



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 6

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

In this issue of Smoke Signals you will learn some TMR history as well as current events. Our history series continues with a story about The Camp Aquehonga on Lake Hopatcong , NJ in the 1920s. Also look for two different scouting stories, one about Camp Pouch and one about Camp Ranachqua.

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

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

I have spent a busy few weeks representing the museum since our last publication. Saturday, June 3, I attended the Kintecoying Lodge #4 summer meeting. I got to see the Vigil sash presentations for our new Vigils. Dawn Bartkowski and her daughter Shannyn, lodge chief, and her mom became the first mother-daughter combo to earn their Vigil together. We also had Ed and Alex Halligan, a father and son. Ed and I were in the same third grade class back in PS 36R. All are from the lodge's Aquehonga Chapter. I attended the chapter's meeting at William H. Pouch Scout Camp the next day. Scroll down and read about my love of Pouch. Congrats to Alex on his reelection as chapter chief. Of course, for happy reasons he will not fulfill his term. A week later Aquehonga Chapter had a fantastic day at the Section E-18 Conclave held in Suffolk County's Camp Wauwepex. Vincent Mirabella, former section secretary, Kintecoying lodge chief, and Aquehonga chapter chief, was elected section chief, Shannyn was elected section vice-chief, and Alex was elected section secretary. As a former Aquehongian Lodge #112 chief, I felt great pride. I miss our legacy lodge greatly. However, I am happy to see today's youth working hard and achieving great things. To our youth if you want to work with the museum, contact me.



I want to thank Mikey Herbert and Ira Nagel for opening our museum a few times as volunteers and giving the lodge and some troops a chance to tour the facility and purchase memorabilia in our trading post. Mikey, Ralph Daddi, Nick Norwood and Frank Rickenbaugh regularly come up to camp and do work at the museum and throughout the reservation. Thanks, guys. I am happy that our mission to recruit youth to help with the museum is paying off. Read great blurbs by incoming Lodge Chief Jake Harmon and Mirabella.

I hope to see everyone August 4-6 for Alumni Weekend. We are presenting several wall of fame tiles to some TMR legends



TMR Scout Museum 2023 Wall of Fame Honorees

**You are invited to attend the presentation of tiles on Alumni Day 2023
August 5th, 2023**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Dr. Gene Berman
Kenneth L. Briggs
Michael Drillinger
Michael G. Mann
Morty Fink
Robert Stracquadaine
Sal Poidomani**

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP
RENEW NOW - [CLICK HERE](#)**

Kintecoying Lodge

by Jake Harmon

On June 3rd, OA Brothers from across New York City gathered in Alpine Scout Camp to celebrate another successful year of service, brotherhood, and fellowship. The event had many opportunities for brothers to interact and build brotherhood. The most popular of which was the dunk tank and gaga ball. Kintecoying Lodge which is amidst its tenth year since the 5-lodge merger in 2013, elected 3 Brothers to lead the lodge for the 2023-2024 scouting year, All three officers hail from the Shu-Shu-Gah Chapter and are on camp staff. Lodge Chief- Jake Harmon, Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions- Thomas Dono, Lodge Vice Chief of Administration- Justin McMenemy. Treasurer and Secretary to be appointed. The lodge also recognized 6 brothers on receiving the Vigil Honor which included: Shannyn Bartkowski, Dawn Bartkowski, Ed Halligan, Alex Halligan, Kenneth Ash, and Greg Peterson. This general meeting which was the biggest in Lodge History was chaired by Jake Harmon and Advised by Joey Derrico.



Alex Halligan, Vincent Mirabella
Shannyn Bartkowski

Kintecoying Sweeps Section Leadership

On June 11th Kintecoying Lodge won, Section chief, section vice-chief, and section secretary of Section E18 at the 2023 Section conclave. Vincent was elected the first section chief in Kintecoying lodge history, Shannyn was elected the first female section officer, and this was the first time in the history of the section that there have been all three officers from the same lodge and the same Chapter.

