



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2

VIBRATIONS

NEWSLETTER

46th Annual Meeting Recap

By: Kevin Harper

Members and friends enjoyed the OSA's 46th Annual Meeting on March 9, 2024 at Allegra Banquets in Villa Park, IL. During the evening, we held our annual meeting, made special recognitions, conducted Board elections and raffled off prizes. Congratulations to Mike Mieszczak who was awarded 2023 Member of the Year! In total there were in the neighborhood of 85 members in attendance. Thank you to all those that donated to our raffle this year and supported our ad book.



The newsletter for the members of the Owasippe Staff Association

2024 OSA Board Election Results

PRESIDENT: Jen (Kempa) Kotwasinski

VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Sanchez

SECRETARY: Paul Kerchberger

TREASURER: Edgar Wolff-Klammer

Mike Brus

Ryan Carlson

Kevin Harper

Kevin Oster

Pat Troy

Top Raffle Prize Winners

By: Jennifer Kempa Kotwasinski

Some of our top Raffle prize winners were:

2 night stay at the Guest Lodge

- Katie Heffernan

Split the Pot

- Mike Tranchita

Bose Quiet Comfort Headset

-Mike Brus

Congrats to all the winners!

Raffle Summary

By: Edgar Wolff-Klammer

Net Funds Raised for OSA Programs

OSA Ad Book: \$2,585.00

Dinner Dance Raffles: \$2646.90

Dinner Dance Silent Auctions: \$330.00

Thank you to Caitlin Boline, Mike Brus, Ron Derby, Jamie Goodwin, Kevin Harper, Maureen Harper, Jennifer Kotwasinski, Michelle Lerma, Ted Rotzoll, Susie Smyth, Bob Corrao, Edgar Wolff-Klammer, Pat Troy and PTAC for donating one or more items for the event.

Spring Fix it

By: Chris Sanchez



Spring is here! Save the date for the 2024 Spring Fix it! Mark your calendars for May 17th-19th. If it's been a few years since your last trip to camp, work weekend is a great excuse!! Please RSVP by May 10th

Please note:

- 1) Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- 2) Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property
- 3) Ground fires are not allowed by reneker cabins
- 4) Contact Chris Sanchez to RSVP paradise9913@gmail.com by May 10th.



New OSA

Life Members

Michael Rinard

President's Perspective

By: Jen Kotwasinski



My name is Jennifer (Kempa) Kotwasinski and I am very excited to be elected as the president of the Owasippe Staff Association. I was introduced to Owasippe in 1983 as a camper at Reneker. I then became a Reneker staff member in 1989. Through my five years as a Reneker staff member, I held various positions from assistant age-group leader to Aquatics Director. Owasippe is very dear to me and my family. I met my husband Kerry in 1990, while he was attending Wolverine with his troop. My daughter, Lorelei, carried on the Reneker staff tradition as a CIT in 2018, moving on to work in both Wolverine and Blackhawk. I am currently in my second year of my second term on the OSA Board of directors, serving as the secretary for the last four years.

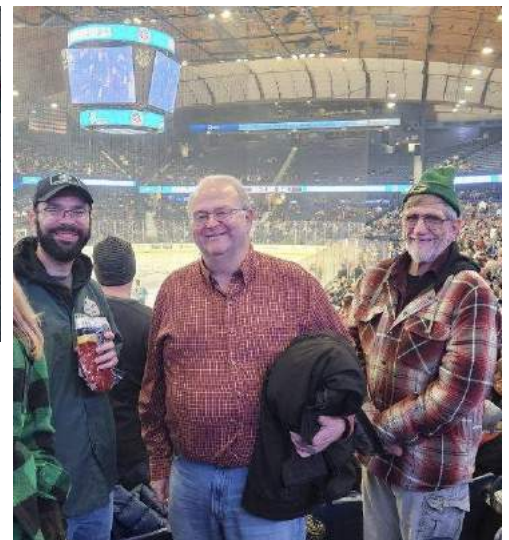
The 46h Annual Meeting was huge success. The event was held at Allegra Banquets in Villa Park. It was wonderful to catch up with many. I would like to thank all that attended. The OSA raised over \$5,000 through our ad book, split the pot, and our online raffles & silent auction. Congratulations to all of the winners. Many thanks to the Board and all of those who made the evening a success. Thank you to everyone who ran for election onto the board as well as our outgoing board member Wally Kleinfeldt. I would like to welcome the new members of the board for 2024: Chris Sanchez, Paul Kerchberger, and Kevin Oster. Unfortunately Eddie McCarthy has recently resigned from his position and the board has agreed to fill his place with the person receiving next highest vote, which was Mike Brus.

