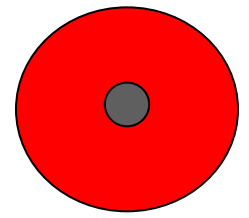


RED DOT TRAILS



Volume 6, number 1, Winter/Spring 2010

www.friendsoftmr.org
A 501c3 Corporation

2009 Annual FOTMR Dinner Our Biggest Event Ever

Former Family Camp Duo Honored

By Mike Moskowitz

On October 18, 2009 almost 150 people gathered in Brooklyn at the Hudson River Yacht Club to honor two of our founding members- Barbara Fox and Sal Poidomani. This was the largest FOTMR event to date. Our goal for the proceeds raised will be to help purchase program items for TMR. Several years ago we began the practice of honoring someone at our annual dinner as a way of recognizing those that have contributed significantly to both FOTMR and TMR over time. From the beginning we have sought to honor Barb and Sal and they had always deferred the honor to others. But this time they accepted.

See Annual Dinner, pg 5.



Our President Frank Rickenbaugh (far left with Activities Chair Ian Pinnavaia (far right) giving awards to this years FoTMR honorees Sal Poidomani and Barbara Fox

Message From Our President

CHANGE!!! That's all I have been hearing for the last year. Prez. Obama campaigned on it, The New Jersey Gov. has been hollering it, but the only thing that they have changed is the names on the office door. We at FoTMR have had a real change! Yes folks I'm back. As being the first President of the group I also hold the title of being the first retreat. Reelected, I guess that's no real feat since I was unopposed. Yet, still proud to be serving as the leader of our auspicious group. Firstly I would like to thank Joe Tosto for serving as the former President, Joe's leadership skills and determination were evident during his term in office. We all thank you for your service and look forward to your continued dedication as a board member. As with all our officers and board members, their dedication to keeping TMR's traditions and reputation on an uphill track is evident.

See President's Message, Pg 5.

Our Mission Statement

To provide service to the Ten Mile River Camps, which are owned and operated by the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America. Service includes, but is not limited to Camp Masters, Camp Inspectors, Camp Staff Volunteers, service projects, and anything else that might benefit Ten Mile River Camps.

To help preserve the history and heritage of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps.

To provide a social and fraternal network for those that have and will work and camp at Ten Mile River.

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The Official Newsletter of the Friends of Ten Mile River

The Friends of Ten Mile River

Frank Rickenbaugh	President
John Farrell	Vice-President
Mike Moskowitz	Secretary
Paul Campisi	Treasurer
Jim Shaughnessy	Service Chairman
Peter Purrington	Newsletter Editor
Ian Pinnavaia	Activities Chairman
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Marc Yovine	Member-At-Large
Bob Goss	Member-At-Large
Andrea Heller	Member-At-Large
Dave Gingras	Member-At-Large
Colin Pinnavaia	Member-At-Large

Permanent FoTMR Board Members

Frank Rickenbaugh	Andrea Byrne
Eric Byrne	Dave Ezzo
Tom Faulding	Chris Keenan
Msgr Tony Marchitelli	Mike Moskowitz
Thomas Lemme	Chris Masciana
Stu Nemkowitz	Sal Poidomani
Barbara Fox	Robert Ponzo
Peter Purrington	Jim Shaughnessy
Joe Tosto	

Friends of TMR Inc.
PMB 273
94 Gardiners Ave.
Levittown, NY 11756

The Friends of Ten Mile River, Inc. (FoTMR) is a non-profit Corporation under the laws of the State of New York. FoTMR consists of past and present TMR staff, campers, volunteers and other supporters of TMR. We are a private organization separate from the Alumni Association, the professional Staff of the Council, and have no legal affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America.

We provide volunteers and support to Ten Mile River. This includes donations of equipment for summer program activities for the Scouts, service projects and volunteer assistance such as inspections.

The Red Dot Trails is the official newsletter and is published quarterly. FoTMR continues to work with other GNYC committees, especially the Camping committee towards the improvement of the TMR reservation.

FUTURE OF CAMP POUCH IN QUESTION

By Michael Moskowitz

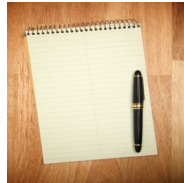
As some of you know recently the Greater New York Councils, BSA, announced that due to serious financial difficulties various options to generate significant income out of the Camp Pouch property on Staten Island were being pursued. As of this writing the Council had announced in November that they were seeking a "Conservation easement" from local and state government to preserve it as "green space" for camping and community use in perpetuity or if they could not obtain that, then the possible full or partial sale of the property would be looked at. The camp is within the Staten Island "Greenbelt".

