



SMOKE SIGNALS

Spring 2016 – Vol. 1, Issue 1
The Official Publication of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association



From left to right: Jim Mitchell, Kim Goluska, Bob King, Brian McIlwee



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Letter from the MAA Chair

John Lillstrom

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association Letter to Current and Future Alumni Members

Greetings, Alumni of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan,

Our Association continues to introduce itself to the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan community. We enjoyed our 4th Annual Winter Party in January attended by approximately 60 people. Outside of the fellowship and camaraderie, we heard updates on Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan improvements (of which there are many) and volunteer recognition including the James E. West endowment awards. In addition, we had the privilege of honoring Jim Neubaum's service to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan over the past several years. Jim will be joining the ranks of retired folk in early summer. We wish Jim well and hope to see him with us as a volunteer in the future. As usual, seeing and talking with old friends was the highlight of the evening and the sharing of old Camp stories of days gone by. I'm sure all the stories are factual at least as factual as we can remember them. Whatever the case, the stories are fun to hear and they bring back a lot of fond memories.

Our summer events at Camp in 2015 were well received, especially the MAA hosting of the Friday afternoon Brat Fry during Vigil Weekend. We will continue with that event in 2016 as well as other activities. (See our MAA summer schedule attached)

Please do your best to visit Camp in 2016. There is a lot going on this year at Camp with many new programs and upgrades. We are always in need of volunteers to help out during the summer program, so if you are interested in volunteering at Camp please contact our new Reservation Director Brian Rassmussen.

We are also always in need of financial support to continue to provide the Majakawan experience to current Scouts and Scouters. If you are interested in helping out financially, please contact me or Don Sesterhenn, our Finance Chairman, for ideas.

We look forward to seeing you all at some point down one of the many Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan trails.

Sincerely, John Lillstrom

Letter from the Skipper & Editor Emeritus

Robert King

This is volume No. 1 of the new "Smoke Signals." This is NOT THE OFFICIAL or "UNOFFICIAL" newsletter for Sea Scout Ship No. 129. It is, however, the OFFICIAL publication of the "Camp Staff Veterans," who may or may not be registered as adult leaders of Ship #129.

"Smoke Signals," the newsletter of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation during the 1970's and part of the 1980's, was published daily by mimeograph at the Reservation office and contained camp news and the many activities that were happening at the various camps and departments, especially the "high adventure" activities—raft trips, special backpack trips to the "Porkies" in the UP of Michigan; Triangle M. Ranch horseback riding, stagecoach rides, chuck wagon outings and rodeos, farm work, along with all the regular camp programs. These included the new skeet shooting at Field Sports; more sailing boats at the waterfront, plus providing the menus at the dining lodges and outpost cooking meals.

The Sea Scout Ship was organized at Camp in the 70's mainly for the purpose of registering staff members who were not already registered in a troop or Scout unit. I had the distinction of serving as the first Skipper, and for the next 12 years that I served at the Reservation Administrator. Following my departure, the position of Skipper was generally filled by the Administrator or Reservation Director.

Since Sea Scout Ship #129 continues to be a unit sponsored by Northeast Illinois Council, "Smoke Signals" will only be a newsletter representing the camp veterans of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. We will continue to promote the Council camp and all its allied organizations: Lodge No. 40, Order of the Arrow, The Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association, Wilderness Engineering Society, and anything to do with Scouting in general.

I want to recognize and say thank you to all the Scouters who have helped with "Smoke Signals," particularly "Board Members": John Lillstrom, Kim Goluska, Brian McIlwee, Paul Jordan, and Advisor, Jim Chandler. Also, thank you to the reporters: Hank Jostock, Larry Young, Don Johnson, Barry Aronson, and Paul Jordan. I will continue to call on you for help as we continue to publish "Smoke Signals," but with a different format and mission.

"Smoke Signals" will not be published on a regular schedule, but as particular items of interest become available. Those on the internet mailing list will be notified as usual. I continue to request input from all those interested in Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan and our fellow staff members who continue to be an important part of our experiences and those special memories of those summers spent in Northern Wisconsin.

Letter from the Editor

K. Nicole Ludmer

Greetings!

