



Vol. 24 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 1

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - January 2024

This issue of Smokes Signals remembers Frankie Gaynor. We have a recap of the recent Kintecoying Banquet and another TMR winter story.

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

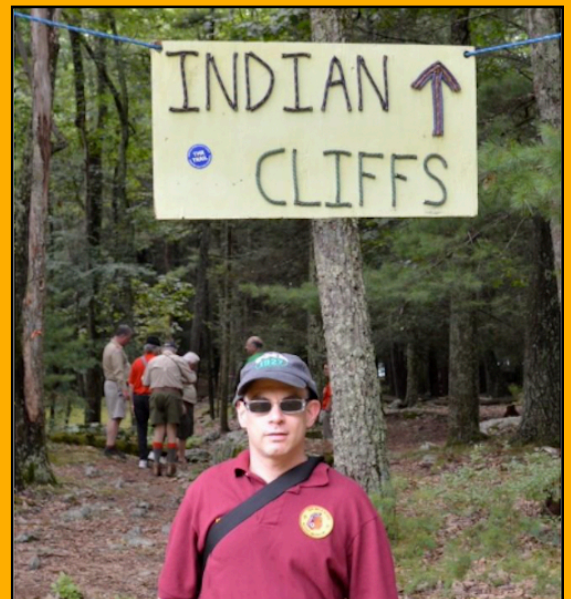
95% of our dues-paying members renew each year! Maybe they know something?

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

I am happy to report that Trustees Tom Bain, Dr. Gene Berman, Ira Nagel, Anthony Zalak, and I participated in Kintecoying Lodge #4's Winter Banquet. Around 80 people attended and listened to Cam Dalton, northeast region chief, Vincent Mirabella, section chief, Section 18, and Jake Harmon, lodge chief, Kintecoying, report on the state of the Order. Most inspiring was watching Joey Derrico, chapter advisor, Matinecock Chapter and Harmon receive our Lodge's Distinguished Service Award.

In other news, the museum is preparing for the summer and plans to have some interesting new exhibits. We are also working on a show at William H. Pouch Scout Camp. We are looking for new volunteers who can one day become trustees. People with web design and graphic skills are needed. If interested, feel free to email me at chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® ORDER OF THE ARROW

Order of the Arrow News

Kintecoying Lodge Banquet

By Chief Jake Harmon



This year the Shu Shu Gah Chapter did an amazing job planning and executing an amazing lodge banquet. We also had the honor of hosting the 2024 Eastern Region Chief Cam Dalton and Greater New York Council Chief Executive Officer Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez as special guests. We are super excited for the rest of the scouting year and hope to see everyone at our March Fellowship at Alpine Scout Camp.



Lodge Chief Jake Harmon



GNYC CEO Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez



2024 Eastern Region Chief Cam Dalton

A Message From 2024 Eastern Region Chief Cam Dalton

With many National Events on the horizon, now is a great time to be a member of the Eastern Region! Locally, the region is hard at work preparing for the highest quality National Leadership Seminar (NLS) and Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC) we've had in years. We have an outstanding team for 2024 to conduct our 5 courses: Columbia, SC, Puerto Rico, Cincinnati, OH, Alpine, NJ, and Nashville, TN. As you can see, we will be all over the east this year, and even right in Section E18, at Camp Alpine, this September. This is an incredible course that you will NOT want to miss!

Looking forward to this summer, we have the flagship event of the Order of the Arrow: the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)! As the second largest scouting event, it is an amazing opportunity for any OA member. From meeting new friends across the country, to informative world-class training sessions, to inspiring evening shows, NOAC offers something for everyone. Although NOAC is being hosted in the west year, I am confident the Eastern Region will have a strong showing! Join us for this 5 day experience in Boulder, Colorado, as we Seek New Heights together. Let me know if this is off-target with what you were hoping for!

-Cam

A Message From Vincent Mirabella | Section Chief

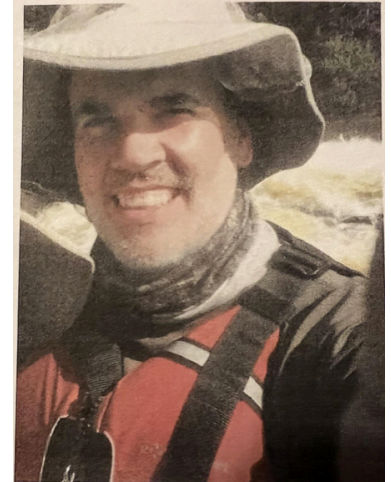
Section E 18's SWFT Conference in December was a resounding success, drawing in over 70 enthusiastic Arrowmen. Now, the anticipation is building for Conclave 2024, and it's shaping up to be an extraordinary experience. Get ready for meticulously planned training sessions, elevated lodge competitions, and captivating shows, all expertly curated to conclude our Saturday evening festivities. Of course, there will be a plethora of patches and incredible trading post items to look forward to. The team is hard at work ensuring every detail is perfect, and we can't wait to welcome you all there for an unforgettable event!



