



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 7

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

In this issue of Smoke Signals you will find that the TMR Summer of 2023 is full on with programs at the TMR Scout Museum and the two operating scout camps, Aquehonga and Keowa. Of course there is the Museum in local news and a history article.

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

As you read this newsletter, we should be in the middle of Week 3 of camp. The museum is in full swing. We have had many visitors; our Co-Director Glenn Pontier ran a few Tuesday night history talks. Our Co-Director, Ira Nagel, has captured incredible images of people enjoying our museum's activities. We exhibited at Narrowsburg's Riverfest and the Zane Grey Festival. All of this is great. However, what I find to be the most heartwarming is reading posts from scouts who have visited us on Instagram. So many have included images of their troops at our facilities and stated how much they enjoyed their visit.

Yours in Scouting,
Mitchell Slepian
TMR Museum Chair



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

Kintecoying News

June Matinecock Chapter Meeting

On June 19th (2023), the Matinecock Chapter of Kintecoying Lodge 4 held their final meeting before the summer break. There were over 20 members in attendance and together they recognized two OA brothers (one scout and one scouter) to receive an award of exemplary service (for this past year) to Matinecock Chapter. The youth recipient is the Matinecock Chapter Chief Lukas Tarrao and the adult recipient is Mr. Tom Clune. Later in the meeting the Matinecock Chapter held their elections for Chapter Officers of this upcoming year. The results of the elections are as follows; Tyler K. for Chapter Chief, Ethan H. for Vice Chief of Inductions, Jana L. for Vice Chief of Administration, and Richard V. for Chapter Secretary. The members of the Matinecock Chapter wish their new Officers good luck for the upcoming year.



“Welcome home!” the 2023 TMR Reunion

This August 4-6 we look forward to welcoming you back to Ten Mile River Scout Camps, a place of joyous memories and boundless future opportunities. As part of this grand weekend, we celebrate the anniversaries of two of the TMR Alumni Groups... the Ranachqua Foundation (1948) and the TMR Arrowhead (1963). These dedicated Scouters seek to provide opportunities for NYC youth to camp our majestic forests, while also providing support to its many programs.

We are happy to share some of the many highlights in store for you at the 2023 TMR Reunion.

Friday's highlights:

- 9:00 Alumni Hike from Stone Arch Bridge, Jason Scheib - Trek Leader, and Carsten Glaeser -Trail Blazer
- Night at the Museum

Saturday's highlights:

- 8:00 Check-in at the old Trading Post with Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 start Vintage Car Show at HQ organized by Ralph Daddi
- 11:30 Opening at HQ
- TMR Wall of Fame at the Museum
- 1:00 Grill picnic lunch at Aquehonga
- Open program areas at AQ possibly including shooting sports, open swim, handicrafts and more
- A midway at Aquehonga's Johnston Center
- Camp Aquehonga and Kintecoying memorabilia displays by Bill Mulrenin
- 2:00 “Welcome to the new Aquehonga Scout Craft Area,” hosted by Marty Maher, Brooklyn Parks Commissioner
- 5:45 Flag lowering on the Keowa Field
- 6:00 Reunion Banquet at the Keowa Dining Hall with a steamship round roast and much more
- 8:00 Campfire hosted by Kintecoying Lodge #4 at the Thunderbird Arena



2020 Alumni Day Hike

Please register as soon as you can so we're prepared to welcome you! On-site registrations are subject to a \$10 upcharge. We look forward to seeing each of you.

[Click here to register](#) - The Alumni Team

Camp Memories: Marty Poller, Allowelemuwi, the Valuable One

By Mitchell Slepian



I first met Marty in the spring of 1984, when I was a 14-year-old ordeal candidate. I was in Pouch Scout Camp. I had my backpack on and went to the pre-ordeal ceremony. Those of you familiar with the Order of the Arrow ceremonies (or ceremehonys as Marty liked to say) know Scouts usually play the four Lenni Lenape roles. In my ceremony, there were three teens and an older guy with a gravelly voice playing, Meteu, the medicine man. The next evening was my Ordeal ceremony. It had a similar cast of characters.

