

KAMO Newsletter for July, 2017

Hello to all KAMO members and friends of KAMO. This is KAMO President Mark Walters with my monthly update and I would ask that you please make sure that everyone you know that is a part of KAMO reads my message this month.

Back in 2006, when I had the vision to start what would become KAMO my goal was to help create an organization that would help introduce our youth to the outdoor world and hopefully help to keep them in the outdoors. When I first wrote in my column about this idea in December of 2006, I wrote that the first three people that contacted me from three different parts of the state I would meet with and hopefully they would bring some people along with them.

That happened in Ladysmith, Florence and Wisconsin Dells and for the first 12 months I went to every meeting as we started what would become KAMO. I never intended KAMO to stop growing or getting better at what we do. Had I had that thought I would have started an organization/club that was just where I live!

As President of KAMO since its birth, I have never asked for a dime for a meal or a mile.

For four years I have mentioned at the state meeting in March that it was time for us to get past the "we have exactly enough money to exist mentality" on the state organization end of KAMO, get a solid bank account and then create a plan on how to grow KAMO and make what we currently do better.

In March of this year KAMO was blessed with two new smart and proactive Vice Presidents Dawn Horacek and Bob Nicsic. This past week we met in Sauk City and agreed to keep meeting once a month or as best we can to do what I just mentioned. We recognize that this incredible organization has weaknesses, but in reality KAMO is built and now it is time to make it better, fine tune it and grow.

For the first time in my eleven years as President of KAMO, I have more than a thousand dollars over or annual bills to work with and with the Board of Directors blessing and a wise plan, I am going to proceed forward.

What is on my mind! More chapter mentors, more kids, a grant sharing plan, being more active on our one on ones, letting the world know about KAMO and The BOD doing one or two more teleconferences a year.

My friends, remember Dan Graf, he was incredible as VP. One of the reasons we lost Dan was because he was upset that we were not proactive enough and that was six years ago. At that time it was my belief that we just needed to let each chapter figure things out and grow as luck and hard work would have it.

Mike Brown, our President of the Coulee Chapter, has been very proactive for years and has always urged me to try to "fine tune KAMO".

I promise you to be transparent as I always have, but I also promise you that from here on in, I am going to try to grow KAMO's state financially as I have been very active in for the last

four years, so that as an organization we get better at what we do.

A thought on this would be if our annual bills are \$3600.00 I would like to have at least \$13,000. at our best time of the year financially that may be whittled down to let's say \$5000.00. Down the road I would like to see these numbers grow.

On Aug 23rd we will have our Board of Directors meeting, please submit your thoughts for the agenda to Jim, Bob or Dawn as soon as possible.

As always, thank you for everything that you do for KAMO! **Mark G Walters**

News from the Baraboo River Chapter:

The Baraboo River Chapter had its latest meeting at one of our mentors homes, as our local Dells hot spot is overrun with tourists this time of year. This past month has proven to be a very busy time in the lives of our mentors as there were few things done on the mentoring front, but I know that will change with the seasons. I work with some very dedicated individuals, but like the old saying goes, "You have to make hay while the sun shines." We had our first initial Joe Hunt discussion and for our chapter we have decided to hold a "sign-up night" where all the student paperwork will be filled out and they will be given all the information they will need regarding the hunt. We have also created new LTH forms, which I will send to each chapter, which will be a separate mentor and student form, as I continue to get incomplete ones every year. We will talk more with the Lake Wisconsin chapter and decide a cut-off date for this year, and pass that along. We did a fund raiser in the Reedsburg City Park selling awesome food from Chef AJ's food cart and passed out info about KAMO. Tradition Forward

Submitted by Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

On Tuesday, June 27th, 13 adults conducted a paddle, pedal, and picnic event at Goose Island County Park. for 11 kids. It was an absolutely gorgeous day. We paddled from the north landing to Hunters Point on the south end. The kids rode their bikes back to the north side where we had sandwiches, snacks, and drinks. Several volunteers from outside our group came in to assist us. A couple of these volunteers have been in touch with us about helping again in the future.