My Meeting With Julie Seton

By David Malatzky

I met recently with Julie Seton, granddaughter of B.S.A. co-founder Ernest Thompson Seton and head of the Ernest Thompson Seton Institute. Ms. Seton loaned the Museum original artifacts actually used by Mr. Seton and the Seton family. These will be on display in the new Ernest Thompson Seton exhibit at the Museum this summer. This makes the museum one of the few in the United States with an exhibit on Mr. Seton, who was a world-famous naturalist and illustrator.

As head of the Ernest Thompson Seton Institute, Ms. Seton literally travels the world, visiting camps and groups that follow the teachings of her famous grandfather. She also lectures widely, perpetuating her grandfather's memory and his ideals. Julie is a long-time volunteer Scouter and O.A. Brotherhood Member in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She is a fascinating person to speak to because of her burden of having a famous relative and the responsibilities of perpetuating what he started.

For example, Ms. Seton grew up in Seton Village, NM, which was founded by her grandfather. She told me a story about when she was in the first grade and someone entered her classroom, pointed at her and announced to the class "she is the granddaughter of Ernest Thompson Seton." This was a complete surprise to her and probably very unsettling to a little girl. While having a famous name definitely has certain advantages it also has certain burdens.

We spent about an hour walking through the Trailside Museum and Zoo in Bear Mountain State Park, which she specifically asked me to show her. This included the Dan Beard room in the History Building. Dan Beard was the other co-founder of the B.S.A. and sometimes rival with her grandfather. I showed her the Kanohwahke Scout Camps photo display the Museum set up in the Bear Mountain Inn last year.

To commemorate our meeting, I gave Ms. Seton one of the Ernest Thompson Seton C.S.P.'s the Museum issued in 2010 and our 2023 Historian patch. Ms. Seton is an actual historian with a Phd from New Mexico State University to prove it.

When not working for the Seton Institute, Julie is a National Security consultant and expert in emergency preparedness. She is the head of Indelible Enterprises, which is involved in emergency management, disaster planning, exercise development and evaluation. She has organized disaster drills for the U.S. military and various state or local government entities. Ms. Seton has also evaluated the security of major government events before they took place. She happened to be attending a security conference at West Point which is not far from Bear Mountain State Park, giving us the opportunity to meet.

Be sure to see the new exhibit on Ernest Thompson Seton this summer at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum



Julie Seton and David Malatzky



TMR Scout Museum at Riverfest

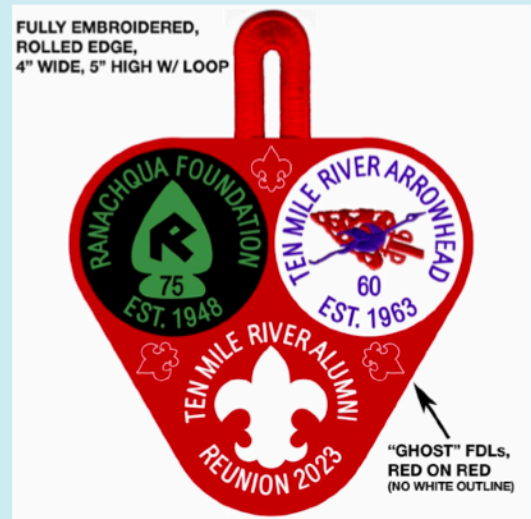
On Sunday, July 23 from 10 am to 4 pm, DVAA hosts the 33rd annual Riverfest, a celebration of art, music, and ecology along the Delaware River in Narrowsburg, NY. In addition to unique artisan vendors, the highly anticipated day-long event features amazing live music, a benefit poster auction, a hands-on Kids Crafting Corner, the beloved River Dogs (on) Parade, and regional street theater. Details [here](#).