In September of 1984, I went to my first Lodge meeting in the original Berlin Lodge, Pouch Scout Camp. Steele Arbeeny, ritual team chairman, asked for those interested in joining the team to step outside. I did and was formally introduced to the older guy

from the ceremony. Of course that guy was Marty. He was wearing his vigil sash and famous Smokey the Bear hat. Little did I know he would become my “Scout dad.” He always said I was like a son.

A few weeks later, I went to my first ritual team meeting. At the meeting, I chose to be Meteu. Little did I know that was a part I would play from 14-years-old to 27-years-old. I wonder if the 14-year-old kids being inducted saw me as the old guy?

As I grew up in the Lodge, Marty became my trusted advisor. He played Meteu back when he was a kid. So he knew the part inside out. In fact, he knew all the parts inside out. He was a great teacher. He worked with each kid and made sure we got it right. We memorized our parts. Under Marty’s guidance, we would not read our parts. We practiced at someone’s house or at Pouch once a month until the Ordeal. He taught us the Brotherhood parts, too.

Eventually, I became the ritual team chairman. Marty was Lodge Advisor. Gary Motelson was the honors advisor and worked with the ritual team. But Marty still played a hands- on role with us. The ceremonies were near and dear to his heart.

Later on, I became lodge chief and Marty was in my corner, as honors advisor. He guided me through my two-year reign. He helped select my Vigil name, Alhaquot Aptonen, Stormy Speaker. As I grew into advisory roles in the Lodge, Marty was always there to guide me. I could go on for many more pages. But I’ve decided to write most of my memories from my humble beginnings in Aquehongian Lodge #112. Marty knew how to take us young Scouts and lead us along the trail. Marty’s Scout skills were second to none.



Martin Poller Wall of Fame Tile

In 2022 Marty was honored with a commemorative Wall of Fame Tile

Strong start to TMR Museum summer season (with one asterisk)

By Glenn Pontier, Museum Co-Director

This has been a great start to the summer season for the museum with one big exception. First the good stuff.

The museum has five new displays this summer:

- Monarch Butterfly exhibit about amazing insects that live on milkweed plants in Ten Mile River and travel to Mexico every year in the fall, returning each spring. Made possible through a grant from Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.
- An exhibit on B.S.A. co-founder Ernest Thompson Seton put together by David Malatzky. The museum Trading Post is also selling copies of a book about Seton written by his granddaughter and signed by her.
- Mugs from all TMR and GNYC Camps collected and displayed by Johannes Knoops.
- Original Camp Kunatah meal graces hung by Micheal Drillingier.
- Display of patches celebrating the anniversary of Kintecoying Lodge 4, OA assembled by Bill Mulrenin.



Scouts from Troops 102 and 142 attending Camp Aquehonga are pictured listening to a Tuesday Evening program about "Local Ghost Stories" presented by Museum Co-Director Glenn Pontier on July 18.

Photo by Museum Co-Director



The museum scheduled five Tuesday evening history talks in the open-air cabin open to the public:

- July 11 – “The Original People” The Lenape used these mountains to hunt, fish, trade with the Mohawks and teach their children.
 - July 18 – “Local Ghost Stories” From murder on the Stone Arch Bridge to tales by Stephen Crane, legends abound.
 - July 25 – “Tales of the Raftsmen” Stories the lumbermen and rafters told themselves, including “How the Ten Mile River Got Its Name.”
- Aug 1 – “Monarchs at TMR” Amazing insects that live on milkweed plants in Ten Mile River and travel to Mexico in the fall, returning each spring.
 - Aug 8 – “The Original People” The Lenape used these mountains to hunt, fish, trade with the Mohawks and teach their children.



Scouts playing volley ball at the museum

Other special events include:

- Alumni Weekend from August 4 to 6 for everyone who worked, camped and loved TMR over the years.
- Car Show on Saturday August 5 – old, new, vintage, classic, the best on four wheels!
- TMR Scout Museum tables at Zane Grey Festival and Narrowsburg Riverfest.