A group of 8 kids, 3 volunteers, and 6 mentors took a group to Lake Onalaska off the Fred Funk Landing. The group canoed or kayaked out to an island where they sampled aquatic life. It was a big hit with the kids so we are thinking of acquiring more sampling materials and having events like this more often.

We partnered with BB/ BS to go to a Loggers baseball game on July 20th. The tickets and food were provided by a sponsor. Each kid got a baseball hat or baseball and school supplies. The weather was excellent and the Loggers won.

Mike spoke to the Teen Service Providers Network (TSPN) group at the YMCA Teen Center on July 20th about what is going on in KAMO lately. A slideshow featuring outings pictures helped bring life to the presentation. Many of these pictures are on our Coulee KAMO Facebook page. Please visit, like, and share us.

We have a trip to the Badger Mining Facility schedules for Saturday, August 5th, a trap/pigeon shoot for Saturday, August 19th, and a trip to the West Salem Rod and Gun Club to get the kids tuned up for the upcoming hunting seasons. We are going to camp at the Meadow Valley Wildlife Area for the Youth Deer Gun Hunt this year. We turkey hunted there this spring and saw a lot of turkeys, grouse, and deer.

There is a KAMO thread on lake-link.com It has been viewed over 21,000 times. It gets viewed about 60 times per day. At that rate, the views will have doubled to over 40,000 by this time next year. Please consider posting and putting pictures on it. Go to Lake-link.com, forums, general outdoor discussion. You have to log in to post and it is free to do so.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from the Inidanhead Chapter:

We had a busy July. Jim, Max, and Kathy led a hike on the sisters Farm trails for the 7 North Cedar Academy summer camp kids, counselors, and chaperones, 25 in total. Identified some birds, saw an eagle nest even though a bear had knocked down and broken Jim's telescope, and presented a good introduction to Wisconsin woods. A week later Jim and Steve took the same 7 kids and 3 others fishing on a pontoon boat generously provided by Paul Cook on Sand Lake. Everyone caught fish for a total of about 50 blue gills.

Lobster and Char spent 4 days at the 4H camp with Jim and Lobster's friends Mike and Dick helping with fishing and archery on one day. Over 70 kids there from about 3 counties.

We are having the motor worked on for our recently donated pontoon boat, hoping to take some kids and older adults (i.e. most of US) out fishing yet this summer.

Our mentors and Friends of KAMO showed up big time for our annual work day at the concession stand during the last day of Ladysmith's Mardi Gras celebration. With enough experienced and competent people, we managed the big crowd after the street parade with smiles.

We cancelled a potential camp night at Trails End Camp due mostly to exhaustion.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

No news this month from the Lake Wisconsin and MarshPoint Chapters.

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

After several years of monthly newsletter writings, Aaron Bigalke has decided it was time for somebody else to perform this task. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I was selected to do the job. Of course, leaving the meeting early last month when the discussion took place allowed the other members to elect me to the task! On behalf of our chapter, I would like to thank Aaron for his efforts in providing KAMO with our chapter news. Thanks Aaron.

This past month we had 3 one-on-ones conducted. Bear baiting, bow fishing and panfishing were the activities. All of the kids had fun with follow-up activities planned. Unfortunately, due to mentor/mentee availability, we had to cancel our annual camping weekend.

Potential late summer/early fall activities being discussed are duck banding at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge and a youth squirrel hunt.

Submitted by Bob Nicksic

News from the Northwoods Chapter:

KAMO Northwoods held its annual Kids Hooked on Fishing on July eighth.

This was the seventeenth year...the brainchild of Judy Waite and daughters and friends. It has become an annual event here in Florence to say the least.

We had forty-seven kids attend on a rare sunny day, providing a guided pontoon fishing outing, followed by lunch and ice cream and then each youth got a KAMO tee shirt, goodie bag and rod and reel.

A lot of happy faces all around...kids and adults combined. The bluegills were smiling too, as this is a catch and release event.

Next up...our senior fishing outing sometime in August.

Mick Mlinar Northwoods Chapter

Newsletter collected and presented by Jim Kurz, KAMO State Secretary