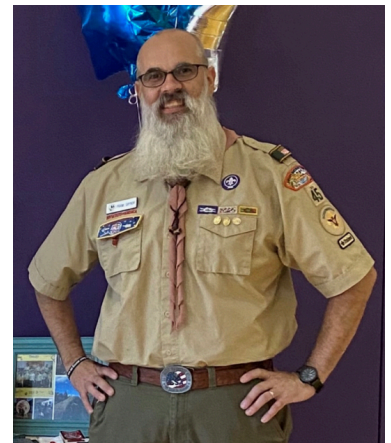
A TILE FOR FRANKIE GAYNOR

In 2023 a sad milestone was recently reached in New York City. More people have now passed away, succumbing to 911 injuries then perished on 9/11 at the World Trade Center that day. One of New York's finest was NYPD Officer Francis "Frankie" Gaynor. Frankie was an active-duty police officer with the NYPD Mounted Unit following his dad and brother into the police department. He was a first responder at the 911 attack and during significant time that followed, working on "the pile" at Ground Zero resulting in his illness and ultimately his passing in 2022.

But those in NYC scouting, especially Queens Scouting, knew Frankie and his parents as a Scouting Family. They knew Trudy and Dennis Gaynor for their love of Scouting and all the hard volunteer work they put in with Trailblazer District and Pathfinder District as well as Queens Council and GNYC Scouting. Frankie came from a Scouting family and loved scouting and volunteered his time freely. He lived by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. He was an avid historian and collector of many things including NYPD memorabilia, scouting memorabilia and railroad historical memorabilia.



Frankie began his Scouting career in 1970 when he joined cub scouts, earned his Arrow of Light and rose to the highest rank in scouting, that of Eagle Scout. As he reached adulthood he served as an Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, a Chapter Adviser, Venturing Advisor, member of the District Committee, and Merit Badge Counsellor. He attended Florida Sea Base, Philmont, Northern Tier, numerous NOACs as well as serving on Jamborees, the last being 2017, as a youth and later Crew Advisor and Jamboree Security (most appropriate for a police officer). Frankie also served with the World Jamboree. As a youth Frankie was Chapter Chief of Mespatch Chapter and then Suanhacky Lodge, Lodge Chief.



Among Frankie's awards was Eagle Scout Award, Cub Scout Training Award, Scouter Training Award, Scoutmaster Key, Scoutmaster Award of Excellence, Unit Leader Award of Merit, Woodbadge beads, Founder's Award (OA), OA Vigil Honor, Veteran Award, and the James E. West Award.

To honor Frankie's memory and to honor his great Scouting Family it is our goal to honor Frankie with a \$1000 tile at Ten Mile River on the Museum Wall of Fame this coming Alumni Day, Saturday, August 10th. With so many friends of the Gaynor Family I am hoping this will be a "piece of cake" to generate the necessary \$1000. To show how much I care about this cause and to put my money where my mouth is, have gotten the ball "rolling" with a \$100 donation. So, only \$900 more to go. No donation amount is too small.

To donate money for the Francis Gaynor Wall of Fame Honor Tile, please make your check out to TMR Museum and in the memo put Frank Gaynor WOF tile. Please mail your check to Trudy and Dennis Gaynor 88-15 69 Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Questions to Dr. Gene Berman, <geneberman@verizon.net> or (917)940-0115 or Trudy and Dennis Gaynor (516) 551-4229 or email <wac65@aol.com> or David Malatzky<DMalatzky@aol.com>

Thank you to all that knew Frankie or even if you did not, respect what he accomplished in a life much too short.

Gene Berman DDS
Founder and Chairman Emeritus
TMR Scout Museum.

TMR Winter Sports

Published in Tusten Roots, the newsletter of the Tusten Historical Society, October-December 2023. The story is by Art Hawker, Town of Tusten Historian.

Within years of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad establishing itself in the Delaware River Valley in 1848, a concerted effort was made by the Erie to build up ridership and business by extensively advertising the valley as a summer escape from the New York metro area. This remained the case for several decades and here in Tusten, a very active Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce also promoted the area's boarding houses, resorts and natural assets. Still, once the Fall hunting season was over, with few of the guest facilities equipped for cold weather occupancy, the area lapsed into the quietude of winter routine and reverted to its permanent residents.

This was about to change when in the winter of 1936 a group of local men got together and formulated a plan to make Tusten a desirable winter destination. After the initial meeting of 22 interested persons on February 2, 1936, the not-for-profit Ten Mile River Sportsmen's Club, (TMRSC) was formed with Nat Feagles, owner of the Hillside Inn and local physician Dr. H.C. Van Keuren elected President and Vice President respectively; Edward Schmitt was the Secretary and Warren Young the Treasurer. Within weeks the club soon topped 75 members and they were a group who knew how to make plans and get things done. By late September they had secured permission from the Greater New York Boy Scout Foundation to use their land (in the vicinity of the present day Tusten Mountain Trail) and within two

weeks the envisioned winter ski and sled trails were starting to be cut.

