

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILDERNESS ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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On October 11, 2004, the Wilderness Engineering Society lost one of its' own with the sudden passing of Pat "Mouse" Metzger. Pat was a member of the WES for more than 20 years and associated with Scouting since 1972. Pat is survived by two sons, Pat and Dan and preceded in death by his wife Alice, and son Michael.

Pat was born and raised in Lake Forest where, except for a two year Army hitch, where he spent all of his life. After the Army, he entered Lake Forest College earning a degree in education to pursue his desire of becoming a teacher. Like many, this desire met reality when he married and became a father. Needing to support his family, Pat began working as an equipment operator and truck driver for Volpe and Sons in Lake Bluff. This short term job became a career and Pat retired from the company in the mid 90's.

Throughout the past thirty years Pat served as an assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 46. Although he stayed behind the scenes, tending to the camping equipment and storage room, Pat devoted at least one week each summer to the troop while they were at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan.

Pat cherished the WES weekends and spoke often of breakfasts with Syl, Wally, and others who arrived early to Camp. Although health issues limited his activities during the weekends he always had his camera ready and collected hundreds of photos that will help serve as a reminder of all that we have accomplished.

In recognition of his commitment to Scouting and Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, Pat's name will be added to the Remembrance Area during ceremonies later this summer. His crooked grin, quick wit, and ability to make you laugh will be sorely missed.

This summer was Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation's 75th anniversary. On July 4, 2004 the new Remembrance Area was opened as part of the summer long anniversary observance. Over 100 attended the dedication and opening of the area. The dedication ceremony was held at the nearby camp chapel as attendees paid tribute to the first fifty honorees. The ceremony included emotional readings and reflections. Barry Aronson, Joe Lepper and Matt Kasriel provided testimonials.

The Remembrance Area was constructed in 2000 under the leadership of Mike Landgraf with support from the Order of the Arrow. In the Fall of 2003, Ian Hopkins was named to chair the committee for the selection of names. In the Spring of 2004, the three display boards were put together and all plaques were installed at Steve Silca's house in Glenview. Finally, over the June WES, the display boards were installed at the Remembrance Area, protected by tempered glass, by a crew including Ian Hopkins, Steve Silca, and Matt Horbal. A summer OA crew spread fresh woodchips across the area in preparation for the dedication on the 4th of July.

This area will always be a venerated, permanent place of honor for the departed members of our Scouting family. It will also serve as a place for meditation and reflection, and where visitors can view the names of individuals who have had a positive impact on Scouting and Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation. If you know an individual who deserves recognition at the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Remembrance Area, please contact Ian Hopkins at ijhopkins@juno.com or 847-872-2717.





West Trading Post undergoes expansion and improvements

Following a tear-out in the Fall of 2003, the West Camp Trading Post was successfully expanded and redesigned in the Spring of 2004. This was a quick, low-cost project with very dramatic results.

The Trading Post was expanded by eliminating the breezeway between the TP and the QM. Utilizing that area, the TP is now twice as large and has two entrances/exits. Additionally, a cement pad was poured on the south side of the building to accommodate pop machines, picnic benches, and any future building expansions/shelters (Wagner/Nielsen crew).

The new TP is a much more inviting atmosphere with all new fluorescent and track lighting, much more open space, new shelving from an Eddie Bauer tear-out, and over 25 ft. of new counters. From a staff perspective, there is infinitely more storage, more areas for item display, more space behind the counters, better security/visibility, and better flow.

The project was a classic joint operation between the WES, the OA, and maintenance and program staffs. New framing, windows, electrical, and some lighting were installed over the May WES weekend by Sanders & Klemp crews. An OA crew installed all wall paneling. Over the June WES, the counters and display counters were built and installed by a crew lead by Steve Silca, the shelving was configured and installed by Will Kehoe, and all electrical was finalized by Chuck Ivey. Finally, the maintenance and program staffs wrapped up the fine details such as screen door installation, appliance installation, sign-hanging, and merchandise organization.

The new Trading Post is a fantastic setting to sell goods – and MANY goods were sold. The Trading Post reported record sales this summer, thanks in a large part to the enhanced facility. From the West Camp staff at MSR, thanks for making this contribution to camp – it made a huge difference.

Steve Silca
West Camp Director and WES member



Display cabinet/ counter in the T. P.



Eddie Bauer shelving inside the Trading Post





Greg and Fred at work on rehabbing cabin 7



Ol' Blue with another load by John and Steve



Swannie loads up



Bud instructs Harvey on the finer points of taking a break



Snack wagon crew ready to go



Friday lunch crowd last fall



Cabin 4 and 5 Projects

The year 2004 saw many changes to Family Camp, especially cabins #4 and #5.

