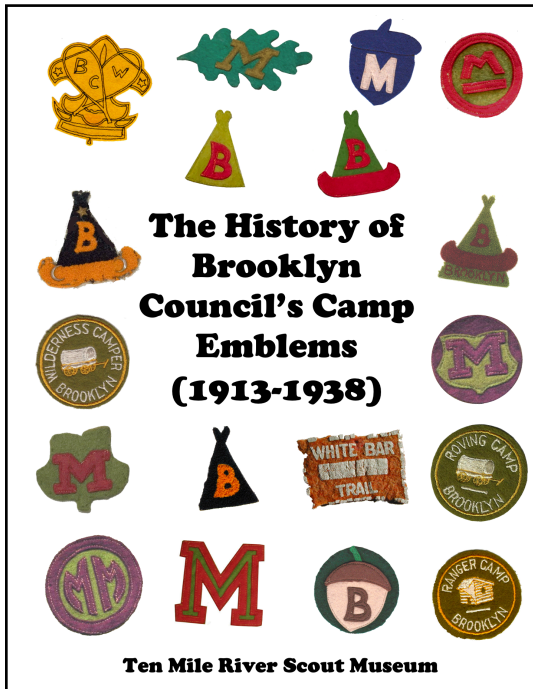


# NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT MUSEUM'S ONLINE STORE



## The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938)

While today a camp emblem or patch is something you can buy at a camp trading post for a few bucks, they were considerably more important during the early years of the Brooklyn Council Camps, first at the Kanohwahke Scout Camps in Harriman State Park, and then on Rock Lake at the Ten Mile River Scout Camps.

Emblems and the requirements to earn them were a vital and popular part of the early camp programs. They directed the Scouts to spend their time constructively while in camp. Most camps had nature museums and many Scouts earned their museum emblems. Emblems could also be earned for Archery Camp, hiking the White Bar Trail, Winter Camp, and the Ranger, Roving and Wilderness Camps at T.M.R. Some camp emblems could be earned at home without the Scout ever setting foot in summer camp.

This document is the first of its kind for N.Y.C. Scouting, with camp histories, emblem histories and requirements, and quantities earned.

Available in both paper format and downloads. 36 pages.

<https://www.tmmuseum.org/online-museum-store>

## Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with FREE TMR 95th Dangle



**FREE T.M.R. 95th ANNIVERSARY DANGLE INCLUDED.** The T.M.R. Alumni Association celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York with this unique 5 in. backpatch. In 1922, Franklin D. Roosevelt founded the Boy Scout Foundation and was its first President. In 1927, the Foundation raised \$1 million (\$17 million today) to purchase and develop the Ten Mile River Scout Camps property.

<https://www.tmmuseum.org/online-museum-store>

Here is your free copy of the February, 2023 issue of Ten Mile River Smoke Signals, newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum. To get future issues without the two-month delay, pay your Museum dues at

<https://www.tmrmuseum.org/online-dues-payment>



Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers

## The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - February 2023

In this issue of Smoke Signals you may learn some TMR history as well as current events. The 35th NE Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference is coming to Alpine. The 2023 Kintecoying Banquet was held on Staten Island. John Cleary shares some TMR memories. There is a report of this summer's Alumni Weekend as well as bird sightings from Florida. Enjoy!

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

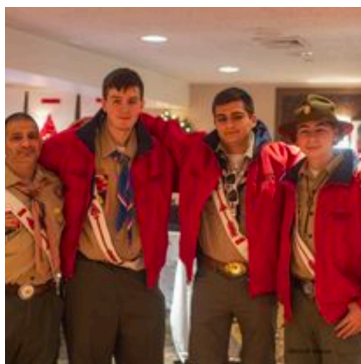


### 2023 Lodge Banquet

Sun., Jan. 8, Museum Chairman Mitchell Slepian, Founding Chairman Dr. Eugene Berman, Vice-Chair Anthony Zalak, Co-Director Ira Nagel, Trustees Tom Bain, Rich Miller and Frank Rickenbaugh attended the Kintecoying Lodge #4 banquet hosted by Staten Island's Aquehonga chapter at Li Greci's Staaten. Section Secretary/Former Lodge Chief Vincent Mirabella, Aquehonga Chapter Chief Alex Halligan and Shu-Shu-Gah Chapter Chief Jake Harmon, who are now active with the museum, played vital roles in running the event.

Slepian delivered comments honoring the memory of "Staten Island Good Guy" Marty Poller, who served the museum. Two brothers received the Lodge's first Marty Poller memorial award.

Pictured above is Mike O'Brien, lodge advisor and Vincent Mirabella, section secretary and former Kintecoying lodge chief. Below is Rob Mirabella, Alex Halligan, Vincent Mirabella, and Jake Harmon.





