101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

January 2022 • ISSUE 49

It's Time to Pass the Torch

From the President - Tim Ross

Where did time go?

Seems like only yesterday Jim and I were sitting around a campfire discussing some long-range plans for the Troop and the Alumni. This was back when the Troop was meeting in the basement of the Elks Lodge, when we had only one trailer and had to get someone with a SUV or truck to pull it to the campouts.

Believe me when I say those were some great times, some great trips with so many awesome friends. I have memories which will last me the rest of my life and I am sure many others feel the same way. Looking back, this was a 20-year journey that I am happy to have had the chance to be part of and has made me a better person for doing so.

My Troop story began in the fall of 1999 when son Christopher crossed over to the Troop from Cub Pack 122 where I served as a Cub Leader with Vic Dasbach and Ed Byers. Vic and Ed were already becoming heavily involved in the Troop when Jim came up to me with an Assistant Scoutmaster uniform patch and said, "I think this is yours". Ed, being quick-witted, jumped in and said, "Hey, it's only an hour a week!" That's when all the fun began!

It was not long afterwards that Jim and I had another conversation. He asked me to take over the Alumni Association and began to discuss his ideas for a permanent home for the Troop. As we all know, the rest is history. It has been a long journey with many bumps in the road but looking around today at what we have all accomplished, it is a legacy that I am proud to be a part of.

Creating a legacy from a vision takes many people and their talents. I am happy to have enjoyed the experience of so many, so willing to give of their time and contributions to create what exists today. I had many talented staff members serve on the Alumni boards and chairs, and without them we could not have been so successful. Thank you all!

So, with that, after 20 years, it is time for someone else to take the helm of the Alumni Association.

"The Torch Has Been Passed to A New Generation" - (John F. Kennedy)

I would like to welcome Shelley Taylor as the next President of our Alumni Association. Many of you already know Shelley and her family. Their roots in Scouting and Troop 101 run deep. Shelly is a longtime community leader and has the Scouting spirit in her soul.

Moving forward, I hope that you extend her all the same kindness and assistance with which you have blessed me. If everyone just gives a little, we can get this done!

Jim, if you are looking down on us, as I KNOW you are, thanks for the opportunity!

-Tim

Alumni Board of Directors

Shelley Taylor	President
Ken LaPolla	Scoutmaster
Brian Burkey	Committee Chair
Alex Stirling	Director at Large
Alan Copp	Director at Large

Alumni Committee

Matt McCracken	Web & Newsletter
Ed Byers	Newsletter Emeritus
Tim Ross	President Emeritus

From the President

Shelley Taylor

First and foremost, thanks to Tim Ross for a job well done. I have watched Tim lead with diligence, kindness, hard work and compassion. I know he will ensure a seamless transition and still be here when we need help. I am grateful to call him my friend.

My family has deep roots in Troop 101 – Eagle Scouts #16 Bill VanHuffel, #34 Greg Martin, #67 David Taylor and future Eagle Scouts (fingers crossed) Indy and Waston Meyer. I am honored to be involved with this exceptional Troop with a proud past and exciting future.

Scouting has played a huge role in my life. I was an Explorer at YARS in my high school years and spent many years trekking and working at Philmont. My independence and early leadership skills came from my association with the BSA.

For those of you who don't know me, here is a little background. I grew up in Warren and am a graduate of Howland. I have worked for Paige & Byrnes Insurance for 24 years and am the third generation of my family to do so. I have 3 daughters (Jane, Jackie & Paige) and two stepchildren (Ian & Addy) all of whom are in the JFK schools.

Thank you for your trust and, in advance, for the help and advice I will request. I look forward to serving and playing a role in the future of the Association and the Troop.

2021 Troop 101 Eagle Scouts

Colin Price #161
2/25/2021

Sammy Mastorides #162
4/22/2021

Carmine DelliQuadri #163
7/22/2021

Nicholas Jaros #164
11/18/2021
(Official Photo Coming Soon)

Four of our Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle in 2021. Featured above, we congratulate these four young men on achieving Scouting's Highest Rank. Congratulations, Men. We look forward to seeing what you achieve going forward, and look forward to catching up with you in a few years.