It is my greatest honour to be taking over the Smoke Signals Newsletter from our Skipper & Editor Emeritus, Robert "Bob" King. Bob worked for many years at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation serving as a staff member and Reservation Administrator. During his time at camp, he realized the importance of updating the Scouts and leaders of daily happenings and programs of camp, and thus, during this pre-Internet and Smartphone era, "Smoke Signals" began. Through its existence, "Smoke Signals" has transformed from a daily newsletter printed at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan itself to an online publication. It is because of Bob, and contributions from board members and his reporters that "Smoke Signals" has continued to update us of the happenings at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation. Thank you, Bob, for your dedication and hard work.

I first came to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan as a sibling. My brothers, Rob and Alex, were Cub Scouts from Pack 57 out of Glenview, Illinois, and both my parents (Drs. Fulvio and Katherine Gil) were leaders—I just happened to be the little sister who tagged along. Like so many others, I fell in love with Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan almost instantly. There was something about that 5.5 hour drive up to the North Woods that seemed magical: the hills, the forest, and the starry night. I was wide-eyed and instantly jealous of my brothers every time they were dropped off over their Scouting life. If there came the chance to go to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan whether it was to drop them off, pick them up, OA Fires, or visit them during their double week stays, even going to Memorial Day Worker Weekend Conclaves, I was all in. I was hooked. I wanted to stay as a camper.

Lo, and behold! Then came my chance to make this dream come true. I entered high school and began Venture Crew 57—a co-ed program the Boy Scouts started—and my way of going to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan as a camper! It was exactly as my brothers had described it, and I loved it even more. It was during that first summer at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan that I first met John Lillstrom. Both my Crew, and his OOC Troop were set up at Wabaningo, and it's hard to imagine that that moment happened almost 15 years ago!

During one of my summers as a camper, I worked on Mountaineering with Jon Householder and Aaron Ryskiewicz, and realized that I wanted to be on Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan staff. I applied to work at the Climbing Wall, and in 2003, my next dream come true. With my camp name of "Mouse," I worked at the Climbing Wall for all 7 years on staff; 3 of them as an assistant, and then 4 of them as the Climbing Director. In addition, I was one of the Assistant EMTs on staff. In 2006, I became a member of the Order of the Arrow, I became Brotherhood, and served as an Example in 2008, and in 2010, I became Vigil.

I am overjoyed to be back in the Midwest (after three years in Connecticut) to be closer to our families and to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. I currently live in Brookfield, Wisconsin with my husband, Matt (AKA "Happy," who I met at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan). We have two kids, Katharine (3) and Derek (2). We may, or may not, be preparing them to be future camp staff! When I asked my long time friend, Cory Hinz, what I could do to help MAA, he informed me that there might be a position opening for the newsletter. I eagerly accepted!

It is my aim to make "Smoke Signals" the voice of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. I would love to hear your favourite Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan memories, your suggestions for fundraising and projects. I would like "Smoke Signals" to be as interactive as possible—*I want you to become involved!* No matter where we are, or how long ago we worked at or attended Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, we are all tied together in an everlasting brotherhood.

Sincerely yours in Scouting,
K. Nicole (Mouse) Ludmer

Membership

Brian Dennen

Friends,

As we approach the summer camping season, we'd like to reach out and ask for your continued assistance in recruiting new members. If you've yet to renew your own dues for 2016, we hope you do so soon.

Instructions on how to join or renew can be found online at: http://msraa.org/129/join/. Beginning this year we are also offering Young Alumni & Lifetime memberships.

3 Types of Membership:

- 1. Young Adult: 18-25 years; no dues payment
- 2. Regular Membership: \$20/year
- 3. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$201.29

Through your support, the Association is proud to have recently contributed \$5,000 towards two new staff cabins!

We hope to see you at one of our many Association fellowship events at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan this sum-

mer!

Take care,

Brian Dennen, Membership Chair



Thank you!!

"Through your support, the Association is proud to have recently contributed \$5,000 towards two new staff cabins!"

May 2016





From left to right: Eric Lillstrom, Joe Pinkowski, Cory Hinz

June 2016



From left to right: Christopher Fardoux, Joe Pinkowski, Paul Jordan, Kevin Baldwin, John Wolfson

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	OA Fire AfterGlow (@Hill-Still)	Sat 2
Week 2	4	5	6	7	8	9
Week	11	12	13	14	Vigil Fire AfterGlow (@Wolf's Den)	16
17 Week 4	18	19	20	21	22	23
Week 5	25	26	27	28	OA Fire AfterGlow (@Northwoods)	30
31 Week 6						

August 2016

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	WES Weekend	WES Weekend
7 WES Weekend	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

What's Happening at MSR

Tom Macfadden

The Adventure Challenge Area- The NEIC Outdoor Committee, Camp staff, Proper-



ties Committee and Wilderness Engineers have been busy preparing new adventures for campers at MSR this summer! A new "action center" is growing in the area of the Black Hole with a new Climbing Wall, ZIP line and "Flying Squirrel" all activities designed to keep our older campers challenged and engaged at MSR.

