

KAMO Newsletter of October, 2017

Hello to all KAMO Members!

This is KAMO President, Mark Walters, with my monthly update and I am asking that you really try to make sure that your fellow KAMO members hear what I am about to say as it is pretty important.

First, I recently attended an excellent outing put on by the Northwood's Chapter and was I ever impressed. These gals and guys did their annual pheasant hunt, trap shoot, a meal and taught the kids how to clean their pheasant's day and it was well attended and perfectly run. My hats off to every one of you.

In October, I took 13-year-old Allie Schuster on her first deer hunt and camping trip in a very hard rain. Allie was persistent and on the second morning made an excellent shot on a 7-point buck. That experience once again reminded me of why we all volunteer for KAMO.

On a more serious note, our KAMO webmaster Leah Herried has informed me that she would like for us to find someone else for the job. Leah has five kids and she is incredibly active with her children. This job pays \$50.00 a month takes very little time but is a position of serious responsibility. It could be that we need to take this to a professional level, but the Board of Directors will have to handle that decision.

Last, but certainly not least, at our August Board of Directors meeting we made the choice to grow KAMO and report about how we are doing it with our "states" finances. At the same time my brother Bob was fighting terminal cancer and it flipped my life upside down in more ways than one. I apologize for doing very little but here is a thought that I have been formulating.

Instead of a KAMO wide idea that has not been fine-tuned, lets pick one chapter and help it grow in every way possible using people and finances from the state coffers. Let's come up with a plan, see what works and does not work and go from there. My choice would be The Baraboo River Chapter. The BRC took a hard hit when The Lake Wisconsin Chapter was formed member wise, it is centrally located for myself and our two VPs (Bob and Dawn) to help and in reality they really deserve our attention.

I think if we start this project in January, we could be completed by April, see what works and does not work and then pick another chapter.

Some ideas that I have would be radio, tv, newspaper, giving some talks, holding some brat feeds ect.ect!

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

Mark

News from the Baraboo River Chapter:

Nothing submitted from the chapter, but we know that they are working hard on the Joe Hunt for December 7-10. And Rick Miotke clarified the background check procedure.

News from the Coulee Chapter:

On Saturday, September 23rd, some of our members went on a hike in the Hixon Forest. Later that day we attended a U.W. - La Crosse Football game. On October 1st, we had a rod and gun club outing at West Salem. It was our pre-youth deer gun hunt shoot.

A group of 20 camped at Mc Mullen Park near Warrens as a staging point for nine youths to hunt in the area. The weather forecast prepared us for wet, but the inch and half to two inches predicted was off. On Friday night we had five and three quarters inches of rain with water flowing through our campsite. It rained most of the day Saturday as well. During a bout of the windiest and wettest part of the weather, one youth shot his first doe. On Sunday morning, a second youth attempted a shot, but his round didn't go off. A great trip nonetheless. We hunted on both state land and my brother's 40 in Jackson County.

Two mentors, Mike Hodgins and Mike Brown, have taken on littles from the local Big Brothers program. We try to emphasize time outdoors. The Bigs have had an aggressive mentor drive including media coverage. They have been promoting the partnership with our group as well and Mike Hodgins and his little are their poster children. On Wednesday, October 18th, a filming crew interviewed Mike Hodgins/ Darien Washington on Lake Onalaska off Mike's boat. Mike wore a neon KAMO shirt during the interview and hoped to talk a little about the KAMO/ BB relationship.

Our duck hunting subgroup is out scouting today for the Onalaska/ Holmen School District day off on Friday, October 20th. Two or three kids are going out for the first time. On Monday, October 30th, it will be the La Crosse School District kid's turn. There has been activity outside these two days and I hear that the wood duck hunting has been premier.

On Saturday, October 21st, we are taking our first trip to the Hidden Trails Corn Maze in West Salem. We have only talked about it before. Last year was a banner outings year for us that I thought we would be hard pressed to repeat. We have recently surpassed both our numbers of participants and outings from last year as of early October. Numbers of outings are not a measure by themselves, but when the quality remains high and we have new and enthusiastic people coming in, it seems to be what we hope happens.