TMR Alumni Day 2023

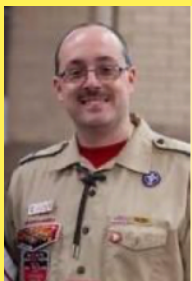
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:

[Click here to register](#)

The TMR Arrowhead began as the Brooklyn Arrowhead. The first Arrowhead reunion was September 12, 1964. The Arrowhead has continuously met at TMR every year since then.



I can't believe in less than a month Camp Aquehonga will open its doors and welcome its first set of campers for the 2023 camping season. This year Camp Aquehonga will be celebrating its 55th Anniversary on this side of Half Moon Lake.



By Anthony Zalak
Assistant Camp
Director/Reservation
Program Director

I am happy to announce that Camp Aquehonga is projected to see an increase in attendance over last summer. This summer, under the direction of Volunteer Marty Mahr, we will have an expanded Scoutcraft Area. The area will double in size and feature many kiosks and a bridge-to-scouting focus on scout advancement. This summer, the Cowboy Action Range will be moved from Camp Kunatah to Camp Aquehonga, enabling Camp Aquehonga to have 3 stand-alone ranges. I encourage everyone to please come and check-out all that's new in camp.



Scott Delloso

As Camp Keowa moves swiftly toward the summer of 2023, the Best Summer Ever, we are very excited about the future strength of Ten Mile River. We have brought on an incredibly talented leadership team and staff to support the current registrations of about 1,674 participants this summer - this is up a couple hundred from previous summers:

2021- 1,377
2022- 1,388
Est. 2023- 1,674

We attribute the additional scouts to the "Special Offer" we ran in the Fall to recruit new units to camp, as well as a strong promotional effort including a complete update and overhaul of tenmileriver.org/ke. Additionally, we welcomed a few Ranachqua units to our family.

There is a lot that is new and exciting for 2023:

- 15 New Merit Badges!
- New "Medical" Program Area!
- Two-Day Badges!

Check out <https://tenmileriver.org/new2023/> for more information.

The **TMR Trek** program is back up and running strong. We are sending 11+ units out on trek this summer; more than even in the years prior to the pandemic. Units are coming from New Jersey, all over New York, Pennsylvania, and even as far as Wisconsin to experience the epic Red Dot Trail of TMR.

This past week, Ten Mile River hosted a National Camping School at Camp Keowa. Hundreds of camp leaders from BSA summer camps across the country came through as we modeled the best of the best that Scouting has to offer.

Whether troops are coming "home" for the first time or the fiftieth, we go all out to make everyone's week the best possible. We are always grateful for support in that effort. The Keowa Alumni Association has some great ideas to enrich and refine our camp this summer. Please [check out some of the projects](#) they are funding.

Looking forward to the Best Summer Ever,
Scott Delloso
Camp Director



**Reprinted from: The Beagle Barks
SUANHACKY CAMPERSHIP ASSOCIATION SPRING
2023**



2023 SUMMER CAMP CAMPERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to announce that we have allocated our 2023 Camperships for Queens Scouts looking forward to go to TMR this summer. We awarded camperships totaling the amount of \$8,000.00 have been issued. Scouts from all 3 districts of Queens received campership assistance from us.

With the fee of TMR summer camp increasing for the upcoming summer, our Board of Directors increased our Campership funding by 33%, bringing it to the \$8,000 threshold for the 2023 camp season.

Camp Memories: My Start in Scouting

By Mitchell Slepian



Everyone knows my scouting holy place is Chappगत Hill (Chappy), currently located on the property of Ten Mile River Scout Camps. I got there as a pre-teen. Before I arrived, I went to Staten Island's William H. Pouch Scout Camp for day camp. I spent a few summers there in the late 70s and early 80s as a Cub Scout. I took my first dock test in Orbach Lake and listened to Billy Joel, the Ramones, and many others while eating lunch at Stewart Field or hangin' by Maple Cabin. Our counselors had their boomboxes with cassettes. Remember those? We played kickball. I shot my arrow at Pouch's archery range. I caught my first fish in the lake. I got my first bee sting near the current Cub Picnic area. My second was at Chappy.

