



Second Annual MHASA Reunion A Great Success!!

by Don Hanson

It's a weekend I looked forward to for a long time. I had talked to Howard "Woody" Wood and he had the food and the weekend all planned and ready to go. My wife, Trudy (Monk) Hanson and I loaded up the car the night before and headed out at 6am on Friday morning. There seems to be a magic when you get off I-95 and start heading towards Patten and the closer you get to "the base" the better life seems to get.

During the day on Friday others started to arrive. In fact, alumni and guests arrived right up until Saturday supper (we even held supper a little late for them). They arrived via Webster Stream by canoe, via Quebec by car and some just came from home. The weather was great. On Friday some of us pitched in and help to take down staff and home-bound tents that needed repair. Anne Chase fired up the sewing machine and made the tents ready for next year. Several paddled into base from the landing or from up stream. There was a small group that ran the East Branch from Matagamon dam down a ways. The Hostetters brought their one year old daughter, Jasmine, and their 8 week old black lab puppy, Raja. We all enjoyed taking care of them.

Saturday evening included the Annual Meeting (see notes starting on page 4), a slide show (who were those young staff members?) and a campfire. There was a lot of "porch" time during the weekend with swapping of adventures that get better with each telling.

Sunday morning there were boat trips across the lake to get people safely headed back home. No one wanted to leave, but left excited and happy.

I want to thank Dave Hostetter and MHAA for



Look at the happy faces of this year's participants in the MHASA Reunion! Front row, left to right: Joe Przypek, Laura Ostrander, Anne Chase (with Copper (Hostetter's dog)), Don Hanson, Trudy Hanson. Back row, left to right: Rusty Partridge, Sarah Hostetter (with Raja (Hostetter's dog)), Nate Poulin, Adam Hall (guest), Pete Manning, Howard Wood, Ellen Parent (guest), Tim Parent, Raymond Brown, Dave Hostetter, Betsy Melrose (guest), holding Jasmine Hostetter (guest). Missing from picture: Al Pulkkinen.

hosting the Reunion and Howard "Woody" Wood for chairing the event and cooking for us all weekend long. Most of all, I want to thank those that attended and those that were thinking of us. I can't wait for next year!

Radio Call Sign 101... from the Director

by Dave Hostetter

Hello alumni and welcome to the fall...at least fall is definitely in the air in Maine and at Matagamon. What a great time the MHASA Alumni Weekend was back in August! It was great to see friends from several eras with very happy faces back at the base pulling some quality porch 'duty'! Thanks to Don, Trudy, Woody, and all the others who helped put the weekend together. Thanks also to the MHASA for the wonderful donations made to the program at, and after, the Alumni Weekend.

Summer 2004 was another, in the expected tradition, quality summer for Maine High Adventure. Matagamon hosted 37 crews representing 11 different states and 18 different councils this past summer. We also had two Order of the Arrow Service trek crews, co-sponsored by Pamola Lodge of the Katahdin Area Council, and a MHA ProvTrek provisional crew, each of which gave some individual Scouts from around the area and country, a chance to participate and enjoy the wonderful MHA experience. To a letter, each of these 40 crews went away feeling great and wanting MORE! This can obviously be attributed to the awesome staff of 2004! This staff boasted a large percentage of returning folks, both former staff members, but also former crew members. The group definitely carried on the great MHA tradition of excellent customer service and giving the crews 110% effort, all summer long. Please welcome the newest MHASA members: Rachel Brayley (RI), Karley Drumm (NY), Joseph Lala (DE), Drew Lord (ME), Edward McAvoy (ME), Will Minner (SC), Garrett Noyes (NH), Nick Olcese (PA), and Jerry Whitfield (NC). These folks joined returning staff members: Raymond Brown, Erin Campbell, Megan Campbell, Anne Chase, Brendan Hall, Chuck Johnston, Karl Kemper, Nathan Pluto, Richard Pluto, and Al Pulkkinen. We also had some great MHASA help from Guides Paul Navratil and Jon Trenkle who came up to guide some individual trips. On behalf of MHA, and myself, I offer thanks and gratitude to the staff of 2004 for continuing the tradition, and a job well done!