The Scoutmaster Corner

Dr. Ken LaPolla

This past Fall was a great season to camp: the colors, the smells, the campfires, the cool days and cold nights; but it was also a busier time for schools with bands, football, and plays unlike the restrictions of last year. So, it came with a great sacrifice that our older Scouts committed to being with us during this season and I am grateful for their sacrifices.

As always, I have felt blessed over the last quarter to have had the experiences of camping in some great weather at some wonderful places. And although the weather may not have seemed the best at times, it was the weather we were given, so why worry. "Be Prepared, not scared" as I'm heard saying.

Now winter is coming which will be a great opportunity for us to test how prepared we can be. Winter Event will allow us to "show off" to the other Troops, but at the same time allows us to build our friendships with them as well as continue our rivalries which is yet another dimension of scouting that builds character and aids in development. Not sure if Parkman will have their pancakes this year, but who knows, only time will tell.

And as we plan for Summer soon, we hope to make plans to return to Canada, but that may get postponed, again as the borders uncertainty may make the arrangements difficult. Maybe that will encourage us to explore another location for high adventure. Maybe we should look at the Boundary Waters area? Either way, we'll be pioneers with our planning. Our Scouts are hungry and need to be fed. We just need to make sure what we schedule for them has all the nutrients needed for them to grow.

And with that, Happy Holidays to everyone, and here's to an awesome New Year!

The Alumni Quarterly Needs You

101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TROOP 101

This past summer has been bitter sweet.

The Scoutmaster's Corner - Dr. Ken LaPolla

The Alumni Quarterly relies on reader feedback... your feedback. Are we delivering content you find relevant? Could we be including more information about the program or upcoming activities? Please send us your feedback to newsletter@troop101.net.

You can also engage with us on Facebook or in person at fundraisers and reunion events.

Like to write? Consider joining the Newsletter team and submitting articles for upcoming issues. We're looking for people to help find and write content for our Newsletter. If you have a story to share, we're eager to hear it! Not ready to write up a story, but have one? We'll do the heavy lifting, so just send us the information you have and we'll work on pulling it together.

The Troop has a 50th Anniversary coming up. What ideas do you have for the celebration?

As always, **THANK YOU** for reading, and have a Wonderful New Year!

A Holiday Tradition Continues

Troop 101 Holiday Party

This December several Holiday traditions continued with Troop 101. It has changed a bit over the years, but the Christmas Party held annually by the Troop took place on December 20, 2021.

Many Scouts arrived early in the day to participate in board games, sports activities, and the holiday tradition of Warhammer with Mr. Hawley.

After an afternoon of games, dinner was in full swing with tons of delicious food. After dinner, recognition of all the recent advancement took place before wrapping up the evening with a slideshow of the last 6 months.

We've selected a few of our favorite photos for this issue, but more can be found on the Troop Website in the Photo Gallery. Be sure to go check out the fun!

Troop Gets Lasers for Christmas

Laser Cutters Donated

We have wonderful Alumni... seriously, you are the best! Every once and a while we get a surprise, and it just so happens that one happened recently.

In November George Burin donated a Laser cutter to the Troop. It will be a fine addition to the Troop Tech being used in the building to spur interest in STEM programs. At the Christmas Party, Scouts were even using it to make Christmas Gifts and engrave things like their watch strap.

We did have a little trouble with the first one, but it ended up being a simple fix and the machine was off and running. Mr. Matt took the initiative to figure the machine out, and get it ready for our Scouts to use. Between a demo and a Beaver Patrol Meeting, we have several scouts excited to use the machine and get in some experience with lasers.

Now we're looking forward to seeing what the Scouts can come up with to cut or engrave as we learn to use these new machines.

Enough talk, though. Check out the awesome stuff we've been making since receiving this generous gift. Thanks, George and Dremel!

The Order of the Arrow

Troop and Troop Alumni Becoming More Active

The Order of the Arrow is National Honor Society within Scouting. If you've been with our Troop long enough, you'll know there is a lot of History in the Order of the Arrow. From Tapawingo to Wapashui and now to Marnoc Lodge, our Troop has had different levels of activity within the OA for years. The OA building that still stands over at Camp Chickagami, Espan Lodge, was even dedicated to first Scoutmaster William E. Brown back at the 1985 Conclave.

