



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

# Vibrations

Volume 24, Issue 3

## Dig This!

by: Susan Derby

Tearing things apart is almost always more fun than putting them back together. Originally we thought we would just be tearing out the old benches at the Blackhawk firebowl, but we've decided to be a bit more ambitious. If all of our prep work goes as planned, we're going to actually begin installing the new benches right away! This of course means lots of posthole digging and earth moving.

Come out for some character-building work on the shores of Big Blue Lake. Bring along chainsaws, wood chippers, circular saws, corded drills, portable generators, wheelbarrows and power augers (along with work gloves and eye protection — safety first, you know!) and all the pure muscle you can muster. A little Advil may be in order too.

This is the first weekend of the big project to refurbish the camp's firebowl as part of the 40K

series of projects. With Wolverine's firebowl under our belts and a lot of expert planning by OSA member/civil engineer Dave Strenski, we are ready to take on this colossal task. If we run out of time we can always put the finishing touches on in the spring.

Bring anything you can think of that will make the job easier including a few good friends. There will be a few other jobs throughout the camps as well, so no matter what your ability level is, we have something for you to do. And, as always, we are looking for a few helpers in the kitchen to feed the gang. The now-famous Chef Chauncey will again be running the kitchen. Mark your calendars for September 21st and come out for the big dig!

Call Dan Kleinfeldt at 773-774-8487 or e-mail him at [mjldk01@ameritech.net](mailto:mjldk01@ameritech.net) to make your reservations.

## Why walk when you can crawl?

by: Susan Derby

The first annual OSA Pub Crawl was great fun for the 30 or so attendees that came out. Roscoe Village was subject to a merry band of pub crawlers for about six hours. The handful of bars welcomed our bunch at each location as we laughed and talked while catching up with each other.

Drink specials at each location, set up by Diane Posen, were tasty offerings to accompany the goofy hats worn by everyone. Jerry Brown got into full character when he donned his Scottish cap with red wig attached. (And yes, Jerry, I got your name in this!) Amy Brown got her hair braided to accent the Viking hat. Vince Rychtanek sported a hat of some variety of animal skin, as any avid hunter will do. And let's not forget Bob Corrao's flamboyant chef hat. Others wore cowboy hats, berets, fishing hats and common drinking headwear. The only thing missing was the dual beer can drinking helmet. Maybe next year?

The crawlers started gathering at about 7 p.m. and the numbers grew well into the night. The group was still going strong at 1:30 a.m. The mad hatters included Steve Troccoli, Diane Posen, Ron and Susan Derby, Dan and Bill Kleinfeldt, Andy Kimbler, Bob

Corrao, Pete Kulak, Tom Buckley, Tony Petrauskas, Jerry Brown, Cheryl Merritt, Vince Rychtanek, Andrea Kranik, Kelly Egan, Amy Brown, Scotty Anderson, Mindy Blust and many others.

Thanks to everyone for coming out for the fun! And congratulations to those who won raffle prizes, including the Cubs tickets and gift cards. Next year, we'll bump it up a week or two so camp staffers of age can join in the fun.



Sometimes when I reflect back on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It is better that I drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver."

--Jack Handy

**President's Perspective** *by: Ron Derby - President*

**H**ello again. I hope this newsletter finds you well. As fall quickly approaches, we start thinking about all of the busy times ahead. Kids are heading back to school, the holidays are coming, there's yard work, and let's not forget football season. There never seems to be enough hours in the day.

I just want to ask you all to keep the OSA and its purpose in mind when you're filling in your fall/winter calendar. I know it can be hard to juggle everything life throws at you, but please try to include the OSA in the mix. We're nothing without member participation.

As I have said many times, there are so many ways for you to do your part. For example, as you can see by this thin newsletter, we really need to hear from our members more often. Send us some news for the grapevine. Send us some pictures. Send us some editorial comments. Send us story ideas, or just send us a full-length feature article. It doesn't have to be fancy; write about your favorite Owasippe memory, the crazy things you did on staff, restaurant reviews, even your opinion on music these days. The OSA Vibrations is starving for content. We need to hear from more than just one or two members every so often. If we had more input, we wouldn't have to mention Jerry Brown's name in half of the articles (that makes three in this issue alone)!

