



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2015, Volume 37, Issue 3

How's The Weather Up There?

by Ron Kulak, OSA member

Owasippe now has a unique facility that most Scout camps in the U.S. cannot boast of, an official registered weather station broadcasting important local weather data with photos.

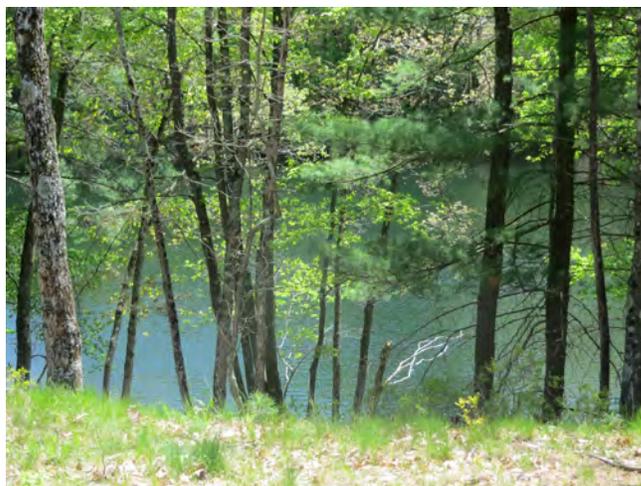


Thanks to the ingenuity and collaboration of both the Owasippe Staff Association and the Owasippe Lodge, Order of The Arrow, Owasippe now has an operating weather station registered with The Weather Underground, a division of The Weather Channel. Both groups partnered on the cost of the instrumentation, registration, and installation. It has been operational while summer

camp has been in session, but the weathercam just went live on August 15th.

Here is the direct link to the weather station dubbed "Owasippe Scout Camp" or "Station #KMITWINL6" operating under the Twin Lake, MI, locale directory on The Weather Underground Network: <http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KMITWINL6#history>

SAVE THIS TO YOUR FAVORITES! If you don't have the link handy or cannot remember the station's call letters, just go to www.wunderground.com and type in the location, Twin Lake MI, and then search for Other Stations and seek out Owasippe. To see the photos, you have to click the weathercam tab to open that feature.



The collaboration between the OSA and OA occurred in June just before camp opened with the blessing of the Pathway To Adventure Council, BSA. The two groups split the cost, registered the weather station, and installed it for operational use at the Guest Lodge, Owasippe's new home for its STEM Program. Thanks and Kudos go out to Ted

(cont. on next page)

President's Perspective

by Kurt Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

In July, I visited Owasippe and attended a Wolverine closing campfire. I had not been to a Wolverine campfire since I was a CIT many years ago. I enjoyed going to the campfire. I noticed that the staff dismissed the troops differently than the last time I was there. I enjoyed the new traditions and how the staff was taking ownership.



While at camp, I got to see the improvements made by the staff and the council to the section camps. I stopped by Guest Lodge. It was great to see the building put to good use. I also noticed many new picnic tables, tents, and cots in the campsites. The Reneker pool has been vastly improved. The fiberglass rim has been replaced with tile. It looks great.

I am looking forward to the Fall Fix-It this September 18 through 20. It takes many volunteers to make the continued improvements. It's also great seeing everyone at the Fall Fix-it and the MOB (Make Owasippe Better) weekends.

Our Pathway to Adventure Council President, Craig Burkhardt, spent a week as a camper at Reneker this summer. My hope is that he sees all that makes Owasippe great and falls in love with the camps as much our members have. ♣

How's The Weather Up There?

(cont. from pg. 1)

& Bryan Kumzi and Nick Barth who assembled the weather station and hooked up the weathercam to the Guest Lodge WiFi system and to Kevin Boline and Marty McGarry who installed the weathercam and the conduit and wiring to bring power to that camera for 24-7 imagery.

The Owasippe Scout Camp Weather Station works on solar power to run the instrumentation, but the camera, for now, runs on direct electrical current from the Guest Lodge. The weather station will measure and broadcast the following data:

- * temperature
- * dew-point
- * humidity
- * precipitation accumulation
- * precipitation rate
- * barometric pressure
- * wind direction



- * wind speed
- * wind gusts

The weather station data is visible locally within the Guest Lodge on a host monitor but is broadcast live on a network of thousands of personal weather stations throughout the U.S. and Canada. You can go to the Wunderground website at any time to not only monitor the weather data but to also get the local forecast for that day and coming days along with recent trends. And, of course, this station also provides a visual of the current weather and seasonal conditions via the weathercam.

