

KAMO Newsletter for May, 2017

Hello to all KAMO Members,

This is KAMO President, Mark Walters with my monthly update.

In reality our ship is sailing very smoothly these days. I cannot think of a single negative issue that we have to deal with. There has been consistent good news from several of our chapters. Our financial situation is solid and our new Vice Presidents (Dawn and Bob) are not worked hard but what they do, they do right.

Donna Wishowski is asking that you please send your KAMO hours to her ASAP. I have heard from a couple of people that thought that they did not have to because they thought there was already plenty being sent in by other people. Please think of it this way: KAMO is becoming a leading organization in the state of Wisconsin for introducing and continuing outdoor experiences for our state's youth. We are reaching out to the state for a grant and what better can we do than to show the WDNR the many thousands of hours that we have volunteered, rather than the three thousand minimum. I firmly believe that we will be recognized in a beneficial way by doing this and that it will help our cause. I ask that every KAMO member think of what you and other members of your chapter can do to get this job done as soon as possible.

With that, I am heading to Green Bay for a couple of days of living out of the boat and chasing walleye.

As always, thank you for everything that you do!

Mark

Remarks concerning our DNR grant from our grant coordinator:

Hi KAMO Mentors!

I must have your report by JUNE 10th!! It is TIME to get your KAMO Volunteer Hours to your Chapter Contact! You can download this form: dnr.wi.gov, search form 8700-349 which is the Donated Volunteer Labor used as Grant Match form.

Chapter contacts I need to hear from are:

Meadow Valley: Aaron Bigalke

Lake Wisconsin: Linda Brodeur

Baraboo: Rick Miotke

I also NEED a copy of **each Chapter's bank statement showing their payment of State Dues/Insurance** so this amount can be reimbursed to each Chapter!

I will be doing this report on JUNE 15th!!

Thank you to the Chapter's who have sent their information to me! I appreciate it very much. I know you will all be 'blown away' when you see the impact KAMO is having across our State! We now have **proof KAMO is promoting Outdoor Activities!**

**With you in KAMO,
Donna Wishowski 715-415-5851
622 1st. St. S. Ladysmith, WI 54848**

News from our Vice President Bob Nicksic:

Earlier this month, I attended the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual meeting in Oshkosh. Aside from the usual voting on advisory questions and resolutions, those in attendance heard from various DNR personnel. The main theme across all departments was the R3 program, which stands for recruitment (gaining new hunters, fisherman, etc.), retention (maintaining the hunters, fisherman etc.) and reactivation (getting individuals who have quit hunting/fishing to "reactivate"). The state realizes we have declining numbers in outdoor recreation and is trying desperately to devise/develop programs which will reverse this trend. They realize they must have help from various sporting groups in order to do this. Our KAMO organization can play a major role in the recruitment of young outdoors people and in helping to reverse the declining trend.

If your calendar looks anything like mine, you will see that the summer is almost completely booked. If, however, we worked at carving one free day or even a half of a day out of the busy summer months and took a kid on an outdoor excursion, imagine the impact our organization could have! Let's do our part and recruit a kid to the outdoors.

Bob

News from the Baraboo Chapter:

The Baraboo River chapter had its latest meeting at the Rivers Edge Resort. We have some exciting news--we just had young lady and man from Baraboo who are students at Stevens Point sign up as mentors, so we are hoping this will attract more young people to get involved. We have our summer fishing dates set with the Lake Wisconsin chapter as a combined outing we do in Merrimac. We will be doing a 3-day camping trip at the Juneau County Park on June 16-18. Our mentors have taken kids out turkey hunting and fishing this spring, and with warmer weather and the kids getting out of school we should have more opportunities to spend time with them. Tradition Forward

Submitted by Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

On Saturday, April 29th Coulee had two crews out cleaning. Three mentors, a parent, and three kids joined in a river clean-up on Lake Onalaska. Debris was removed from the shoreline and marsh areas

and hauled to a collection point for disposal. At the same time, two parents, three mentors, and four kids helped clear pine needles, leaves, and branches from three areas of the McMullen County Park near Warrens. This group went on two separate hikes in the area - one around a cranberry flowage at the invitation of the owner, who saw us having lunch in the park.

We had our brat fry at the Onalaska Crossing Meadows on Saturday, May 6th. Conditions were windy making it difficult to operate the grill and we were bombarded by customers making the event challenging. Four mentors, a parent, a volunteer, and five kids participated during this event.

