



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

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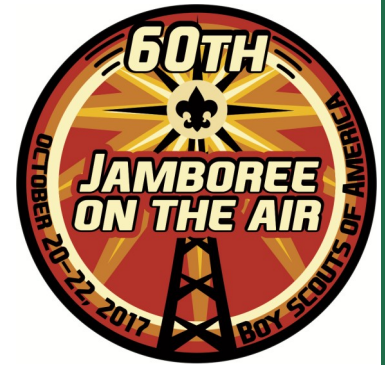
Are You Ready for JOTA?

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. This year, you can participate in JOTA at the Museum on October 21, 2017 starting at 10 a.m. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and ham radio operators around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This is one Jamboree that requires no travel other than to the North Star Museum where you will find a real ham radio operator.

Any youth may participate, boy or girl. Once you arrive at the Museum's ham radio station, you will have a chance to communicate with Scouts

from around the world. According to the World Scout Bureau, the 2016 JOTA had nearly 1.3 million Scout participants from more than 30,000 locations, and reached 156 countries.

As with last year's JOTA, Tim Arimond will be set up with his friends and radio station KØBSA. In addition to your chance to "ham it up" on the air with Tim, the Museum plans to offer other activities to complement and enhance the experience. Earn Citizenship in the World, Communication, and Radio merit badges through the Museum's Merit Badge Workshop program. Stay in touch



with the Museum if you would like to sign up for these merit badges because they usually sell out. Otherwise, we will be on the air all day from about 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Remember, JOTA is not just for boys. Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend so you can talk to your counterparts around the world! See you at the Museum on October 21 for some international travel.

Take Part in Two September Volunteer Appreciation Events

You should definitely put September 13 and September 27 on your Museum event calendar. September 13 is our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Day. From 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., come out to the Museum, look over the exhibits, see friends old and new, and enjoy des-

serts and coffee. At the brief business meeting, you will learn about the Museum's activities during the past year and hear about our exciting future plans. This is an event you will not want to miss.

The second event, to be held on September 27 from 1:30 to 3:00, com-

memorates the founding of the Museum by members of the Order of the Odor - the Skunks. Many of you know the story, which began in 1926, with a visit from an unwelcome critter to a campfire at what is now known as the Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp. At that time,
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Take Part in Two September Volunteer Appreciation Events (Continued from page 1)

St. Paul Area Council Executive, Frank Neibel, decided that Scouting had been around for long enough that a few of its veteran members should gather for a discussion of Scouting affairs. One night, while huddled around a campfire at what was informally known as “the River Camp,” a curious skunk wandered out of the underbrush and ventured into the middle of the campfire circle, causing the lead-

ers to panic and scatter. Although reports are vague as to whether the assembly suffered a spraying, the event was memorable enough to warrant a second annual meeting the following year. From this humble beginning came a group of veteran Scouters who eventually merged their personal memorabilia collections to start the North Star Museum. The September 27 event will include the unveiling of

a commemorative plaque celebrating the contributions of the Skunks.

Please plan on attending one or both of these events. The Museum cannot function without its dedicated volunteers and we would like to celebrate what you do for the Museum. Enjoy your days! As the song goes, see you in September.

Find Yourself as a Volunteer at the Museum

You may have noticed from your visits to the Museum, or from the *Museum News*, that there is a lot going on at our building these days—many new initiatives, robust committees, new exhibits, programs, and a lot of collections-related work. In addition, we have now trained our first class of Museum docents (see article elsewhere in this issue). The arrival of Brenna Barrett as Executive Director has energized the board, staff, and our corps of volunteers to try new things, increase our offerings, and just generally up our game.

In order to make the most of our new-found energy and all of the things to do at the Museum, we are in need of more volunteers. We know that you can bring a variety of skills to bear on our many initiatives. For example, in order for staff to concentrate on the very important work they are doing, we need assistance staffing the Museum

during open hours. In the last issue of *Museum News*, you read of our efforts to recruit more people to help with grounds keeping—we want to be good neighbors, and as the cliché goes, “you only get one chance to make a first impression.” Keeping up our grounds (which are more extensive than they appear to be), is vital to our public image.