Climbing Wall - The new 40-foot climbing wall provides three surfaces for climbing and one for repelling and greatly expands the number of climbers who can be served. With routes for beginner, inter-

mediate and advanced climbers it will provide a challenge for everyone. An internal staircase provides easy access to the top for repelling. In addition to the external surfaces, climbers will find a "chimney" climb inside the structure. A large tarp-covered instruction area will be immediately adjacent to the wall to give shade and cover to campers. Climbing merit badge has become a favorite of campers. Troop-climbs and "open" climbing will make this a favorite of campers this summer.

ZIP Line - The Climbing Wall is immediately next to the ZIP Line which started operating in the summer of 2015. This 550 foot, tandem cable route runs over a deep kettle putting zip line riders 60 feet above the ground. Hundreds of scouts road the zip line last summer. The professionally installed system includes an



automatic braking mechanism



on the landing platform. Open for individual riding times and for troop-zip evening programs the Zip Line was a big hit with campers. Come on along this summer and take in the action!

Flying Squirrel - Also new this summer is the "Flying Squirrel! This activity is part of what will be-

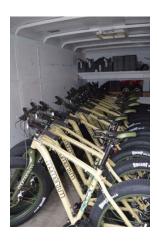
come a growing Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) program including the climbing wall and ZIP line. It is all about developing leadership, problemsolving, self-esteem, communication, trust, decision-making and teamwork skills. Most importantly, COPE is about having fun. The "Squirrel" is a team-building activity. Look for additions to the COPE activities and program next summer 2017.





Fat Bikes - Long-time staffer Matt "Hairball" Horbal planted the seed money to start the fat bikes program, providing 60% of the funds necessary to get rolling! (Hairball is also responsible for managing our historic photo archives and has provided many of the photos in this publication). Both

Cycling merit badge and Trail Rides will be part of this new program in the summer of 2016. Fourteen new "Fat Tire" bicycles will take scouts on trail rides around the MSR reservation. In addition, scouts will visit nearby Chequamegon-Nicholet National Forest where miles of bike trails are available for "off campus" mountain biking. Also, the bicycles will be transported back to the shore of NEIC in their own trailer when camp is not in session where they will be available to Scout and Venture units. Chicago is home to one of the largest network of bicycle trails in the country. The Des Plaines River trail, for example runs through the city and continuously to the state line of Wisconsin. Convenient to our own Camp Oakarro and newly rebuilt Camp Dan Bearn, the Des Plaines Trail (and our own mountain bikes) will provide lots of adventure to scouts in the years to come.



Blast from the Past!

Mike (Abdue) Carew

I have a friend who has recently contracted multiple sclerosis (MS), and during one of our conversations, he described how he sees life as a book with chapters. We all seem to have chapters in our life that move from one to the other.

In that case, I have had a great number of chapters, and working at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is one of the most memorable chapters—full of fond recollections. I was on the camp staff from 1972 until 1977. I started as the East Quartermaster, then went through Ecology-Conservation (Nature to most people), and spent two years as assistant provisional Scoutmaster with Bob Fresen—the man with a beard and guitar. After that—two years on the High Adventure staff, scaring Scouts with my driving, and eating hot dogs for a living.

A memorable moment was coming down the hill to the junction of Highway K and 55, when the brakes failed. We made the corner—just—and in a cloud of dust, limped back to camp safely. I had to spend some time waiting for my heart rate to return to normal after that. But, it was another real adventure for the Scouts!

After my five years at camp, I had to join the real world of work, turning to a new page in my *Book*. This was a nasty shock and I am still getting over it.

I started with a company called Teradyne and spent five years working out of Deerfield, Illinois, for them. I had a great deal of travel within the States during that time. I spent some of my time at Camp Dan Beard with Tom Monahan (I wonder if the lawn mower works yet!).

In 1982, I got married to Sally and we moved to the UK. Another five years for Teradyne there. In 1988, I left the company and went independent, working with a large number of companies and writing software the whole time. Sally and I have two children—Shannon (31) and Ryan (28). Shannon has two children as well—Ethan (12) and Catlin (8). In my experience, grandchildren are the reward for raising children. I have lots of fun with mine.

