



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

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The Skunks Ride Again

The 2013 version of the Skunk Reunion was its typical malodorous self. On June 1, a record crowd of 53 stinkers gathered at the Swanson Lodge at Fred C. Andersen Scout Reservation. With so many attendees, we had over 1,854 years of Scouting experience in the room. This year's redolent crowd was treated to a delightful meal following an excellent program. The cooks were none other than the duo of Skunk of the Year recipients Charlie Opp and Joan Robbins!

In addition to Claudia Nicholson's State of the Museum talk and MC Ron Phillippo's guidance, the program featured a preview of author Dave Kenney's upcoming book on the history of



Museum Chairman of the Board Ron Phillippo presides over the largest-ever Skunk Reunion.

Fred C. Andersen Camp. His lecture included rare photos and little known anecdotes about the camp, including a humorous story about how Good Medicine

Lodge got its name. It turns out that the "good medicine" would be regarded today as nothing more than snake oil. Dave's talk segued into a tribute to retiring camp ranger Art Marty. The story of Fred C. Andersen is not complete without former Skunk of the Year Art Marty and he was there to thank one and all for a great career. There was hardly a dry eye in the house, certainly not Art's.

The program concluded with two Skunk of the Year presentations to two very deserving and fetid recipients. Joan Robbins has been active both in a troop and as Unit Commissioner. She has also served on District



Dave Kenney delivers his talk on the history of Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp.



Co-Skunks of the Year Joan Robbins and Charlie Opp show off their awards at the 2013 Skunk Reunion.



Ron Phillippo and Art Marty enjoy the festivities at the Skunk Reunion.

Roundtable Staff, has volunteered in both church and schools, served as an election judge, and has spent literally thousands of hours performing every imaginable volunteer task for the Museum. Her activities include taking our travelling displays on the road, setting up, staffing and taking down State Fair displays, assisting with the transfer of Dick Carroll's estate to the 3M storage facility, and preparing meals for eight of the last nine Skunk Reunions.

Charlie Opp also had to be dragged out of the kitchen to receive his Skunk of the Year recognition. He has been a registered Scouter for almost 30 years and his many awards and recognitions include the Silver Beaver award. He has held multiple positions at the Pack, Troop, District, Council level. He has actively worked with youth in his church and in the community in addition to Scouting. He is currently active as a

Venture Crew leader and has been a key leader in a Special Needs troop for fifteen years. Charlie also served on the North Star Museum Board of Directors and was Board Chair for two years. Along with Joan Robbins, he has prepared the Skunk Reunion meal for many years.

Following the Skunk of the Year presentation, a large group of Skunks was thanked for their continuing volunteer work for the Museum. Thanks to the Skunks, many important projects have been completed and more are on their radar. Remember, any Museum member with fifteen or more years as an adult volunteer in the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts is automatically a Skunk. Don't waste your pedigree stinking up your house—share some of the aroma by joining your fellow Skunks in a Museum project. Contact Claudia or Jim Rupert (campfirerupert@aol.com) today.



Welcome New Interns!

Robin Allison (at left) of Jackson, WY, is a student at the University of Oklahoma College of Liberal Studies, working on an M.A. in Museum Studies. She has worked at the National Museum of Wildlife Art and the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum.

Katie Steffan (at right) of Oak Creek, WI, is a student at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, working towards her M.A. in Public History with a specialization in Museum Studies. Katie has worked at the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear, the Frederick Pabst Mansion, and the Milwaukee Public Museum. Both interns are working at the Case warehouse facility on an inventory project. They will be collecting

(and entering into a computer database) information on all the collections material at the warehouse for which we currently have no records. Step one has been to organize the material so that data entry goes more smoothly, and it is remarkable what can happen when a couple of people devote full-time to the effort. This facility will be neat and well-organized by the end of the summer!

We NEED You!

If you have spent any time hanging around the Museum, you have undoubtedly heard Claudia ask you to consider volunteering. The best way to get her to stop asking is to volunteer!

