



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2013, Volume 35, Issue 2

A Crazy Owasippe Word and A Butchered Owasippe Song

by Bill Schaefer, Sr.

It was on a snowy New Year's Eve night of 1980 that the Camp Wolverine call, ZAXIE, was created. My wife, Linda, and our children, Bill, Steve, Karen and Kristin, and I were enjoying some days in the Guest Lodge cabin at Owasippe.

I had recently been asked by the Owasippe reservation director, Ed Black, to switch from directing Camp Robert Crown to directing Camp Wolverine. I had worked at Crown for nine consecutive years, after coming over from Camp Wolverine North. In 1980, Camp Wolverine North and Camp Wolverine South had united into one megacamp, Camp Wolverine. The camp director in '80, Rick Lowey, and his staff came up with a call for the newly formed Camp Wolverine; that call was WHAT? Yes. Simply "What?" And that worked fine for the initial year.

But I figured that the question begged to be answered. What *what*? So, after batting around various possibilities, I decided that combining the call of North, which was ZAP (tho in '71 I never heard that term), with the long-time call of South, which was DIXIE, might make sense. Thus, the new call ZAXIE was invented! I kept saying to myself, over and over again, in a testy way, "Zaxie, Zaxie, Zaxie, ZAXIE! Yes... that might just be the right answer to WHAT? ... ZAXIE! That's what!

I asked my family what they thought, as I yelled out, "Camp Wolverine...ZAXIE!" for the very first time, everyone laughed. However, Steve (age 12), a member of Troop 978 himself, said that it's so stupid that the kids would probably like it and that it would probably catch on.

(continued on pg. 2)



The 1981 Wolverine camp staff wearing T-shirts emblazoned with their newly coined camp call. Bill Schaefer, Sr. circled.

Spring Work Weekend

by Andy Marhoul, Fix-it chair

Chicago may have two seasons, winter and road construction (the latter having just started apparently), but Owasippe has four: the off season, camp, the fall work weekend, and the SPRING work weekend! The air is getting perfect to work outside without getting cold or sweating, fried bologna (or other equally tasty alternatives) sounds exceptionally good right now, and Owasippe needs you.

The work weekend will take place from May 17-19 this year. Potential projects include the following: construction of two shotgun pavilions at Blackhawk and Wolverine, plumbing toilets at Wolverine kybos, structural work at the Wolverine

(continued on pg. 2)

President's Perspective

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

I would like to THANK the Charter Members of the Board of Directors: Thomas Crissey, Ron Kulak, Bill Lotter, Larry Miller, Chuck Nagel, Phil "Chauncey" Niziol, Jack "Tiny" Norman, Joe Sener, Scott Weber, and everyone else who joined the OSA 35 years ago for making our organization possible. We had a great turn out for the OSA's 35th Anniversary Meeting and Dinner.



There are many people who helped make this another successful event and we would like to thank all of you especially Candy Merritt, Ron and Susan Derby, Dan Kleinfeldt, everyone who donated to the silent auction and all you for coming.

Thank You to our former Members of the Board—Andy Lukasiewicz and Michelle O'Connor for 2 terms (6 years)—and to Caitlin Boline, who just completed her 1st term (3 years). They have all done a great job.

Welcome to our two new board members, Barbara Lea and Kurt Wolff-Klammer, and congratulations to Caitlin Boline, reelected for a 2nd term. Thanks to Tom Crissey for also running for the board.

As the OSA celebrates our 35th Anniversary, I'm reminded that next year is the 50th Anniversary of the construction of Ad Center. Over the past 50 years the OSA, OA, and many

The story of Zaxie (cont.)

He said, "Go with it, Dad! Zaxie is cool!" Everyone agreed, and so, with the approval of another scout, older brother Bill, also of 978, I went with it. I figured the term was scout-tested! So, on December 31, 1980, Zaxie was born.

The new camp needed a camp song too; that was the other half of the challenge. So, some hours after midnight, that same night, I finished penning the words to the (then) newest Owasippe camp song, THE SPARK IS LIVE!, that I had been toying with the day before. I stole the melody from my high school fight song, which was, I think, stolen from somewhere else. I took many of the ideas and some of the words from that same high school song, and just changed them to fit a camp song. I made every effort to combine the wonderful histories and traditions of both of the ol' Wolverine camps into the new song. I sang it for the family, and they liked it.

Today, many staff either skips the song's intro altogether (*The Spark is Live* part, thank God), or they feebly butcher the melody. The intro tends to be sung to the tune of "Oh Christmas Tree," nowadays, and the body of the song is sung at a ridiculous speed and almost sounds like a chant rather than a song. Some of the words are different from the original too...a few. The original melody is all but gone now and it didn't sound like the Christmas song at all. How that happened, I don't know. It's barely even the same song that it once was, back in 1981. If it works, though, so be it. I just can't stand listening to it anymore! ha ha ha. I just hope that the staff doesn't also screw up the "It's a gay gang..." song! GO! ♣

volunteers have donated their skills, labor, and time to make repairs and improvements to Owasippe. This will continue with our May and September Fix-Its.

Some of the projects we are hoping to accomplish:

Wolverine

- Repair Staff Cabin 11 which leaks.
- Renovating, painting, and slightly expanding the roof for the Wolverine Rifle Range.

Carlen

- Finish Building the Fire bowl.

Blackhawk

- Fire bowl bench repair.

Family Camp

- We need someone with experience in fiberglass repair. If you know someone, let us know. The edge of the pool is really sharp and needs some fiberglass repair.

- Remove water fountain near B-side kybo.

Ad Center

- We are looking for an Ice Cream Freezer for the trading post, more information on page 3 in this newsletter.
- Look at the Health Lodge roof and consider what needs to be done in the fall.

Did you know that we cook enough food for everyone to enjoy dinner together at the Fix-its? It is great that some of you go to town and eat dinner as a group but that can lead to a lot of food waste. If you are planning to attend the fix it (Really Hope You Can) but plan to eat dinner somewhere else, please let us know when you RSVP. Thanks. ♣

Spring Work Weekend (cont.)

handicraft lodge and Health Lodge, final preparations at the Carlen firebowl to level out the staging area, as well as general roofing, picnic table repair, work at the pools, and road crew. It's an ever growing list of projects, but each one provides for future generations of scouting in hopes that they will get to experience what we were able to.

Please RSVP to Andy Marhoul (fighting_mongoose@rocketmail.com or 708.655.2911). When you RSVP, please note if you will or will not be joining us for dinner (so food can be planned out) and if you have any special trade skills.

As a special note, an additional mini work weekend is tentatively being planned for May 11 to provide the concrete piers and posts for the shotgun pavilions; a small group of volunteers would be greatly appreciated; please RSVP as soon as possible if your efforts can be included. Look out for the reminder email blast. ♣

Guest Lodge Restoration Project

The Guest Lodge Restoration Fund is now up to about \$27,000. We thank everyone for their generous donations! We are now over halfway to our target of \$50,000!

But we are still seeking your help. Pledges and checks can be sent in using the donation form found on Owasippe.com or through the OSA's Paypal account. Be sure to click "Earmark Your Donation" to designate it for the Guest Lodge.

The OSA is a 501-c-3 charitable organization and such donations are tax deductible. Pledges and questions can also be emailed to Ron Kulak at owasiron@juno.com. ♣

35th Anniversary OSA Meeting and Dinner Dance

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

A full house of members and friends enjoyed the OSA's 35th Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance on March 2, 2013, at European Chalet Banquets. During the evening, we held our annual meeting, presented two Honorary Life Member Awards, made special recognitions, conducted Board elections, raffled off some wonderful prizes and held numerous silent auctions.

Thanks goes to all the board candidates and to outgoing board members Andy Lukasiewicz and Michelle O'Connor.

Much thanks goes to all who worked to put this event together, to all who attended, to all who donated silent auction items, and to all who took out ads in the ad book! ♣



Board Election Results

Caitlin Boline, re-elected
Barb Lea, newly elected
Kurt Wolff-Klammer, newly elected

2013 Officers & Board Members

Edgar Wolff-Klammer, President
Vince Rychtanek, Vice President
Candy Merriitt, Secretary
Ron Kulak, Treasurer
Andy Marhoul, Fix-it
Andy Sirota, Membership

Honorary Life Member Recipients

Paul E. Myers Jr. and Christian Sterling

Notable Guests

Chris Townsend - CAC Director of Camping

Raffle Winners

Ultimate Split-the-pot: Kyle Nystrom
Apple iPad Mini: Walter Kleinfeldt
Set of 3 Owasippe Steins: Carl Young

Funds Raised for OSA Programs

The OSA Ad Book: \$1,330 raised
Dinner Dance Raffles: \$760 raised
Dinner Dance Silent Auctions: \$1,185 raised



Photos by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, and Scott Oomens. (Continued on page 7)

Mega Bowl: a Mega SUCCESS!



Photos by Edgar Wolff-Klammer

by Candy Merritt, OSA board Secretary

Thank you to everyone who came out and had a lot of fun with us in February at Striker Lanes in Berwyn. We had a great mix of ages and everyone had a wonderful time.

I want to Thank Chrissy and Andy Lukasiewicz for creating the bowling trophy, which will continue to grow each time someone wins the champion title. A big congratulations goes out to Kerry Kotwasinski for taking home the trophy. Blaise Lukasiewicz and Conrad Zadlo were so close to holding that trophy...you guys will have to come back next year to fight for it! We look forward to seeing what Kerry will add to the trophy when he comes back to defend his title next year. Please enjoy the photos and remember to come on out next year we all had a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone who assisted in the event and to Striker Lanes who provided a great atmosphere and bargain. ♣



OSA Family Picnic: August 11

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

The OSA Family Picnic is on Sunday, August 11, starting at 11:00 a.m. at Sundown Meadow Forest Preserve in Countryside, IL. The entrance to the grounds is on the west side of LaGrange Road at 67th, just north of I-55.

The OSA will again provide 200 pieces of fried chicken at 1:00 pm. You can still pack a picnic lunch, bring the grill out to cook your own meal, or call up an old camp

friend to split some great food and conversation! But no matter what you do, be there!

We will have kids' games and softball equipment, but bring other items (kites, baseball gloves, beanbags, flying discs) if you like.

This is a great event for mini reunions. Call the old staff buddies you haven't seen in years to meet so you can catch up and remember past summers. You can also chat with current staffers to see how things went at camp. ♣

Wanted: Ice Cream Freezers



OSA Life member and Owasippe Trading Post Manager Chris Sanchez is looking for Ice Cream chest freezers (Ideally 15.6 cu. ft. or larger) similar to the one shown. If you know of someone willing to donate one or selling one please let us know at osainfoooth@gmail.com.

Galloping Grapevine



Pat McGarry will graduate with a degree in Philosophy with a concentration in Religious Studies from St. Xavier University this May. He will serve as Camp Chaplain this summer.

Seth Verma Our newest OSA Member is the owner of Nonie's Restaurant, 6069 Holton Rd, Twin Lake, Michigan 49457. From their Facebook page: Great Food, Great Taste, Great Service, At Unbeatable Prices. Best GYRO with cucumber sauce, red onion, tomatoes, Mediterranean Chicken with Rice's Pilaf M M M M M Great. Fresh Homemade dough pizza 16" only \$9.99 Very GOOD Chicago Style Vienna Hot Dogs, M M M M M M M M Gooooood [sic -ed.]

Welcome, Seth! I know I will be trying to stop by.

Congratulations to **Blaise Lukasiewicz** and **Beth Hillhouse** on their marriage.

Congratulations to **Andy and Chrissy Lukasiewicz** on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Anne.

Greetings from Alaska! **Kyle Schneider** is teaching 7-12 Choir in the local Middle and High Schools in Homer, Alaska.

Roman Henclewski and **Carly Proctor** will be married on April 12, 2013.

