



MT. NORRIS SCOUT RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. (EST. 2004)

FOUR YEARS OF SUCCESS AT MT. NORRIS!

The story of the Mt. Norris Scout Reservation Alumni Association, Inc. (MNSR AA) goes back to 2002 when a dedicated group of Scouters came together to talk about the long term plans for Mt. Norris and the facilities. At that time, Bill Baron came to the conclusion that an Alumni Association should go beyond the informal gathering stage and the idea was well received by the group.

Initiative is not in the Scout Oath or Law, but it is a trait that every Troop, Pack or Team needs—and your Association needs as well!

Projects that came out of that committee were the refurbishments of the Barn into a three story climbing center that is second to none.

In the first year, the Association pursued incorporation to become a registered Non-Profit as a 501(c)3. That status was attained in 2005.

In the four years of activity, your Association through both your generous gifts and regular dues has been able to accomplish the following:

- Since 2005 the Association has spent \$12,486 on projects at Mt. Norris!*
- Association members helped

to secure a Federal Grant that allowed the camp to replace the aging vehicle and pedestrian bridges in camp, a grant of \$20,000!

- Constructed a new educational center at the pavilion—this is the David Allen Educational Center. The building is fully finished with pine paneling and is wired for electricity. *
- Construct a visitors latrine with the Grand Isle Troop
- Provide a heavy duty washer and dryer.
- Rebuild handicap ramp & re-roof Health Lodge
- Roof extension, install windows, re-roof and reside the Scoutcraft building.
- Move, Level & install new windows in staff cabins
- Rehab the swimming floating platform (safe the edges, new barrels underneath), provide a new fence to the waterfront
- Install canoe racks in boat-house
- Construct a new bridge to the Rifle Range

- Expand and rehab Ranger's garage to include an office space

In 2006, due largely to efforts by Dave Allen, membership climbed to almost 80 and in 2008 we now have almost 170 members!

Throughout, we have set our goal to maintain that the vast majority of member dues and donations go directly to projects that will benefit the camp.

We have reached out to the current staff of Mt. Norris and made each of them an honorary member of the Association. This is important to both recognize their hard work and their part in the history of the camp, but also to encourage their continued activity in the stewardship of the camp.

In each year the Association has been able to spend progressively more at camp due to your support and generosity.

* For a yearly breakdown of money, see the page 4 graph.

** This extraordinary effort was funded by friends and neighbors of Dave Allen and his family as well as Alumni members. Dave's family made an exceptional effort to recognize the Association in the days following Dave's death. We thank them sincerely.

President: Bill Baron
Vice President: Kevin Macy
Treasurer: Brian Allen
Secretary: Chris Macaig

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WHO MAY JOIN?

Membership in the Association is open to campers, adult leaders and staff (or former staff) of:

- **MT. NORRIS**
- **CAMP PLYMOUTH**
- **CAMP SUNRISE**
- **ZACK WOODS**

While we are currently focused on Mt. Norris, the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan is now being worked on. If you have an interest in helping with the plan, or any activity that the Association has (or have ideas for new activities) please contact Bill Baron.

The members of the Association have multiple experiences from being camp staff to having been campers or leaders at the various camps.

We welcome your input and your enthusiasm as you find old friends or build bridges to new ones!

RECRUITING—YOUR COMMITMENT COUNTS!

All of us are members of the Alumni Association by invitation—it took someone special to invite us to a reunion, and we came. If we've learned anything about recruiting in the past four years, it is that the personal touch is what brings others to us.

Green Mountain Council will be actively recruiting former Scouters and Scouts in 2009 in

preparation for BSA's 100th Anniversary.

As part of this, we're asking you as members to help out. On page 3 and 4, you'll find a business card that you can cut out and copy to hand out to any former staffers, Scouts and Scouters. Invite them to the reunion day. Our membership is only a fraction of what it could be.

Please take the time to give this newsletter to an alum or give the business card (pg. 3 & 4) to someone and to invite them to the Alumni Day. The business card can be cut out and copied.

With your help and participation, we have made huge strides in only four short years. Your Association is looking forward to the next hundred years of Scouting in Vermont!



Scout Executive Rich Stockton

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WELCOME NEW SCOUT EXECUTIVE, RICH STOCKTON

Incoming Scout Executive Rich Stockton was given a warm welcome at the banquet celebrating the end of the Woodbadge practical. Association founding member and Woodbadge Scoutmaster George Beach presented Rich Stockton to the group.

Rich comes to us from Sioux Council in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Rich has a long history with Scouting—growing up in Hastings, Nebraska where he earned his Eagle.

Rich has been very receptive of the Association—he served multiple years on camp staff in different capacities, including as Camp Director. We are looking at the beginning of a very profitable relationship between the Council and the Association.

Rich's goals for Green Mountain Council, are to "Move us for-

ward and to offer as many youth [as] possible the program of Scouting." There can be no doubt that the Council camps are a vital part of that effort. His goals for the camps, short term, is to: "protect our investment and prepare for the next 50 years of campers and Leaders."

