

# Aurora

A newsletter of the Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps  
Spring 2006

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Camp Wilderness Aug 18-20



Help get the word out! Camp Wilderness is turning 60 and it is going to be an action packed weekend. Not only will it be the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, but it will also be the dedication of the Butler Wilderness Outpost Cub Scout Camp and the Family Fun weekend.

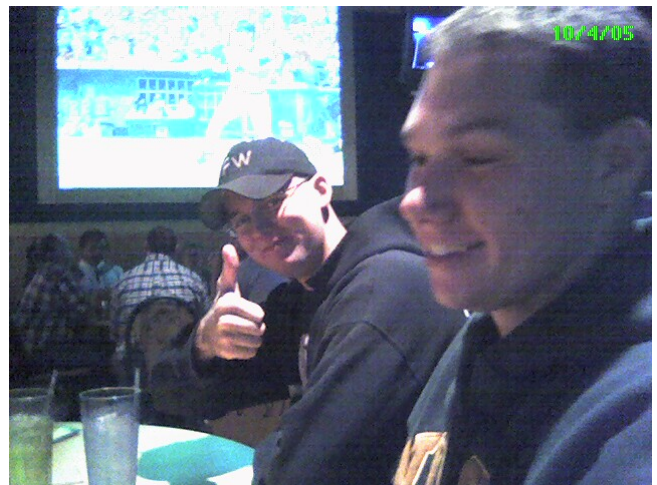
The weekend activities kickoff on Friday at 5 pm when check-in begins and end on Sunday around 10 am. Come for the entire weekend or stay for just a few hours. The cost of the weekend will be \$25.00 per person which includes 4 meals or \$65.00 per family. The cost for a Saturday stay is \$15.00 per person which includes lunch and dinner. Capital donors are no charge as a thank you for the support.

Activities for the weekend will include: Flag ceremonies, Open program areas, Shooting range, Nature Hike, Mnaqua

program, Fishing, Motor boats, Swimming, Pontoon, rowing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Demonstrations, Boy Scout camp tours, Cub Scout camp tours, Eagle Scout lunch, Cub Camp dedication, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program, Midway, Campfire, Chapel services, and of course, lots of social time.

We want to get as many people involved from as many eras as possible, so please pass the word. If you plan to attend, contact Brad Olson at the Fargo Scout office 1-877-293-5011, or register on line at [www.nlcbsa.org](http://www.nlcbsa.org).

## Alumni Socials are a BIG Hit



### Fargo

The first Tuesday of each month at Buffalo Wild Wings friends of camp in the Fargo area gather for wings and fellowship. Now on our fourth social many beverages have been drunk, old friends have been reunited, and new friends have been made. Each month somebody new shows up and surprises the group. Even Andy "Hippy"

Hoffman drove down to share some memories. It was good to see him before he past. With ten to fifteen people stopping by each social there are always enough interesting conversation and stories to share.

This spring an idea has been put out to have some of our meetings out on the patio at Doolittle's to enjoy a beverages and friendship all while by being warmed up by their campfire. Our group would like to challenge the "old guard" to join in and meet monthly as well. It would be great to see other scouters, scoutmasters, and staffers that either are still in scouting or even better those that have not been around in awhile. No pressure, just friends of camp getting together and having a great time.

The 4th of July lands on the first Tuesday. If you're in Fargo, plan on stopping by at Doolittle's or better yet meet us at George's for fireworks. Just remember to bring a hard hat and some conversation.

Anyone and everyone are welcome it is just a gathering of like-minded people who enjoy each other's company. We share a little about what is going on each other lives and learn a little what's going on at camp. It can be whatever... as there is no agenda, but there is plenty of great food and drink. The next social is set for the first Tuesday of every month starting around seven till about nine.

By Neil Litton & Chad Swenson

### **Grand Forks**

The Grand Forks Area Alumni have held two gatherings so far in Grand Forks. Several local and some distant Camp Wilderness alumni attended for a friendly meal and conversation. At the first social we had Glenn Larson, Erik Williamson, Nathan Anderson, Mary Jane Stewart, Chad Swenson, Monte & Jenn Fronk, Chuck Votava, and Kristen Votava. Also included were 'scouts to be' James and Beau Votava. Mary Jane brought several camp staff photos

and fond memories, which sparked conversation. Everyone enjoyed a few hours together with such a great variety of staff representation. Some new ideas were also developed at the meeting. The group hopes to have quarterly get-togethers and perhaps create alumni coats, shirts, etc. to be sold with the camp logo.