I would also like to thank the MHA Board of Governors and the MHASA for their support of, and dedication to, MHA. Jim Runyan, BoG Chair and

...From the Director (Continued on page 5)

President's Message

by Don Hanson

The first year of the Maine High Adventure Staff Association is now behind us. It already seems that we have been around for longer than one year. I had set two goals for last year: 1) help Maine High Adventure staff alumni catch up with each other and 2) to see what we could do to help the Maine High Adventure Program. We accomplished both. The current membership list of alums that we have addresses for is about 200. That is a great start and it seems that every member knows about where another two are. I have heard estimates that there have been 700-1400 staff alumni from MHA. I don't know exactly what numbers to believe (many of the records were lost in the transition from the National operation to the Local operation), but the potential for more members is great. If anyone has a little time to seek out staff members from your year(s) at Maine High Adventure, it certainly would be appreciated. If you get to see some of the wonderful mail and email that has come in over the last year, it makes the effort more than worth it.

Our second goal of helping the Maine High Adventure program has also been successful as Dave Hostetter points out in his column. We have contributed goods, services, money, work, and crew contacts. I hope we can put as much or more into the program this next year. The paybacks are incredible!

The MHASA was represented in the Board of Governors, at the May work weekend, at the Moose Feed, and of course at the MHASA Reunion. My wife and I made five trips to Matagamon base - and the year is not over yet!

I hope you all take a look at the article by Raymond Brown about promoting Maine High Adventure. As a member of the Board of Governors I know just how important it is to "get the crews out" for 2005. If anyone wants to help, contact Dave Hostetter at 800-763-4499 or e-mail him at mhaa@maineline.net or contact me.

This year the Executive Committee hopes to strengthen the MHASA organization. One of the items on the agenda is to come up with a logo. We have a couple of ideas, but if you have thoughts, put

President's Message (Continued on page 7)

The History of Maine High Adventure

Part 2 - May 1971

by Bud Jeffrey

The bulldozer was slowly making a road I had laid out into Birch Point. We had decided to build a tent city to house our first year of operation. The going was slow but steady. Out of the woods walked Chub Foster, former owner and operator of Foster's Matagamom Sporting Camp. Since Chub lived on the lake we had talked about our hopes and plans. He was very much in favor of our Scouting objectives. He said to me, "Bud, just maybe that road is unnecessary". I was puzzled and asked "How come?".

Chub's answer opened a whole new way of thinking for this fledgling operation. He indicated that he had just come from a conversation with a discouraged Ray Pridgeon, who had purchased the Matagamom Sporting Camp from the Fosters a year earlier. Chub said "He isn't making it and wants out".

I immediately had the bulldozer take a long break, while I drove to Foster's [the passable road ended there], and walked into the Camp to sound out Ray Pridgeon. He was delighted to discuss a possible sale of the buildings. [The Land was leased from Seven Island Co. who owned one half of T 6 R 8 Township]

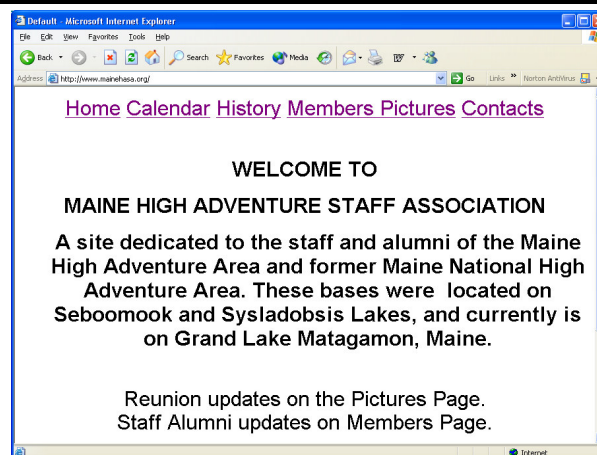
I drove to Patten and telephoned High Adventure Director Bill Wadsworth in New Brunswick N.J. to discuss possibilities: Financial, Physical and Practical.

To make a long story short, Wadsworth flew up the next day from the National Office. We went over the whole place, planning roughly as we went. Within two weeks, arrangements to buy were completed. The money, \$35,000 came from a grant that Wadsworth had to develop the Maine High Adventure Base. The property lease was transferred to High Adventure by John Sinclair, President of Seven Islands Co. As you might imagine, Mr. Sinclair was elated over the development and became Chairman of the Maine High Adventure Advisory Committee.

Instead of building a tent city on Birch Point, we had buildings that could be adapted to our use. In early June the staff arrived with just a few short weeks to set up a High Adventure Base for a July 1st opening. That first staff worked their butts off preparing for opening day.