This summer season appears to be the best in several years. The new GNYC executive told a group of Scout leaders at Camp Keowa that over two thousand Scouts and six hundred adult leaders are scheduled to attend this summer as of July 18. This upswing in attendance has led to many Troops visiting the museum during the first two weeks, with scarcely a day going by without visitors. Trading Post sales are also off to a good start with over \$2500 raised since July 1.



Camp Aquehonga

Camp Aquehonga is off to a very successful start to the 2023 camping season. We had two successful weeks of great program and 100% of our units have put in a Hold-A-Place for next year. We even picked up a new unit on top of that. This past week we had our National Camp visitation and I am proud to report that we are once again a National Accredited Long-Term Camp.

[Camp Aquehonga Web Page](#)



Scouts from Troop 96 in Queens are having a great time eating breakfast that they cooked.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Alumni Day as Camp Aquehonga celebrates 55 Years on the east side of Half Moon Lake.

Anthony H. Zalak
Assistant Camp Director Reservation Program Director


CAMP AQUEHONGA

The Lenape Indians called Staten Island "Aquehonga Manacknong." Camp Aquehonga was the name of the first Staten Island Boy Scout Camp on Lake Hopatcong, NJ in 1913, the Scout camp on the Kanohwahke Lakes in the 1920s, and the Scout camp on the west side of Half Moon Lake, TMR in 1925.

The 4th Camp Aquehonga opened in 1968 on the east side of Half Moon Lake, with George Renwick as Camp Director. The Greater New York Councils acquired the property in multiple purchases from the estate of Hans Howald, owner of the Half Moon Lake Hotel, starting in 1959. The camp operated one and two-week periods in 1968 and cost a Scout \$20 per week, and \$39 for two weeks to attend with the Pioneer Plan.

The prevailing trend at TMR by 1968 was "self-reliant" camping. Instead of the dining hall, lean-tos, open-air cabins and lake swimming of Old Camp Aquehonga, the new camp featured modified Baker tents, tent platforms, dining and kitchen tarps, picnic tables, patrol boxes, shepherd stoves for cooking and a pool. A Director of Self-Reliant Camping was appointed to coordinate this new way to house and feed Scouts at TMR.

In 2014, NY Jets owner Woody Johnson made a substantial donation to underwrite the construction of the Billy & Keith Johnson Scout Program Center at Camp Aquehonga.

 *A Ten Mile River Scout Camps
90th Anniversary Legacy Project*



Camp Keowa

Hello from the shores of Crystal Lake.

We are right in the middle of Week 2, and things are going great! Over 450 people came through our gates Week 1, and we can't express how excited we are to continue to strengthen the Spirit of the Thunderbird throughout the summer. Here are a few highlights!

At the end of Staff Week, we gathered at Eagle Rock for the "Challenge Walk" - where all area directors give the staff a personal challenge over the summer. Sunsets over Crystal Lake continue to be beautiful!

[Camp Keowa Web Page](#)



On Tuesday of Week 2, Scott Dellosso (Camp Director) and Nayib Altareb (Program Director) accepted our National Accreditation flag. Congrats to the entire Keowa Staff who made it possible!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in our Dining Hall for Alumni Weekend. Hope to see you there!



Week 1 Specialty Camp: SCUBA! Keowa and Aquehonga come together to offer this incredible program!

TWWAB, Scott Dellosso

Ten Mile River Scout Museum Highlighted in Sullivan County Museum Weekend - July 29th - 30th, 2023

Sullivan County Historical Society*
265 Main Street, Hurleyville www.scnhistory.org
Hours: Sat. 10am - 4:30pm & Sun. 1pm - 4:30pm



Built in 1912 and housed in the historic Hurleyville Elementary School, The Sullivan County Museum is home to the Historical Society, the Frederick A. Cook Society and the Judge Lawrence Cooke Room. The museum includes several displays, a library, archive and historical rooms.