This weather station also provides information via a Weather Widget on the Owasippe Scout Reservation website www.OwasippeAdventure.com. Actually, anyone can load this widget onto their own website for continuous viewing.

By the way, the Weather Underground will have its own featured program on The Weather Channel beginning August 24th and running from 6-8:00pm.

So, keep your eyes on Owasippe's very own weather station, also a unique facility for Blue Lake Township. ♣

Fall Fix-it: September 18-20

(article on page 7)

Spring Fix-it — In Pictures!



Scouts For Equality

by Eric Hetland, OSA board member



I first fell in love with Owasippe in 2003 when I stayed at Blackhawk during periods 5 & 6. This was my first time staying at camp for two weeks. I made some great friends in my Troop, earned the Eagle-required merit badges of Environmental Science & Lifesaving, and spent untold hours down at the lakefront and the Eagle's Nest swimming in Big Blue Lake. This was everything a young boy like myself needed and from that moment on, I was hooked on Owasippe. It was that love and deep appreciation for the tranquil nature of camp that motivated me to join camp staff. From 2006 to 2012, I spent seven unforgettable summers working in the Aquatics program at Camp Wolverine (Zaxie!), with the last two as Aquatics Director. I had the privilege of serving under and learning from Carl Young, Ryan M Gust, Chase Budziak, Nick Johnson, and Matt Dorich as my Camp Directors. These experiences, shared with my second family, are ones that help form the bedrock of who I am. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

As so many of us know, there is no experience quite like being on Owasippe camp staff. We are fortunate to forge lifetime bonds with fellow staff members. On staff, we were seen as leaders by the Scouts we impacted. And we all know the unparalleled recharging power that can come from being up in the woods for two months. But that is not what makes Owasippe so special for so many of us. What makes Owasippe so special is knowing that those feelings and friendships are not limited to just three months out of the year or even to 9900 Russell Rd. We know what it is like to carry on those friendships and that bond for years, even decades, after our time on camp staff. That is what makes the OSA such a powerful organization; it is a testament to that unwavering loyalty we feel

towards our camp friends and to the continued success of the Scouting & Owasippe programs. I have seen this, firsthand, during this past year especially.

For little over a year, I have been actively involved with the group Scouts for Equality (SFE). As a bisexual Eagle Scout and someone who remembers vividly the conflict between my sexuality and my involvement in Scouting during my time on Staff, this was a group that appealed to me greatly. Formed in 2012, SFE is a group of over 50,000 Scouters who have advocated for a change to the membership policy of the BSA as it pertained to having openly gay and bisexual members, both youth and adult. In 2013, the BSA voted to allow openly gay youth into the program. Although this was a huge step in the right direction towards a more inclusive Scouting program, this unfortunately meant that openly gay youth could be kicked out once they turned 18. This was where things stood when I came onboard with SFE in July of 2014.

It was then that I was tasked with starting the Chicago Chapter of SFE. If formed, it would be part of the national campaign to build support for a change to the adult leader policy through both internal and external outreach. At first, I was hesitant to take on such a daunting task single-handedly. However, after giving it some considerable thought, I set out to first form a core group of members who would make the Chapter far more successful. Naturally, I started with my Owasippe brethren. At the time, I did not know how vital this would be to the Chapter's success.



Out of nearly 50 SFE Chapters throughout the country, the Chicago Chapter is considered its most active, ambitious, and successful. This past Fall, I brought together a group of 20 Scouters who were committed to ending the ban on gay

leaders and to making Scouting a more inclusive and accepting place for all who seek it. Whereas most SFE Chapters typically have fewer than 10 members, the Chicago Chapter has more than 40. Of those, 24 are current or former Owasippe staff or campers. It has been because of those strong Owasippe bonds that we have enjoyed such a level of success. In the company of Owasippe folks such as Caitlin Boline, Ryan Gust, Andy & Chrissy Lukasiewicz, Kyle Nystrom, Jim Sullivan, Chris Zelis, and many more, our Chapter has made great progress on this important mission. For instance, we had the distinct honor of providing the official color guard for the 2015 Chicago Pride Parade in June. We have also been working closely with Scouting parents and Pathway to Adventure Council leadership on making Scouting more inclusive. We have made great strides but we also know that we have a lot of work ahead of us given recent events.