By the first week of December a ski "slide" 30 feet wide and 600 feet long had been created on the mountainside. In time for Christmas Eve, a beginner's slope was done and 800 feet of a downhill run was completed. At the same time, the club had secured a promise from the Erie Railroad that they would come to review the site and if, in their opinion, it would be worth their while, they would schedule special trains to run from the city to bring sports enthusiasts to the ski area in Tusten.

Work continued into mid-March (1937) on runs and small ski jumps which were still in use due to some late snowfalls. Additional trails were in the works and the club elected a Board of Directors, adopted a constitution and by-laws. Up to this point all of the cutting, grading and clearing had been done by hand by club members and community volunteers.

Little activity is reported until the winter of '37 approached and at this time the TMRSC received a real boost in their development efforts. This was due to the construction on Route 3-A which was soon to become State Route 97. The contractor for this section was the O.P. Williams Construction Company and fortuitously, Mr. Williams and his wife were temporary Narrowsburg residents while the highway was being built. He generously provided a 10-ton bulldozer and operator to aid the club's efforts. In the ensuing weeks, the machine cleared a two-mile ski trail with branch runs. While that was being done, volunteers began work on an intermediate ski slope and a toboggan run of modest length. In the midst of this beehive of activity, the Erie's Chief Passenger Agent, Mr. P. F. Arroyo, came to town and assessed the progress. A proposal was made that if the Erie could run special trains, it would be advantageous to do so using a Friday arrival Sunday departure format. No commitment was made by the railroad and due to the lack of cooperation on the part of Mother Nature, the ground was still bare in December. Undaunted by the lack of snow, the TMRSC membership accepted donations and held fund raising events, voting to create a 500 foot long toboggan slide, and once again local contractor Ed Wilbert agreed to do the construction gratis, with the Narrowsburg Lumber Co. providing materials at half cost. The Erie Railroad consented to run "Snow Trains" and to underwrite advertising in the New York City area, contingent on there actually being snow on the ground to make it worth their while. Tickets were to be sold on an all-expense basis, \$12.90 for adults and \$10.50 for children which included the round trip train fare between New York City and Narrowsburg with all meals and lodging from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon included as well as transportation from town to the sports area.

As 1938 replaced its predecessor, some snow fell from the heavens and the toboggan run made by Mr. Wilbert and Art Van Schoick provided 400 plus feet of adrenaline rush down "a very steep incline". The sporting area was well attended by local and visiting patrons but the enjoyment was short lived; an end of January thaw turned the slopes to mush and pretty much ended the season. Perhaps disappointed but unfazed, the club continued to improve their venue during 1938 and in November a stream was dammed with hopes of providing a frozen landing site at the terminal end of the toboggan chute. Local resident Russ Kenyon put a bridge across the Ten Mile River a couple hundred yards from Route 3-A (State 97) to give better access and, low and behold, there was snow on the ground before Christmas! One of the first to test the new and improved toboggan run was the irrepressible local legend, Emil "Deacon" Oellrich. The Delaware Valley News reported that he went down the hill with such vigor that he pushed most of the snow out of the chute and a good part of the afternoon was then devoted to shoveling a new base in before others could use it. The Deacon also tried his skiing skills, and it was noted that "he made quite a figure coming down the mountain ..but it was a sprawling figure"

In spite of all the vision and hard work put in, December 1939 saw the toboggan run dismantled and moved closer to Narrowsburg on the Behnken-Wyss property on Cackletown Road near where the Suhr and Quist families lived. No particular reason for the move was made known, but the run as well as the TMR ski area were used at least until 1940. In the following season, the United States entered World War II and both venues were left to be re-claimed by nature. The Ten Mile River Sports Club continued to exist at least in name during the war but was mostly inactive with most of its membership being in the military service. They reorganized in 1946 but then focused their efforts toward promoting the area as a hunting and fishing destination. That is a story for another time.

GoFundMe for Morty's Bills

We have raised \$3,000 towards the goal of \$10,000.
Your donation will us get there.

Morty fully gave of himself to others and exemplified cheerful service. He also got by on a very small fixed-income and the support of others. His funeral was only possible because some service providers were willing to defer being paid. To make them whole and support the organizations that supported Morty we have created a GoFundMe to raise \$10,000.

To donate online click here: [Donate Here](#) Or - make a check payable to Michael Drillingner and mail to: 25 Plockmann Ln
Woodstock, NY 12498.
Put For Morty in the memo



<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.tmrmuseum.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](#)



Mitchell Slepian