With the successful result of Cabin #1, those involved with camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan saw that camp enhancement could take another positive turn down a new and basically uncharted road. Once people saw the results of Cabin #1, it was inevitable that this type of project would continue.

As a result of a monetary donation by Troop 18 of Winnetka, the Cabin #5 project was born. Over the winter months of 2003 drawings were made of the new interior. This plan was established in order to meet national codes where both scouts and adults occupy the same building. Costs were determined to fall within the borders of the donation. Trent spent the very early spring gathering the supplies needed to get the project rolling.

In the spring of 2004, the renovation of Cabin #5 began with assistance from members of both WES and Tamarack. The whole interior was gutted with only the outside shell of the cabin left standing. The only original structure left (besides the shell) was the unconnected electrical wiring – it was left in place out of respect (Landmark Building). Multitudes of individuals embarked on the endeavor to rebuild Cabin # 5. Some of those guys were: Mike Conlin, Dan Wagner, Mike Moon, Bob Boutin, Greg Kennicott, Jon Shabica, Charlie Shabica, Pete Nielsen, Trent Zellmer, & Mark Hobson). During the spring, summer, & fall of 2004, Cabin #5's new walls went up, new windows in new locations were hung, and all new plumbing was installed in the building. Plus a new roofline was established, a bigger bathroom put in place, a new fireplace was installed in a new location, and of all things – somewhat like the Silca Fountain - a *skylight* was donated and put into the new roof. The cabin was completed in the fall of 2004. Many individuals donated a great deal of sweat on Cabin #5. It looks very nice. And to those of you who did donate time, money, or effort – a most gracious THANK YOU. It was volunteerism at its best - all the way around.

As the guys completed work on Cabin #5 in the fall 2004. The Hobson Family made a donation to support the Family Camp Cabin Restoration project. With that donation, the WES met with the giver and determined that Cabin #4 would be the next likely candidate for an

overhaul. In the fall of 2004, volunteers started gutting the interior. The WES established a plan to use the previous cabin designs for the Cabin #4 design. During part of the demolition, major water damage to the flooring was located in the cabin. This water had leaked from the roof, down the sewer exhaust pipe – which in itself had become detached – and rotted out the flooring. This is good though, as it allows us to make the bathroom bigger. We needed to install new plumbing anyway. And although a *skylight* is not currently in the picture, Dan Wagner is looking into a cantilever porch idea. The donator also allowed for some additional flexibility with the donation. If all of the funds are not used upon this specific cabin, the remaining funds will go towards other improvements, such as new refrigerators for the family camp cabins. Come by Cabin #4 this spring and see what has occurred over the winter. Additionally, a new donation has been made by Kitchen Works owner Steve Lamermayer for Cabin 2 for the fall of 2005. We continue down the road. Join us for this new adventure. Feel free to seek out donations yourself, as you know how big family camp is.

Yours in service, Mark Hobson



Mark Branson and Bruce Stucco on the roof of Cabin 5 while Rav looks on.





Ian and Steve slide glass in place on one of the Remembrance Boards



Syl and Bill Gansberg install cabinets and counters in the Admin Building



Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan History quiz

- 1) Who was the first Camp Caretaker?
- 2) Who donated the barges used at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan?.
- 3) Where are the barges located at the present time?
- 4) What was the original name for the present OA bowl?
- 5) How did we acquire the land for West Camp?.
- 6) Who came up with the name Wilderness Engineering Society?
- 7) What was Family Camp before it was purchased?
- 8) How did they name Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan?
- 9) How was the land for Wabiningo purchased?
- 10) What year and make is the camp firetruck?
- 11) Who was Lake Killian named after?

Answers:

- 1) Burnham Skidmore.
- 2) The US Navy
- 3) Sunk just off the East Camp Firebowl.
- 4) The Grib Bowl.
- 5) It was donated to the NEIC by Burnham Skidmore
- 6) Bob King
- 7) A Resort
- 8) The council ran a name contest in 1929. A scout came up with the name.
- 9) A contribution from the Hib Bannard family.
- 10) 1948 Ford F-6 Fire Truck.
- 11) Vic Killian

WES OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Don Tiffany - WES Chairperson -
IreneT6020@aol.com

Ambrose Cantagallo- WES Chief Engineer-
 Emiterus- 847-945-1893

John Hopkins- WES Chief Engineer - 847-566-0399-
Hopworks1@juno.com

Bob Boutin - Administrative Manager/ Safety Director -
boboutin1@yahoo.com

Mike Conlin- Construction Manager





Mark Hobson, Dan Wagner and Mike Conlin take a break from Cabin 5



Shane, Bob Brown, and Rick Nation work on a seating trench in the OA bowl



Mark cleans up inside the cabin



George, Allison and Hairball on their way



Cabin 5 congrats to all who helped!