This coming Saturday, May 20th, we are supporting the Onalaska Parks and Recreation's Kids to Park Day at the Great River Landing off Main Street. We will be running the casting and fishing stations. Some of our mentors are in the Brice Prairie Conservation Club as well and they will be assisting kids planting some trees in the park during the event.

Our Kids Fishing Day will be held out of Nelson Park off French Island on Saturday, June 3rd. We will have both pontoons and boats available, will have kids make up tackle boxes beforehand, and serve lunch. The last two times we've done this event, it has been a big hit.

We are inviting kids to do the Chaseburg Rod and Gun Club's trap shooting league, which is Monday evenings beginning on June 5th. We will have a booth at the West Salem Rod and Gun Club's Kids Day on June 17th. On Tuesday, June 20th, we will be giving pontoon rides on the Black River and that is open to the public.

I am writing a section about KAMO in the Outdoor Recreation Alliance's (ORA) newsletter next which goes out late next week and has a group size of around 1,000. The hope is to generate interest among some ORA members in joining us in putting together activities for our kids this summer. Their main pursuits are mountain biking, hiking, orienteering, and kayaking.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

We operated the Gordy's brat stand on April 28 and 29 with about \$240 of income including about \$70 in donations. Though it gave us some good public relations, it was a big effort without getting kids outside.

Our May activity was participating in the Wisconsin Birdathon on May 27. In the morning starting at about 8 a.m., Floyd cooked us pancakes and bacon, eaten with Jim's maple syrup, interspersed with a short and then a long hike around the reclaimed mine site, led by Max and our friends of KAMO Laura and Mo. In the afternoon, we hiked around Jim's home on the Sisters Farm nourished afterwards by brats, hot dogs, and Mo's brook trout. About 10 kids, 8 mentors and 6 other adults enjoyed good weather and a noisy bunch of birds, some of which were attracted by Max's recordings. We noted

about 82 different species along with the observations of other observers at other sites but part of the KAMO team. Ray did a great job coordinating and advertising this event all over Rusk County.

We decided on “Connecting Kids with the Outdoors” as a short, catchy motto which we will put on the 2 banners we are buying. We also bought bright yellow reflecting vests for all mentors as an aid to participants when they might need help and direction at our KAMO functions. KAMO helped start a Shooting Sports Club for 4 H kids and some of us remain involved; the club seems to be evolving nicely and has already had some events. We are trying to contact pontoon boat owners for kid fishing trips at various lakes in the area. We will have a wildflower hike on June 10.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

News from the Lake Wisconsin Chapter:

Hello All,

Steve Stine took kids out hunting and bagged 1 Turkey. Steve also volunteered at the MacKenzie center for hunting dog training, sounded like a lot of fun and very informational, hope to provide more help next year. A few mentors had some kids out fishing. We have group fishing events with the Baraboo chapter set up for the summer, tba on the KAMO calendar. We are camping and canoeing June 17th and having a KAMO activity booth at the Poynette Area Family Fun Festival June 24th. Hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and getting outside. Tradition Forward!!

Submitted by one or more Brodeurs!

No news this month from the MarshPoint Chapter.

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

The Meadow Valley Chapter will be having our annual Shooting Day June 14th at the New Lisbon Sportsmans Club. This event has included archery, rifle, rimfire, trap, and lately air gun shooting for the kids to try out. One of our newest members Bill Dickerson is an active air rifle shooter and we have been lucky to have him set up his guns and allow the kids to shoot them. In July, we will be doing our annual camping trip at Wilderness Park. This is always a great event filled with fishing, tubing, carp fishing, and lots of campfire stories. We are looking forward to getting the summer season off and running.

Submitted by Aaron

Bigalke

News from the Northwoods Chapter:

Northwoods Chapter meeting held Wednesday May 17th, six members present.

Topic of the evening was getting things in place for our annual Kids Hooked on Fishing event. New life jackets and tee shirts will be purchased and everyone volunteered for their assignments for the July event.

The senior outing was tabled until June.

We received two cases of 12-gauge ammo from the generous offer made by WWF. A monetary grant is still forthcoming.

We were proud to review and vote on our scholarship applicants, awarding a five-hundred-dollar scholarship to a local senior who will be attending Stevens Point this fall.

Our June meeting was moved to the 28th to accommodate the vacation plans of one of our members, who is on holiday with a certain Mark Walters.

And the discussion of background checks was tabled until the next State board meeting pending further clarification from the board.

Submitted by Mick Mlinar