It was a talented and diverse group. Every member was an Eagle Scout and three of the thirteen were sons of professional Scout Executives. With BJ as Director and Mrs. Jeffrey cooking, the staff total was 15. Those pioneers were Peter Earle, VT. - Operations, Peter Howard, ME, Peter Derosier, NY, Jim Turner, NJ, Mike Jeffrey, ME, Ed Meadows, OH, Rich Hunting, ME., Bill Ross, ME - Guides, Gordon Vogel, IN - Chief Guide, John Burke, NH, Mike Sullivan, MA - Commissary, Bill Hodgkins, ME, Sandy Biber, NJ - Drivers.

Watch for more history in your next Moose Call!



Got Internet?

Check Out Our Website at

www.mainehasa.org

The website is starting to take on a life of its own. There are pictures of past staffs, current pictures of alumni, the ongoing history of Maine High Adventure, and even back copies of the Moose Call. Bob Cowdrick (bcowdrick@comcast.net) is collecting all kinds of information from our members and posting it for all to share.

Future plans are for a password protected Members Page where addresses, phone numbers and email addresses can be posted so we all can find each other.

Drop by the site, send Bob contributions and enjoy the site!

Minutes from the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Maine High Adventure Staff Association

President Don Hanson welcomed all present to the 2nd annual meeting of the Maine High Adventure Association in the dining room of the house after a delicious dinner. The secretary's report from last year's meeting was accepted as printed in the Moose Call. Don Hanson reported on the treasury. Over the past year, membership dues totaled \$150. and general donations \$510. Expenses over the past year were all around printing and mailing the Moose Call and totaled \$262.77. It was announced that dues would remain at \$5.00 per year. This should cover the cost of printing (mailing some) the Moose Call and maintaining the web-site.

Vice President Howard "Woody" Wood noted his progress thus far on the membership database. He asked everyone to help increase the number of correct addresses for past staff. He stated that any piece of information that could be supplied could help. (Ex.- state, job, etc.) He estimated that 65% of the names he has need to have their addresses updated.

Dave Hostetter noted that the membership list should contain about 1,000 names and we only have about 500 listed. Don Hanson encouraged members to try to update the information on staff members they worked with. He noted that when the web-site is password protected it is planned that names and addresses will be on it.

The Maine High Adventure Director's report was given by Dave Hostetter. He stated that they had had a good summer. There was excellent crew satisfaction and safety. They did have to run a "tight ship" financially. There is a need to look at a maintenance position in the near future. They had 37 crews, 2 Order of the Arrow trips, and one provisional group. One crew was from Maine this year. The staff represented many walks of life. He feels they were successful in perpetuating the tradition of the program.

Raymond Brown, Assistant Base Director, noted they had a good staff over the summer. He handed out a sheet showing statistics about crew attendance. He noted that every crew this summer reported they came to Maine High Adventure because they talked with someone who attended or worked at Maine High Adventure before. He felt that if staff alumni could assist in providing contact, in person, in their

area it might increase crew numbers for next year, especially where it is a Jamboree year. He has more statistics if anyone would like them to assist in making a presentation. Dave noted that he can send a video and handouts, if needed. He asked if any members have contact with council newsletters that they look into having something put in about Maine High Adventure. When some present asked about changes in the program since they were on staff, it was felt that more has stayed the same than has changed over the years.

Don Hanson summarized the association's first year progress. A group met last August and put together the constitution and organization. Three Moose Call newsletters were sent out over the year and the web-site (MaineHASA.org) was created. The association had two main goals: 1) to help the Maine High Adventure program through donations of equipment, money, or time and 2) to increase membership and communication among members through the web-site and finding members. If anyone has any suggestions for the web-site they are encouraged to contact Bob Cowdrick. For the coming year the plan is to continue those two goals, to plan and carry out a reunion again next year, and to come up with a logo for the organization. Woody asked those present how the timing for the reunion worked out. Would a later time like Columbus Day weekend be better? It was felt the timing was fine at this point by those present. Dave stated that he has thought of possibly having an alumni campsite on base. He has also been thinking of how to develop a "residency in support of the program" idea. Raymond suggested we ask in the newsletter about when is the best time to do the reunion. Don noted that folks could send any suggestions by email, letter, or phone call.

Elections for the positions of secretary and treasurer were held. Don explained the process. They will be elected for a two-year term. On the ballot for re-election are John Pluto for secretary and Deb Howard for treasurer. Raymond made a motion that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for those nominees. Nate Poulin seconded the motion. All were in favor of this. Therefore, John and Deb

Annual Financial Report for MHASA for 2003-2004

Income

Membership (dues)	\$150.00
Donations	510.00
Total	<u>\$660.00</u>

Expenses

March newsletter	\$140.78
May newsletter/ Annual Mtg notice	121.99
Total	<u>\$162.77</u>

Cash in hand at the end of the year

\$497.23

Remember, your \$5.00 annual dues are due again. Please send them to:

**Deb Howard
14 Blue Ridge Drive
Sidney, ME 04330**

This money is used to fund the web site and Moose Call mailings.