Time and the Valleys Museum*
332 Main Street, Grahamsville - Hours: noon to 4pm
www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org



Connecting water, people and the Catskills. The Time and the Valleys Museum strives to be the Catskills' leading resource for exploring the history and future of access to clean water. Interactive exhibits for children and adults. Programming and a recreated Catskill depression-era family farm.

Ten Mile River Scout Museum*
1481 Crystal Lake Road, Narrowsburg
www.tmrmuseum.org Hours: 9am - 5pm



The TMR Scout museum is dedicated to preserving the history and artifacts of the TMR Scout Camps and the local area. Exhibits include memorabilia from all the camps created by the five boroughs of NYC since 1927, the historic Tusten Settlement, as well as exhibits on local geology, flora and fauna.

A collaborative event to encourage Sullivan County residents to engage with their history and visit cultural touchstones in the area.

***Free Admission July 29-30**

DID YOU KNOW?

Sullivan County history includes:

- Polar Exploration Controversy
- The birthplace of fly fishing in America
- Historic Canals
- A museum dedicated to the Scouts
- A place where you can learn about the watersheds of the Catskills through hands-on exhibits
- Interpretations of early settlements dating back to the 1750s



Cover Photo: By Eric Richards



Sullivan County
**Museums
Weekend**
July 29th - 30th, 2023



HARVEY A. GORDON - T.M.R. BUILDER

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org



Early Years

Harvey Adam Gordon, son of Oscar and Minnie Gordon, was born on January 19, 1884 on a farm near Raleigh, IN. He graduated from the Raleigh High School, the Richmond, IN Commercial School and studied at the Wharton School of Commerce, University of Pennsylvania.

Family Life

Gordon married Bonnie Rebecca Pritchard and had two sons: Richard O. Gordon (born circa 1909) and Robert A Gordon. They later divorced.

Volunteer Scouter

Gordon became Scoutmaster of Troop 42, Pittsburgh on March 27, 1913. He served as a member of the Pittsburgh Council Camp Committee. After moving to Philadelphia he served as Scoutmaster of Troop 15 and in various local volunteer positions: Deputy Commissioner, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Executive Committeeman of the Scoutmasters' Round Table, and member of the Philadelphia Local Council. Prior to entering Scouting professionally, he was an engineer for various railroad companies.

Manhattan Council Executive

In January 1917, Gordon entered professional service as Scout Executive of Manhattan Borough Council. The New York Herald noted at the time that Gordon was an experienced outdoor man and hiker and built himself a log cabin with the same tools the pioneers used. In March and June 1917, Mr. Gordon mobilized 1,400 Manhattan Scouts in Central Park, each time in less than three hours.

In December 1917, Gordon was appointed Chief Field Executive of Philadelphia Council. During the spring of 1918, he became Scout Executive of Philadelphia Council. In March 1919, he raised \$23,000 in a fundraising campaign in Shamokin and Coal Township, PA

Regional Service

In April 1919, Gordon was appointed Deputy Field Commissioner of Region 3. Over the following months he was promoted to Deputy Regional Executive and then Regional Executive of Region 3.



Gordon with General Pershing and scouts at Kanohwahke Scout Camps, 1923

Chief Camp Director- Kanohwahke Scout Camps

In December 1919, while serving as Region 3 Executive, Gordon was requested to take the position of Chief Camp Director and organize the multi-council camping operation on the Kanohwahke Lakes in Harriman State Park, then under National Council control. In 1922, when the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York took over operation of the camps, they hired Mr. Gordon, who continued on as Chief Camp Director until 1928. The Kanohwahke Scout Camps reached a maximum enrollment of 3,600 campers by the 1928 season.

On November 1, 1924, Gordon was elected Grand Scribe of the Grand Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, then meeting at the Kanohwanke Scout Camps. The night before he was inducted into the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow. He

was one of eleven individuals that received the B.S.A.'s Distinguished Service Award in 1940 (posthumously), the first year this recognition was given.