Rich has recognized the dedication and far sightedness of the Association by asking Bill Baron, Association President to be on the long term strategy committee for Mt. Norris. Regarding this

"We are looking at the future with a new Long Range Strategic Planning Committee for Mt. Norris. The plan is to look at our current facilities and programs and try to project what does the

camp of 2060 need to look like. This will be a challenging and rewarding process."

Looking that far forward ahead will be an advantage to both the Council and to the Association in deciding where our efforts and funds should be dedicated. It gives us a roadmap of where our priorities are and how to meet the needs that we see coming to the Scouting movement in Vermont.

It is our goal to contribute to these goals both in the planning stages and with our donations and "sweat equity" that has so far been very successful!

Stay tuned for new developments!



Camp Plymouth State Park Camporee

While serving on camp staff in the 1960s, Bill Baron came into possession of the 1920-22 photo album of the Burlington Troop. This valuable photo album has been made available to the Association and—due to the magic of digital technology—has been scanned. It includes a photo of the 1951 Jamboree Troop in front of the old dining hall and several other photos of Norris in the 50s. Lucile Kellog Wheeler (Norris 196?) provided an impressive collection of newspaper articles

Member Barry Simons is always on the lookout for Vermont patches from any of the past Councils and OA Lodges, and Secretary Chris

Macaig has a partial list of staff members that is 400 names long!

In a more recent development, it came to light that Vermont has bragging rights to one of the first Scout Troops in the US! The Troop in Barre, VT was started in 1909—predating the formation of the national movement! Started by a Scottish immigrant, William F. Milne who served for several years as Scoutmaster. Typical of many Barre residents of the time, he was a stonemason. The Barre Daily Times of 1939 gives Milne the distinction of starting scouting in America.

Our "wish list" of projects dealing with history includes getting photos of all of the dining hall plaques from both Norris and Sunrise, collecting names of former staffers, patch collecting, oral histories and photographs of the camp or newspaper clippings. If you have former staff member's names to add to the list or know the whereabouts of former staff members, or to contribute archival material or to share your dream projects, contact :

Chris Macaig at (802) 879-3259 or at cmacaig@yahoo.com

HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN VERMONT!

HISTORY OF MOUNT NORRIS REVEALED



Camp Zack Woods Camp Director and Program Director in 1945

At the annual Alumni Day at Mt. Norris, member Dick Ward of Plattsburgh treated the membership to a reading of a document outlining the history of Mt. Norris. The document was written in the 1960s by Dick's father, a member of the Executive Board of the Long Trail Council.

The mountain itself was named after a member of the survey party who first surveyed the area, the other members of the party also lending their

names to other local topographical features.

The camp came to the Long Trail Council in 1954 by the generosity of the John J. Flynn family of Burlington, but Scouts had been camping on the site since 1930 by permission of the owner, Mrs. Gertrude Heinz.

Originally, the Flynn family had donated the money to purchase land near Morrisville on which Long Trail Council launched Camp Zack Woods. When the State of Vermont

announced that the area would become a reservoir, the search was on for a new camp location! The land near Morrisville was sold and the Long Trail Council then purchased 90+ acres at the current location of Mt. Norris.

Dick is still involved in Scouting both as a Charter Organization Representative and on the Advancement Committee for Twin Rivers Council, but his background in Scouting goes back to his involvement as a youth in St. Johnsbury.

MT. NORRIS—A CAMP FOR EVERY SEASON

Unknown to many Scouters who are not involved in the program day to day, Mt. Norris is open and active all year round! Boys are active every month in Troop activities and during the Winter Trek weekends typically sell out. This means that Winter Treks have over 320 boys who utilize the buildings and other facilities.

Another full week that the camp sees much activity during Frontiers Camp. This is held the week before the camp opens to the normal season. Not only is the staff of the resident camp busy setting up camp, but Frontiers Camp is in full swing at this time!

Frontiers Camp is a full week adventure held at Mt. Norris for boys who want experiences beyond the normal camp curriculum. It features learning

skills such as trapping and shooting muzzle loading rifles, and all of the other skills that a frontiersman of the 1840s would learn. It is also a multi-year program, with four different curriculums for returning Scouts.

The skills and badges that Frontiers Camp offers is an extensive list! To make this all happen, the staff is 50 members strong and come from all over the country, many returning year after year. Information on Frontiers Camp and a video can be found on the Council's website (ScoutingVermont.org under the Camping link).

There is truly no off-season at Mt. Norris, fair weather or foul—which is exactly why the support of the Association is so important. Warmth and appropriate facilities ensure the safety of boys no matter what the

weather brings!

This is one of the reasons why the Alumni Association is so important as we provide repair and improvements to the facilities that helps them to function during the colder months as well as the regular summer season.

A typical Troop campout consists of boys learning their outdoor cooking skills, etc. One of the great things that camping at Mt. Norris allows Troops to have are facilities—saving time setting up or striking camp and the ability to stay dry.

It is safe to say that the traditional resident camp that we all remember is a primary focus of the Association, but our camp serves boys in so many other ways and in every month of the year.



