



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 11

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - November 2023

This issue of Smokes Signals highlights some great things for the TMR Scout Museum and GNYC. Museum trustee David Malatzky had an article published in a prestigious Scouting newsletter. David reports on the broad and international audience drawn to our museum website. A troop from NJ completed an 18-mile hike on the TMR Trail. And we have other news, as well.

If you have a TMR memory or newsletter comment you would like to share please email it to us.

Get Smoke Signals fresh and new: [Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

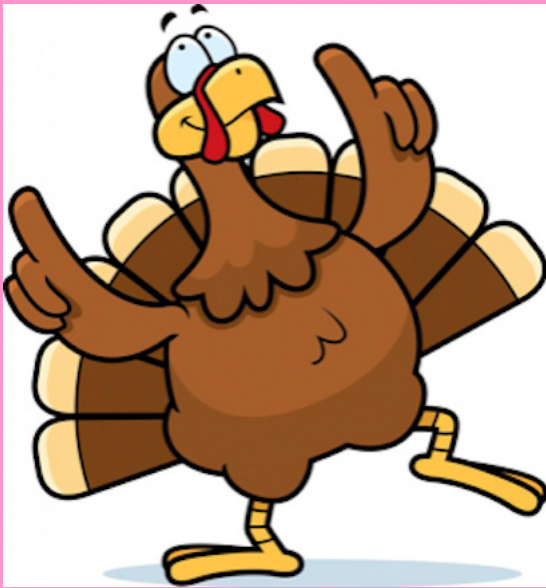
From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

It has been a busy few weeks. We enjoyed our time at the 26th Annual Kintecoying Lodge #4 Trade-O-Ree held at Alpine Scout Camp on November 18. It was great seeing many good friends and spending time in our camp. Special thanks go to Mikey Herbert, Bill Mulrenin, Ira Nagel and Anthony Zalak for helping get our goods to and from Alpine and working our table.

We seek someone to help create and distribute "Smoke Signals." We would also be very interested in finding a skilled web designer to help us with our website. Anyone interested should contact me at chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com.

As we move into the holiday season, I wish everyone a joyous season and hope to see all of you soon.





Wishing You A Good Holiday Season

As 2023 draws to a close and we all find ourselves in the end-of-year holiday season, as Editor of the Smoke Signals and on behalf of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, I wish you all happy holidays and may we all know the blessings of peace. Whether you celebrate Saturnalia, Winter Solstice, or any other winter holiday, may it be joyful and filled with love.



Hanukkah this year starts Thursday evening, December 7 and the last candle is Thursday evening, December 14



As usual, western Christmas will be December 25th, which will be a Monday. Orthodox Christmas will be Sunday, Jan 7, 2024



This year Kwanzaa runs Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023 - Monday, Jan 1, 2024



No matter what you celebrate, and even if you don't celebrate any winter holiday, may we all celebrate peace, love, and tolerance.

TMR Scout Museum Participates in the Kintecoying Lodge Trade-O-Ree

Kintecoying Lodge #4 hosted the 26th Annual Trade-O-Ree at Alpine Scout Camp on November 18th. The Museum had two tables of memorabilia and was staffed by Mitchell Slepian and Ira Nagel. Bill Mulrenin brought several bins of patches and other memorabilia from the Museum and returned whatever was left after the event. Museum board chair Mitchell Slepian also thanked board members Mike Herbert and vice-chair Anthony Zalak for their help. Below are some photos from the event.



Shopping for patches at the Trade-O-Ree



Patches were traded at the Trade-O-Ree



Vendors and traders at the Trade-O-Ree Camp Alpine, November 18th



Trustee Rich Miller Talking with scout.

Mr. Harty

by Mitchell Slepian



Mitchell (left) and Francis J. Harty

Thursday, November 2, Staten Island scouting was hit hard. No all of scouting was hit hard. We lost Mr. Harty. Francis J. Harty was his full name. Mr. H. to most of us. The entire scouting community feels the weight of his loss. He was a scoutmaster for a few decades, Aquehongan Lodge #112's (112) advisor for five years. Vigil Honor (Bear Lover was his name. I named him), Silver Beaver, and more. There is not enough space in the Grand Canyon to list everything he did and how many lives he influenced.

