



STEARNS HOOT OWL



STEARNS STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Memorial Service Planned for Mark Douglass

A Memorial Service and a Tree Planting in Mark's honor will be held on during our SSAA Alumni Work Weekend at Stearns. It will take place on Sunday June 8th at the Heritage Fire Bowl at 11 am. Family and friends of Mark are invited to attend the service.

The service is in its planning stages and if you have any ideas please let Steve or Mel Bergman, or myself know.



SSAA Welcomes Steve Stobbs to Stearns

The Stearns Staff Alumni Association would like to welcome Steve Stobbs to the position for Program Director for Viking Council. On June 1st, 2002, Steve started his new position with running Stearns Webelos Camps. Steve and his family moved out to camp for the summer and had a great time. Steve was a member of the Many Point Staff, and is very interested in getting the Stearns Staff Alumni Association up and running again.

SSAA Alumni Work Weekend

We are planning another Alumni Work Weekend. The dates for the work weekend are June 6th, 7th, and 8th at Stearns. Webelos staff will be arriving on Saturday and the hope is that we can get a group to arrive on Friday to start the setup of staff tents. It is believed that there will be a OOA Conclave assisting in work projects that weekend and Alumni is needed in assisting with the OOA group. If you can attend please do so, it is a great time to come and re-

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In Remembrance of Mark Allen Douglass



This is how most of us will
remember Mark, always
there with a good smile.

On May 14th, 2002, Mark Allen Douglass died from the results of an automobile accident. Mark was a part of Stearns Webelos Camps from 1989 to 1996 as a staff member, and continued to assist when asked, right up to his death. Mark was also a founding member of the Stearns Staff Alumni Association. Dennis “Buzz” Waskul wrote and delivered the Eulogy for Mark’s Funeral, which was held at All Saints Catholic Church on May 18th, 2002. The following, with permission from Dennis, is Mark’s Eulogy.

Eulogy: Mark Allen Douglass

By Dennis Waskul

In struggling to find coherent words to express my incoherent thoughts and feelings, I was reminded of an old proverb: “when you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in a manner so that when you die the world cries and you rejoice.” Mark showed us all how to live such a life. At this very difficult time, between our tears and sorrow, let us all take this moment to rejoice *with* him. That is undeniably what Mark would have preferred.

I met Mark in the fall of 1988; like so many others our friendship was immediate deep and enduring . Through the years I have shared much with Mark. My most treasured memories are the times we spent doing precisely those things that Mark loved the most: we cooked many meals together; as most of you know, few things seem to give Mark as much pleasure as a fine meal in good company . We spent countless hours around campfires where, inevitably Mark would spend most of the evening struggling (in vain) to find them one sacred spot where the smoke would not drift . We spent many nights together in our tent, where every evening he would go through a strange ritual; meticulously he would inspect his tents and sleeping bag (I think Mark would forgive me if I were to now reveal one of his few secrets: Mark had an unnatural fear a spiders). But most of all, we shared laughter—laughter like I have never known before. Mark had the most amazing wit and an uncanny ability to impersonate anyone; it was impossible to be with Mark and fail to fall to pieces in bellowing, belly-rumbling, all-out hysterical laughter. Mark could always be found by merely following the sounds of laughter .

At one time or another, we all have been the butt of at least one of Mark’s many jokes. To illustrate, let me read to you and excerpt from Mark’s journal of his trip to Boundary Waters this past summer:

Day three: ...We canoed for some ways and finally turned into a neat little waterway. I had to stop 3 times to pee—too much coffee! We were well on our way when I started suspecting that the map and everything else were not right. After checking the compass, something was definitely not right. We should have been heading NE but were headed SW. Nothing on the map matched up. Not good. After checking with Rodger (who was equally LOST) we decided to ask some fishermen where we were. We discovered, to our horror, that we were a good 5 miles too the south of where we should be! Joel, being the navigator, was quickly stripped of his duties and publicly scolded for his errors. The top 10 reasons given by Joel to explain what happened:

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Hmmm...deluxe chicken roaster???



SPIDERS!!!



Pastor Douglass?