**Your Association
Backs
Boy Scouting—
100 Years of
Building
Tomorrow's
Leaders Today!**



Boys of all ages learn to pan for gold at Camp Plymouth State Park

WEBSITE PLANS

The web guru for the Association is Carl Grupe. Carl gave a good set of examples of other websites during the Annual Meeting and solicited ideas at that time. He has gone on to create a series of links on the Green Mountain Council website that gives members and potential members access to some of the core documents like meeting minutes and the 2004-

2009 Plan.

It can all be found at:
<http://scoutingvermont.org/Camping/MNAumni/>

We would like to thank Rich Stockton, Scout Executive for access to the Green Mountain Council website.

This is a huge opportunity to get our news out to a broader audience nationwide.

These links also have pho-

tos of the Dave Allen Educational Center work from the spring of 2008.

Take a look at the photos and documents and get psyched for spring 2009!

ASSOCIATION AIMS

The current Goals of the Association are set out in our 5 Year Action Plan Goals:

1: Friendship: To stimulate the renewal and fostering of friendships among association members.

2: Assistance: To support and enhance the scouting experience at Mt. Norris.

3: Organization: To establish management

structure for the association.

4: Planning & Policy: To interact with the professional scouting staff, Mt. Norris Committee, Camp Staff, & volunteers to assure the long term viability of Mt. Norris.

To date, your Association has been active in all of these areas. We have

worked independently and with Green Mt. Council to meet all of these goals each year.

To each of us, these goals are different or take different forms. We all enjoy gathering and meeting former staff members and sharing memories of what the Mt. Norris experience was to you. We invite you to discover the deeper meaning of each of these goals through action!

**MT. NORRIS SCOUT
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INC.**



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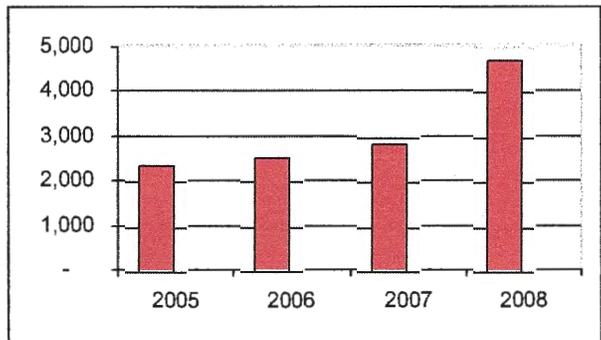
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*Yearly breakdown of
money spent on pro-
jects at Mt. Norris*



HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Founded in 2004 by former members of the staff of Mt. Norris and other camps, the idea was hatched when Bill Baron and others were invited to sit on a sub-committee of the Council Camping Committee formed and chaired by George Beach. The Committee charter was to look at Mt. Norris facilities. Bill saw the impact that interested and active Alumni members could make!

In 2006, the Association received its status as a tax exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

By 2008, the Association had invested \$12,486 in the facilities at Mt. Norris!

From ambitious beginnings—in 2005 the visitors bathroom was built and a heavy duty washer and dryer were purchased and installed at the shower house—the Association has performed many improvement projects and repairs to the existing buildings.

We remain committed to spending as much as possible of member's dues on camp improvement projects! We gladly accept additional donations for this purpose as well and you can be sure that all of your donations will go toward projects.

SCOUT'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO CAMP PLYMOUTH!

Over 1,300 Scouts descended upon Camp Plymouth State Park for a Council-wide Camporee. The weather was cool with a brisk wind, but the boys were continually active with traditional activities like a rope bridge, tomahawk throwing and others, but the line for blacksmithing and rock climbing was long the entire day!

The boys were also active collecting a full set of collector's cards featuring the founders of Scouting, Baden-Powell, "Green Bar" Bill Hillcourt, William Boyce, the Barre Troop started by William Milne (see *History*, page 2), the image of the first Scouting Handbook, a 100th Anniversary card and an OA card (although the OA will not celebrate its centennial in 2010). The trading cards were so popular that plans are already being

made for at least one more set with different images at another event leading up to the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

The Army National Guard erected a portable "rock" climbing wall and Governor Jim Douglas was helicoptered in—two major events in themselves! Scouts lined the landing ground on both the arrival and departure. The UH-60 Blackhawk's prop wash accounted for more than a few run-away hats!

The Order of the Arrow contributed several displays including a full sized tipi and several members of the staff of Frontiers Camp (see *All Seasons*, pg. 3) were on hand in full costume to answer questions and to get boys interested.

Camp Plymouth was sold to the State of Vermont in the

mid 1980's and has remained a favorite spot for camping for

Troops in the Southern part of the state. Several of the original camp buildings remain, including the dining hall. For the Camporee, an impressive collection of Scout memorabilia from the Lawrence L. Lee Scouting Museum in Manchester, NH was housed in the dining hall, along with the Council store.

The historic theme of the Camporee was also borne out in its location—only a mile from the Coolidge homestead. Calvin Coolidge's sons were both Scouts. (insert "the way it was" article weblink here).

For those who remember Camp Plymouth, the chapel site is still there, the 12 marble steps have been relocated to Mt. Norris' parade field.

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