Per the Councils press release (which can be read on the GNYC website: www.bsa-gnyc.org) the Council budget had to be reduced from \$15 million dollars to \$10 million, paid staff and office space was greatly reduced, but the need for an infusion of funds is critical. Again, according to their press release- the Council is constrained by deed on Camp Alpine in that if they try and do anything with that property it reverts to the state of New Jersey, and they are already trying to do other "cash producing" options with Ten Mile River (although the press release did not specify what that means)- which leaves Camp Pouch as they only property the Council can attempt to leverage.

Again as of this writing, several stories have appeared in local media, notably the New York Times and the Staten Island Advance regarding this story and particularly the strong opposition from the local Scouting community and Staten Island Council leaders.

The course that this story takes in the upcoming months and the impact of GNYC will bear close observation.

Stay tuned...



From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. With the Spring comes the anticipation of another great year for Ten Mile River Scout Camps. I am looking forward to being your newsletter editor for upcoming issues. Having been a member "in absentia" for some time now, I must say that

I have learned that there is a place in this organization for everyone who shares a passion and dedication to Ten Mile River and Scouting in general.

Don't forget, this is YOUR newsletter! Anyone with anything to share please submit articles and essays to me at newsletter@friendsoftmr.org Be patient with me as I venture into the new and exciting world of desktop publishing! Any and all suggestions are always welcome!!

Special thanks to our past editor Robert Ponzo for all of his hard work and dedication to the cause.

FOTMR BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

By Mike Moskowitz

On Dec. 20th, 2009 our Board held it's annual executive session meeting. Our By-laws require that by the end of each calendar year the board holds such a meeting. This year due to the hazardous weather conditions the Board met by conference call. Lead by President Frank Rickenbaugh the Board reviewed how the past year went, things we need to address in the new year and all of the administrative tasks required to keep us moving.

Some of the information discussed included the success of our recent dinner, the record dues collection pace being set, our financial health, the change in the editor of this publication, and the continued concern among many over recent events in the news.

While members of our Board are in constant contact, having formal meetings at set intervals remains important in our ability to govern FOTMR.



FoTMR Online, Growing with the Organization

Hello fellow FoTMR members. I think we can agree that this past year has seen a flurry of activity in regards to Ten Mile River, GNYC, and BSA in general. We have seen a lot of news regarding camp closures, possible sales, financial crises and Boy Scout number drops in some of our major Councils. It certainly is a time where we need to band together to see where we can help, and offer the resources that FoTMR has to do what we can.

As the demand on our organization grows, so must our ability to adapt to this demand and create a forum that is easier to attain members, get in funds, and have an area to share news, updates and information that is pertinent to our organization. I am happy to report that our web site www.friendsoftmr.org has undergone some enhancements that address these areas, and I would like to share them with you now. Please go there when you have a moment to check them out!

On line payments – We now have the ability to accept credit card, bank account or PayPal payments directly on line. We already have this functionality live for our FoTMR trading post where we sell all of our merchandise, as well as for Endowment contributions. We will extend this ability in June when it comes time for dues renewal for our non-life members. This functionality will hopefully make it easier for the organization to get money in which in turn helps us serve TMR better.

On-Line Forum – We recently launched the FoTMR online moderated forum, an area where people can post, share and reply to comments of what is going on that would be of interest to our organizations membership. You can access the forum from our homepage, www.friendsoftmr.org, and click on the forum link.

On-line registration – We all know that there is strength in numbers, and the more members we have, the stronger we are as an organization. I am happy to let you know that we just launched the online registration form for perspective members. This will hopefully make it easier for interested parties to sign up for membership, eliminating the need to manually fill out a form and mail it in. Please point anyone you know that is not currently a member, but is interested in helping our cause to our home page, and click on the link for online registration.

We are very excited about this new functionality and welcome any additional ideas you have for our site. You can always reach out to me at webmaster@friendsoftmr.org for questions or feedback. Thanks!

Brian Yovine

Webmaster, Friends of Ten Mile River

www.friendsoftmr.org

KEEPING IT GREEN – NEWSLETTER GOING BACK TO E-DELIVERY ONLY (MOSTLY)

Over the past 13 years our newsletter has been distributed to you by U.S. Mail, by e-mail and on our website. We have continued to try and find the method that gives us the best bang for the buck, taking into account cost of printing, postage, how people currently receive this type of publication from other organizations and so forth. The last two issues of the newsletter prior to this one were mailed out to all current members, emailed out to the membership list-serve and posted on the website. We were able to accomplish this because the photocopying was donated.