The Second get-together for the Grand Forks Area Alumni was held on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Buffalo Wild Wings, Grand Forks. It was a little loud for conversation, so the next one will be in a more quite location. Please stop by at the next social to meet past friends and help with planning future meetings! We will also discuss the development of Camp Wilderness alumni clothing. E-mail Kristen and Chuck Votava at [chuxvot@aol.com](mailto:chuxvot@aol.com) with any questions, ideas, or to RSVP. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

### **Current Area Social Coordinators:**

#### Grand Forks

Kristen and Chuck Votava  
3298 Sheena Court  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-787-6802  
[Chuxvot@aol.com](mailto:Chuxvot@aol.com)

#### Minneapolis

Jeff Pastir  
1735 Merrimac Lane N  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
(763) 404-1737  
[Jeffrey.A.Pastir@HealthPartners.Com](mailto:Jeffrey.A.Pastir@HealthPartners.Com)

#### Fargo

Chad Swenson  
1988 52nd Street SW  
Fargo, ND 58103  
701-340-7590  
[ChadSwen@aol.com](mailto:ChadSwen@aol.com)

### Minneapolis

Matt Saari  
6880 135th Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
952-432-8591  
[misaari@charter.net](mailto:misaari@charter.net)

### Fargo

Neil Litton  
3009 38th Ave S  
Fargo, ND 58104  
(H) 701-280-1058  
(W) 701-347-5923  
Email (W) [neil.litton@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:neil.litton@sendit.nodak.edu)

## Association Bylaws to be Amended

During the 2005 Annual Meeting, the Executive Board set forth a motion to update the bylaws. Changes will include a means of replacing an officer who has stepped down, as well as separating the officer election process from the Board of Directors. With the approval of the bylaws, instead of a person being elected each year to start as executive secretary, then move to president, then past president, then be on the board of directors for three more years, the positions will be split into two elections. A person will be elected to be executive secretary, then move to president the following year, then past president. Each year, a new person will be elected to fill a position on the board of directors. The position will be for three years. The updated by-laws to be ratified this summer can be viewed on our web site at [www.northernlightsalumni.com](http://www.northernlightsalumni.com)

## Sorry About the Postage

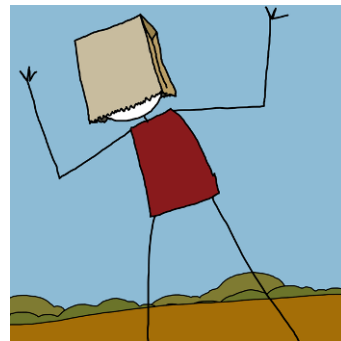
We goofed. The Fall Aurora was sent out without enough postage. We apologize to those who had to pick up the

extra postage to get it delivered. We hope that you enjoyed the last publication and found it packed with valuable material.

## Still Spinning a Web

In the last issue of the Aurora we announced the new addition to our association. Yes, The Association now is on the web! The web page is growing and new exciting features are being added. Want to find a past issue of the Aurora? Want to look up who was on camp staff in what year? Want to see photos of camp and staff members? Do you want to keep up to date on events and participate in an online discussion forum with past and present staff members? Well you can do all that and more on [northernlightsalumni.com](http://northernlightsalumni.com). Anyone involved in association business can apply for a [yourname@northernlightsalumni.com](mailto:yourname@northernlightsalumni.com) e-mail address. If you have any updates or information you would like on the web page then contact the webmaster at [nlalumni@northernlightsalumni.com](mailto:nlalumni@northernlightsalumni.com) or if you have web page skills that you are willing to share then you can volunteer to be an assistant webmaster. Help is always appreciated! See you on the web!

## Where's old What's His/Her Name



Shane and Betsy Miller worked at Camp Wilderness in the early 90s. Shane is an

associate professor and graduate coordinator of Communication at Eastern Illinois University where he is halfway through his 10th year. Betsy and he have an 8-year-old boy and a 7-year-old daughter who love camping and backpacking as much as they do. Betsy is a poet (received a MFA about 5 years ago) who pays the bills by teaching at Eastern as well.

Drop Betsy and he a note or Email at: 2207 Reynolds Dr. 2207 Reynolds Dr., 61920 (217) 348-1470, cfsam@eiu.edu.