There are many other important ways to do your part. We need to see you at events, and we need you to bring your friends along too. This upcoming fall fix-it is going to be a massive undertaking, and we're going to need as many volunteers as we can muster. Be like Mark Bregin or Billy Kleinfeldt and bring your own crew to the fix-it. If every fix-it regular brought one or two friends along, we would easily have 75 workers at fix-its. It's that simple.

For those that simply can't make it to events like the fix-it because life gets in the way, we understand. But remember that there are other ways you can help. Why not make a donation to help pay for fix-it food or fix-it materials? Lend a friend your tools. Buy an OSA raffle ticket. Pitch a usable fundraiser idea. Keep up on those dues. You get the idea.

Life is all about choices and priorities. Please keep the OSA and Owasippe in your hearts, minds and busy schedules. Hope to see you soon!



*We work hard  
because  
it's worth it.*



Owasippe cabins will be available for rent:  
August 15 – October 31 & May 1 – June 15

Reneker Cabins ..... \$35 per night  
Gray Staff Village Cabins ..... \$60 per night  
LC6 (Doctor's) ..... \$75 per night

LC5 (Model)  
LC8 (Twill Do)  
LC10  
LC12 (Red Dock)  
LC14 (Cinder Block) ..... \$50 per night

For reservations call Janine, Camping Secretary,  
at 312-421-8430 ext. 226.

***Vibrations always  
needs copy!***

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**REMEMBER!**  
**Staff Development  
is Owasippe's Future**

Send all contributions to:  
Staff Development  
P.O. Box 7097  
Westchester, IL 60154



# Owasippe News

## Summer Notes 2002

The Owasippe Committee reports that Owasippe's summer attendance came in at about 97% of the projected plan, short just 3%. Unfortunately the plan was already about 12% short of last year's numbers. Clearly, OSR paid the price for some of last year's issues.

Unfortunately Carlen was shut down early, after week 5, due to lack of interest in the Venture Camp scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> period. Most of the Carlen staff stayed on and volunteered at other camps for room and board. Thanks goes to those guys.

The good news is that sign-ups for next year are VERY strong. The staff did an OUTSTANDING job of delivering on a great program.

From the "no news is good news" column: there were no Staff firings, major car accidents or major emergencies to report this past camping season.

## Can't wait til next year

The leadership for next summer was announced at Owasippe's 2002 closing banquet. Contracts have not yet been extended but interest has been expressed and the leadership team has responded favorably. This means OSR could get a quick jump on the hiring and interview process for next summer.

In fact, Bob Ward has already booked St. Daniel the Prophet Church (5330 S. Nashville, Chicago) for the November 30th interviews being held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



## 2002 Staff Persons of the Year

Camp Blackhawk	Senior - Jason Gebhardt Junior - Chuck Sumerville
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Camp Carlen	Senior - Rich Puchalski Junior - Joe Pavlik
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Crown H.A.B.	Mason Sears
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High Adventure	Pat Kennelly
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Camp Reneker	Senior - Christy O'Connor Junior - Carolyn Sumerville
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Camp Wolverine	Senior - Andy Lukasiewicz Junior - Kyle Schneider
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C.I.T.	Robert Radtke III
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Reservation Wide	Pete Klaeser
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***Congratulations!***

Scouts working on crafts at Camp Blackhawk's Sterling Craft Village



Scouts taking a break on a White River canoe trip



CIT Class of 2002



Mike Romcoe and Jim Rich strike a pose in the Camp Wolverine trading post



# What's News?

## **Big glory**

Muskegon County veterans organizations worked together collecting funds for a huge 20 by 30 foot American flag to display at Heritage Landing on Muskegon Lake, where the annual Summer Celebration is held. The flag flies atop a 100 foot flagpole and was donated in honor of all county residents who served or are serving for the armed forces.

Heritage Landing has undergone a series of improvements including more parking, a lakeside walkway, new bathrooms and picnic facilities. The flagpole and marble fountain at its base were in place, but the county didn't know what size flag to use.

The veteran's department helped out, not only answering their question but also providing the flag itself. The first raising was marked by a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps.

## **Three's a charm**

Because construction bids were so low for the extension of the Hart-Montague State Park trail into Whitehall, the city decided to add a third bridge to the plans. Originally the plans called for a tube and some filling to make the ravine easier to cross, but now a bridge will do the job. The change in plans will be a more permanent solution as well as more aesthetically pleasing.

Construction on both parts — the northern part to connect the trail to the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and the southern part to connect that to the White Lake Community Library — is already completed. The work began in early June and the extension was officially opened August 22nd. The additional bridge cost \$38,500, and the total for both sections is just over \$700,000. The trail may be extended further south along the abandoned railway, but that is not likely to start until economic times improve.

## **Second Silversides**

The Silversides WWII submarine that has hosted many Owasippe Scouts for an overnight is getting a partner ship. The Navy ship LST 393 is a WWII tank-landing ship, has been designated as an attraction vessel by the Coast Guard. It has been undergoing some big changes to prepare it for the status and the visitors. But before it can take overnight visitors, it has to be recertified as a land-based vessel, which would bring it under Muskegon fire codes. So it's in the midst of a second round of modifications to install \$20,000 worth of emergency lights, smoke detectors, strobe lights, exit signs, fire alarm pull boxes, a security system

and fire extinguishers.

The ship has 38 beds, a gift shop and museum. It was used in the D-Day Normandy landing. Once it opens, the cost will be \$20 per person per night. Keep your ears open for the new OSA overnigher event! Well, maybe not.

## **Hats off to taps on**

While Boondocks Tavern at the corner of Russell and White Lake Drive was never a big hangout of the Owasippe staff, it has lost another battle to gain customers. Blue Lake Township denied continuing the license that would allow occasional topless entertainment in the bar. Area residents urged the board to vote down the request, saying they wanted to support good things like the Scouts, hunting and the fine arts camp instead of topless activity.

Boondocks has hosted oil wrestling, its only claimed topless activity, about once a month for years. One owner says the topless permit came with the bar when they bought it five years ago. He went to the Muskegon County Sheriff's Office for a signature that would continue the license. The sheriff's office sent him to the Blue Lake Township Board for approval, which is also necessary for the permit. The board unanimously rejected the request. Oh well, we always liked Corsis' better anyway.

## **Pioneering park**

Looking for a new camping experience that's still close to Owasippe? Pioneer Park is a favorite choice in Muskegon County. On Scenic Drive north of Muskegon, between Giles and River roads, the huge park boasts 213 modern campsites, 2,000 feet of Lake Michigan beach, a picnic area, a playground and forests ready for exploring.

The park is open from May through September, and it's \$16 per night per site. But demand for sites has grown with the popularity of the park. A lottery takes place each morning for available sites. Some campers stay all season because they like it so much and because of the friendships they have formed over the years. The family-oriented park has 12 seasonal rangers and 3 year-round rangers who help maintain the grounds and facilities.

*Be in the know...*  
*sign up for OSA e-mail updates at*  
**[www.owasippe.com](http://www.owasippe.com)**

## Spring Fix-it 2002 Recap

by: Susan Derby

The 2002 Spring Fix-it was another awesome example of OSA teamwork. We had groups of people doing various jobs all over camp. With a big hand from every single one of the more than 50 attendees, including the little ones, we got all of the tasks completed in enough time to relax and talk with the BioBlitz volunteers before dinner.

One team hit the Wolverine firebowl to put the final finishing touches on it (we mean it this time!). The temporary checkdams on each row of benches that had been pieced together by the Scouts last summer were completely replaced with treated lumber. While it took away that Little Rascals Clubhouse feel, the new boards look much better and will stop the wash-out of the sand much better than the piecemeal boards.

Another team spent the day at the Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base to blaze trails between events with woodchips. The many hands made the hard work much easier, as did the four badly needed wheelbarrows the OSA purchased and donated to camp. While the little ones enjoyed climbing the mountain of woodchips and sliding down, everyone else shoveled chips to fill wheelbarrows, spread them out with rakes along the trails and moved endless loads from the pile to the trails. Special thanks to Mike Finnegan for operating the front end loader and Brian Feltner for volunteering his pickup. Both helped make the job go that much faster and saved some sore muscles.