You should know that all of the Museum's work during the first 27 years of existence was carried out by volunteers. Dick Carroll, who had volunteered as Curator between 1993 and 2003, was finally appointed to a paid position that year. Since 1993, having paid staff has not diminished the need for volunteers—in fact, it has probably increased it, since we are trying to move our program ahead farther and faster than ever before.

This newsletter is written, produced, and mailed to you entirely by volunteers. The Museum News team consists of John Guthmann, who serves a lead writer and editor, John Raymond, who handles production, Kathryn White, who edits the articles, and Terri Anderson who sees to the printing. The crew of Gary Gorman, Jim Rupert, Gor-

don Meeker, Paul Bartyzal, and Chuck and Judy Clausen (in various combinations) does folding, tabbing, addressing, stamping, and drops the whole thing in the mail to you. They have our gratitude.

Work on the collection has been carried out primarily by volunteers for years. Joan Robbins, Mike Lund (back in his volunteer days), Paul Bartyzal, Terri Anderson, Barb Herrmann, Judy Clausen, and Kirsten Larsen have all contributed major time to collections care and documentation. These days, they are joined by the Collections Committee, a group of volunteers who examine all proffered donations and make recommendations to the Board about what to take into our large collection. Led by Mollie Spillman, the committee includes, Bob Pettitt, Jay Biedny, Betty Joyce, Joan Henry, and Tim Jopek. They have reviewed thousands of objects in the course of their work.

Our super programs have



been developed and carried out by volunteers, particularly those serving on the Program Committee including Robbi Moore, who chairs the group, Kurt Leichtle, and Nell Nere. If the program is fun and interesting, chances are that one of these three have had a hand in it.

There is no magic to museum work. There is just a lot of regular, hard work and the hands to carry it out. But, once the work is done, there is a beautiful facility to enjoy and the smiling faces of the kids and adults who enjoy our programs. We want to make volunteering fun, interesting, and available to just about anyone who wants to do it. We have many opportunities and we would enjoy seeing you join our happy volunteers. Just e-mail or call the Museum (651-748-2880) or give Gary Gorman a call (651-428-6097).

New Members Since January 2013

- Tammy Barnaby
- Cub Scout Pack 249
- Dale Dawson
- Jerry Friedmann
- Brandon Fryar
- Edward Goff
- Clarice Hagen
- William Hickey
- Thomas Holt
- John H. Judd
- Kirk Kleckner
- Frederick J. Neher, Jr.
- Richard & Nancy Nelson
- Sharon J. Reece
- Dr. Franz-Jose E. Reisdorf
- Wyatt Swanson
- James Stevenson
- Phyllis Willerscheidt
- Ronald & Shirley Zimmerman

Know of anyone interested in joining? Contact Katy Epler at 651-748-0660 or kepler@nssm.org and she will gladly help you.



Mark Your Calendars

**Plan on coming to
Pause That Refreshes**

**July 12, 2013
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
at the Museum**

More details on www.nssm.org.



Welcome to Shirley De la Torre!

The Changing Face of North Star Museum

Did we mention that these are indeed exciting times? In the February Museum News, you learned about the new plans taking shape within our organization to deliver top-notch programming to an ever-increasing audience. In April's Museum News, you were introduced to our new part-time Administrative Assistant, Katy Epler. Now, Executive Director Claudia Nicholson is pleased to announce the hiring of our new Director of Institutional Advancement, Shirley De la Torre.

As Director of Institutional Advancement, Shirley will be working with marketing, messaging, our donors, volunteers, and helping to expand the Museum's membership base. Known for her enthusiasm, creativity, high energy, and "out-of-the-box" ideas, Shirley has many years' experience in the development industry, most notably with the University of Minnesota

(College of Veterinary Medicine), The Wildcat Sanctuary, and The Central Brevard Humane Society. Her broad-based experience includes annual giving, memberships, donor stewardship, public relations, as well as community events, public speaking, and volunteer coordination. Shirley also has years of experience in customer service, event planning, education, and management.

Shirley is certainly excited about the opportunity to work with Museum staff, volunteers, members, and visitors. She says: "The North Star Museum is a magical place where the adventures and values of Scouting are celebrated and revered! More than that, NSSM is a valuable resource – for the Scouting community and the community at large – for education, service learning, leadership, and FUN! My hope is to bring infrastructure and creative ideas to the Museum so we can increase the Museum's

visibility and excitement! We treasure our valued members and look forward to bringing you unique events, exciting lectures and educational workshops for the whole family. Truly, the traditional values of Scouting are important for our entire family of supporters – Scouts and Scout fans alike! We have a fantastic board, an amazing Executive Director, and we are all so excited for the growth to come! A BIG THANKS to all our members for being a part of our grand adventure!"

Sound good to you? It does to us too. Shirley resides in Stillwater. In her spare time, she volunteers at the U of M Raptor Center and does freelance writing for the Stillwater Gazette. When it comes to the values of Scouting, she knows what she is talking about—she was a Brownie in her youth. Please welcome Shirley when you drop by the Museum. Look for the announcement of a special gathering for Shirley and Katy soon!



John Twohig at the 2010 Skunk Reunion.

Former Skunk of the Year John Twohig Passes

This year's Skunk Reunion was noticeably quieter due to the absence of long-time Skunk and former Skunk of the Year, John Twohig. Just a week after the event, John passed away at the age of 81, surrounded by loved ones.

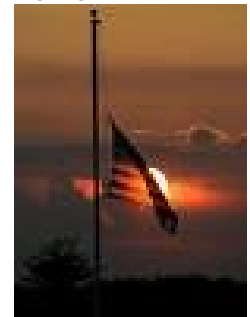
John served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was the past Fourth District V.F. W.

Commander. He was also active in the DAV, American Legion, and Chapter I Kore-

an War Vets. Of course, John had a long career as a Boy Scout volunteer, being particularly active in the Northwest District of the Northern Star Council, where he served as District Commissioner among other roles. John was also a devoted member of the Museum.

At the time of his passing, John was retired from being Associate Warden in the Minnesota Department of Corrections at Stillwater. According to his newspaper

obituary, "John was active in Church, loved the outdoors, family, food and a good game of farkle." John is survived by wife, Ruthanne, five children, and eight grandchildren.



Don't MISS OUT on Your Charitable Tax Deduction!

By Terri Anderson

As Donor Relationships Manager at Northern Star Council, it is my responsibility to ensure all gifts are properly receipted for donors to declare them on their taxes. Most of you are, no doubt, aware of what you need, but please take a few minutes to review this article. Who knows? There may be something new and you don't want to miss out on a deduction that is rightfully yours.

(One caveat: This list is not comprehensive. It's just a primer. At the end of this article are links to IRS publications and a webinar. So, check them out for additional details.)

Donors and charitable organizations are required to keep records. The basic rules, according to IRS Publication 1771 on Charitable Contributions – Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements (pp. 1-2; see Links #1 for this publication and #2 for an online webinar), include:

a donor must have a bank record or written communication from a charity for any monetary contribution before the donor can claim a charitable contribution on his/her federal income tax return.

a donor is responsible for obtaining a written acknowledgement from a charity for any single contribution of \$250 or more before the donor can claim a charitable

contribution on his/her federal tax return.

a charitable organization is required to provide a written disclosure to a donor who receives goods or services in exchange for a single payment in excess of \$75.

Written disclosure statements from the charitable institution should include:

Organization's name

Amount of cash contribution

Description (but not the value) of non-cash contribution.

Statement that no goods or services were provided by the organization in return for the contribution, if that was the case.

description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services, if any, that an organization provided in return for the contribution.

statement that goods or services, if any, that an organization provided in return for the contribution consisted of entirely of intangible religious benefits . . . , if that was the case.