Many of us scouts caught frogs in the woods. We brought them home. I remember holding Jumper in a cup on the bus ride home. I walked in and presented him to my mom. Immediately, she said to set him free across the street into the woods. I believe he is still there and king of all the frogs. I used to see scouts walking around with sashes with red arrows. I asked my father why they were dressed that way. He told me about the Order of the Arrow. I was 8 or 9 and determined to get in. I had yet to learn where it was and what it did. I wanted a sash. My dad told me about the rituals and service projects. He was Vigil and former chief of Brooklyn's Shu Shu Gah Lodge #24. All his OA books were in a closet in our loft. I was dying to read them. But afraid. I was not a member. I had to wait to learn what the WWW means and why the sashes differ.

Years later, I got into Aquehongan Lodge #112. My ceremony was at Pouch. My brotherhood and Vigil ceremonies were there, too. I was elected to my first term as lodge chief near where I caught my first fish. My dad watched with a smile. When he brought me home, my mom asked him if I was OK. She was worried I might not win. He smiled and said he won in a landslide.

I spent my teen years in Pouch. The original Berlin Lodge burned down. I was a kid working on the rebuild. I am the one who put the insulation in the ceiling on the main floor under the watchful eye of George Rice. He was one of our beloved elder statesmen. With him taking the lead, I built the concrete grill outside the new building. George, I miss you. I know you and Frank Gordan, vital in both the OA lodge and the Berlin Lodge's construction, are fishing and playing cards in the great campsite.

I could write pages and pages about the joy of Pouch. I suggest expanding this in the following newsletter. I now ask all of you to travel to Staten Island. You will be satisfied if you have to pay a few tolls and cross a bridge or two or board my favorite cruise ship, the Staten Island Ferry. Where in NYC can you be in the woods, have lunch by a beautiful lake, and forget about the rest of the world?



All photos above by Mitchell Slepian

Top photo: Staten Island Ferry

Middle Photo: Lake Orbach

Bottom Photo: Grill built by George Rice

Recollections of Dan Burns

Although I was not involved with Scouting in Brooklyn, my dad (James C. Burns, Jr.) was. My dad was an Eagle Scout (November 1945) and O.A. Vigil Honor (1949). He was on the Kunatah Staff (waterfront) summers of 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947. My dad was friends with Nick Dale (whom I met in 1966), Bob Landers, etc.

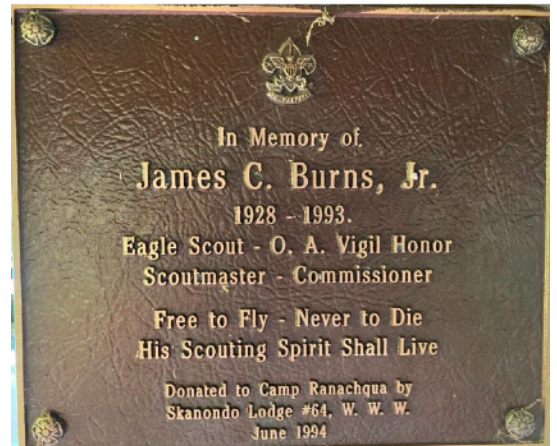
My involvement with Ten Mile River began when the Hudson-Delaware Council (Hudson Valley Council and now the Greater Hudson Valley Council after several mergers) leased Camp Ranachqua after it sat vacant for approximately 13 years. I was a Scoutmaster in Warwick, NY (Troop 38) and took my troop to summer camp at Ranachqua numerous times. I know a lot of history of TMR, as my dad had us up to TMR on a regular basis after we moved to Orange County in 1959 from Brooklyn.