In 1999, Sally and I divorced. I got the dog—and turned another page in the *Book*. A few years later, I met Christine and we got married in 2005. She has two girls, and they each have two girls. So that gives me six grandchildren so far.

One of the things I love is hockey. I played for the *London Devils* and the *Logica Leopards* in the 1990's. We had a player who was from the Czech Republic who worked for the BBC Czech desk. When the "Iron Curtain" fell he went back home and joined a club in Prague. We went over and played in a tournament. This made us the first UK recreational hockey team to tour in the old Warsaw Pact countries. The British ambassador to the Czech Republic dropped the puck to start the first game. We played six games in three days and lost four of them. We had a great time and made many friends. Another fond memory page in the *Book*.

I also practice and now teach a martial art called *Shorinji Kempo*. This has been great fun and I have met yet another incredible collection of people through this practice. We are bound together by a mutual agreement to cause each other pain and then drink beer! Another page in the *Book*.

Currently, life is in Ashmore Green, near Newbury in Berkshire. This is the village life—quiet and peaceful. There are horses on the lane, and I spend way too much time gardening and maintaining the house when I would rather be walking and taking in the countryside. If anyone cares to visit, that's what we'll do.

My current job is with HP (Hewlett-Packard). For five years I was designing stuff for the MoD. This

was for the Royal Navy, Army, and RAF. However, for the past year I have been the Agile Coach for EMEA in HP. My wife does warn people not to ask me about this unless you have a lot of time to listen. Yet another *Page* here.

Retirement is still some way off, and I have to admit I am not ready for it. I enjoy the travel that goes with my job. Unfortunately, that travel doesn't seem to cover the States. I do get over there once every year or two to visit the family.

I hold many fond memories of my camp days. Most people here simply have no idea of the type of things that people can learn and experience through a summer camp. There is a strong Scouting movement over here and my grandson is coming of that age. I may even get involved again; I doubt I could ever find the spirit and friendship that I found at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. I want to thank everyone I worked with those five years for some very enjoyable memories. I still have many pages in my *Book*.



Mike Carew: Bottom row, Third from left.

Smoke Signals Publishing Guidelines: We want to hear from YOU!

Want to contribute a Snippet of your camp memories or experiences? Follow the guidelines listed below, and send it to us for publication!

Smoke Signals Publishing Guidelines:

The Smoke Signals Editorial Board invites all members to submit articles, reviews, Trivia, and/or Blast from the Past stories according to these Guidelines.

-K. Nicole Ludmer, Editor-in-Chief

Submission:

Please send your works for publication with a brief suggested title to <u>K.Nicole.Ludmer@gmail.com</u>; please include "Smoke Signals" in the subject line. All acronyms and abbreviations must be defined. Any photos or other graphics to be used must be sent in a separate file with proper citation.

Review Policy:

The Smoke Signals editorial board will review all submissions regarding format, style, and language.

The Remembrance Area

During the summer of 2004, the Remembrance Area was dedicated at a special Chapel Service at the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation Chapel. Since its conception, the purpose of the Remembrance Area has been to honor individuals who were part of the Northeast Illinois Council and/or Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation.

This summer, 30 honorees were added to the Remembrance Area. They may have been a youth member of the program, adult leader, former staff member, OA member, WES member, a professional Scouter and/or local Pearson/Pickerel citizen. Each gave of their talents and time to the council or camp.

The individuals added to the display boards this summer:

Chris Alonzi	Vern Ahlstrand	Jonathan AhTou
Don Anderson	Ned Bosler	James L. Chandler
Ruby Dalton	Elmo Earls	Jim Fitzgerald
Alwyn A. Hughes, Sr.	Eric Johnson	Hank Jostock
Richard Kalter	Kurt Kirkey	Amy Krajewski
Jonathon Kringel	Betty Mitchell	Deena Newman
R.J. Ostry	Ned Rockwell	Joe Schmidt
Chuck Schulz	Henry Stewart	Kenneth Timmons
Carol Totsch	Dr. Don Van Devander	George Van Pelt
Dr. Robert G. Weber	Richard Williamson	Peter Wirtz

The above list of honorees and past additions to the Remembrance Area can also be found on the website.