Paul Cuppett is currently living in Virginia and working at the Pentagon. Paul worked at camp in the mid 80s as a commissioner and a High Adventure Director. He has been active in the armed forces for many years. Drop Paul an email at [paul.cuppett@us.army.mil](mailto:paul.cuppett@us.army.mil). He would be glad to hear from you. His address is: 11993 Youngtree CT, Bristow, VA 20136

Mike Fisher was recently married and is now a new father. He and his son come to camp during Alumni week in 2005. Mike continues to do behind the scenes work in donating his time and materials to restoring and upgrading the cabin electrical wiring. Drop him a note or email at: 501 West 3rd St, Thief River Falls, MN 56701, (218) 681-5273, mfisher@wiktel.com.

Rob Nyhlen is currently living in Moorhead with his wife Nicole. Their new address is 416 15th St S, Moorhead MN 56560.

Kent Larson is currently living in St Louis Park in the Twin Cities. He works downtown for Amerprise Financial (formerly American Express Financial Advisors). He has been married for a little over 2 years now. No kids yet. He still talks to Tweeter every week.

Matt Hollifield is living in Long Beach California with his wife Camile. He has just graduated from med school and is starting his residency. Drop him a note at 952 E. 2nd Street #4, Long Beach, CA 90802 or Email [matthollifield@hotmail.com](mailto:matthollifield@hotmail.com), or phone (562) 505-7714.

Tim Peterson living in Fargo helping with the Alumni Roster updates. Get back in contact with him at [tjpeterson@midwestinfo.net](mailto:tjpeterson@midwestinfo.net).

Gordon Przybylski is still working for the Boy Scouts and is living with his wife in Wisconsin. Drop him a note at [gjprzybylski@mccbsa.org](mailto:gjprzybylski@mccbsa.org).

Clark Eide had moved and is now living in New York. Drop him a note at [EidC@wyeth.com](mailto:EidC@wyeth.com) or 45 Greenwood Dr, New City NY 10956 or phone at 845-634-6406.

Andrew Lawrence is alive and living in Columbia MO. He works for the university, has a BA in History and would like to teach. Drop him an email at [aplreenactor@juno.com](mailto:aplreenactor@juno.com) or 6565 Wagontrail, Columbia, MO or phone him at 573-815-9246.

Bill Pribula is still kicking in Milnor North Dakota. He has moved to the country side. Drop him a note at [bill.pribula@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:bill.pribula@sendit.nodak.edu) or 8021 150th Ave SE, Milnor, ND 58060.

Scott Ralston and his wife Kathryn are still in Devils Lake, ND working for the US Fish & Wildlife Service but recently changed addresses as he bought his first house located 6 miles north of Devil's Lake. Drop him a note at [scott@skralston.com](mailto:scott@skralston.com) or 5478 Hwy. 20, Devils Lake, ND 58301 or call him at 701-662-9599.

Don Volden worked at Wabaunaquat and is still living in Fargo. He is excited to get back involved. Contact him at 701-235-4823 or [dvolden@cableone.net](mailto:dvolden@cableone.net).

Scott Volden worked at Wilderness in the early 90s. He has a great wife and is a father. He and his wife work with youth groups and enjoy archery. Contact him at 701-280-3141 or [voldenhome@cableone.net](mailto:voldenhome@cableone.net).

## Oral History Creation

Even though I do not live near the Northern Lights Council anymore, my mind and heart are never far from the camps that have served her Scouts. As you are aware, the Northern Lights Camps has a rich tradition of building great experiences for the Scouts, Leaders, and Staff who attend and work the camps.

As the camps age and some of the camps have closed, those stories, histories, and traditions start to fade. Our memories of years, names, and faces also fade away and we find ourselves asking, “oh, who was it that worked with me in...” In an attempt to capture these memories, we have started to gather written and oral histories.

As a trial basis, we have contacted two Wilderness staff members from the mid 40’s and asked them to write down, or record stories and memories. We have had great success and hearing the stories on tape is captivating for me. We have alum in Minneapolis who takes the tapes and breaks them up into audio segments in MP3 format. We eventually want to have a full history display that people can select years, story types, descriptions of camps and areas and listen to it through the voice of the teller.

We are asking for your help. We want to hear your stories. We know that this could be a daunting task, but the people who

have already done it say it was a wonderful experience and they would do it again. We encourage you to get together with old friends, put the recorder on, and just start talking. Don’t worry about editing the tape; we will take care of that.