Thanks!!!

When is the best date for our Reunion and Annual Meeting?

There has been a lot of discussion concerning the date of the Reunion and Annual Meeting. Most members feel that we should set a date that people can plan on each year. Currently we are using the weekend containing the fourth Saturday in August. It works well for Matagamon Base and the people who attended like it, but it is hard to ask those that we don't see when would be better. Please email me at dontrudy@ctel.net and let me know your preferences.

Don Hanson

...From the Director (Continued from page 2)

the members of the BoG do a great job providing direction, establishing policy, marshalling and providing resources, and devoting time and effort to the perpetuation of the MHA program. Several folks play integral roles in our valuable staff training process. Barry Burgason organizes the excellent Ecology Workshop, and BoG member Hugh Crammond helps within that setting as well. Don Hanson, President of the MHASA, and BoG member, should be commended for providing leadership to that group. Under Don, and the other MHASA Executive Board members, that organization is not only establishing this association of/for former staff, for communication and fellowship purposes, but they are expending a good amount of effort developing ways in which the association might effectively support and help the Maine High Adventure program. Indeed, MHASA members Rick Thompson, Doug Oliver, Bill Sheehan, David Ladd, Keel Kemper, Anne Chase, Karl Kemper, and others, have all been involved with staff training in recent years. Other MHASA members, including Bob Cowdrick, Tom Johnston, Raymond Brown, Daniel McIntyre, John Schneck, Ed Meadows, Jed Schnierlein, Aaron Padgen, Trevor Soucy, and others, have been helping with program promotion around the country. Pardon any omissions.

Many great people...doing great things...for a great program! Keep up the wonderful work!

Happy trails,

Dave Hostetter, Director

Minutes (Continued from page 4)

were re-elected. Several ballots had also been cast via email in their favor as well. The offices of president and vice-president will be up for re-election next year.

There wasn't any old business to discuss. Under new business, Anne Chase noted that some alumni had come and helped in May 2004 with projects on base. She suggested that perhaps a possible work weekend could be scheduled. Dave agreed that there are projects that could be done. The Spring work weekend is usually the weekend between Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend.

A motion was made to adjourn by Raymond. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Hanson, secretary pro tem

Help Spread the Good News About High Adventure in Maine

by Raymond Brown

The advisors in all of the crews that attended Matagamon in 2004 were asked how their crew learned about the Maine High Adventure program. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the crews were "repeat customers" -- units and/or individuals who had attended previously and 43% of the crew advisors became aware of High Adventure in Maine from talking with someone who knew about the program, essentially "word of mouth" advertising. Obviously, the high proportion of returning crews speaks highly about the value and quality of our program. We hope and believe that crews continue to have backcountry experiences that are rewarding, challenging, and memorable ... and will encourage return visits.

What I would like to focus on is the 43% of our attendees who found out about the Maine High Adventure program through face-to-face conversations. The conversation might have taken place at a Scouting activity like a camporee or Order of the Arrow gathering; or it might have been at a B.S.A. program-planning or camp-promotion event; or it might have occurred in a non-Scouting setting such as a work place or golf course or church activity. As I have met with the adults in just about every crew in recent years, it has become obvious to me that there are many Scout troops and Venture crews in many B.S.A. councils who have no idea that the Maine High Adventure program exists. And I think that this is a valuable way that staff alumni in all states and councils can contribute to the growth and stability of the High Adventure enterprise in Maine.

I am sure that we have many former staff members who are involved in Scouting, or who know someone who is involved locally in Scouting. It would be very helpful for some of you to explain the basic facts about our program to Scouts and Venturers and Scouters in your neighborhoods and your local councils. Maybe that involves a series of conversations with co-workers? Maybe you could talk for a few minutes at a District Roundtable or an Order of the Arrow activity? Maybe you could get an announcement published in your local council newsletter or arrange to have the MHA web site listed in the "High Adventure" section of the web site of your local council and/or district?

As I see it, our immediate goal is to increase awareness of the Maine High Adventure Area. I am not suggesting that staff alumni need to make elaborate, formal presentations, nor that they need to "twist people's arms" and convince them to mail reservation deposits. We simply need to let people know that there is a B.S.A. backcountry trekking program in northern Maine that has been fine-tuned for more than 30 years, and that more detailed information can be found on the web (www.mainehighadventure.org).