A separate acknowledgement may be provided for each single contribution of \$250 or more, or one acknowledgement, such as an annual summary, may be used to substantiate several single contributions of \$250 or more. These acknowledgements can be electronic or paper copies.

In general, charitable organizations have until January 31 of the following tax year (e.g., January 31, 2014 for contributions made in 2013), to provide annual summaries.

(Note: The Museum supplies an annual summary to all donors, regardless of size of contribution.) What if your donation is a non-cash contribution? Charitable organizations will still provide a written disclosure statement but you should be aware there are additional IRS forms needed.

Motor vehicles, boats, or airplanes are handled differently if the claimed value exceeds \$500. The charitable organization may sell or keep these items. In any case, the donor should receive an acknowledgement and IRS Form 1098-C for these contributions.

If the organization decides to keep the item for three or more years, the claimed value can be used by the donor for tax purposes. However, if the organization sells the item immediately or uses the item for less than three years, the organization is responsible for providing the donor and IRS with an amended IRS Form 1098-C. (See link #3.)

For all other non-cash donations of property, publicly traded securities, etc., IRS Publication 561 (link #4 below) should be carefully



considered. The publication lists each type of non-cash donation and what is required for substantiation and disclosure along with examples to show how to interpret any given situation.

This brings me to a separate, but yet parallel topic on non-cash contributions regarding what you as donors may give to charitable organizations. The Museum receives many generous non-cash donations ranging from 3M's generous non-cash donation of space at the 3M/Case facility to snacks that counselors bring to Merit Badge Workshops. They need to be documented properly.

Recently I took the table runners the Museum uses at formal events to the dry cleaners. I decided to pay for the cleaning and submit the receipt as a donation to the Museum so that I could declare it on my tax return. The Museum provided me with a receipt. So, I'm all set to go to declare it on this year's return. In turn, the Museum is able to declare this non-cash donation as income.

However, do other generous Museum volunteers do the same? We have many

wonderful people who make the various programs the Museum offers to youth and adults possible. They purchase supplies, snacks, paperware, etc. that the Museum may not be able to cover. Unfortunately, many don't submit the receipts to the Museum. They may think the expense is negligible and don't want to take the time to send in the information to the Museum staff.

This type of situation puts both the donor and the organization in a negative situation. The donor is technically not eligible to declare these non-cash donations for tax purposes, because they do not have a written acknowledgment from the Museum. The Museum is unable to confirm a non-cash

donation was made by the donor if the donor is audited. In addition, by not having a record of these non-cash donations, the Museum is unable to properly establish annual budgets with documented information. It cannot fine tune its program and activity budgets from year to year because it doesn't know the true expense to run a program.

The Museum requires the assistance of every member in making it strong. You as donors and volunteers can help by submitting the information necessary to recognize all of your contributions, and by ensuring you have what you need to file your year tax forms.

Here are the promised links:

1. Charitable Contributions: Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1771.pdf>
2. Can I deduct my charitable contributions? Online mini-course for donors: http://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/Mini-Courses/Can_I_Deduct_My_Charitable_Contributions/can_i_deduct_my_charitable_contributions.aspx
3. A Charity's Guide to Vehicle Donation: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4302.pdf>
4. Determining the value of donated property: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf>



Summer Super Merit Badge Weeks!

A super duper schedule of three merit badge weeks is in the works this summer. For those new members who have not yet encountered heard of this program, North Star Museum holds merit badge workshops year round. However, in the summer, we offer one week in each of the

summer months. Registered merit badge counselors lead these workshops. They determine prerequisites a you must complete prior to the workshop, and they are the ultimate authority in determining whether or not a youth

has met the badge's requirements. Below is a list of workshops scheduled so far (June 10). More workshops will be scheduled in the week's ahead. See the museum's website for details: http://www.nssm.org/programs_events/MeritBadge.html

June 25-29, 2013

- 25th: Citizenship in the Community (9a-Noon); Citizenship in the Nation (1p-4p); Family Life (7p-9p)
- 26th: Collections (8:30a-10:30a and 11a-1p)
- 27th and 28th: To be scheduled
- 29th: Citizenship in the Community (9a-Noon)

July 9-13, 2013

- 9th and 10th: To be scheduled.
- 11th: Medicine (9a-Noon); Citizenship in the Nation (Noon-3p)
- 12th: Genealogy (9a-Noon)
- 13th: To be scheduled.