A few months ago, I was in Alpine Scout Camp for Kintecoying Lodge #4's (K4) spring meeting. K4 is the merger of the five borough legacy lodges. I miss my 112. My memories of it, many shaped by Mr. H., will live in my vaulted aisles of

memory forever, back to Alpine. I was walking along the trails by the dining hall and taking a few pictures. I noticed garbage on the trail. Some water bottles and candy wrappers were on the floor in the middle of our precious woods. Disgusting. I picked everything up and tossed it in the trash can which was not far from where the trash was thrown. It brought back memories of walking the Camporee Field and trails in William H. Pouch Camp, Staten Island, NY, with Mr. H. Every time he saw trash on the floor, he would pick it up. Sometimes, he may have carried a plastic bag from the local supermarket just to stow away the garbage defacing our precious woods. I mentioned it to a buddy who was a member of Troop 8, the troop Mr. H led for most of his scout life.

Thanks to him, dozens of boys soared to the rank of Eagle, and a few became chief or officers in 112. The number of people called to the Vigil was above average.



At left - Mr. H. at a scouting dinner

My time as lodge chief when he was the advisor was terrific. I am now thinking of when we produced our lodge's newsletter. It was a team effort. My committee chairs mailed or handed me their typed reports. No email, social media, or texts back then. Simpler times. I sat on my Atari 600XL and typed everything into a newsletter. Then I gave it to Mr. H. He got someone to run off about 200 copies. A few of us gathered at his house and ate the world's best chocolate chip cookies baked by his wife, Mrs. Betty Harty. Her Vigil name is Busy Baker. No one bakes like she does. We stapled, folded, and labeled the newsletters. When we were done our trusted advisor would get them over to Mr. George Abdou, another great member of our scouting community, who worked at the Manor Road Post Office. George made sure they were mailed out to our membership. It was a great night of true scout spirit. We may have had to suffer by having a Mets game on TV. But nothing was better than working together-one of the things he made us do.

I remember when we did the "Hernia Patrol" weekend up at Ten Mile River Scout Camps. He decided the lodge should work the weekend and go on a canoe trip. He wanted us to work hard and have fun. A bunch of us youth went up for a few days. We worked hard. Everyone but I worked to get Camp Aquehonga ready for the summer.

Me? I went to Kunatah and worked on the docks at Rock Lake. I was told not to jump in when we finished working. Did I listen? I will let you decide. Then I took a hike to Chappy, Picture Window, and Indian Cliffs. I returned to the rest of the gang, and we had a great BBQ and hung out all night. Bright and early the following day, we paddled the Delaware. Michael Poller was in my canoe. Mr. H. Paddled solo and watched us all. We jumped into his Jimmy (remember those cars) and returned to Staten Island - another successful work and fellowship weekend.

As I moved into the adult phase of my scout life, he was there. He made sure I made the transition. He did that for hundreds of Staten Island's scouts, and we all miss you. But we will continue to be active and help the next youth group. We know you want that. You will always be in our minds as we hike the easy and challenging trails. Because of what we learned under his leadership, we will complete the rugged trails and be stronger. 4



At right, Mitchell and Mr. H.



TMR Scout Museum Highlighted in the Silver Arrowhead Newsletter



David Malatzky

Trustee David Malatzky's biographical article on Harvey A. Gordon was featured in the October 2023 issue of *The Silver Arrowhead*, published for recipients of the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award (see pgs. 6 & 7). [Click Here](#) to download the complete issue of the Silver Arrowhead. You can view just the Harvey A. Gordon article by [Clicking Here](#).

This is the first issue since 2021, so it is notable that it includes David's historical piece on Harvey A. Gordon.

A Harvey A. Gordon profile page has been added to the Museum website. [Click Here](#) to view it.