There are two stained-glass windows in the chapel in Camp Ranachqua. These stained-glass windows are replicas of Norman Rockwell's paintings "The Scoutmaster" and "A Scout Is Reverent". The chapel was designed and built under the supervision of a friend of mine, Carmine Montalbano (deceased). His son, Robert, and I worked in Beech Mt. Boy Scout Camp (then owned and operated by the Hudson-Delaware Council) in 1970 -1972. Robert, an Eagle Scout, passed away in his 30s from cancer and the stained-glass window "A Scout Is Reverent" was in honor of him. "The Scoutmaster" was in honor of my dad, James C. Burns, Jr.

In addition to the stained glass, there are several bronze plaques in the chapel, one of which was dedicated to my brother, James C. Burns, III after he passed away in 2001. The archery pavilion in Ranachqua was dedicated to my dad, James C. Burns, Jr. by O.A. Skanondo Lodge #64 after his passing in 1993. There is a bronze plaque mounted in the archery pavilion in memory of my Dad.

The recent information that I discussed with another TMR friend concerned me, as I don't want to see those things get destroyed, discarded, etc. The 2 stained-glass windows were already damaged once by hunters shooting at them and were repaired/restored by Mark and Marianne Behle (the same people from my old Boy Scout Troop that repaired/restored the stained-glass window that is currently in the TMR Museum).

My heart will always be with TMR (as well as Philmont Scout Ranch)
Daniel Burns





Liffy Island on Lake Hopatcong

Camp Aquehonga, Lake Hopatcong, NJ

By David Malatzky

From 1917-1922, all five N.Y.C. boroughs organized summer camps at the Kanohwahke Scout Camps in Harriman State Park. In 1923, Richmond Council (today's Staten Island Council) moved Camp Aquehonga to Liffy Island on Lake Hopatcong, NJ. They stayed there until 1929 when Camp Aquehonga moved to Half Moon Lake at the new Ten Mile River Scout Camps.

The Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum has a wonderful article on their website on the Liffy Island Camp Aquehonga, repeated below.

In 1922, Liffy Island was sold to be used as a Boy Scout camp. Beginning in 1917, all five New York City Borough Boy Scout Councils rented summer camp facilities at the Kanohwahke Scout Camps in Harriman State Park. Each had the option of withdrawing from this arrangement and the Richmond Council from Staten Island did so after the 1922 season. Richmond Boy Scout Council Executive Major Walter S. Stewart and Charles McAteer purchased 77 acres of what they called "Scout Island" on Lake Hopatcong in the fall of 1922. A mess hall and camp offices were built, and in June 1923 all of the camp equipment was moved from Lake Kanohwahke to the new Richmond Council Scout Camp. Major Stewart served as Camp Director for all the years the camp would operate at Lake Hopatcong. When "Camp Aquehonga" opened on Liffy Island in July 1923, it hosted some 45 to 50 scouts for two-week sessions. Campers were taken by bus from Staten Island to Woodport where they were ferried to the island from Smith Brothers boat landing (where the Stone Water Restaurant is located today).

The Boy Scouts of Camp Aquehonga lived in waterproof tents on raised platforms, eight boys to a tent. The two-week program included swimming, boating, overnight hikes and the opportunity to earn merit badges. The exact layout of the Boy Scout camp site has been lost over time but surviving records indicate that the large mess hall was located on a knoll overlooking the lake. The camp also had a library, trading post and camp bank. On rainy days, the Scouts mostly stayed in the mess hall and participated in shows, games and the like. Boy Scout records further reveal that the Scouts were prohibited from spending more than fifteen cents a day for candy and sweets! Sunday was visiting day for parents, who would accompany Major Stewart on his tent inspections. The cleanest tent was able to fly the blue and red "Aquehonga Honor Flag" the following day.