You do not have to know all the details about registration procedures for 2005 in order to give somebody a good overview of our program. The program we are offering today is amazingly similar to the program offered during the 1970s and 1980s -- extended canoe trips on lakes and rivers including the Aroostook, Allagash, and Penobscot (East and West Branches). Flexibility is still a cornerstone of Maine High Adventure -- flexibility in arrival dates, lengths of stay, crew size, trip difficulty, custom-designed treks, and put-ins and pick-ups. The basic fee still covers a guide for the entire trek plus all basic equipment -- canoes, paddles, tents, packs, pots, trail food, etc. Treks still go through remote isolated areas where wildlife abounds and photography opportunities are unlimited.

Recruiting crews to come to Maine in 2005 is especially important because the Boy Scouts of America are holding a National Jamboree in Virginia next summer. High Adventure attendance in Maine dropped dramatically during the two previous National Jamborees (1997 and 2001). Large drops in attendance reduce certain operating efficiencies and tend to wreck havoc with our financial results (because fixed costs must be covered by fewer crews). The Board of Governors and Dave Hostetter are working very hard to recruit more crews for 2005 and prevent an attendance dip such as occurred in 1997 and 2001. Autumn and early winter are the preferred times for crews to make reservations for next summer. Former staff members, especially those who live in the northeastern states, have the potential to play a major role in "spreading the good

Help Spread the Good News... (Continued on page 7)

Maine High Adventure by the Numbers

by Raymond Brown

3

Crews completed the portage across
Mud Pond Carry in 2004

13

Crews paddled down most or all of
the Allagash River in 2004

18

Different B.S.A. Councils who sent crews
to Matagamon in 2004

20

People served on the 2004 Matagamon staff:
they are residents of twelve different states

37

Regular crews attended in 2004, plus one
provisional crew and two Order of the Arrow
work-and-paddle treks.

80

Guests and staff members attended Matagamon's
Moose Feed on August 8, 2004

98

Adult Scouters attended as advisors in 2004.

227

Young People attended in 2004.

2252

Total camper nights during the 2004 season (for the
37 regular crews) -- a 13% increase over 2003

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

them together and send them to me. When we get a logo we can put it on letterhead, membership cards, and maybe even some patches or clothing.

One other big item that was created early in the summer was a website for MHASA. Check it out at www.mainehasa.org. We have had over 3000 visits to our site since it went live May 31st. We are averaging over 500 visits a month. The site contains copies of all the *Moose Calls* published in 2004 (I know, we need to get some of the older ones on line, too), a copy of the constitution, list of officers, the ongoing history of Maine High Adventure as published in the *Moose Call*, pictures of MHASA and MHAA events, and pictures of members out playing. Take a cruise on by and check it out. We have plans to set up a Members Only page that is password protected with names and addresses of our members and maybe even a message area. If anyone has some knowledge of web sites and wants to give pointers, I am sure that Bob Cowdrick, our webmaster is willing to learn. Thanks go out to Bob, by the way, for all the work he has put into the site. It has come quite a way since May!

This is your organization! If any of you have ideas of what we might be able to do as an organization, please let me know. We are always looking for help with this project or that. If you have computer, clerical, graphic, promotional, or other skills that you can contribute, just let me know. I will warn you that if your talent would be a better match for the High Adventure Program, I might just talk to Dave Hostetter and/or the Board of Governors and see if we can use your talents.

As I write this, the leaves are turning beautiful colors in Maine and the weather is turning a little cooler. I hope all of you are enjoying your Fall and getting outdoors. Currently, the next *Moose Call* is scheduled for publication for February 2005. If there is enough enthusiasm, we might turn one out just before the Christmas season.

Keep on smiling!!

to enough additional reservations to offset the historical "Jamboree effect" attendance drop.

If you have an opportunity to meet with Scouters in your local council or community and you would like some printed information or other support materials, please feel free to call Dave Hostetter (800-763-4499) or e-mail him at mhaa@maineline.net.

Help Spread the Good News...(Continued from page 6)
news" and attracting more crews. Our challenge is to stimulate enough new awareness among Scout troops and Venture crews so that inquiries will lead

Reunion 2004!



Serious "porch time"



Catching up with fellow staff members
in the kitchen



Lugging repaired tents to the Commissary

Maine High Adventure Staff Association
402 Metcalf Road
Winthrop, ME 04364