So please, help preserve the history of our camps in a way that people can enjoy and learn from for years to come. If you are interested, please contact me at 913-221-7252 or [chris.soper@northernlightsalumni.com](mailto:chris.soper@northernlightsalumni.com). I have some topics and other information to help get you started.

## Got Memorabilia?

With the creation of The Association web page and digital technology, we have expanded our ability to share that memorabilia that we have stored in boxes in our basements. We are in the process of gathering digital pictures of camp patches, staff shirts, and what we are really in need of, staff pictures. If you have any of these sitting around, set it out and snap a few shots of it send me a copy. Pictures can be easily scanned at local drug stores and discount stores. Send your digital treasures to me at [Chris.Soper@northernlightsalumni.com](mailto:Chris.Soper@northernlightsalumni.com) or [levelboy@hotmail.com](mailto:levelboy@hotmail.com) and I will make sure that they are added to the web site.

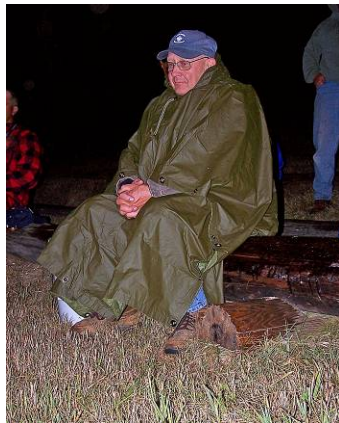
## Stork/Marrage/Death Report

New Babies: Ben and Claire Overman have had a Baby Girl. Jon and Sara Hendrickson has a Baby Girl on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.  
Deceased: Bob Schaible of Bismarck. It is a great loss. Andy “Hippy” Hoffman died in a car crash this spring. Camp will not be the same without him.

## Alumni Achievement Awards Presented



Tom Hall (above) and Leo Erhmantraut (below) were recognized at two separate events this fall and received the Alumni Achievement Award. Congratulations on this honor.



## Association Officers

Are you wondering who the alumni association officers are this year? The updated list of officers and their contact information is a click away at [www.northernlightsalumni.com](http://www.northernlightsalumni.com).

Have you considered running for a position or becoming involved in on a committee? It is a great way to get involved and keep up on what is going on with *The Association* and with camp. Contact any of

the officers or committee chairs for information on how to get involved.

## Cub Camp Construction



Great progress is being made on the new cub scout camp. The council web page has created a neat new link where you can track the progress. The cub camp will be dedicated during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For cub camp construction updates, check out the Northern Lights Council Web page: <http://www.nlcbsa.org>

## Check Your Mailing Labels

Take a look at your mailing labels. We have added information to them that will indicate your current membership status. If you have any questions or if our information is not correct, please contact Shawn Johnston at 1410 9th St N, Fargo, ND 58102, 701-200-1121, [shawn.johnston@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.johnston@gmail.com).

The code is as follows:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
L	Lifetime Member Paid in Full
L-50	Lifetime Member with \$50 Remaining to Pay
L-100	Lifetime Member with \$100 Remaining to Pay
A-07/XX	Annual Member Expires in July of XX
CS-07/XX	Camp Staff Member Expires in July of XX
??	Status unknown

“A Good Ole Fashion Cabin Building”

This year the Alumni Association has chosen to raise money for a new cabin at Camp Wilderness. We will be rebuilding Cabin Three that burnt down a number of years ago. This project will help bring in extra revenue to the council and will also allow the Alumni Association to have a noticeable project at camp. The goal is to raise the money that is needed this year and to have the cabin built by the summer of 2007. We will be placing a goal sign near were the cabin will be built, that will be updated every week during the summer. If you feel more comfortable in just helping out in the cabin building then feel free to get a hold of me or one of the other board members.

If you are interested in help supporting this year’s project please fill out the enclosed form and send it into the Fargo Scout Office (address enclosed) C/O Brad Olson Alumni Project. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at either my phone (218)686-1597 or email me at [Dexterminn@aol.com](mailto:Dexterminn@aol.com).

Yours in the Northern Lights Council Camps,

Steve Lyman  
Past-President

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Council  
2006 Alumni Project

The Association takes on projects such as these that need to be done, but no other group will accept. The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps has chosen a Cabin Building for this year’s project.