But there are many other ways to help out. We have many committees that could use additional energetic individuals willing to contribute their talents and take responsibility for aspects of our fine educational programming. For example, the Exhibits Committee plans, designs, and installs the educational and informative exhibits that keep visitors coming to the Museum again and again. Also, the Collections Committee, which is empowered by the board to review all incoming donations of

artifacts and make recommendations to them for approval, needs more interested individuals. The Collections Committee is particularly interested in individuals with knowledge of the material culture of Boy Scouting. Prior volunteer experience at a museum would be very helpful, but is not necessary. Usually, the Collections Committee meets four times a year for two hours, but in the upcoming year, it plans to meet a little more frequently as we work through our significant backlog of proffered collections.

There is a myriad of opportunities for someone with some time and talent to give to the Museum. Contact Claudia Nicholson to discuss your interests (651-748-2880 or cnicholson@nssm.org). Together, there is nothing that the Museum cannot accomplish!

Our First Class of Docents is First Class

“do·cent \ 'dō-s^ənt, dō(t)-'sent\ : a person who leads guided tours especially through a museum or art gallery.”

In the April *Museum News*, you learned that the Museum was launching a new docent program. As you can see from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition quoted above, a docent program is a natural fit for our organization. The Museum is pleased to announce the completion of training for the first class of North Star Museum docents.

The primary duties of our docents will be giving tours and working with the groups that come to the Museum. However, our docents will also be more versatile. Their training includes taking responsibility for staffing the Museum when paid staff is not available. This involves opening and closing the Museum, greeting visitors, collecting admission fees, selling items in our store, and selling memberships. Docent duties may also include staffing the Museum in off-hours for events such as Eagle Courts of Honor or Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies (these are some of the best things that happen at the Museum). Docents will be a crucial part of our security staffing as well.

The first class of docents includes board members Bonna Scherer and Kristie Wanstrom, as well as Chuck Clausen, Jim Rupert, and Russ Edlund. These are first class docents indeed! After they have settled into their work, we plan to recruit and

train a second class of docents. Aside from taking care of the Museum on an ordinary day, the work of touring and teaching our young visitors is both rewarding and a very necessary part of our program. We see more than thirty Boy and Girl Scout groups per year, all seeking an educational experience within our walls. Who better to learn from than people who know the Girl Scout or Boy Scout programs inside out?

If you have deep knowledge of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, perhaps you can join the roster of our second class of docents? Once trained, you will be fully equipped to provide tours of our exhibits and activities. Experience tells us that the work of talking to our drop-in visitors is very rewarding and fun—you will hear lots of great stories just by being present in the Museum.

As you know, our staff is small and very busy. Your participation as a docent will free up staff to do more of the things that you want our staff to do. Next time you are at the Museum, if you happen to see Bonna, Kristie, Chuck, Jim, or Russ, be sure to thank them for what they are doing. It's important.

Please let Claudia Nicholson know (cnicholson@nssm.org) if you might be interested in being in the *second* class of North Star Museum docents!

New Members

- Brent Haglund
- Chad Skally
- Bart Schultz
- Laurie Waterman
- BS Troop 113

**Know of anyone
interested in joining?**

Contact:

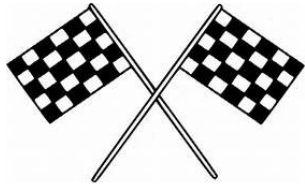
Diana Foss

651-748-2880 or

dfoss@nssm.org

Save the date for ...

Derby Night at the Museum



- *Pinewood Derby Car Races*
- *Desserts and Refreshments*
- *Silent Auction*
- *Wall of Wine and Wall of Beer*
- *Best Derby Hat Contest*
- *Prizes*

Stay tuned...more details racing in soon!

Saturday, November 4, 2017

6:30 - 9:30 pm

North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

2640 E. Seventh Ave, North St. Paul, MN

www.nssm.org



This event is only for adults 21 or older .

It Was a Grand Round-up Reunion by Jane Wagemaker

“Round up good fellowship, service and cheer... round up the aims we hold so dear. Our hearts are high with adventure, joy that resounds as we sing, sing out our Roundup Round.”

On Tuesday, July 18, former Senior Scouts who attended Senior Scout Roundups met to remember and renew acquaintances at the North Star Museum. Elizabeth “Biz” O’Mara and Bonna Scherer spent countless hours putting the Museum’s new Roundup exhibit together. Souvenirs, scrapbooks, and photos are all part of the display. The exhibit was a perfect setting for the Round-up Reunion.

“We look so young,” was heard more than once. And they were....The first Roundups took place in 1956 in Michigan, 1959 in Colorado, 1962 in Vermont, and the last Roundup, in Idaho, in 1965. The Roundup was considered to be the highlight of a Girl Scout’s career, including many requirements to apply for a slot and stiff competition. Girl

Scouts from all over the country and the world attended these encampments. Swaps were traded, demonstrations were given, and of course, there was lots of singing.