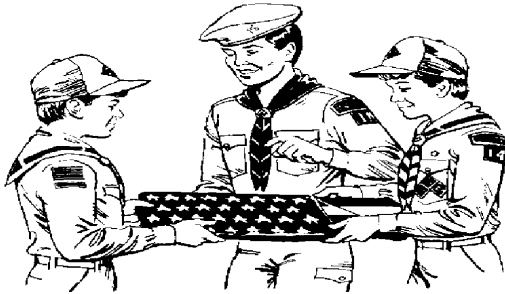


Painting T1-11 sheets for the barn ceiling.



**Some of the Proposed WES
Projects for 2005:**

Repair Village Latrines & Shelters
Continue to rehab Staff Bungalows
Continue to rehab Cabin 4
To Complete Ad Building projects
Work on exterior of the Health Lodge
Complete the Ranch Electrical
upgrade
E. TP Rehab project
Continue to work on E. Messhall
exterior
Continue on W. Showerhouse Rehab
Work on Sailboat upgrades
Complete work in the Joe Fay
Building
Continue on Cabin 7 Rehab



Thanks for making it happen:

Joe Weiler for getting auto parts for
various trucks
Cabin 5 Donation from Troop 18
Cabin 5 Work Crews that worked off-
season on the cabin
Paul Schmidt donating materials &
equipment for Staff Bungalows
Project
To the OA work crew getting it done
in the bad weather
Donations from the Joe Fay Fund
Tom Moore for constructing &
donating counters for the W. TP
Rehab
Greg Kennicott & Jon Shabica on
getting the Eddie Bauer shelves
Trent Zellmer for getting the T1-11
panel donation for camp

The Hobson Family donation for the
Cabin 4 Rehab
Steve Lamermayer of Kitchenworks
donation for Cabin 2 Rehab
All the people that stayed on Monday for
W. TP concrete pour
Pontoon boat donation from Richard
Folena
All the guys who helped with Truck
operations
Special Thanks to the people in the
kitchen:
Claudia, Connie, Diane Bellamy, Michelle
Hobson, Cass H.,
Allison, & Alana

2004 WES Recognition Award Receiptents

Mark Dunn, Rick Kuzmanoff



Life Member of the Ma-ka-Ja-Wan

Staff Award:

Bud McBain, Claudia Clark



THE HISTORY OF THE WES

The Wilderness Engineering Society began in the early years of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation. According to Ambrose Cantagallo the WES started with a small group, which included Vic Killian, Lloyd Moon, etc. They did basic maintenance with the camp ranger. Some of the other projects they did were: preparing camp for the summer camp season and helping with the closing of camp at the end of the summer. All of which were done voluntarily.

In 1945 a more organized group was formed under the name “the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Service Force.” In fact during that year the first work weekend was held and was attended by around 150 individuals.

Then, in 1972 the Wilderness Engineering Society was formally organized. The group was named the Wilderness Engineering Society in 1977. To accomplish the many tasks at the council’s camps there was a need for a large cadre of volunteers. So, the Wilderness Engineering Society organizers decided to recruit many more trades people to plan and execute the projects that needed to be done at camp.

Today the Wilderness Engineering Society’s continues to do major projects at council camps and helping the camp ranger maintain MSR. All of which lends to a positive outdoor experience for the young people who attend MSR.



Silver Beaver

John Hopkins, Chief Engineer of the W. E. S., was recognized at the Council Dinner March 5th with the Silver Beaver Award.

This Prestigious award is only awarded to selected people who have year after year demonstrated themselves to having devoted great amounts of time and resources to the Boy Scouts of America. This year’s recipients totaled only seven individuals.



“John is the ‘driving force’ behind the Properties Division and the WES. Year after year, he leads the charge for planning, staffing, designing and executing maintenance and capital projects in support of Makajawan. For Spring 2005, John has already planned eleven major projects and numerous small projects such as painting and shingling roofs of shelters. Since becoming Head Engineer, his goal has always been to recruit more WES members. His efforts have not failed; on work weekends, normally 50 to 90 workers attend because of John’s hard work. He has had over 25 years of accomplishments with Scouting, and still strives for more.”

Congratulations John!