Count me in for the following amount:

\$25.00      \_\_\_\_\_      \$50.00      \_\_\_\_\_      \$75.00      \_\_\_\_\_  
\$100.00     \_\_\_\_\_      \$500.00     \_\_\_\_\_      Other        \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check to:  
Northern Lights Council, Boy Scouts of America  
C/O Brad Olson - Alumni Association Fundraiser  
301 S 7th St, Fargo, ND 58103

## Ways to Get Involved

Involvement in the Alumni Association can take on many forms depending upon your time availability. Some members simply join and read the newsletter. Others join a committee, participate in the events, or become elected officials and serve for several years. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

Write an article for The Aurora: Pick a topic, a memory, a story, or any interesting topic and send it to the Publications Committee Chair.

Join a Committee: Serve as a member of a committee by contacting the committee chair or any officer of The Association.

Nominate Someone for The Alumni Achievement Award: Complete the nomination form and send it to the Alumni Achievement Committee Chair.

Participate in one of The Association events: Attend or help with the Staff Week, Open House, or Fall Fellowship events. Look for information in The Aurora or contact the respective committee chair.

Send Birthday Cards to staff members: We are looking for someone who will get a list of birthdays for each year's staff and send him or her a birthday card. Contact The Association President if you are interested.

Help update the Alumni Roster: We are in the process of assembling a roster of all the people who have worked at one of the Northern Lights Council Camps. If you would like a copy of the lists that we have for the years that you worked, please contact Chris Soper at (913) 221-7252 or Email him at levelboy@hotmail.com.

Help put mailing labels on The Aurora: We always need help putting mailing labels on the newsletter. Contact the Publications Committee Chair for details.

Become an officer of The Association: If you would like to become heavily involved in the business of The Association, consider running for election. Contact any of the officers for information.

Vote on one of The Association projects: Help select projects, execute, and generate funds for Alumni Association projects. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Memories from Camp: Jot down your fondest memories from camp in story or in letter form so that we can compile a book at some point.

Start a Local Chapter: Locate other alum in your area and host a social event. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Insert Your Idea Here: The sky is the limit; we welcome all ideas, projects and services. Contact any of The Association officers for information. Articles for upcoming publications can be sent to:

Scott Ralston  
5478 Hwy 20  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Scott@SKRalston.com

Electronic submissions are preferred.

**Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps**  
**Membership Application**

The purpose of The Association: to preserve and promote the camping opportunities at our council camps; to inform the membership of the camps current progress; to provide support for the current operations with our time; talents and assets; and to organize gatherings of the association. Membership is open to all past camp staff members, campers or anyone with an interest in the camps.

Association dues are \$ 15.00 per year for Annual Membership, \$ 25.00 or more annually for Sustaining memberships or \$ 150.00 (one time) Life Memberships (payable in three installments). The Association's annual dues begin July 4 and expire July 4 of the following year. Annual memberships starting after January 4 will not expire on July 4 of that year, but the following year on July 4.

Please complete the information requested below and mail to:

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps  
301 South 7th Street  
Fargo, ND 58103

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s) at camp: Camper \_\_\_\_\_

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Staff position(s) and year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Count on me to help with the association.

I'll help with: Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Whatever \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us something about yourself (this may get printed in a future issue of the newsletter.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are my membership dues and/or contribution: \$15 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

Lifetime Membership: Lifetime payment of \$150: Paid in full \_\_\_

Three payments of \$50: First \_\_\_ Second \_\_\_ Third \_\_\_

Address Change: \_\_\_ Make checks payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA



### Staff Scholarship Fund Endowment Accepting Donations

With the successful formation of the staff scholarship endowment and the first scholarships awarded, a tremendous benefit for the staff and the camp has been established. If you are interested in helping to build the endowment, please complete the following form and mail it to the Fargo Scout office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to contribute the following amount to the camp staff scholarship endowment fund:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ \$175 \_\_\_\_\_

\$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Checks and Money orders are welcome. Please do not send cash.

Payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA  
301 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fargo, ND 58103

Thank you for your support!

### Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps Note Card Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity		Item	Price	Sub-Total
Dining Hall	Black Building			
		Postcards	\$0.50	
		5 Note Cards	\$5.00	
		12 Note Cards	\$10.00	
		Shipping & Handling	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>Grand Total =</b>				

Checks and Money orders are welcome. Please do not send cash.

Payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA  
301 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fargo, ND 58103

## **The Aurora**

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Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps  
Northern Lights Council BSA  
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[www.northernlightsalumni.com](http://www.northernlightsalumni.com)