That option is not currently available so in the interest of being thrifty and saving a few trees, we are resuming as of this newsletter the practice of only electronic distribution and posting on our website- unless you specifically request that you need a hard copy or we have no email for a member.

So let us know by contacting either the Editor at newsletter@friendsoftmr.org or the Secretary at Secretary@friendsoftmr.org



NEW FOTMR ITEMS AVAILABLE

We have rolled out several new items for sale, all of which can be seen at the on line trading post section of our website www.friendsoftmr.org. Among other things are new items which include an embroidered version of our original FOTMR hat which was first introduced back in 1996. Also, just in time for the colder weather we have a mock-turtle neck. We also have new brief cases and even a carabineer style key chain with compass. Sale of these items along with any remaining stock of old items serves as a fundraiser for us.

So check them out on our web site and take advantage of the PayPal link to make your purchases. The money raised from the sales helps us meet our objectives for FOTMR.



PAYPAL NOW ACCEPTED ON FOTMR WEBSITE

In an effort to make it easier for people to donate or purchase items from the online trading post, the FOTMR website now has a PayPal link. So if you want to make a donation to our Endowment Fund, or towards Life Membership, or want to buy one of our new items, you can use PayPal. In the future we hope to add the ability to also use PayPal for dues or even paying for the annual dinner. Check it out at www.friendsoftmr.org

Memorial Day Weekend Service Day 2009

By Mike Moskowitz

This past Memorial Day Weekend FOTMR members once again gathered at TMR to carry out a service project to help get the place open for the summer. It was the last project of the outgoing Tosto Administration and the first one of the new Rickenbaugh Administration. The 2009 project was to assist in constructing a deck for the brand new Camp Keowa Trading Post located right on the side of the field. (see pictures on our website www.friendsoftmr.org)

The Greater New York Councils had received a generous gift from the Rudin Foundation, to which various improvements were made to Keowa among other things. This included a brand new trading post, and improvements to the waterfront and office among others.

As we have the past several years we worked together with Suanhacky Lodge OA Brothers (some are members of ours as well) and Candidates to complete the project. The weather was cooperative and our crew was enthusiastic. By days end there was a sizeable deck in place. For those of us that made it to Keowa this summer it was a nice addition to the facility.

Outgoing Service Chairman Colin Pinnavaia organized the following FOTMR members that day to help including incoming Service Chair and brand new Suanhacky Lodge Advisor Jim Shaughnessy, Joe Tosto, Frank Rickenbaugh, Mike Moskowitz, John Farrell, Marc Yovine, Paul Campisi, Ian Pinnavaia, Anthony Pinnavia and Andrea Heller. We also had members like Ronnie Albuja and others working with the OA on the project. The crew worked hard, had allot of laughs some great food imported direct from the Bronx and the satisfaction knowing that we had again helped provide something Scouts would actually use at camp.

Make sure to keep an eye out for info on next Memorial Day Weekend on our website as the year moves along.

FoTMR Honoree Named Camp Director

By Peter Purrington

Congratulations to 2009 FoTMR Honoree Sal Poidomani as he has been named Camp Director of Camp Aquehonga for this coming camp season.

After 25 years as Director of Family Camp, Sal will be returning to the traditional scouting program where his roots began so many years ago.

He will taking over for FoTMR member Anthony Allison who has done a tremendous job at Aquehonga since the 2006 season. He was recently promoted to the job of "new dad" and will be spending this summer enjoying his new charge.

Once again, congratulations to Sal. There is no question he will bring his renowned zest and fervor to Camp Aquehonga this summer.

New Editor Takes the Helm at The Red Dot Trails

By Mike Moskowitz

Recently our newsletter entered it's 14th year of publication. Fellow board member Robert Ponzo had most recently served as the Editor over the last two editions. But due to new time constraints Robert determined he currently could not continue to serve in this role.

At our recent Board meeting how to cover this responsibility and distribute this newsletter was discussed. Out of that came something we as Scouters often leap into without looking- a volunteer!

Pete Purrington, after reviewing what would be required stepped up. President Rickenbaugh accepted his offer to serve out the remainder of Robert's term. Pete is a Permanent Board member, and former Camp Keowa Services Director. He is also a Vigil Honor member of the OA.