I'm King of the World

10. Magnetic shift in the earth's polls.
9. Someone spiked my Tang.
8. I didn't want to be the navigator in the first place .
7. Rodger knew all along, so it's his fault.
6. We needed more in-water training.
5. Mark distracted me with a singing.
4. Optical illusion .
3. The maps, fishermen, compass, and everyone else is wrong .
2. The oatmeal made me do it .
1. Since I have claimed Canada for my own, it was necessary to explore it.

Sometimes, however, the joke would be on Mark. As some of you know, I have a reputation for long, draw out, and elaborate pranks. For many summers Mark and I shared a tent while we worked at Stearns Scout Camp . We had bunk beds; I had the top of bunk and Mark the bottom. For some strange reason, there was a grommet in the center of that tent at the roof and every time it would rain, water would leak into the tent, and Mark would scramble about for dry space for his things—taking special precautions to ensure that is sleeping bag would remain dry. I had noticed how this drove Mark crazy. So, one day I purchased a squirt gun, which I kept full and hidden in my sleeping bag on the top bunk . All summer long, every time it rained Mark would go about his usual routine and eventually crawl in his sleeping bag. When he would finally shut off the lights, I would pull out my squirt gun, hang my arm over the side of the bed, and send a stream of water in his face. Almost instantly the light would come on, Mark would jump out of bed , and he'd go about trying to track down the leak. “Buzz, are you getting wet up there?” Mark would ask. “No, dry as a bone.” He was perpetually puzzled by how I could be dry on the top bunk while he was getting wet on the bottom. Till one evening, late in the summer during a light rain I was going about my usual prank. My arm hung over the edge of the bed, squirt gun in hand, when suddenly I heard a click and the evidence of my prank was illuminated by the light of Mark's flashlight . In an instant Mark realized what had been doing *all* summer long. From his bottom bunk, Mark kicked my mattress so hard I was literally tossed out of bed, and from then onward Mark would occasionally whack me in the back of the head and say “that's for the squirt gun.”

...It is good that we remember Mark in these ways. So, let me conclude with my own top ten list. Top ten reasons Mark was such a good friend :

10. So long as Mark was around, you had no need for a pharmacy (Mark was a walking medicine cabinet; he seemed to carry in his pockets everything from man antacids to codeine Tylenol).
9. Mark was a know-it-all, who usually *did*.
8. When you needed his help, you rarely had to ask—and *never* twice .
7. When something needed to be done, Mark would volunteer for

the worst job or task and then spend the rest the day trying to convince you it really was the best .

6. Mark could fix, repair, or remodel *anything* .
5. No matter where you moved, what the distance or cost, Mark always kept in close contact by phone, e-mail, and routine visits.
4. Mark had a knack for making the worst of situations tolerable, a gloomy day brighter, and a sour mood sweeter.
3. Mark had a knack of making the best of situations better, a bright day brighter, a cheerful mode cheerier.
2. Mark knew only one way to have a relationship: total unconditional love, support, and companionship .
1. Mark was never really a friend at all: he was a *brother* in all the ways that mattered the most .

Marks unforgettable presence will be remembered for ever. He is a testimony to just how much difference one person can make in a life of many mysteries will be told of thousands of campfires; his smile in a thousand jokes; his companionship and a frozen meals: his spirit in a compass we used to find our way.

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unite with some of the people that you used to work with, and can assist in building the 2003 Webelos camps. The more the merrier. Food and lodging will be provided by the camp, however please bring a sleeping bag and pillow. If you plan on attending please contact me and let me know so we can help plan for food and work assignments.

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Catch Us on the Web

www.stearnsalumni.com

[http://groups.msn.com/
StearnsStaffAlumniAssociation](http://groups.msn.com/StearnsStaffAlumniAssociation)

It's a Miracle!!!



The SSAA would like to congratulate Brent and Heidi (Roskins) Dalzell on their recent marriage. For those of you who don't know the history of Brent and Heidi, they met at Stearns in the summer of 1994. Brent and Heidi have been dating ever since. On March 15th 2003, Brent and Heidi were married at a wonderful ceremony, along with Heidi's sister Amy and Husband Adam. Witnessing the marriage were several Stearns Staff Alumni.