During her trip to Europe last summer, **Barbara Lea** walked a portion of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela ("The Way of St. James"), a famous 500-mile pilgrimmage to Santiago, Spain. The Camino ("The Way"), recently made more popular by the film *The Way* starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez, has been a pilgrimmage for various groups for over 1,000 years. She completed 70 miles of the Camino before

heading to London for the 2012 Olympics, Scotland, and the Czech Republic.

In March, **Jerry Lutz** served as a Guardian on an Honor Flight to the war memorials in Washington, D.C. He went with Floyd Cooper, an 81-year-old Korean War veteran from Decatur.



Owasippe Staffer Bikes Cross-Country to Help Others

by Caitlin Boline, OSA Board Member

This summer, Kevin Dubbins (Blackhawk '10, HiAd '12, Troop 81 Eagle) will be biking for Push America, an organization that raises awareness for people struggling with disability. His 2,820 mile cycling journey will take him from San Francisco to Washington D.C. He is currently attempting to raise a personal goal of \$10,000 for his cause with his team overall goal being \$650,000. Kevin is a junior at the University of Iowa where he is studying Mechanical Engineering. He is the Push America executive for his fraternity Pi Kappa Phi. Why is he riding? As Kevin puts it, "A simple message of empathy and acceptance is all it takes to break down this barrier, and I have committed myself to spreading this message this summer." A scout is HELPFUL, a scout is KIND. Good Luck, Kevin!



Kevin is still in need of donations to help reach his goal. If you would like to support this most worthy cause, please visit Kevin's personal Push America site at: http://support.pushamerica.org/site/TR?px=1044526&fr_id=1260&tpg=personal

Old Golf Equipment Needed!

by Caitlin Boline, OSA Board Member

High Adventure staff is excited to offer Golf Merit Badge this summer...but they need your help! They are in need of clubs, bags, golf balls, gloves...you name it, it will be used! All donations may be dropped off at the council office. You may also contact High Adventure Director Sean Haneberg (seanhaneberg@gmail.com).

The Steve Schaefer Award Fund

by Bill Schaefer, Sr.

During each of the last 23 years, Owasippe staff college students have received a total of \$55,000 in individual scholarships from the Steve Schaefer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Every single summer, deserving Owasippe staff have benefited from the donations made to this fund, by people like you (\$10 here, \$50 there, etc.). Not a summer has ever been missed. Right now, the fund is very low. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the OSA with a note saying that the money should go into the Steve Fund. Such donations are tax deductible. It would be especially nice to receive donations from men and women who have received college money from the fund in the past. The awards are always made at the Owasippe staff closing banquet in August. Thanks to all who have made this fund a reality, and thanks too to those who will contribute to the fund for 2013.

Event Ideas Wanted

by Candy Merritt, OSA board Secretary

Have you ever been at an event at your kid's school or a scout function and thought, "This would make a great event for the OSA"? Have you ever been somewhere and had so much fun that you want to share the good times with everyone? If so, then I want to hear from you! If you have an idea for an event and or would like to host an event please contact me at candymerritt@yahoo.com we are always looking for group adventures for our members and their families.

Honorary Life Members 2013

by ?, OSA board

Christian Sterling

Christian, his father John Sterling, and his three brothers own and operate Sterling Lumber in Blue Island. Sterling Lumber is a supplier of hardwood products to the construction industry. They have donated a lot of lumber to Owasippe over the years, including all the lumber for the Sterling Handicraft Lodge at Blackhawk. This past year Sterling Lumber graciously provided the lumber to build 30 new floor boards and four 8 X 8 sheds for the May 2012 fix-it. Sterling Lumber has also committed to providing lumber for the Guest Lodge restoration project.

Christian was a Cub Scout in Pack 3729 and a Boy Scout in Troop 729, in Palos Hills. Christian enjoyed camping, Scout activities, and especially summer camp at Owasippe. He had a lot of fun in Boy Scouts, and thanks in large part to

OSA Membership Corner

New Life Members:

Kyle Nystrom
Ronald Pezdek
Tim Stoffregen
Diane Wolff-Klammer

New Members:

Patrick Loftus
Seth Verma

his father, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. His father and all three brothers are Eagle Scouts.