On Monday, July 27th, the BSA National Executive Board voted 45-12 to change the leadership membership policy so that openly gay and bisexual adult leaders could officially participate in the program for the first time since 1978. This change was good for Scouting because it ensures that countless families, both gay and straight, will now have the opportunity to

experience this powerful program. I was overjoyed with the change because it meant that gay and bisexual youth in Scouting would never have to choose (as I did in 2012) between being their true self and continuing their involvement in Scouting. No longer will places like Owasippe lose out on those talents, passions, and involvements.



During this past year, I have experienced firsthand the profound power of the Owasippe family. I have marveled at our ability to come together for what is right. These brothers and sisters have given me the drive and determination to see through what must happen if Scouting is to thrive in the 21st century. We know that it is through a robust and thriving Scouting program that the future of Owasippe is secured. Therefore, through our work with SFE, we are ensuring the vitality of our camp home and family. Still, our work is not yet complete. It will require the passion and time of many people in Scouting for this policy change to be fully realized and the promise of Scouting brought to every community. Just as those who came before us, we owe the next generation the best Scouting program possible. After all, there are plenty of Scouts who have yet to fall in love with Owasippe and join its camp staff family.

If you would like to get involved in this important work, please contact me at chicago@scoutsforequality.com. ♣

Did We Mention It Yet? Fall Fix-it: September 18-20

(article on page 7)

So May Scouting's Bonds of Friendship Seal Our Loyalty

by Sarah Hall, OSA member

In 1996, I spent my first summer on staff. I had grown up hearing my parents' (Chauncey and Mary Beth Niziol) stories of adventures at Owasippe, and I was eager to create my own. At our CIT shakedown weekend, Joe Sener told us that there was a good chance two people in the room would end up married. Fast forward 19 summers, and in 2015 (Reneker's 50th anniversary), I find my family gathering together with the Lukasiwicz's, Marhoul's, and Vanderpool's (all former camp staffers now married) for a week of family camp fun at Camp Reneker (Go For It!). We all have small children ranging in age from 1-5 years old. For some of the kids, it was the first time they would interact with each other and create Owasippe memories.

Camp Reneker is a great place to stay with your family. Accommodations aren't the Ritz, but are perfect for a home base for making a camping adventure comfortable for the family. As my husband pointed out during a particularly loud thunderstorm, we weren't in a tent! The staff has lots of program planned but it's set up a la carte so you don't have to feel committed to doing everything planned on the schedule. Tessa Mitchell, the camp director, talked about balanced living which I really appreciated. If your family needs some down time you can take it.

Some of our favorite Camp Reneker program memories were the family scavenger hunt, the boat regatta, the campfire, and archery. The theme this year was Neverland and my preschoolers were enchanted to see pictures of their favorite characters and sometimes a visit from a live character! However, my favorite memories are those unscheduled gems that just happen. Taking my son Thomas down to Paradise Valley where he pretended to be a velociraptor amongst the ferns that have always made me feel like I was in the movie "The Land Before Time." Watching all the kids play on A side park, climbing all the way to the top of the monkey bars and making "crabby patty's" in the sand box. Hunting for frogs in the rowboat flowerbed outside the Circus Tent. Playing board games during quiet time, and snuggling on a 55-degree morning in our cabin. Taking all the kids fishing at the Crown boat docks or watching them splash in the Reneker "rocket ship" pool. Every evening I fell asleep with a smile on my face and happiness in my heart.

If you haven't experienced Camp Reneker, ever

or in a long time, 2016 is ready for you! Visit http://www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/2016_OSOR_Reneker to view cabin availability and to fill out your 2016 reservation form. Let's show the council that Camp Reneker has at least 50 more years to celebrate Family Camping and pack the place in 2016! ♣

Owasippe Adventures For 3 Former Staffers

by Barbara Lea, OSA board member

My sister Liz and her three kids spent a week up at Camp Reneker this summer, and my mom and I joined them for part of that week of 5th period. Her youngsters beg her every year to go up to Owasippe to camp for the week, and they are all finally at ages where they can be in age groups for the morning (giving her some much-needed quiet time).

