

KAMO Newsletter for August, 2017

Hey everyone,

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

Twelve KAMO members took part in our late summer Board of Directors meeting on August 23rd and in my opinion it was a great meeting. Our emphasis is now going to be to fine tune KAMO. What is weak will be worked on and that may be by creating a paid, part time position for what might be an overseer of our operation that works on everything from how to get more chapters, kids and mentors, and how to help create revenue to finance a larger KAMO operation.

We all recognize that though the website is popular and that Leah is doing an excellent job we could use a volunteer to oversee the website on a weekly basis for strengths and weaknesses. Jody Bigalke of the Meadow Valley Chapter volunteered to work with Leah and I have high hopes that that will work out.

We have a blog on Lakelinks that is being visited by thousands of people. Mike Brown of the Coulee Chapter oversees that and we will now be adding our KAMO mentoring tip of the month to Mike's blog. I have taken over writing the "Tip of the Month" starting this week and hope to hear your input.

We are in a transition period and right where I want to be. We have weaknesses, but none that cannot be tweaked. One of my number one goals is going to be to get more members per chapter and I think we are on the path to getting that job done.

As always, thank you for everything that you do for KAMO!

Mark

News from our Assistant Treasurer:

Special thank you to every mentor who has taken time to send me your volunteer hours!! I will be submitting documentation for the final balance from the HRD3 grant in September! This grant has proven we can accomplish great opportunities for funding when we work together!! KAMO is an awesome organization because of awesome people involved!

Submitted by Donna Wishowski

News from the Baraboo River Chapter:

The Baraboo River Chapter had its latest meeting at the home of Kevin Seymour. Our mentors were able to get some kids out for a canoe/camping trip as well as boating and tubing on the upper Dells. We will be joining up with the Lake Wisconsin Chapter for a fishing day in Merrimac on August 30 from 4-8pm with the Baraboo chapter providing food. KAMO and Whimsy Dish Catering (AJ's food trailer) teamed up and sold food and drinks at Reedsburg's Party In The Park and also handed out KAMO flyers. We are also planning on being a part of this year's Fermentation Festival which will be held the first 2 weekends in October. Rick Miotke will be a hunter education instructor at an upcoming Reedsburg class, and is planning on recruiting kids for those that may need a child at this year's JOE HUNT. There was also discussion of getting kids out during the youth duck hunt and a Merrimac pheasant hunt that takes place in November. Fall is right around the corner with great opportunities for different species hunts and fall fishing.

Tradition Forward from Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

Coulee held two scavenger hunts in the past few in local parks for groups of kids/ staff from the Boys and Girls Club. Numbered clothes pins were hidden in a variety of locations and recorded on a map. Kids were given instructions. After the pins were located, kids then broke into groups and hid some pins the other group had to find. Prizes were later given out at B & G Club from a box of goodies KAMO provided from Dollar Tree. This is

such a great activity for younger kids that we were asked to do the second one by popular demand. Riverside and Myrick were the locations.

Five parents, one mentor, and 10 kids went to the Loggers baseball game on Friday, August 11th. We have been receiving sponsored Loggers tickets through our partnership with the Big Brothers/ Big Sisters as well as invitations to their scheduled events. They have invited us to an upcoming Day at the Lake event and a Back to School Bash.

A couple mentors have been taking kids out fishing on Lake Onalaska and in the Mississippi backwaters. Fishing is improving overall just about anywhere we've gone. Northerns, catfish, bluegills, crappie, perch. A perfect season to take a kid fishing.

We just returned from our trap/ pigeon shoot event at the Francis Schmidt Farm south of La Crosse. Safety instruction, dog training demonstration, clay and live pigeon shooting. Live pigeons were placed in electronic holders and once the dog went on point nearby, kids were positioned for shot. About half the birds are taken and the rest return to their home barn. The youth duck hunting weekend, Badgerland Learn to Hunt Pheasant event, and statewide youth gun deer hunt are in our sights.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

We got our pontoon boat motor working and tested it out briefly, works nicely. Now trying to fix up the wounded trailer we bought to haul and store it. We hope to take some kids out in September.

We have a moonlit hike September 9, a month earlier than other years and hopefully warmer. We'll view the moon, have a bonfire, take some hikes as we listen for nocturnal animals, and use some technology like microscope, trail cameras, and temperature sensors.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

No news from Lake Wisconsin nor MarshPoint Chapters.

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

We had 6 members present at our August meeting. Discussion on the potential to conduct a fall or early winter squirrel hunt. Much depends on mentor availability. We are planning a camp fire "story time" the evening of October 7th in conjunction with the state youth deer hunt.

We have recruited 2 kids from our local hunter safety class to join Kamo. Thus far, this has been our best way to attract and retain kids in Kamo.

Mentoring activities this past month involved 6 kids participating in bow fishing with Jody. Thanks Jody.

Submitted by Bob Nicksic

News from the Northwoods Chapter:

Monday, August 21st we had our group hosting ten senior citizens from the Florence nursing home to a pier fishing adventure and cookout at Fisher Lake in downtown Florence. The weather cooperated and everyone got to see the partial eclipse that afternoon...a once in a lifetime bonus. Fishing action could have been a little more productive, but the turtle population keep everyone excited. Everyone went home with a KAMO tee shirt that we had left over from our kid's outing in July.

For those of you who might consider such an outing, I assure you, you will not be disappointed. A smile on a face, whether from a five-year-old or an eighty-five-year-old, does the world good.

Mick Northwoods Chapter

Newsletter put together by Jim Kurz, KAMO State Secretary