Mr. Gordon is the most important individual in NYC Scouting Camping History, having led the Kanohwahke Scout Camps (1919-1929) and designing and constructing the five original TMR borough camps (1927-1930). After TMR he went on to become the first BSA National Camp Engineer and designed and constructed the 1935 and 1937 National Scout Jamborees in Washington, DC.

David said: "I like to characterize *The Silver Arrowhead* newsletter as the most important publication in the B.S.A that almost nobody ever heard of. Recipients of the O.A.'s Distinguished Service Award are arguably among the most rarefied in the B.S.A. Since the Museum's name and website are all over my article it is safe to say that the Museum is receiving some publicity here in the upper echelons of the Boy Scouts of America."

Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, President and Chief Scout Executive of Greater New York Councils, noted: "How very exciting and I cannot wait to read the piece. Thank you so much for sharing this great news. Thrilled to know that TMR and TMR Museum are featured. Big win for us."



At the right - Harvey A. Gordon

Our International Scout Museum

By David Malatzky

We sometimes think of the TMR Scout Museum as a local museum, but this is far from true. There is world-wide interest in our Museum, as demonstrated by visits to our website www.tmmuseum.org, which is how most people learn about our Museum.

Our Wix-based website has many traffic reports available built-in. I set a date range for the past year (Oct. 31, 2022 - Nov. 1, 2023) and learned a lot about who visits our website.

Our website had 3,458 unique visitors from 53 foreign countries, 43 States and the District of Columbia. This includes some countries that I never even heard of: Latvia, Moldova, Slovakia, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, among others. ALL 50 States were represented, except for seven: Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

96% (3,321) were first-time visitors, while 4% (137) were repeat visitors. Our website was visited an average of 14 1/2 times per day.

During the year, the Museum's online store sold \$1,635 in merchandise. Based on this analysis, we recently added links on the home page to both TMR and Cub World.

Here are the top ten US cities with the most unique visitors:

- Manhattan, NY - 274 visitors
- Brooklyn, NY - 253
- Queens, NY - 214
- Staten Island, NY - 73
- Monticello, NY - 59
- Philadelphia, PA - 57
- The Bronx, NY - 50
- Cincinnati, OH - 40
- Monroe, NY - 31
- Bedford, VA - 29

Once someone landed on the website, here are the most popular pages they visited:

- Online Museum Store - 510 views
- TMR History - 228
- Online Dues Payment - 194
- Merit Badge Offered - 98
- TMR Historic Trails Info - 95
- Museum Archives - 81
- TMR Trail Map - 79
- TMR Wall of Fame - 76
- Camp Kunatah Stories - 71
- About the Museum - 70
- Operating Season /Hours - 54
- Scouting Memorabilia - 51
- Directions & Maps - 49

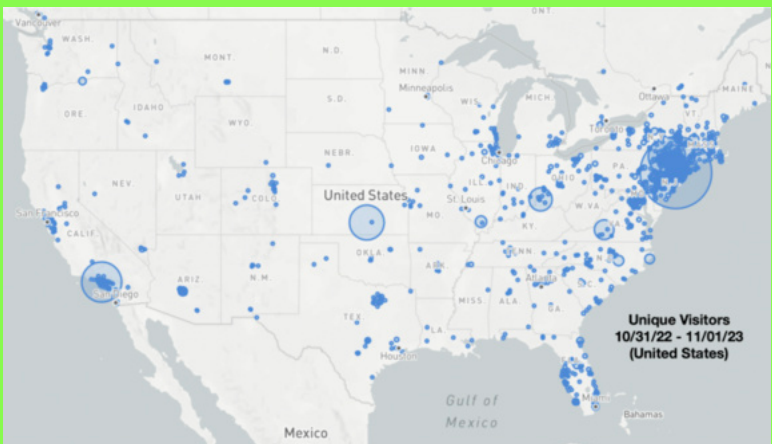
Here is the same for foreign countries:

- Russia - 21 visitors
- India - 18
- United Kingdom - 18
- Italy - 11
- Philippines - 11
- Germany - 10
- Israel - 8
- Poland - 8
- Spain - 5
- Pakistan - 5