August 13-16, 2013

- 13th: Family Life (7p-9p)
- 14th: Medicine (9a-Noon)
- 14th and 15th: Communications (9a-Noon; must attend both sessions; now full)
- 15th: Personal Fitness (7p-9p)
- 16th: To be scheduled.



Volunteer Corner

By Gary Gorman, Volunteer Team Leader

This month's volunteer is Kirsten Larsen. Kirsten has volunteered at the Museum for two to three hours every week since 2009—more than four years of dedicated work! (she does

take a few weeks off each summer) An important part of Kirsten's job is to look for those materials that may tell us an interesting story of Scouts, Scouters or Scouting events. Kirsten explained that her volunteer job at the Museum is one that is full of surprises, as she regularly is the first one to open the mysterious boxes of Scout stuff that appear almost daily at the Museum. These boxes sometimes contain compelling stories and treasures.

Kirsten regularly "sees the good, the bad and the ugly of our donated items." The boxes and boxes of stuff that she inventories contain mostly books, patches, cof-

fee mugs, uniforms pins, Girl Scout swaps, magazines, and other items of which we often have multiple copies in our collection. Kirsten consults with Claudia to determine which of these "new" objects might be worthy of consideration by our Collections Committee for addition to the Museum's collection.

One sometimes wonders where our volunteers get their spirit of dedication. Their dedication comes from a parent's connection or a volunteer's own connection to Girl Scouting or Boy Scouting. This is certainly true in Kirsten's case: her mother and father, Neil and Cheryl Larsen, have both been long-time volunteers in the Northern Star council's Venturing programs. They were also recently on staff at the 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden. Kirsten was a Girl Scout from first grade through eighth grade, when she transferred her interests into the Venturing program. From there she went on to earn the Venturing's Silver award. As a teenager and college student, Kristen

worked seven summers on the staff at Camp Kiwanis, teaching everything from BB Guns to Nature.

Kirsten has recently completed a Master of Education degree and holds a BA in Spanish and German. Her original goal was to become a classroom teacher. However, after four years of volunteering experience at the Museum, she now wants to shift her career focus towards museum education.

When asked to focus on an interesting or unusual find in her collections work, Kirsten mentioned coming across 1940s-50s Den Mother's Official gold-colored makeup compact—Scout logo and all. Certainly not something one might expect to find among a Den Mother's official equipment today! She also found Scouting material related to atomic bomb shelters and what to do in case of an "A" bomb attack.

Thank You, Kirsten, for your long-time dedication to the Museum.

Interested in working with the collection?

Only have a limited amount of time once a month or once a quarter? We want you!

Contact Katy Epler at 651-748-2660. Even an hour here and there will help!

Did you notice our new look? Tell us how you like it (or don't).

Email Katy Epler
at kepler@nssm.org

Are you a gardener?

The Museum has grounds where flowers need regular watering and weeding during the summer. Will accept any time you care to donate.

Contact Katy Epler at 651-748-2660. Even an hour here and there will help!

JUNE 2013

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We're on the web
www.nssm.org

June 12 Pause That Refreshes

A group of thirty Girl Scouters and Boy Scouters attended the June 12 Pause That Refreshes.

Guest speaker was Tish Bolger, Operating Officer of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, and also the President of the American Camping Association.

Tish talked about the value of camping for kids, citing new research that the American Camp Association has done on the value of the outdoor experience, the opportunity for kids to take risks safely, and the calming ability of being outdoors. She also gave us some statistics about how much time today's kids spend outdoors, which is a huge percentage less than what it was even 20 years ago.

Most important result — camp is good for kids!



Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, John Raymond, and Kathryn White.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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First Class

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