While our Troop has continued to elect members into the OA, it hasn't been as active as it has been in the past. The Lodge being more centered around Manatoc, which is about an hour North of Warren, has also reduced the number of activities our OA members participate in. That is, until recently. Several of our Troop members are now becoming more involved in the Order of the Arrow, and are even taking positions in the LEC (Lodge Executive Committee).

Christopher McMahan, Troop 101 Eagle Scout #153 actually got involved by accident. It was while working Camp Staff he was introduced to then Lodge Chief Anthony Brown. Through this friendship Christopher started attending and seeing more of the OA activities in the council. Christopher even brought in his best friend from Troop 101, fellow Eagle Scout Colin Price #161.

As they became more involved with Marnoc Lodge, Christopher and Colin have even started participating as members of the LEC. Notably, through Christopher's efforts as Communications Chair (2019-2021), the Lodge became more active on social media and the web, resulting in being awarded the Lodge Administration Award in recognition for its web presence during Conclave 2021. Christopher has also built out the Lodge Sachem, the Marnoc Lodge newsletter.

Recently Christopher has been elected into the Secretary position of the LEC, and hopes to continue helping with OA activities as well as getting more Troop 101 members involved.

This year Troop 101 had 5 individuals elected into the Order by their peers. With Christopher and Colin encouraging their involvement, we look forward to seeing them become active members in the Lodge.

Just a few weeks ago the Lodge held their annual Winter Banquet. There, several awards and recognitions were presented. Of those awards, the Alumni Quarterly is pleased to recognize Christopher as receiving a Chief's Award, as well as Arrowman of the Year. Congratulations, Christopher!

At the banquet, several members were also nominated to receive the Vigil Honor for distinguished contributions. Among those nominated was our own Christopher McMahan.

We are also excited to report that Anthony Brown, as well as Adult Volunteer John Fritsch, have been awarded The Founder's Award. Introduced in 1981, the Founder's Award recognizes Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to their Lodge. Congratulations!

2021 Vigil Nominees

Founder's Award Recipients John and Anthony

Troop 101's Biggest Loser

Mr. Matt Looses over 200 lbs in Weight Loss journey

If you've been involved with Troop 101 over the last 20 years, you know me. My name is Matt McCracken, and I am both an Eagle Scout of Troop 101 (#93) and an ongoing Assistant Scoutmaster known to most as "Mr. Matt". I used to say I'm one of the most active "fat people" you'll ever meet. I was overweight even when I joined Troop 101 back in the early 2000's, but was able to go out and experience the program without issue or complaint.

Over the years I tried getting my weight under control. From diets to exercise programs, nothing seemed to work fast enough to keep me motivated. Eventually I would lose a few pounds, then continue on as if it never happened. In addition, my job has me sitting a lot. As a computer guy, programming and working with tech I don't always move during the day as much as some people do in their careers.

In recent years I've enjoyed watching from the sidelines, taking photos at Scouting Activities. Seeing the Scouts Rappelling, Climbing, Biking, Canoeing, and doing those wonderful things Scouting gives us so freely I could only reflect that my participation was coming to an end. I was starting to have trouble doing these activities given my weight, and even stopped going on Backpacking trips due to my struggles. Then we had a group return from Philmont in 2019. The stories, the energy… it made me regret my inability to even consider going to Philmont.

Then 2020, my weight was at an all time high. I finally hit that 400lbs mark, and even started climbing higher as the work from home, and lack of activity increased. I was scrolling through Facebook and saw someone I knew. They had lost a ton of weight, and was talking about this awesome program he went on. The before and After pics were astounding. And, thinking about my friends in Scouting, and that amazing Philmont Trip, I decided to give him a call.

Some of you might know Bret Gensburg. He wasn't a Troop 101 Scouter, but had ties through the Order of the Arrow. He was a close friend of Jim Potjunas, and even spoke at his service in 2017 about his OA involvement.

Bret was quick to pick up my call. Together we discussed the program, my options, and my goals. I decided I needed 2 things. I needed to start immediately, and I needed a good Support Group to keep me motivated.