Christian and his wife Kathy have four children: Kylie, Connor, Collin, and Colton. All are involved in scouting. Christian and Kathy were co-Den Leaders for their youngest son Colton. Christian also has fun joining the boys for Troop outings and returns to Owasippe.

We thank Christian and Sterling Lumber for their generous donations to Owasippe.

Paul E. Myers Jr.

We are all familiar with the Owasippe legend. But Camp Owasippe is full of more recent history. Did you know that prior to 1948, African American troops had their own camp at Owasippe? Called Camp Belnap, it occupied two separate locations, first at Lake Ojibwa and then Hiawatha Beach. Did you know that within a few years of its founding, Owasippe's infrastructure was the largest and most modern of any Boy Scout camp in the country?

Do you know your Order of the Arrow history? The OA started in Philadelphia but grew up at Owasippe. Carroll Edson, the founder of the WWW at Camp Treasure Island in Philly, established the Moqua Lodge at Owasippe in 1921. The very name Order of the Arrow was developed in Chicago by Edson in 1923.

You can learn more about both Owasippe and the Order of the Arrow history from 1912 to 1961 in Owasippe the Camp/ Owasippe the Lodge—The Early Years. Paul Myers, Jr., spent 15 years researching, compiling, and editing this book. Upon completion, he donated 200 copies to the OSA. Most copies are sold to help fund Owasippe improvements. Remaining copies are priced at \$15.00.

The OSA wishes Paul a hearty Thank You for his efforts in recording much of Owasippe's long and storied history.

See You at the End of the Trail

Lester R. Busse

Life member of the OSA and longtime curator of the Owasippe Museum at Ad Center, passed away on March 2, 2013, at the age of 91. He will be missed.

Pauline Wilcox

Mother of OSA member Jeanie Shotas, passed away on March 24, 2013. Our thoughts are with her family.



Vibrations always needs copy...

Send your Owasippe memories, stories, pictures, news items, grapevine tidbits, or editorial comments to:

OSA Vibrations
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

Preferred Method



e-mail: vibrations@owasippe.com

“I NEVER USED GIFT CARDS, SO I WANT TO DONATE SOME TO THE OSA”

We have had members from all over the country send us donations.

 	I want to buy _____ Home Improvement gift cards for the OSA to use at the Fix it.	Enclosed (\$25 each) _____.
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Send checks only (no cash) by May 7, 2012

Checks payable to the Owasippe Staff Association. Mail entire form and check to:
Edgar Wolff-Klammer, 7820 Keystone Skokie, IL 60076

Questions?

Contact Edgar Wolff-Klammer at
ewolffklammer@prodigy.net 847-677-1688

Name:
Phone:
Address:

Or go to www.owasippe.com and then the store link at the top right side.
Here you can use PayPal for this donation only.

MAKE A GENERAL DONATION

\$10 increments

Support OSA programs by making a charitable donation to the Owasippe Staff Association (OSA) in \$10 increments. The OSA is incorporated and operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Chapter 48 section 331 of the Illinois Revised Statutes. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 36-303-9912. We thank you for your support of our efforts!

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(quantity is chosen in shopping cart)

Dinner Dance Pictures (cont.)



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

Editor: Pete Kulak

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.

Articles, tidbits, photos and artwork are encouraged. E-mail all such materials to: **vibrations@owasippe.com**. Submissions can also be made by mail to: **OSA 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.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring (Issue 1) January 15
- Summer (Issue 2) April 1
- Fall (Issue 3) August 7
- Winter (Issue 4) October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

May

- 7..... "I Never Use Gift Cards" Deadline
- 12..... Mothers' Day
- 17-19 OSA Fix-it Weekend
- 24-26 Order of the Arrow Work Weekend
- 27..... Memorial Day

June

- 16..... Fathers' Day
- 16-22 Owasippe Staff Week
- 23..... Campers arrive at Owasippe!

July

- 4..... Independence Day
- 14..... Bastille Day
- 25..... Christmas in July

August

- 3..... Farewell, Owasippe campers!
- 7..... OSA Vibrations copy Deadline
- 11..... OSA family picnic