Submitted by Mike Brown

State Grant Funding Update

In order for Rose to begin applying for any grants, she needs help from each chapter. She has created a survey that is intended to be sent out to parents to gather information that is needed to appeal to

potential donors. Coulee has already sent this out to parents, which takes less than 15 minutes to complete, and it went well.

Here's what we need from each chapter:

1. Pick out a total of five parents who you think would be good respondents to a survey about their satisfaction with your chapter's outings. Two or three of these would have been involved with your KAMO chapter in the past. Another two or three of them should be those of kids' parents who are currently active with your group.

2. Contact those parents and ask them if it would be O.K. with them if you sent our grant writer their name, e-mail, and phone number for the purpose of sending them a survey. This survey is brief (mostly click on some circles), but will provide KAMO with valuable information for applying for funding. The e-mails are needed to send the survey and the phone numbers are in case we need to remind the parent to do the survey (if we don't hear back from them).

3. Send these names, e-mails, and phone numbers to me (Mike Brown) at brownmtjc@gmail.com
Rose and I meet regularly to work on planning. We met yesterday. My help is necessary.

4. Once we have this information from each chapter, we will take it from there completely. Please get this done in a timely fashion.

Rose has applied for grants at the chapter level, and it has taken our chapter to a financial place we have never been before. This allows us to do things that gains us more recognition in the area which brings new people to the group.

Rose would also help us outside the grant world. She would like to write an article from the perspective of a single parent with two kids who has benefitted from involvement with KAMO. This article would be sent out to potential sponsors.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

We managed to get a title and license for our donated pontoon boat. We bought and repaired a used trailer for it and are working on the trailer lights, looking forward to several "aquadays" next summer to include kayaking, swimming, and fishing.

Our hike and campfire feed at Murphy Flowage Picnic area went well but appealed more to adults than kids. Our affiliation with 4H continues. We are hosting a "Pre-hunt Seminar" on November 4 which will include how to scout for good land, blinds, calls, identifying deer sign like rubs, scrapes, scat, and trails. We will set up one of our trailcams ahead of time.

We will set up our 2018 calendar in December and attempt to coordinate with other groups in the area. Jim and Floyd plan on mentoring at the Joe Hunt.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

No news from the Lake Wisconsin nor MarshPoint Chapters

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

We had 8 members present at our October meeting. October mentoring activities included 3 mentors taking kids on the youth deer hunt with 2 of the 3 kids harvesting bucks.

Raffle tickets have been ordered for our annual raffle with plans to begin selling tickets in November with the drawing being held during our February meeting. Raffle prizes will be 3 guns along with (2) \$50 cash awards.

Hats for the Joe Hunt have been ordered and will be paid for by Meadow Valley. Thus far we believe we have between 4 and 6 mentors with kids participating in the Joe hunt this year.

Discussion topics for youth activities during the winter/spring timeframe include ice fishing, snow tubing and making maple syrup.

We were pleased to receive a cash donation by LEER Mfg. to be used by our club for youth activities. LEER is an avid supporter of KAMO.

Submitted by Bob Nicksic

News from the Northwoods Chapter:

Last meeting October 18th. All present, one excused

Saturday, October 21st was the warmest day we ever had for our annual pheasant shoot. Sixteen youth were present. After listening to a gun safety talk, then on to shooting clays to warm up for the field, into the field along with a guide and dog handler, back to "camp" for lunch, hands on cleaning your bird demonstration, then more clays...it was a full day for everyone.

Well north of a thousand rounds were put to use, along with eight boxes of clays, excellent chili and subs from Subway, cookies and beverages...a whole lotta consumption going on.

Our day was highlighted by the presence of our one and only...Mr. Mark Walters. I ask you...what could be better than that? (Look forward to an upcoming article on the day by this world-renowned journalist in your local paper).

No meeting in November (deer hunting holiday). Next meeting in December to discuss the predator hunt in January, recap 2017 and do a little Christmas celebration with adult beverages and pizza.

**Best,
Mick Mlinar Northwoods Chapter**

Newsletter articles collected by Jim Kurz, KAMO State Secretary