Spring Fix-it is just around the corner. We have lined up many projects to help set up camp for this summer. I hope to see all of you at camp May 17th to 19th.

Chicago Wolves Family Night

By: Jennifer (Kempa) Kotwasinski

Thank you to all that were able to come out and enjoy an afternoon at the Allstate Arena to watch the Chicago Wolves on Sunday January, 28th. It was great to see so many families enjoying the game. We had a great turn out. Hope to see even more people next year!



Galloping Grape Vine Call for Submission

By: Jen (Kempa) Kotwasinski



Hey there, loyal Vibrations reader! You may not be aware but, Galloping Grapevine is the place for any and all info on the comings and goings of all OSA members. As much as they would like to think so, the OSA board is not all-seeing nor all knowing - they need your help.

So please! Send us your anecdotes, tales, or half remembered rumors. It doesn't have to be long, it doesn't have to be about you, but it does have to be mostly accurate.

Send submissions to osainfobooth@gmail.com putting "OSA Newsletter" in the subject.



Galloping Grape Vine

Steve Troy, OSA Life Member who staffed in 82, 83, 84, and 86, and his wife have moved to Whitehall, MI. Their house borders Svensson Park with views of White Lake

NEW & HAPPENING TODAY VIA YOSEMITE DAILY REPORT NPS

Please welcome and congratulate Heidi Edgecomb as the new Wawona District Ranger! Many of you have worked with Ranger Heidi for many years, and well know the professionalism and dedication that she brings to Yosemite National Park and the community of Wawona. We are excited for Heidi to take on this duty and lead the Wawona District!

What you might not know about Heidi is that she grew up in Western Michigan, and in her pre NPS career she worked as a paramedic, and for a variety of youth programs focused on high adventure, backpacking, horse packing, and ropes course instruction.

Heidi graduated from Ferris State University with a BS in Recreation Management with a dual minor in outdoor adventure education and leisure services.

Her NPS career began at Acadia National Park as a seasonal mounted patrol ranger in 2007. She continued at Biscayne National Park as a boat patrol ranger 2007-2008. She became a permanent ranger here in Yosemite in March of 2008. Heidi has worked primarily in Wawona, but she has had several promotional detail opportunities with the Investigations Service Branch, Wilderness, and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Along the way she also spent some time with Dispatch, the budget office, and our legal office. She served most recently as the Wawona Patrol Supervisor since 2022. Heidi brings a wealth of experience, knowledge of park operations, and technical expertise which have well prepared her for the challenges of this new role. Along the way she has been recognized with numerous performance and service awards.

Heidi lives in Wawona with her husband Joe of Wawona Utilities, at home they have a dog, cat, and a retired park horse! (Among her many talents Heidi is an expert equestrian)
Congratulations Heidi, way to go! (J. Webb)

GEAR UP FOR THE SPRING FIX-IT MAY 17-19

CALLING ALL OWASIPPE STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, FRIENDS OF OWASIPPE AND CURRENT STAFF 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER. IF YOU ARE UNDER 18, YOU MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

Here are the work projects for the Fix-It. We are asking that you bring your tools for the jobs that are posted. Your tools will be used by you. When you fill in the ATTENDANCE list, give an indication as to the job you would like to be placed on.