If you want to write or submit items to the Red Dot Trails contact Pete at newsletter@friendsoftmr.org

The Back Page

Compiled by Mike Moskowitz

Congrats to the Yovine family on their newest addition
Congrats to Jim Shaughnessy on becoming the Suanhacky Lodge Advisor
Congrats to Robert Ponzo on the new job
Congrats to Barb Fox and Sal Poidomani on being honored by FOTMR
Congrats and good luck to Frank Rickenbaugh on the new digs
Congrats to Col. Robert Timm on the recent promotion to full Colonel, US Army and welcome back home to him and his family after being overseas for a very long time
Good luck to Ron Timmons on your new position at BSA HQ
Congrats to Lex Jervis on your retirement from the GNYC
Fancy seeing Chris Keenan on TV in his National Park Service Uniform at Grants Tomb
Nice front page New York Times Article about Judge Arthur Schack this past summer
Good luck to Ian Pinnavaia in chairing the BSA 100th activities at TMR Alumni Day
Condolences to Dennis Sakett and family on the recent passing of his father

If you have items for the Good and Welfare page- please send them either to Secretary@friendsoftmr.org or newsletter@friendsoftmr.org (END)



Annual Dinner *Continued from page 1*

They truly fit the bill as honorees. Both are among our Permanent Board members and founders. For 25 years they were the face of Family Camp at TMR, and in the early days of FOTMR they were instrumental in recruiting members and supporting our efforts. When word spread within the Family Camp community about this, the response was fantastic. There was a real effort within that group beyond our own notices, to get people to the event, which showed the depth of support for Sal, Barb and their family.

Our Activities Chairman Ian Pinnavaia welcomed everyone as they arrived and officially kicked off the event. The Club staff provided great service and the room was packed with people having a great time. When the time came President Frank Rickenbaugh gave an entertaining and heartfelt introduction to our honorees. Among his stories was a recollection of the first time he and Sal ever met. After the plaques were presented Barbara spoke to the crowd and with humor and humility expressed thanks on behalf of herself and her family. Then Sal spoke – and in true Sal fashion gave one of the funniest and honest thank you speeches – which covered his many years in scouting and especially at TMR. He had the crowd in hysterics and at the same time thinking about what TMR and Scouting had meant to all of us.

Two guests added some more to the tribute with song and story. John Burns recounted how he met Sal and Barb, how their family and his became a part of the fabric of the greater “Family Camp” family and what honoring them meant to everyone. Then in the spirit of those end of the week Family Camp closing campfires, Barbara Benson lead everyone in a song she and Dawn Dagastino had composed about Sal.

As always guests were able to take part in a “Silent Auction” of sports memorabilia, a “Fall Jackpot” drawing, and a prize raffle. We also debuted our newest FOTMR sale items (visit our online trading post on our website).

The evening ended with many old friends and some new ones vowing to stay in touch and looking forward to gathering again. The dinner was a great combination of our Board, core membership and the extended Family Camp community coming together to honor two great people.

We want to thank Sal and Barb and their family for coming and helping to spread the word about the event, as well as people like Cindy Scherer and many others for doing so as well. In addition to the efforts of our Activities Chairman Ian Pinnavaia, thanks to our VP John Farrell for bringing us the connection to the Hudson River Yacht Club. Behind the scenes several current and former Board members handled a variety of logistics including calls, accounting, website, sale items, mailings, the “Silent Auction”, etc. Thanks to among others; Bob Goss, David Ezzo, Alex Fung, Marc Yovine, Brian Yovine, Paul Campisi, Mike Moskowitz and David Munoz.

President’s Message *Continued from page 1*



The highlight of our year has had to have been the annual FoTMR dinner. Sal Poidomani and Barbara Fox were this years well deserving honorees. It was a fantastic event. So many old friends were in attendance. The Family Camp group was out in force. Pictures, stories and song filled the evening. Dinner Chairman Ian Pinnavia planned and executed a wonderful event, well done and thank you. I personally am looking forward to the next dinner.

I am sure most of you have heard that Camp Pouch has been in the news. We as an organization do not make policy nor do we lobby the Council on matters that do not effect TMR, however I feel it is important that you know that their could be changes regarding this property. There are many newspaper articles that you can “Google” in order to make your own conclusions and voice your opinions directly to the Council. I just hope Pouch will not be on the same list as Kaufmann, Sanita Hills, Hoyt Farm, Newcomb and Spruce Pond.

Memorial Day weekend is fast approaching and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual work day at Camp. Last year we built a deck on the newly constructed trading post on the Keowa field. I am confident that this year’s project will be just as great. We have secured lodging in the health lodge cabin for those wishing to stay overnight. Lunch and refreshments will be provided and some sort of evening activity will be planned.

Happy trails,

Frank