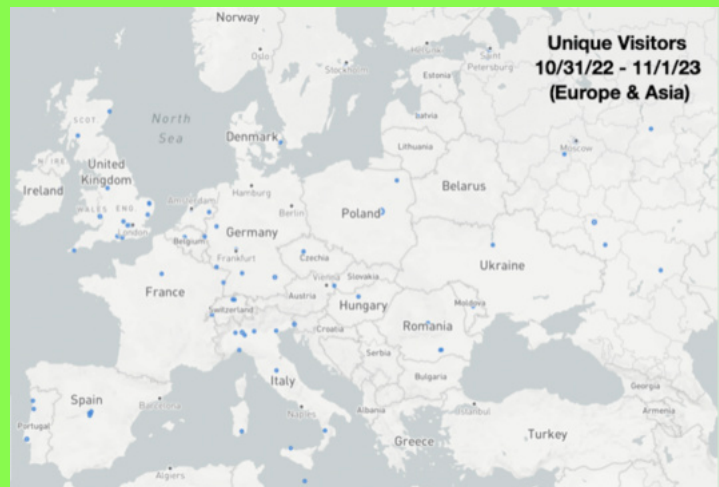


Average visitor sessions per day

This demonstrates considerable world-wide interest in the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, something that we can all be proud of.



Unique site visitors from the USA.



Unique site visitors from Europe

Ten Mile River Snowbird Gathering



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
GREATER NEW YORK COUNCILS**



**Friday, January 26, 2024
11:30am - 2pm**




All former New York City Boy Scouts, our Scouting friends and supporters and their guest, are invited as our guests

Ten Mile River Snowbird Alumni Gathering

**WE GATHER AGAIN FOR A BUFFET LUNCHEON
THE BALLENISLES COUNTRY CLUB
100 Ballen Isles Circle • Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418**

Remember campouts at:





Ten Mile River Scout Camps
William H. Pouch Scout Camp
Alpine Scout Camp




Luncheon Host
Mark Weisburger
TMR Camp Staff,
Manhattan Council



Eagle Scout
Hal Rosenfeld
TMR Camp Staff
TMR Arrowhead



Eagle Scout
Johannes Knoops
TMR Alumni Association
Chairman



Eagle Scout
Steven Benini
TMR Camper & Staff
TMR Alumni Association



Eagle Scout
Bob Madsen
Retired, Director Support
Service & CFO
Greater New York Councils
Boy Scouts of America

**R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 19, 2024 • Visit nycscouting.org/snowbird
Contact/Questions – Steven Benini TMR Alumni Association • Stevenbenini@gmail.com**

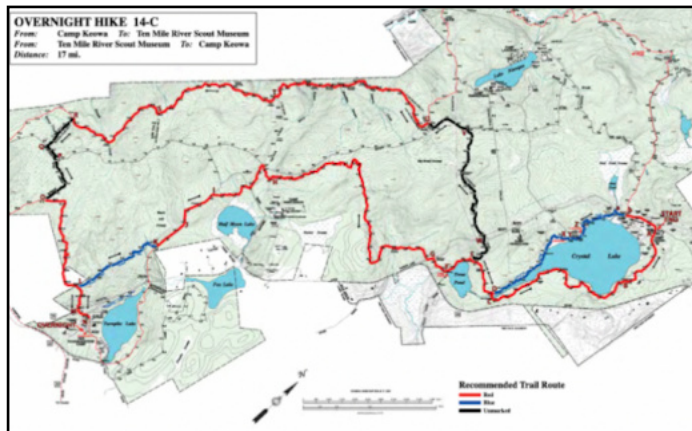
CLICK 

For more information or to register [CLICK HERE](#)

New Jersey Troop Completes 18-Miler on the TMR Trail

Central New Jersey Troop 151 completed an 18-mi. Trek at TMR Oct. 27-29, 2023, in preparation for their 2024 Philmont trek.

While we were unable to open the Museum for them, they are satisfying the requirements for the TMR Historical Trails Award through our alternative method: viewing two videos and answering a quiz.