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Prayer

'Neath these tall green trees we stand,
Asking blessings from your hand.
Thanks we give to you above
For your help and strength and love;
For these waters crystal blue;
For all Scouts strong, brave, and true.
Guide us well from morn to night
With Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan's pure light.
Grant that all we see and do
Is a living prayer to you.

Amen

Volunteers Needed!

Do you miss going to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan? Have you always wanted to go on a high Adventure trek? We are in need of volunteers!

We are looking individuals who can make a <u>week</u> <u>long commitment</u> to volunteer for the following:

- -Provisional Scout Master
- -High Adventure Leaders
- -Camporee Workers

Please contact Brian Rasmussen or John Lillstrom if you are interested in helping out!

How to Sign Up for SSS#129 and MAA

Join Ship 129!!

We encourage you to join the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association (MAA) to reconnect with your friends and beloved camp. You can enhance your MAA membership and experience by joining Sea Scout Ship (SSS) #129. This is an active Scout unit in the Northeast Illinois Council (NEIC) and is comprised by current and former staff members.

By joining SSS#129 as an adult leader you can reconnect with Scouting and Northeast Illinois Council. Members of the Ship receive the National BSA Council's monthly magazine: "Scouting" for adult leaders and all NEIC's publications and e-mail newsletters. For an additional fee, you can subscribe to "Boy's Life" magazine.

To be eligible for adult membership:

You must be over 18 years of age;

Working in cooperation with the broader Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association, the goal of the Ship is to bring together, in a support organization, all those who have experienced that unique adventure of being a member of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation staff or as a long-time volunteer. Membership in SSS#129 requires the completion of the "online" Youth Protection Program every two years to maintain your membership. Annual SSS#129 membership renewals will occur every May.

The official adult application forms can be accessed on the Internet using the following link and printed out on your printer.

Select "Adult Application" and print the forms. You may also request applications by contacting John Lillstrom at:

<u>John.Lillstrom@gmail.com</u> or calling him at (715) 623-6629.

To complete Youth Protection Training you must go to: www.myscouting.org and create your account. Once your account is established you can click on the Youth Protection Training tab to complete the 20-minute course.

•	Yearly membership for MAA	\$20
•	MAA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$201.29
•	Yearly membership for SSS#129	\$24
•	Yearly subscription to Boy's Life	\$12

A check for \$56 gets all three yearly memberships. A check for \$237.29 gets you a Lifetime Membership for MAA and a Yearly membership and subscription to SSS#129 and Boy's Life Magazine, respectively. If you are a registered Scouter, there is no charge to add SSS#129 as an additional unit. *Boy's Life* is an optional fee.

Completed applications, Youth Protection certificate (if necessary), along with the appropriate check made payable to: **Northeast Illinois Council** will then be mailed to:

Sea Scout Ship #129 c/o John Lillstrom W8986 Claire Rd Deerbrook, WI. 54425

Upon acceptance of your application, you will be commissioned as a *Skipper's Mate* in SSS#129. (This is equivalent to an Assistant Scoutmaster position.) A certificate of membership in the *Camp Staff Veterans of Sea Scout Ship #129* (if qualified) will be sent to your mailing address. You will receive your Ship registration card from the National Council, BSA. As a full member of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association you will be alerted to alumni events, activities, and important information regarding your Scouting alma mater.

Please direct any questions regarding registration to:

Brian McIlwee

Bri-

anm@mcilweemillwork.com

or John Lillstrom

john.lillstrom@gmail.com



Left to right: Rusty Singleton, Kim Goluska, John Lillstrom, Jim Mitchell, Mike Tager, Paul Jordan Photo Credit: Jim Mitchell



Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Join online at neic.org/alumni OR mail this form with dues payment to:

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association 2745 Skokie Valley Road Highland Park, IL 60035

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name:	City:
State: Zip Code: Phone Number: () E-mail:	
May we share your name and e-mail with the Assoc	
OTHER INFORMATION	
Please mark all that apply: Camper Leader First Year at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Relationship to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan (e.g. years, E/W/R, U	_ Staff Friend nit, etc.):
Professional Information (job, employer, city, indust	ry, etc.):
Are you interested in participating in the Mentorshi	p Program?(Y)(N)TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:
	Annual Dues (check box) Young Adult (18 to 25 years of age) Standard Stand

Dues are on the calendar year and not prorated. Make checks payable to "Northeast Illinois Council BSA," place "MAA Membership" in the memo line. Any additional amount contributed will be used in direct support of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation under the supervision of the Association and the Council Executive Board. MA-KA-JA-WAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.





