my Boy Scout memories.”



In part, the value of these speakers was to reinforce the long legacy of Many Point scouting and to launch a new endowment, The Many Point Heritage Fund that will be directed specifically for Many Point program and maintenance for the next 75 years

and beyond.

For more information on the Many Point Heritage Fund, contact Alumni representative, Jay Belschner at jay.belschner@certifi.com

A screenshot of the Omnisight International website. The top navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, PARTNERS, GALLERY, RECOGNITIONS, NEWS, MEDIA, DONATE, and CONTACT. The main content area features a photograph of a group of children in school uniforms standing in a line outside a building. To the right of the photo is a green banner with the text "OMNISIGHT INTERNATIONAL" and "Setting our sights on giving vision to all." Below the banner is a white button that says "CLICK HERE TO DONATE".



Omnisight International - An organization inspired and launched by Atman when he was 12 years old.

REMEMBERING ART BECKER

Art Becker passed away on June 5, 2020, in Laramie, WY following a long battle with cancer.

Art and his wife Carol had lived in northern Minnesota in the Brainerd MN area many years, but moved to Wyoming - where they had previously lived - when he learned his cancer was terminal.

Art worked at Many Point for 5 summers:

1959 - CIT

1960 - Flintlock Area Apprentice

1961 - TC Area Troop Counselor

1962 - Pioneer Area Troop Counselor

1963 - Buckskin Area Watermaster

Arthur "Art" Kenneth Becker, 77, of Laramie, WY passed away Saturday, June 5, 2020, at Ivinson Memorial Hospital.

Art was born January 4, 1944 to Arthur and Dorothy Becker in Minneapolis, MN, where he grew up with his two sisters. On June 24, 1966, he married Carol Koontz in Minneapolis, MN.

He received his bachelor's degree in

business administration at University of Minnesota and worked in advertising, sales, and marketing. He lived the majority of his life in Minnesota, with his early years in Minneapolis and later moving to Brainerd to pursue his true passion, fishing.... He was an avid bass and walleye fisherman, but never turned down the opportunity to chase a northern or even a few sunfish. He was a true outdoorsman who also enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling and gardening. He moved to Laramie, WY last year to be closer to family.

Art was compassionate and gave back to his community in a number of ways. He was an active member of SERTOMA in Brainerd where he looked forward to hanging Christmas lights every December. He also volunteered at Camp Confidence for over twenty years, helping disabled children enjoy fishing. He guided fishing trips and was one of the fish cooks for the Camp Confidence fundraisers as well.

He is preceded in death by his parents.



He is survived by his wife, Carol; sons Scott (Natalie) Becker of Broomfield CO and Steven (Marnie) Becker of Laramie; grandchildren Bryce, Libby, and Seth Becker; sisters Gretchen Louise (Don) Semler and Ruth Phoebe Becker; and niece and nephew Carolyn (Kai) Sakstrup and Aaron (Carri Stuhr) Pyles.

Go to www.montgomerystryker.com to send condolences or to sign the online guestbook.

FISHING OUTPOST: THANKS MANY POINT STAFF ALUMNI!

The Fishing Outpost Program that was outfitted by the Many Point Staff Alumni Association was a hit this summer. The generous donations made by the MPSAA made it all possible. The Scouts would get to spend a



Wyatt from Troop 99 (Rochester, MN) - 44inch Muskie caught on the first night of Fishing outpost.

good portion of the afternoon, and a few hours of the early morning fishing on our beautiful lake.

We would focus fishing on what the Scouts wanted to catch most. Whatever I deemed edible would be put on a stringer and brought back for a fish fry at the end of the day. They would sleep in our nice hammocks with bug netting, which turned out to be a hit with the Scouts. We would then wake up at first light and fish until the bus picked up the Scouts around 7:30AM.

It was an action-packed day that would end with the morning bite. We caught 100's of fish of all species, and even broke Many Point Scout Camps's record for muskie. The program is off to a great start, but I'm excited because it could be so much better. I look forward to the future. Once again, thanks MPSAA for making an exciting program possible.