One of the photos showed Kris Wertz running to catch the train in St. Paul. The story goes that she thought we were leaving at 9:00 PM, not 9:00 AM. Other photos reminded the participants of the scenery, the tents, and the cookouts (every meal). Kathy Engstrom LaValley spoke about how we need to keep Girl Scouting alive by sharing our experiences with the “young folk.”

Those in attendance at the reunion and making more memories included Biz O’Mara, Bonna Scherer, Kathy LaValley, Meg Lindberg, Bernice Prigge-Rodriguez, Cynthia Sobieski, Thea Welsh, Emily White, Sue Sheltoa, Betsy Moore, Karen Klose, Mary Anne Carter, Wendy Coles, Jane Wagemaker, Daphne Siegert, Kris Wertz, Chris Reisdorf, Sandy Atkinson,



Susan Shelton - Roundup 1959

Debbie Buchbinder, Linda Svidal, and Carol Seidenkranz.

A good time was had by all and as we posed for a group picture and sang once more: “God bless the day we went away to find the rainbow’s end, and found unboundless treasure in a heart, a hand, a friend. Let this place forever claim it, Roundup was here....” If you attended a Roundup and missed the Round-up Reunion, you still have a chance to relive your own adventure by experiencing the Roundup exhibit at the Museum. See you soon.



Kris Wertz, Chris Reisdorf, Linda Svidal, Biz O’Mara, Jane Wagemaker, Thea Welsh, Carol Seidenkranz, Wendy Coles, Meg Lindberg, Kathy LaValley and Ciny Sobieski - Roundup 1965



Betsy Moore, Daphne Siegert, Debbie Buckbinder, Sandy Atkinson - Roundup 1962

Loss of a Dedicated Volunteer

In December 2016, the Museum lost a long-time and dedicated volunteer, Midge Andreas. The Volunteer Spotlight article in the August 2014 *Museum News* highlighted the many ways in which Midge helped make the Museum's Girl Scout exhibits come alive.

Midge was born in Duluth, Minnesota, but grew up in the Museum's home town of North St. Paul. She was introduced to Girl Scouting by her babysitter and later became a troop leader for her own daughter.

Midge began her Museum-related work with what is now the Girl Scout River Valleys Council's Heritage Committee. In 2002, Midge helped create the



Midge Andreas

Museum's exhibit commemorating the Girl Scouts' 90th anniversary, which was displayed at the Ramsey County Historical Society's Landmark Center gallery. In 2011, Midge was involved with the Museum's Boy Scout and Girl Scout centennial exhibit project, where she and husband Bob put in dozens of hours cre-

ating the panels in the exhibit. Midge also helped research and prepare the Girl Scouts River Valleys' 100th anniversary exhibit, which was introduced to the public at the Mall of America in 2012 during the "Great Girl Gathering." Midge did so much for the Museum and for the Girl Scouts. We will miss you.

Tech-savvy Volunteers Needed

The Museum has two opportunities for tech-savvy volunteers who wish to work from home. The first position is working with our popular Boy Scout merit badge workshop program. Depending on skills, you can work with merit badge counselors to get their information together, create individual ticketing pages for each workshop, prepare info for the Museum's publicity organs, and monitor and manage registration for the workshops. All of this could be done from the comfort of your own home. The role involves a few intense periods of activity broken up by long and relaxing stretches of time for yourself. In

the meantime, you will have a key role in the success of one of our most popular and successful educational programs.

The second opportunity is to work on the Museum's social media profile. Right now, that means Facebook, although we do have an Instagram account, and would like to explore other platforms.

If you are an adult or youth interested in either of these gigs, or just want more information, call Claudia at the Museum (651-748-2880) or email her at cnicholson@nssm.org.



DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2017

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and Girl Scouting
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We're on the web
www.nssm.org

The Loss of a Friend of the Museum

Since our last issue of the *Museum News*, the Museum has lost a dear friend. Friend-of-the-Museum Richard Diedrich died on June 12, 2017. With wife Judy Parish Diedrich, Dick supported the Museum through their Salem Foundation and gave gifts to the Museum's collection. Although they spent most of their time in Florida, Dick and Judy were at Museum events whenever they were in town. He was an affable man whose presence we all enjoyed.



Richard Diedrich

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Brenna Barrett, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, and John Raymond.

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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