A third team went out to the Diamond O Ranch to build a second riding ring for Horsemanship merit badge testing. The team, consisting mostly of the Bregin brothers, downed and stripped some pines and sunk them into the ground in the field near the ranch cabins. With little shade to keep them cool, the team finished up pretty quickly and lent hands at other projects.

Yet another team helped out around the Trading Post. Few people realize how much work goes into inventory, cleaning and stocking of the Owassi-gear. Nancy Romcoe was glad to have the help that put her days ahead of last year. She even opened up the store after dinner for some OSA shoppers.

And, as if that wasn't enough having multiple crews all over the reservation, hardly any work would have gotten done without the hearty nourishment from the cooking crew. Chauncey again headed the kitchen crew serving up a hot breakfast, fast lunch and filling dinner. You just can't beat those deep-fired turkeys! The BioBlitz team had been enjoying Chauncey's cooking since Wednesday and shared meals with Fix-it volunteers on Saturday. It was amazing to hear all about what the 25-person team had found in just a few days of survey. They had compiled a huge list of birds, plants and animals in just a few segments of Owasippe.

The Ranger Staff were graceful hosts, opening up Gray Staff Village cabins when the hot water failed at

Reneker. They also helped gather and distribute supplies for each team of workers. Head Ranger Al Geisler came out to meet the volunteers and match names to faces.

Campfire fellowship followed Saturday's dinner. While some turned in early, no doubt in exhaustion, others stayed up until daybreak laughing and catching up.

Mike Finnigan operated the backhoe like a true professional



Claire Anderson tries out one of the four new wheelbarrows donated by the OSA

Frank Chlebek and Crystal Elliott moving chips



Three chips off the old blocks from left: Dan Chlebek, Dawn Drazba and Nate Anderson

# Galloping Grapevine



## **Bill Schaefer Sr. ~ Twin Lake, MI**

Bill turned 60 over the summer. Though his family tried to make it a surprise, he found out about the party, but everyone had a good time anyway. Guests shared their favorite memorable Schaefer moments, along with beers, boat rides and smores on the fire. Jerry Lutz, John Brown, Ed Kinnerk and Chauncey Niziol were among the guests along with many others from Bill's past and present. Happy birthday, Bill!

## **Bob Ward ~ Chicago, IL**

Did you hear the one about Bob's stroke? Well it's not true. The rumors were a little off base. He in fact had surgery on his carotid artery, which was badly blocked. The surgery helped fix the dizziness he was feeling, and he is recovering nicely. He's even kicking around the idea of returning to staff next summer. He must be feeling **a lot** better.

## **Jerry Brown ~ Worth, IL**

This guy really gets in on everything. Open your most recent Scouting magazine to page 26 and you'll see Jerry's smiling face looking back. Jerry was an instructor at the Cub Scout Skit-O-Rama in Chicago. It's a little scary that Jerry is passing on his brand of humor to others, but everyone at the event was all smiles. Take a bow, Jerry — you're famous!

## **Phil Kaufman — Homewood, IL**

Phil is yet another Owasippe staffman to reach the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. His court of honor was held June 9th. Phil worked at Camp Blackhawk this past summer as the Scoutcraft Director. Congratulations Phil, your hard work and dedication has paid off.

## **Kevin Burdick — Rockford, IL**

Kevin recently checked in on the OSA guestbook. He camped four summers at Stuart and worked at Owasippe in the '60s and '70s. Now he's married with four kids, all college-age and older. He's been in the U.S. Marine Corps for 25 years now and also works with Jefferson High School in Rockford. He was very involved with his sons' Scouting, but now serves as a merit badge counselor since his sons have grown up. He's looking for Ken Yamamoto (any clues, drop a line to [president@owasippe.com](mailto:president@owasippe.com)). We're glad you found us again, Kevin!

## **Marie Klefeker — Highland, IN**

Marie was in the hospital for a time recovering from heart surgery. She needed bypass surgery and valve replacement, but she's doing well. She and Joe are both keeping high spirits. Marie, we're glad to hear you're doing alright! All our best wishes.