Here goes:

- Put up the tents at Reneker and Blackhawk (we will all do this after breakfast). (We will be taking the Camp Buses to transport you).
- Paint the floors in Staff Village 9 and 10
- Move display cases out of the Warehouse and into Museum Basement
- Mark electrical outlets in Food Prep and FP Basement
- Spray paint the ceilings in the Blackhawk Staff Cabins first and then in Wolverine and Reneker
- Floor board and picnic table repair/build
- Move canoes and kayaks out of Wolverine and back to Blackhawk and High Adventure. Overstock should be put on Canoe Row and marked as GOOD!
- Vehicle repairs
- Health Lodge Repairs
- Repair Wolverine Hot Pack Stand #23
- Museum – garage door repair and erosion fix
- Cooks cabin remodel continues
- Roads maintenance around camp

Power tools are always needed! You all know you are more comfortable using your own equipment. The OSA will not be held responsible for any breakage or tools you leave behind.

Meals will be provided for all in attendance. Lunch on Saturday will be provided at Jim and Linda's Farm on Blue Lake Rd.

2024 Camp Schedule

Staff Week - June 9 - June 15

Session 1 - June 16 - June 22

Session 2 - June 23 - June 29

Session 3 - June 30 - July 6

Session 4 - July 7 - July 13

Session 5 - July 14 - July 20

Session 6 - July 21 - July 27

Session 7 - July 28 - August 3

End of the Trail



Sarah Jean Maxam Bregin, wife of Mark “Badger” Bregin (OSA Life Member), passed away Friday, January 26, 2024, at the age of 52. Sarah was independent, prudent, and ambitious. She enjoyed camping, traveling, and making crafts. Closest to her heart was the value of her relationships with family and friends.

2024 Camp Directors

Reneker - Sophia Finley

Wolverine - Joe Vitti

Blackhawk - Kyle Peters

High Adventure - Jonah Klima

Upcoming OSA Dates

April

22.....Board Meeting 6:00 CT

May

17-19.....Spring Fix-it

18.....Board Meeting at Fix-it

June

24.....Board Meeting 6:00 CT

July

25.....Christmas in July

August

TBD.....Baseball Game

26.....Board Meeting 6:00 CT

September

20-22.....Fall Fix-It

21.....Board Meeting 6:00 CT

October

28.....Board Meeting 6:00 CT

November

30.....Board Meeting at Pizza Night

30.....Pizza night

Reneker Materials Requests

The OSA and its members have been so helpful in the past gathering household items and materials that Reneker uses for our camp projects and crafts. Thank you to those who have collected items in the past!

The Reneker Family Camp staff has put together a new batch of projects for this upcoming summer, and we're asking for your help to collect and bring these items to the Fix It in May so we can supply each age group with needed materials. Our theme for 2024 is "Reneker At Sea," including projects from mermaids to pirate ships, and surfing to sailing. We're really excited at the variety of crafts and activities that are part of our program this summer!

Please collect these household items and bring them to the Spring Fix It:

- toilet paper/paper towel/wrapping paper tubes
- tissue paper - all sizes, all colors
- crayons (broken is fine)
- plastic soda bottles with lids - 16 oz/20 oz/liter/2 liter size (not water bottles, need heavier plastic)
- corks (wine is ok)
- colorful socks (singles ok too)
- plastic screw-top bottle caps (all sizes)
- plastic jars with lids (all sizes)
- spray bottles (Windex type)
- cake pop molds or cake pop makers

Reneker also has an Amazon Wish List of items! These are general camp supplies that we use up every year. While we love brand new, there may also be items (like deck umbrella stands or hose reels) that you have at home and could donate - used is totally fine! If you'd like to lend a hand in a bigger way, check out our Amazon Wish List using this link or QR code:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Y3G9DA0ZSUSR>

Thank you in advance for your help and support!
Susan Derby - Reneker Program Director



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Editor: Maureen Harper & The OSA Board

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, and photos are encouraged. Submissions can be made out to vibrations@owasippe.com or mailed 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:

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

Connect with us!

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Owasippe Staff Association



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