

January 2009

Dear Friend of Onteora,

Enclose please find information on upcoming activities up at Onteora Scout Reservation, and let me extend to you and invitation to become a dues paying member of the Onteora Alumni Association (OAA).

I'd also like to tell you a little bit about what the OAA has done in the past year alone. Planning for the 2009 summer camping season at Onteora Scout Reservation is well underway. 2008 was another great year for OSR: the camp was fully accredited by the BSA and nearly 1000 Scouts spent a week at camp, learning about life in the unique way that a week (or more) in the outdoors teaches you - about yourself and others. In 2008 the Onteora Alumni Association (OAA) once again invested significant funds raised through regular memberships and special events. Where did the OAA put these dollars? An expanded and rehabilitated Craft Lodge welcomes first year and returning Scouts, and a replacement stage stands ready for service in the Buckskin - Ken Heim Council Ring. We also provided support to the Spring Service Weekends ("Beaver Weekends"), awarded a \$750 Scholarship to 2008 OSR Waterfront Staffer Bobby Tate to help him pay for his college studies, and provided almost \$2000 to help needy Scouts pay a portion of their camp fee. We also had a wonderful Family, Friends and Alumni Weekend during the summer and another memorable fall weekend. We did all this while watching our endowment grow to approach the \$70,000 mark! Space does not permit me to detail or describe the energy and time that so many of our members have contributed to Onteora - serving on the staff, securing materials, equipment and supplies, working on projects, and bringing troops to camp.

More remains to be done, so I hope you will join our ranks and contribute as you can in 2009. We have "rolling dues" now, meaning that when you join (or renew), your membership extends for 12 months from that date. **I hope you will choose to join right away. While it's never too early or too late in the year to join, the sooner you join, the earlier we know how much funding we have to work with in a given year.**

Our actual projects for 2009 will depend on how much funding we raise through memberships and other means, and be decided in consultation with the Council Office leadership. Some ideas on the table are new and improved staff housing for college age staff, additional sailboats, and completion of the vehicle storage building in the Maintenance Shop area. If you or someone you know may have a special interest in supporting one of these or another camp project large or small, please contact me or the Council Office.

Enclosed are some materials on activities up at camp - I hope you are able to take advantage of them. You can also find updates at [www.trcbsa.org/OAA](http://www.trcbsa.org/OAA) and on Bill Cotter's web site ([www.billcotter.com/onteora](http://www.billcotter.com/onteora)). Please also extend an invitation to join the OAA to one or more Onteora alumnus who is not currently a member so that we can increase our ranks and expand our efforts to make Onteora Scout Reservation the best camp in the northeast.

The Onteora Alumni Association is making a difference at Onteora that you can see and touch, and providing a place where another generation of young men and women can learn life lessons, perhaps as you once did. On behalf of the entire Onteora Alumni Association Board, I thank you for whatever level of support you are able to provide.

In the Spirit of Onteora,

*Rick*

Rick Balla

Past Chair, Onteora Alumni Association

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Note: I apologize if you are already a member, meaning our records are not correct or up-to-date (but please, if there is an error or problem, let me know by contacting me by one of the means above. e-mail contact is best).

**Onteora Alumni Association 2009 Events**

Winter Gathering — Feb 26, 2009  
 Beaver Day #1—May 15-17, 2009  
 Beaver Day #2—June 12-14, 2009  
 Camping Weekend – August 21-23 2009  
 Fall Reunion—September 11-13, 2009

**Planning Ahead Beyond 2009 (Because of council scheduling, these are anticipated dates)**

2010: Fall Weekend, Sept. 10-12, 2010  
 2011: 55th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, Sept. 16-18, 2011  
 2012: Fall Weekend, Sept. 14-16, 2012



Left: Edward Mallay 2008 OSR Health Officer (left) and Dave Barkstedt, past OAA Chairman (right), stand in front of the expanded and rehabilitated Buckskin Craft Lodge that the OAA funded in 2008 (July 2008)



The replacement stage at the Buckskin Ken Heim Council Ring (handrail to be added soon!). (July 2008)



(Above) The initial construction phase of the Vehicle Storage Building has begun (July 2008)

Above & below: The OAA celebrated Glenn Gabbard's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as OSR's Ranger in September 2008, and issued a special patch for the occasion. (September 2008)

Above: Past OAA Chair Victor Varonier (right) presents OSR Staffer Bobby Tate (left) with a check for \$750 as the recipient of the 2008 OAA Scholarship. (August 2008)



Above: If you think there are enough sailboats at OSR already, you'd be wrong. They are all in use, all the time, and more are desperately needed (July 2008)



Above: OSR Camp Director Don Smith (right) about to receive the pennant recognizing OSR's full accreditation as a BSA Summer Camp from a Regional BSA representative. (July 2008)

**Join the Onteora Alumni Association Today!**



Far right: Most of the participants at the OAA Fall Weekend and Business Meeting gather for a picture outside the Long House. (September 2008)