# 35th Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference

By David M. Malatzky



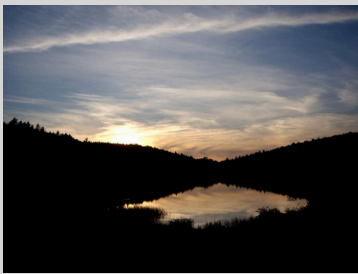
The Museum has been invited to participate in the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference at Reeves Lodge, Alpine Scout Camp, Sunday, March 19, 2023. We will put on a display of TMR memorabilia and sell TMR and related merchandise. I will present a session in the morning on The Jewish Committee on Scouting in New York City in the 1930s and 1940s.

There will also be sessions on: Matzah baking, the Jewish Chaplain at Iwo Jima, Jewish-focused treks at Philmont/Sea Base, stories for Jewish Scouts, Jewish Scouting Memorabilia, how to form new Units, building JCOS committees, and a Jewish Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Unit Leader Forum.

The Conference is open to participants of all faiths and all Scout Regions.

The Conference fee is \$45.00 per participant if paid by Friday, Feb. 17, 2023; \$55.00 per participant afterwards. The fee includes a kosher breakfast, kosher lunch, patch, conference program and handouts. Overnight lodging at Reeves Lodge is available for the night of Saturday, March 18, 2023 for \$50 per person.

For an application form, email Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Chairman Phil Sternberg at [phil.sternberg@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sternberg@gmail.com).



Sunset at Rock Lake



John Cleary

## The TMR Experience Continues

by John Cleary

I am very fortunate to have had three TMR experiences. The first was in the Brooklyn Divisions around Rock Lake (top image) as a rookie camper in 1944 and then on staff from 1946 for eight years. It was great. Several of us still get together regularly to celebrate our days.

During 1958-59 I was helping a startup troop from Brooklyn. Same story; first time rookie leadership and rookie scouts; second time all pros! Several years later, in about 1990, I was among a group of Queens families organizing a scout troop. As summer arrived we brought our rookie leaders and scouts to Camp Aquehonga. This was possible because Troop 106 offered to have our site be next to theirs and they be our mentors. The next year we were able to thrive on our own - but next to them.

Each of the three experiences at their core were a gift for both the scouts and their leaders. Although the settings of the several campsites were markedly different and the scouts and leaders were from different eras of time and geography, the scouting experience remained the same. Not a surprise but something to be cherished - a lifesaver.





Photos from the 95th Anniversary TMR Reunion



## THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY TMR REUNION ENDING WITH A HIGH NOTE

As TMR and its alumni rebuild after a hard-hitting pandemic, we can happily report a successful 95th Anniversary Reunion held over the weekend of August 4-6.

Not only was it the 95th Anniversary of TMR, but it was also the Centennial of The Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York (now Greater New York Councils), and the 25th Anniversary of the TMR Scout Camp Museum. To celebrate this momentous trifecta, a commemorative set of 3 CSPs was issued along with a 5" jacket patch with profits to support TMR projects such as the restoration of the Tower of Friendship.

Much like our past reunions, the TMR Museum and the Alumni Association offered an action-packed weekend. This year, we started early on Friday morning with a challenging Reunion Hike up the Wildcat! It wasn't easy for guys my age, but we all made it up the Wildcat, to then hike to Indian Cliffs where we were met by Frank Rickenbaugh and Mike Herbert with trail treats and water... thank you both! We then made our way down through Camp Kunatah, around Rock Lake to the old Tusten Church and cemetery. Together we hiked back to the historic Stone Arch Bridge where we started. Good times. No one will forget this memorable hike, thank you Jason Schieb for leading and plotting this challenging route!

Saturday offered us even more, with visits to the TMR Museum and a vintage car show hosted by the Museum and organized by Ralph Daddi... thank you! The car show is always a hit, and a favorite of most. At the same time, Camp Aquehonga hosted a BBQ lunch on their field, while also hosting open program areas including the rifle & shotgun range, archery, and open swimming in the pool. In addition to those activities, there were midway displays and patch trading scattered about. And let's not forget W2T, our reunion on the air organized by ham radio buff James Gallo and his crew. Thank you Aquehonga (directed by Anthony Alison and Anthony Zalak) for hosting and staffing all this on what was to be your day off!

On the way to dinner, many joined us at the Tower of Friendship on Crystal Lake to review the ongoing restoration, delve into its history, and light the Eternal Flame, a symbol of the friendships we make each summer.

To culminate a fantastic weekend, Camp Keowa directed by Scott Delooso, hosted our 95th Anniversary Reunion Banquet. We all got to meet the new Director of TMR, Zach Swierat, who will thankfully be returning this year! Laurie roasted up our traditional Steam Ship Round Roast, and Mark Klienbergl served as our dining hall steward with his humor, wit, and good nature. In addition to honoring all the Camp Directors in attendance, that evening we honored Distinguished Eagle Scout and Brooklyn's Commissioner of Parks, Marty Maher with the 2023 Alumni of the Year Award for his dedicated service. Particularly for all the work he has led in refurbishing Aquehonga's Nature Lodge and now its Scoutcraft Program Area.