At the dance later in the evening, Brent and Heidi's family and friends were entertained by the Alumni present when the Alumni sang "Worms" and "Cannibal King".

Alumni that attended the wedding were Steve Bergman and Mel Krouth-Bergman, Lon Kelley and his wife, Eben Davids and his wife, Bob Kelley, Scott Wilkinson, and Todd Philippi. Alumni, Leah Geislinger and Greg Dalzell stood up for the wedding. Congratulations on your new life together.

New Officers Elected

At the December 29th, 2002 SSAA Meeting held at Stearns, new Officers and Executive Board Members were elected and are as follows. They will hold the position for 2 years.

President: Todd Philippi
Vice-President: AJ Stang
Secretary/Treasurer: Mel Krouth-Bergman

Executive Committee Members

Brent Dalzell
Hiedi (Roskins) Dalzell
Steve Bergman
Ben Swanson

Jim Simones Camp Ranger
Steve Stobbs Council Adviser

Dates to Remember

April 26th - Venturing Crew Meeting Parkers Lake Park: Co. Rd. 6 & Niagara Ln

June 6th, 7th, 8th - SSAA Work Weekend Stearns Scout Camp Lodging at Briggs Lodge.

June 7th at dusk - Camp Fire

June 8th at 9 am - SSAA Meeting Stearns Scout Camp

June 8th at 11 am - Memorial Service and tree planting for Mark Douglass Stearns Scout Camp Heritage Fire Bowl

June 13th - Opening Banquet - Cooks Needed Stearns Scout Camp

August 8th - Closing Banquet - Cooks Needed Stearns Scout Camp

VENTURING CREW 644

Hello Stearns Alumni! First off before I talk about the venture crew I'm going to introduce myself. My name is AJ (nick name for Adam James Stang) and I've been working at camp since 1998. Camp has been a great experience, and I think most of you would agree you would not give back your camp experience for anything.

The life of the Stearns Staff Alumni Association owes its life to Todd Philippi, who had the brilliant idea to start an alumni association! If I'm correct the SSAA started in 1999, and getting an alumni association up and running is much much harder than hopefully it will be for future alumni presidents to keep the association together. So I

ask that the next time you see Todd, to thank him very much for his hard and dedicated work!

Now about the venture crew, it all started when I made a comment that if we started a venture crew we could go to many point in front of Steve Stobbs (VK council program director), about two months later I got a call from Nate Peterfesto (crow river district executive) asking if I was interested in starting one. I was thrilled! And about a month later Venture Crew 644 was born, Chartered by the Stearns Staff Alumni Association.

What is a venture crew, a venture crew is for teens from 14 to 21 years of age. The venture crew will form leadership sometime in the next few months. As a venture crew we can go on activities, such

as twins, timber wolves games, and also maybe go to Philmount, and or sea base in the next few years. It will also be able to adapt to what we want to be able to do, once we decide. You may say hey I'm older! Great news! Venture crews need adult leaders, so therefore you can participate in all crew activities even if you're old(er).

The venture crew at the moment doesn't cost you any more money than it does to join the SSAA, it just requires paper work. If you're interested in joining the venture crew, we are having a meeting in Plymouth on April 26th at Parkers Lake Park: Co. Rd. 6 & Niagara Ln. If you can't make it there contact me or see me at camp this summer!

Yours in scouting,
AJ adamjstang@msn.com

SSAA T-SHIRT ORDER FORM



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MAKE PAYABLE TO:

**Viking Council Boy Scouts of America
Stearns Staff Alumni Association
Attention: Steve Stobbs Account Number:
6850
5300 Glenwood Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55422**

JOIN THE SSAA TODAY

2003 dues are now due. We are well on our way of making the Stearns Staff Alumni Association a success however we need everyone's help. If you have not become a member please do so by sending in your \$15 a year contribution. The money raised by the SSAA will go towards mailing of newsletter, Webelos Camp and Staff activities, and SSAA events. Please make all checks payable to Viking Council Boy Scouts of America, and send check and membership forms to:

**Viking Council Boy Scouts of America
Stearns Staff Alumni Association
Attention: Steve Stobbs Account Number:
6850
5300 Glenwood Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55422**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

**DONATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS
ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED**