



President's Letter to the Membership

October 2009

Calendar year 2008 started with a tornado and four major Southfork floods. 2009 began with a major ice storm. Damage was wide spread and we lost a number of trees and limbs. Since two camper groups were scheduled in OKK prior to our April work session, a late March weekend was organized by Mark Follis and Ted McLaughlin. The main roads and paths were cleared and "hangers" were cut out of some standing, but damaged, trees.

And, speaking of "campers", the highlight of 2009 was UTILIZATION. The OKK secret is out and we hosted over 1100 individual youth and adult leaders for more than 2300 "camper" days. That is an increase of 300 individuals over 2008. A big "atta boy" goes to George Clarke who has chaired the utilization committee for the last three years.

And speaking of George Clarke, he and Chickasaw Council professional, Jeremy Palazola planned and held a June 27th feeding of the multitude at the dining pavilion. More than 40 Kia Kima Scout Reservation staff members enjoyed a tour of OKK and a burger and brats feeding. With the help of several OKK board members and Miramichiee girls, a good tradition was started in hopes of passing the passion we have for kampf on to a younger generation.

Treasurer Alan Meierhoefer continues to control expenses with a watchful eye. Fiscal year '08-09 (July 1-June 30) again ended with a surplus from our \$35,000 set aside. Due to the generosity of "donors" OKK was able to complete a number of specific projects as well as subsidize member "dues". All annual "dues" income goes directly to kampf operation and we continue to struggle with this very important income stream. Please pay your 2009 DUES TODAY! Contributions to our Endowment Fund continue to increase but this is an area needing constant attention. At the April BOD meeting \$35,000 was set aside for 2011-12 operating expenses.

The refurbishing of the hospital is now complete! Beautiful pine log furnishings are now in place and custom screens cover the windows. With the "private" bath, this will be a coveted retreat for our rangers.

Additionally, the T-Bird now sports a pair of deer antler chandeliers and six lighted cypress display cases (museum). These cases were designed by Mike Spiotta, built in Nashville, glazed compliments of Don Langston and Lofton "Bubby" Keltner and dedicated on September 19, 2009 as follows:

In honor of:

OKK Founders
All KKSRS Staff 1964-present
James "Jimmy" Dickson & Henry "Hank" Deyling

In memory of:

J. C. Ray
Art Winsler
Alfred J. Distretti and Louis J. Distretti, Jr.

Appropriate memorabilia following the theme of "A River Ran Through It" will be displayed on the T-Bird loft.

While we continue to need emphasis on membership and endowment, all things considered, 2009 was an outstanding year which sets the higher goal for attainment in 2010.

God Bless Our Country