Jackson Loats, Fishing Outpost Director 2021





MOUNTAIN BIKING OUTPOST @ MPSC



For 2021-2022, the MPSAA will be supporting Many Point's Mountain Biking Outpost. We have some fun ways to participate including naming a bike! In all, to get the program to the level that the staff would like to see it, it will cost about \$25,000-\$29,000. This is including 20-25 new bikes of differing sizes, long lasting materials for creating obstacles, a variety of commercial grade helmets, additional safety gear, and proper tools for proper maintenance. Isaac Swift and Alex Farrell, who worked with their peers to kick this project off, share some thoughts on the program.

What is the story of re-energizing the Mounting Bike Program?

Isaac and Alex: *For the Summer of 2020, on-site bike treks were brought back to camp due to COVID. Scouts and Staff really enjoyed having the program back at camp (previously an off-site program). The general consensus is that it would be incredible to have trails that go throughout Many Point. After some long discussions with Isaac Swift, Eli Johnson, Andrew Akermann, Alex Farrell, they made a plan for developing trails and a mountain biking training program for Scouts. The plan got the go-ahead, and it was soon on the trail to becoming a reality.*

In 2021, Alex, Isaac, and Abby Loats came up weeks before anyone else to begin making trails. After reviewing several sites on camp the previous summer, it was settled on utilizing the landscape in Flintlock.

Isaac: *I think we made a good starting point for years to come. The trails in flintlock are meant to be a training ground encompassing all levels of rider. They are all short, mostly downhill trails that each have one or two*

skills to work on for the scouts to progress. Throughout the summer, we added features and made a few more trails. Hopefully it will stay as a good training area as the trails spread all over camp in the coming years.

How did you come up with the trail names?

Isaac: *There's really no rhyme or reason for most of em. Most of them just sounded right. A lot of them were just named on the spot as they were being developed. EZ cheese was the first trail that was built and someone said the name at it stuck. A Scout named Shake and Bake!*

What are the future plans for the biking program?

Isaac: *Big picture wise, the idea is to make longer trails between old logging roads and ATV trails to get the distance requirement. To be honest, the trails are a great start, but for program we need miles of trail. In Flintlock, the trails built is just for skill building. We have plenty of usable trail around camp, but we don't have those connection trails*

There are probably many, but what is a memorable moment with a Scout?

Isaac: *One Scout never rode off-road before. He was in my all week program every morning with one other guy. This guy skids to a stop on a trail on Wednesday and points to where he wants to build a trail. So Thursday we spend all day digging and riding and perfecting a new trail. It was Shake and Bake, a steep, fast chute, dropping off of another trail. We spent all morning making that berm just right so we could send it at full tilt down the hill!*

What is needed for the program to be a success?

Isaac: *Well, for one, the sizing of the bikes matters. We need a variety. I can't ride a small bike, any better than a 13 year old can ride an XL bike.*

But also it's the quality and age of the bikes. These bikes are old, outdated, and we don't have the parts to repair them. The spare parts and tools I had weren't even the right type for our bikes. We even had multiple kinds of bikes, and they all didn't match the parts.

The MPSAA has fun ways for everyone to participate in order to make this idea come to life. Each bike will have a custom bike badge (right image concept) that has a bike's name engraved on it. Contributing members have the opportunity to name this bike either individually or as a team.

- \$15 Includes annual dues.
- \$40+ includes annual dues + premium key chain that looks similar to the bike badge. If you participate in a team, we'll engrave your bike's name on the key chain.
- \$1000 annual dues + premium key chain + can name a bike.

Participating is easy. When completing your contribution form, simply make a comment of others you are on a team with. This can also be done online at <http://www.mpalumni.org/give/> ; team members or team name can go under additional comments. More information on the biking program, equipment, trails, can be found at www.mpalumni.org/bikes





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a **NEW**
ADVENTURE
on **MILES** of
INCREDIBLE
NEW TRAILS in
FLINTLOCK

GEAR UP to
make this
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TRUE!



**MOUNTAIN BIKING
OUTPOST @ MPSC**

**JOIN A TEAM AND NAME A BIKE.
DETAILS INSIDE AND ON
WWW.MPALUMNI.ORG/BIKES/**