A group of close friends I've made through Scouting became my support group, and on November 11, 2020 I started my journey. I know… right before the 2 biggest eating periods of the year, what was I thinking!

I followed the program to the letter, didn't deviate at all. Even through Summer Camp of 2021 I was dedicated in my goal. I was going to lose weight. My support team is awesome; they motivated me through words and reactions as my weight dropped steadily week over week. Bret was always ready to answer my questions, address my concerns, and help keep me focused.

I'm not going to sugar coat it… (get it?), it wasn't an easy journey. I had moments I thought it was enough. Having friends behind me, telling me how great I was doing, and that it would all be worth it. And it has been. I have lost more than half of my starting weight. I'm now under 200lbs, and getting into a healthier mode than I've ever been.

I still have trouble believing I lost so much weight. What's more, I'm excited to think that I will one day get to go see Philmont, and participate in more Scouting adventures. I can't thank my support team enough for being a big part of my "reason" for getting me to this point. I hope one day I can go camping with them all in a high adventure setting.

As of writing this, I have lost over 214lbs. I am able to do more, fit in tighter spaces… I cannot describe how good that makes me feel. People comment that I don't look like the same person, and when giving hugs, people can actually wrap their

Mr. Matt Looses over 200 lbs in Weight Loss journey

arms around me now. And all of this happened in a year.

My brother Mark has also had success with the program, and is well on his way to loosing a ton of weight. Like me, he's equally excited to lead a healthier and more active lifestyle.

For those wondering, the program is called Optavia. Bret and his wife Rachel are now coaches for the program, and if you're considering looking into it I recommend checking out their page (https://coach.optavia.com/bjrlgensburg) where you can see a before and after of Bret, too. It's certainly changing my life.

Lastly, regardless of the program you choose, or the goals you're looking to hit, remember that you can do this. If I can achieve this goal, then what makes you think the impossible can't become possible?

Also, as some might notice, I'm in a 2004 Bike Trip shirt. You might think "Wow, you're back to what you were in 2004."

Truth is, that's my Dad's 04 shirt. Mine is too big for me now, just like all my other clothing.

-Matt

Troop Aims to Staff Summer at Manatoc

In 2021 we shared the exciting news that several Troop 101 Alumni worked camp staff at Manatoc for the season. Of the 4 that worked the summer, all of them intend on returning this year for another amazing summer. But it doesn't end there…

That's right, with a lofty goal our 4 Alumni are looking to recruit others into the Camp Staff family. They are already working with the PLC to show how much fun it was working Staff. The friends, the camping, and all those wonderful memories. What else could you want?

So, to our 101 Scouters reading this issue – If you're looking to get paid camping, making friends, and having the summer of a lifetime, get in touch with Camp Manatoc and fill out an Application for Camp Staff. It will be an experience you'll never forget.

https://247scouting.com/forms/433-staffapp

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Share Your Story!

We're always on the lookout for the next Alumni story to share with you, our readers. If you, or an Alumni you know is doing something interesting, send us a quick email so we can feature that story in the Alumni Quarterly.

Just looking to share a memory, or a funny story? We'll take those too!
Just email us at newsletter@troop101.net

Recent Troop Activities

What has the Troop been up to recently

October 10, 2021

Kennerdell Backpacking

The Troop went out to Kennerdell for a Backpacking adventure. Overall the trip was fun, and the weather was great.

October 25, 2021

Halloween Party

The haunts and treats are back in full swing. Tonight the Scouts showed off their great Halloween Costumes in a night of Fright and Fun.

November 14, 2021

Seven Ranges

The Troop took a trip over to Seven Ranges this weekend. Together they lashed a climbing tower and enjoyed a visit from the local camp lab.

December 20, 2021

Holiday Party

This weekend the Troop celebrated the holidays at Blessed Sacrament. There were games of Football, Basketball, Warhammer, Board Games and more! After the games the Troop sat down for an excellent pot luck dinner before holding their annual Court of Honor.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

January

22 - Winter Event at Beaumont

February

18 - 20 - Snow Tubing & Camp Manatoc

March

18 - 20 - CustalogaTown

26 - PLC Training

April

8-9 - Parish Service day and Evening of Fellowship and Etnertainment