Records show that in 1926 Boy Scouts coming to Camp Aquehonga paid \$6.00 a week for the first two weeks at camp, \$7.00 a week for the third and fourth weeks, and \$8.00 a week for subsequent weeks, payable in advance. Special camp buses departed the St. George terminal at 9:00 am the opening day of each two-week session, stopping at Port Richmond Square before heading to camp. Roundtrip bus transportation cost \$3.00.

The July 12, 1926 issue of the *Staten Island Advance* printed the banner headline, "Five Persons Rescued from Lake by Island Boy Scouts" over an article describing two heroic rescues by Camp Aquehonga scouts. A July 14, 1926 editorial in the *Advance* entitled "Value of Scouting" highly praised the boys for these acts of heroism. Later that summer, the scouts and the public around Lake Hopatcong were treated to an unusual spectacle – one of Camp Aquehonga's "water hikes." Utilizing their 14-person

war canoe, seven canoes and six rowboats, the entire camp of some forty-five persons journeyed five miles in a single line to Byram Cove for lunch. On the return trip, the scouts stopped at Prospect Point for a swim. The *Lake Hopatcong Breeze* reported that Aquehonga scouts won several races at a public water meet held at Point Pleasant that summer.

In 1927, camp attendance surged to about 75 scouts as more than half the boys who attended the first period in July remained for the second session. A scoutcraft meet featured such events as fire building, knot tying, water boiling, signaling, obstacle races and hobble races. Later that month, the *Advance* reported on a camp-wide treasure hunt with clues hidden all over the island. Camp Aquehonga remained open an extra week in September to satisfy the demand by scouts who had been working all summer and wanted to attend. The camp's popularity carried over to 1928. First session registration totaled a record-breaking 75 scouts. About 30 stayed over for the second period, filling the camp to its capacity of 96 scouts. There was now a row boat for every tent, and Sunday afternoon water meets between tent groups featured swimming races and rowing contests across Lake Hopatcong.

While camp attendance broke new records on Lake Hopatcong, excitement gradually grew on Staten Island about the prospect of an even larger Camp Aquehonga on Half Moon Lake in Sullivan County, New York, as part of the new Ten-Mile River Scout Camps. Multiple inspection teams returned to Staten Island that summer, filled with praise for the huge Boy Scout camp in the Catskill Mountains, which had been purchased the previous year by the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York. As a result, Camp Aquehonga on Lify Island closed after the 1928 season.

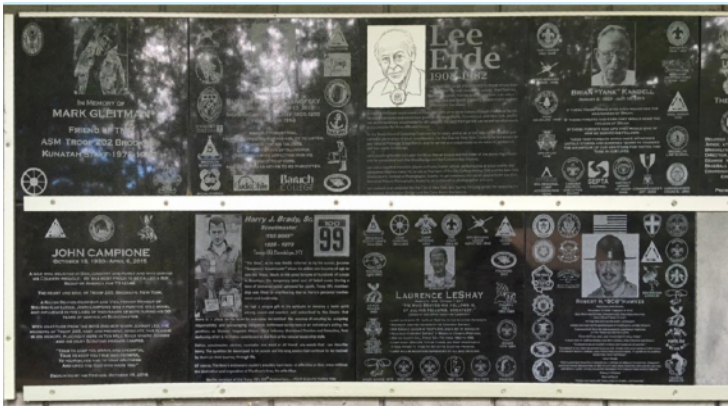
<p>Download: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p>Printed: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$12.00</p>	<p>Download: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p>Printed: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$12.00</p>
<p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with FREE TMR 95th Dangle \$14.00</p>	<p>Greater New York Councils/Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary CSP Set \$29.00</p>	<p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch DELIVERED VIA MAIL \$13.00</p>	<p>Ten Mile River Scout Camps Trail Map \$10.00</p>

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.

SPECIAL DEAL: For a limited time only, you can purchase the Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with a FREE TMR 95th Dangle. Only \$14 for the two patches.



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](#)



Ten Mile River Scout Museum | <https://www.tmr-museum.org>