A real unexpected treat was a last-minute jazz performance by a 25-member youth jazz ensemble. Belonging to the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts, this amazing Jazz Ensemble is directed by Paul Corn along with Brian Worsdal, a TMR Alumnus and its Artistic Director. What started as his Eagle Project, became a lifelong passion for Brian. The ensemble drove down from Hancock to join us in the celebration and left us with a most memorable closing. Thank you, French Woods, for ending our program on a high note!

TMR 95 exceeding expectations.

[TMR Alumni Association](#)

## 2023 FLORIDA REUNION

What a treat, on Friday January 27 a generous alumnus sponsored a TMR Reunion Lunch at the Boca Raton Country Club. Thank you, Brother Roy Liemer! Over two dozen alumni gathered to meet, greet, and re-tell the tales. Good fun was had by all that day.

The Annual TMR Arrowhead bird walk was the very next day starting at Green Cay located in Boynton Beach. Dedicated to the memory of Harvey Lefkowitz, the bird walk is always an adventure. You can never predict what you might come across. Did you know Bird Study was once a required merit badge for Eagle?

Next year our same generous sponsor has offered to have everyone back for January 26, 2024 for what might become an annual Alumni Luncheon at the Boca Raton Country Club. Please put this on your calendars!

[TMR Arrowhead](#)





# Letter from Zachary Swierat



To the Alumni of Ten Mile River Scout Camps,

2022 has come to a close and we're already pushing hard towards a strong 2023 camping season. In looking back, 2022 certainly had its challenges and breakthroughs.

Here's the numbers; 1,835 Scouts and 624 adult leaders attended camp this summer, including youth in TREK, Scuba Camp and the Trail to Eagle Program. 6,701 Merit Badges were completed, 16 Scuba Certifications were issued and 45 youth were trained in the ATV Safety Institute program. All of this made for a very busy Summer!

In addition to our programs, we also hosted the Police Explorers program which saw some of the up-and-coming young leaders from the NYPD at Keowa. Family Camp also saw record attendance again this year, with the cabins being occupied for the majority of the Summer.

Of course, the year did give its own challenges. The land sale did bring up a lot of questions concerning the reservation and what will be accessible. Fortunately with the arrangements made with the land conservation group the land around the camps will be preserved and will continue to be enjoyed by our Scouts and alumni. The status of Camp Ranachqua has also been a question. The decision to consolidate programming to just two Summer Resident camps for 2023 was not taken lightly and we still plan to use this site for council and outside programming.

I would just like to give a big thank you to our alumni for the support they've shown over the years. Summer camp is a unique environment where young people can learn many of the skills they'll use well into their adulthood. It's because of the hard work of our staff, the tireless adult volunteers, and the support from our donors that we're able to provide experiences that will have a positive impact on our Scouts. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that TMR continues to be a cornerstone for youth development.

Yours in Scouting,

Zachary Swierat  
Outdoor Program Director/Reservation Director TMR  
[Zachary.Swierat@Scouting.org](mailto:Zachary.Swierat@Scouting.org)  
C: (570) 815-6535



## Villa Switzerland

By David Malatzky

The small ad in the May, 1923 issue of The Brooklyn Daily Eagle was certainly attractive. Described as “The most beautiful spot in the world,” Villa Switzerland boasted a private lake, 4,000 acres of forest, fishing, bathing, bowling, tennis, and a modern kitchen, all at a healthy 2,000 ft. altitude. City residents had a choice of two train lines to get them there.

Photos depicted a trim, 3-story building with screens covering a large porch, finely manicured lawns with large planters, gas lamps for lighting and a huge lake with rowboats extending far into the distance.

Where was this paradise for vacationers desiring to spend their summer in the cool mountains? The Swiss Alps? No, it was today’s Camp Keowa. Where did Villa Switzerland come from and how did it turn into Camp Keowa?

In 1883, George W. Van Allen, a wealthy N.Y.C. businessman in the printing press trade, purchased 4,000 acres of property, including both Big Pond (Crystal Lake) and Half Moon Lake, for use as a summer family home and hunting preserve, called the Van Allen Grange. He developed the property into an elaborate country estate, with accommodations for 100 guests.

In 1893, Van Allen constructed the Big House on Crystal Lake with twenty-five bedrooms to house his guests. The Sullivan County Turtle Club, mostly wealthy businessmen in the publishing trade, spent a week here each spring, and sometimes a week in the autumn, hunting, fishing and shooting.

Van Allen sold the property in 1916 and died in 1917. The property changed owners multiple times while the Big House operated each summer as a hotel called at various times the Crystal Lake House and Villa Switzerland.

In 1925, Isidor Liebow of Brooklyn purchased about 800 acres of the property for two kosher youth camps. Camp Utopia had separate boy and girl units, which were incorporated into Camp Man and Camp Manhattan when the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York purchased the Crystal Lake Tract in September, 1929.

The Big House was used by Camp Manhattan and later Camp Keowa as a headquarters until it was torn down in the early 1960s. It was located adjacent to the COPE Course near Crystal Lake. You can still see its foundation and the sidewalks depicted in the photo are still there, buried beneath the soil.





## 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](#)