Liz and I had a rare opportunity to join some scouts and leaders on a mountain biking trip that Wednesday evening on parts of the Orange, White (connectors), and some of the designated mountain biking trails. I had never biked this route before, and Liz only had some painful memories of my brother John and John "Frogger" Klimek, both Wolverine staffers at the time, dragging her on those hiking trails for long distances WAAAY back in...1993 (sigh)!

Our high adventure guides were nice, and they were so patient when one adult kept teetering over in the sand or on tree stumps. The weather and breeze were perfect as we reminisced about our camping (I was 3 weeks old on my first visit to camp) and staff days, and enjoyed the marl beds/quaking bogs and the lake (we passed by the natural spring that is the source for Lake Wolverine - WATER!). My thoughts kept returning to what a "hidden gem" we have called Owasippe, and how this sacred land can offer those of us blessed to know it priceless experiences to last a lifetime. ♣



Galloping Grapevine



Congratulations to Ryan and Chrissy Gust on the birth of their son, Carter Joseph Gust, on July 23, 2015 (Future Staff Year 2030)!



Brian Weems has begun a K-8 School Principal position in Arlington Heights at a school serving students with emotional needs.

Annie Nyberg, on Reneker staff from 2013 to present and granddaughter of Bill Schaefer, will be reporting for boot camp with the USMC this October.

Staff people of the Year:

Reneker: Annie Nyberg

High Adventure: John O'Shea

Blackhawk:

Over 18: Matt McComb

Under 18: Dalton Devries

Wolverine:

Over 18: Kevin Hanlon

Under 18: Nick Peraino

Fall Fix-it September 18-20

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer

The Spring Fix-it was another great OSA work weekend. Thank you to all who helped!

The Spring Fix-it was another successful event and the last one I will be chairing. For the Fall Fix-it I will have a great co-chair in ANDY SIROTA. This Spring, we renovated the archery range at Reneker, finished the shot gun shelter at Wolverine, repaired the sliding at food prep and even found some time to relax and enjoy Owasippe.

Please make plans to attend the **Fall Fix-it on September 18-20.**

We will meet at Food Prep for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Michigan (Eastern) time on Saturday morning.

Come be a part of this exciting weekend and **PLEASE RSVP by September 11th** (Council is providing meals and we need to turn in our count by then) to Edgar Wolff-Klammer for cabin reservations at (847) 677-1688 or email osafixit@gmail.com. If you have a cabin preference please let us know.

PLEASE NOTE:

1) Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

2) Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property.

PROJECTS:

We will be doing a number of odd jobs & special projects to help get the camp ready to close down for winter — painting, roofing, carpentry, general repairs, etc.

The Guest Lodge will receive its first new coat of stain since it was built in 1948 and since the dual bedroom addition was put up two years ago. At the Fix-It Weekend a crew of about 8-12 (to be supervised by Ken Graczyk) will be needed to attend to applying two coats of a cedar stain to the walls along with a ponderosa-pine stain to be applied to window and door trim and fascia to complement the roof. In addition, the exterior of the fireplace and chimney will be sealed and the interior fireplace cleaned. Two outside insulated water line housings will also have to be constructed and attached to the well line entry points. The building will also need a general cleanup to prepare it for the cabin camping season.

Even if you are working on other projects that weekend, be sure to visit the Guest Lodge and tour the inside and checkout the new Weather Underground weather station. A monitor is in the building displaying current weather readings.

The Owasippe Staff Association
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154



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

September

- 5..... Gift Card Order Deadline
- 11..... Fall Fix-it RSVPs due
- 18-20 OSA Fall Fix-it Weekend

October

- 15..... OSA Vibrations copy Deadline
- 31..... Halloween

November

- 11..... Veterans' Day
- 26..... Thanksgiving Day
- 27..... OSA Pizza Night

December

- 25..... Christmas
- 31..... New Year's Eve