## **Troop 442 — Tinley Park, IL**

The 11-man crew made it through the two-week trek at Philmont in New Mexico. It sounds like their 11-day adventure was tiresome but well worth the training and physical demands. Congrats to Matt Reardon, Jon Peters, Keith Potempa, Charlie Bowen, Will Conway, Mike Wennersten and Jonathan Spaulding and to the leaders Bill Spaulding, Pete Kulak, Tim Reardon and Eric Potempa.

## **Bob Lotter — Maryville, TN**

After eight years in Texas, Bob says it was time to move to the mountains. He and his family are now enjoying the view of the Smokey Mountains right from their front porch. Warm wishes for the new home!

## **See you at the end of the trail...**

### **Raymond R. Thomas ~ Surprise, AZ**

Raymond passed away in July. He used to live in Mt. Prospect and was on the Owasippe Lodge OA ceremonial team in the '40s and '50s. He worked at Camp Wilderness in 1949, Camp Beard in 1950 and Camp West in 1951 and 1952. He was an Eagle Scout and Sea Explorer.

### **Eva Elizabeth Reneker**

"Betty" Reneker passed away August 4 at the age of 89. She was a very giving woman, serving on the boards of 11 organizations throughout Chicago. She was well-loved by her seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held Sept. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Fourth Presbyterian Church at the corner of Michigan and Delaware. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Children's Home and Aid Society of Chicago.

### **Sophie Horvath**

Sophie passed away recently. She was the mother of past Owasippe Reservation Director Steve Horvath. Condolences may be e-mailed to [Horvathst@avenew.com](mailto:Horvathst@avenew.com). Sophie will be dearly missed.

Visit the OSA online at [www.owasippe.com](http://www.owasippe.com)

## **- New Life Members -**

Jim Adamitis  
Pete Baker  
Carolee (Jaskolski) Cannonito  
Scott Dorencz  
Guy Gogliotti  
Ray Hale  
Steve Hoder  
Stephen J. Horvath III  
Bill Perkis  
Ned Swanson  
Mike Tranchita

Thanks and sorry if we forgot anyone.

**The Grapevine**  
**always needs grapes!**

e-mail us at  
[vibrations@owasippe.com](mailto:vibrations@owasippe.com)

# Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues DIRECTLY paid for this very newsletter!

Check the 4 digit number on your mailing label. According to our records, that is the last year you paid your dues.

**Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154**

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2002  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member  
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service at Owasippe:**

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
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attn: Membership

New Member	\$20	_____
Renewal	\$15	_____
Lifetime	\$250	_____

Visit the OSA online at [www.owasippe.com](http://www.owasippe.com)

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*Vibrations* is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

**Editorial Staff:** Ron and Susan Derby

The opinions stated by contributors to *Vibrations* are those of the authors and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: ***Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154.*** All materials which the author wants returned must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope. Submissions can also be made via e-mail to [vibrations@owasippe.com](mailto:vibrations@owasippe.com).

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring ~ January 15
- Summer ~ April 1
- Fall ~ August 7
- Winter ~ October 15

## ***Dates of Interest to OSA Members***

### *September*

- 2 ..... Happy Labor Day!
- 18 ..... Board Meeting
- 20-22 ..... OSA Fall Fix-it

### *October*

- 15 ..... Vibrations Deadline
- 16 ..... Board Meeting
- 31 ..... Happy Halloween!

### *November*

- 20 ..... Board Meeting
- 28 ..... Happy Thanksgiving!
- 30 ..... Staff Interviews (St. Daniel the Prophet Church)

### *December*

- 18 ..... Board Meeting
- 25 ..... Merry Christmas!

### *January*

- 1 ..... Happy New Year!
- 15 ..... Vibrations Deadline & Board Meeting



# **FALL FIX-IT 2002**



**SEPTEMBER 20-22**

Can you make it?  
How many volunteers are you bringing?