Hike 14-C (The TMR Historical Trails Recommended Hike Routes Map Book)



TMR Historical Trails Award

The Troop hiked the section of the TMR Trail that runs immediately west of the Schiff Trail. This section was historically the worst of the TMR Trail, completely blocked by vegetation, at least until GNYC hired someone with a chain saw to completely clear it. It is safe to say that Troop 151 was the first group to hike this newly cleared section of the TMR Trail.

Brian Gruchacz, Troop 151 Committee Chairman said, "We had a great weekend. The scouts has a great time and learned a lot on our first overnight shakedown hike preparing for Philmont next summer. Thank you. Ranger Lou had everything ready to go for us. We spent Friday night at Keowa and Saturday night at HQ. We set up tents next to med lodge B."

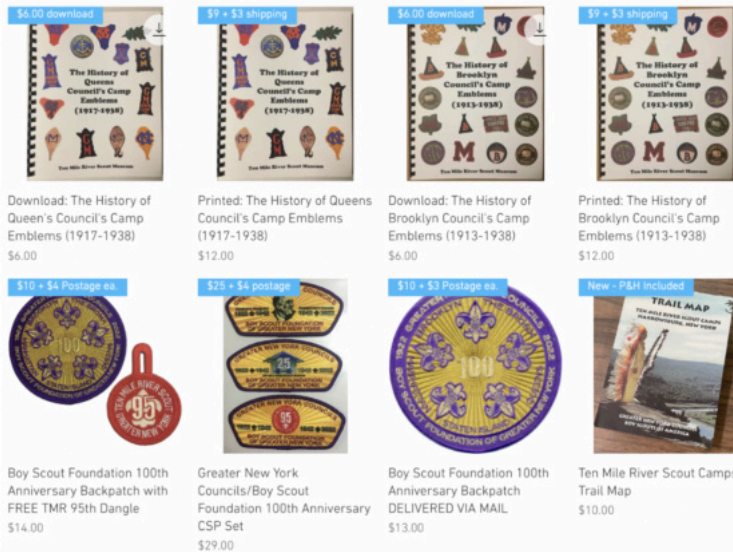
Gruchacz continued, "...our scouts learned a great deal using the map and compass. We wound up doing 18 miles total... Thanks again. TMR is an amazing camp! I may be looking to come back in the Spring for our second shakedown hike.



Troop 151 NJ on the TMR Trail



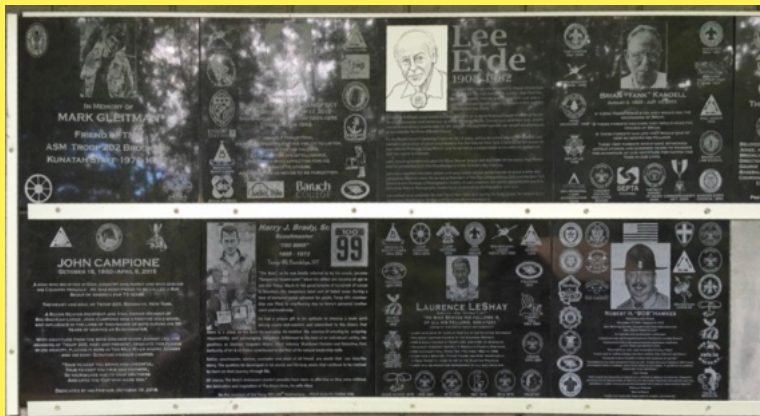
Troop 151 NJ on the TMR Trail



The Museum's Website Store

Did you know that the Museum sells a variety of T.M.R. and Museum merchandise from our Website Store: <https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store/>

This includes most every patch set issued by the Museum in recent years, the 2021 Guide to Memorabilia of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, Indian Cliff puzzles, Scout Service Corps CSP's from 1996-2003, and the two new booklets on Brooklyn and Queens Council emblem histories.



TMR Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame might be right for you.

[Wall of Fame - Learn More](#)

Donate Scouting Memorabilia

Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows.

These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

[Learn More](#)

