

THE SECOND FORTY YEARS OF TROOP 72- 1962-2003

Now, as in 1963, the Troop is one of the oldest, largest and most active in New Jersey, and no doubt the U.S. It has continued many of the same activities and traditions as earlier. Of course, with new scouts and new leaders, there have been changes as well. The most important, was the adoption of Erincliff Island in Canada as the Troops summer adventure camp.

1960-1969

In the early 1960's Bill Foote, a Canadian, took over as Scoutmaster. In 1962, he arranged for the Troop to use Erndiff Island, then owned by a Canadian power company, for a week in the summer. Bill later started an Explorer unit associated with the Troop. Chester Brown and then Ted Jacob followed him as scoutmasters in the late 1960's

The Troop started going to Erincliff Island in Canada, perhaps beginning in 1962. Attendance was apparently limited to first class scouts and above. Gary Jacob, may have been among the first group of scouts on Erincliff. They camped out on the way there and back, as it took two days to get there before the completion of the interstate highway. Ted Jacob went a year or two later and recalls they traveled - light. No motorboats, canoes only, and they parked at, and paddled to the island from Snug Harbor. He remembers some water-skiing behind an inflatable motorized boat. The clothes pin system for tracking scouts and fathers activities, was started. At some point, the Troop met Mr. Platt, an Canadian Eagle scout himself, and arranged to gain access to Erincliff from his property. Mrs. Bogert, his daughter, recalls seeing scouts heading off to the island when she was a girl. The Bogert's continue to graciously allow the troop to park on their property, obtain water, and use their beach for access to Erincliff.

1970-1979

Summers at Erindiff continued, and the Troop apparently made a good impression on its Canadian hosts, as indicated in a stanza from a poem signed by Don and Mona Phelan and Alan and Judy Ainsworth of the Snug Harbor Resort:

Americans should be proud
Of these youthful ambassadors
As honorary Canadians
They' re most welcome
To this land of ours

1980-1989

Erincliff continued strong. In the mid 1980's, Ted Ferante, a Canadian architect and former Eagle scout himself, apparently received Erincliff in lieu of a fee for some work for the power company that owned the island. He allowed the Troop to continue to use the island for a week each summer.

Gordon Specht came to Erincliff for the first time, perhaps in 1987. He traveled light, and stories relate that he would disappear into his tiny pup tent at night, emerging the next morning showered, shaved, and impeccably dressed. Mark Fleder was (unofficially) awarded the L.L. Bean 'gizmo' award, for owning, and bringing, every bit of camping apparatus known to man. His motto, according to his camp mates, was "when in doubt, buy everthing". Warren Hanscom was said to have set up his tent like an office to catch up on business. It was rumored that he had a portable fax machine inside, and it was certain that he had a renowned Swedish cot.

Charlie Daly recalls a visit by a Canadian girl scout Troop staying on Strawberry Island, with muth ensuing excitement among the boy scouts, but little communication as apparently the girl scouts spoke only French. He also remembers a massive thunderstorm (as does every generation of Erincliff visitors).

Flammer'-s hollow, the site of pioneering merit badge activities, was named after Doug Flammer who attended for many years and taught pioneering. The suitability of the bathing-beach for that purpose, was apparently discovered by scout Robert Moomjy, and it was christened Moomjy's cove in his honor. At age 11, Greg Daly may have been youngest scout to do the mile swim. Mark and/or Rich Kostro is/are rumored to have been the builder(s) of the 'box' (toilet seats). Dr. Beals frequently cooked.

1990-1999

Canada was becoming so popular that by 1993-94 the Troop had to resort to a lottery to allocate space. A committee could find no satisfactory substitute location for the troop's summer camp, and this led to the formation of Erincliff Inc., a private, non-profit corporation which ultimately purchased the island in 1996 from Ted Ferrante, the owner, who was moving his family to a distant farm. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Fleder, Warren Hanscom, Tom Phelan, Gordon Specht, and others, the troop was able to accommodate a growing membership by offering two one week sessions on the island.

In 1992, Kathleen Young became the first mother to go to Erincliff with her oldest son, JR. KathJeen has gone many more times with sons, Tim and Sean. Gordon Specht recalls one summer, during the traditional adult canoe race held as part of the Water Carnival near the end of Erincliff, a team consisting of the "**deadly-duo**" of Gordon Specht and chef Dr. Doug Beals trounced their competition - fathers in their 30s and 40's, by several lengths, to the amazement of all.

Gerard Kieczkowski related a Canadian DWE (driving while eating) episode. After his son Adam, was cut rather badly, Gerard and Adam were driven to the hospital in Kingston by Mark Fleder. On the way back, they stopped and bought several pints of ice cream. Back in the car, they all began to eat the ice cream with both hands. For the driver, Mark Fleder, this caused some non-linear road behavior that was observed by Canadian police, who pulled them over. After being assured that the driving was not alcohol related, the police let them off with a warning about the dangers of ice cream and driving.

2000-2003

Erincliff continued as a central aspect of the Troop, and a highlight of the scouting year. Renewed efforts were made to obtain mainland access and by January 2003, Erinciff Inc. was close to finalizing the purchase of a property which would provide that, as well as some mainland camping and activity space.

Erincliff adventures continued. The two-story barn in Snug Harbor in which the Troop stored equipment over the winters, became a one-story barn after a storm. Another storm knocked down one of the crucial support trees for the dining fly. Ralph Maines designed an impressive flying butressed, wooden framed, weather proof fly. In strong winds it also functions as a sail, which has moved Erincliff several points to leeward, while keeping scouts and fathers dry and, on windy days, entertained. Under Ralph's guidance, his pioneering merit badge class designed and executed an emergency replacement dock for Erincliff, with interesting stability properties, as several wet scouts discovered. Scouts continued to entertain on the island as well, Kevin Johnson's all-night singing while on a wilderness survival overnight on Strawberry island, entertained much of the Troop all night.