**Call Dan Kleinfeldt today  
and make your reservations  
773-774-8487**

**See  
reverse side  
for project  
diagrams!**

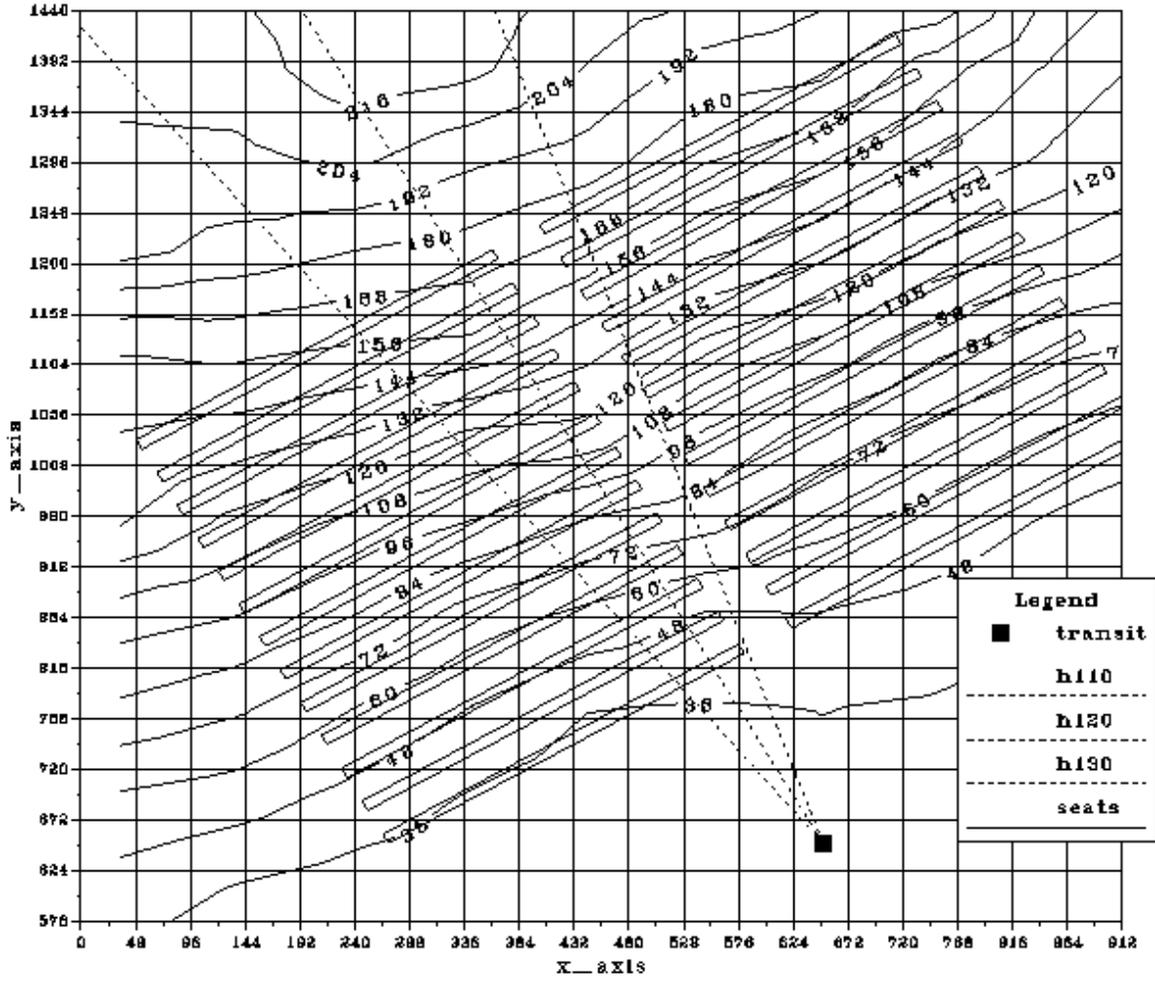
Our main focus for the Fall Fix-it will be to finally begin working on the Blackhawk firebowl renovation project! We will be burying or removing the existing log benches and installing the new benches.

**This will be hard work and we need as many volunteers as possible.**

**Don't forget to bring your tools!**

chainsaws • wood chippers • circular saws • corded drills • portable generators  
wheelbarrows • power augers • log splitters • work gloves • eye protection

# map



# profile