In 1928, Gordon was appointed Director of Construction of the new Ten Mile River Scout Camps, which replaced the Kanohwanke Scout Camps in 1930. As Director of Construction, Gordon was responsible for the design and construction of the five original T.M.R. Borough Camps.

According to the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, both Harvey Gordon and his son, Richard O. Gordon resided in Tusten, NY, and were listed as construction engineers.

National Service

In July 1929, Gordon served as Chief Quartermaster of the B.S.A. contingent to the Third World Jamboree in Birkenhead, England. As Chief Quartermaster, he was responsible for physical arrangements, including site design, equipment and food service. Gordon played a similar role as Director of Physical Arrangements at the 1933 and 1937 World Jamborees.

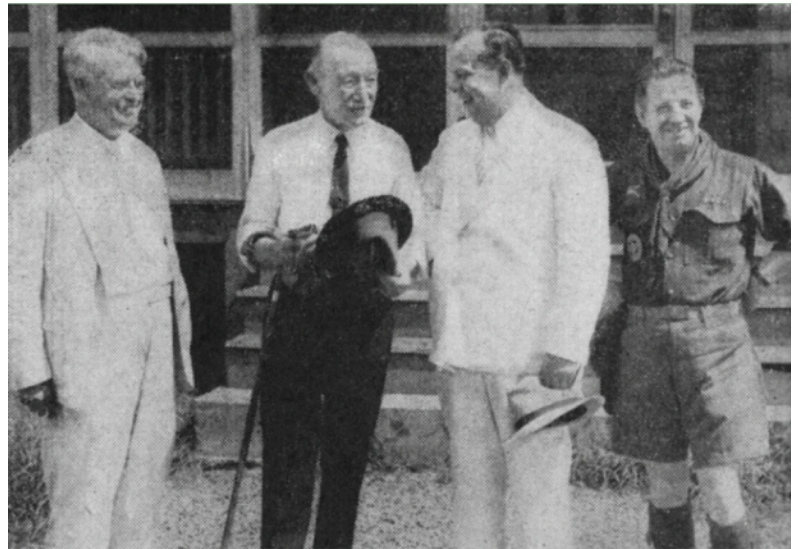
Following major completion of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, in July 1930, Gordon was hired by National Council, B.S.A. as the first National Camp Engineer. He personally inspected hundreds of camps and made recommendations for each. Gordon standardized designs for camp layouts and many camp structures. B.S.A. Councils were asked to send him contour maps of their properties and he suggested layouts for their new camps.

In 1935, Gordon was promoted to National Director of the new Engineering Service.

From late December 1934 to approximately October 1, 1935, Gordon served as Director of Physical Arrangements for the 1935 National Jamboree, in Washington, DC. He was in charge of the layout, construction, and physical arrangements for 26,000 persons, including plans for cooking, sanitation, handling of all equipment, creation of the trading posts and post office, transportation at camp, communications and camp security. The Jamboree was canceled on August 8, 1935, due to outbreaks of polio in the vicinity of Washington, DC. Mr. Gordon was then responsible for breaking down the Jamboree site.

From November 1936 - July 1937, Gordon led a 46-person staff as Director of Physical Arrangements for the 1937 National Jamboree, in Washington, DC. At the time, it was the high point in the history of Scouting in the U.S., with 27,232 Scouts and Scouters attending.

Harvey Gordon died in New York City on December 15, 1938 after a long illness. He is buried next to his parents in Raleigh, Indiana, about 1 1/2 miles from where he was born.



Gordon with James E. West & Baden-Powell, 1935 National Scout Jamboree inspection

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.tmmuseum.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.

 <p>\$6.00 download</p>	 <p>\$9 + \$3 shipping</p>	 <p>\$6.00 download</p>	 <p>\$9 + \$3 shipping</p>
<p>Download: The History of Queen's 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>\$10 + \$4 Postage ea.</p>	 <p>\$25 + \$4 postage</p>	 <p>\$10 + \$3 Postage ea.</p>	 <p>New - P&H Included</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>



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](#)

