

Moose Lake News

by Jim Onarheim

I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. I spent it with my brother Tad Onarheim who came up from Chicago for the weekend. We had not seen each other for two years so it was great to get together, even though it was only for a brief period of time.

I have a few things to get caught up on after skipping the 14th of May which would be my normal new schedule and then the following week May 21st that I missed because of my vacation in Canada.

I got back from my Canada trip just in time to help celebrate National Emergency Medical Services Week NEMS. This past week, May 18-24 EMT's, Paramedics, First Responders from Moose Lake and Sawyer County were recognized along with those on a National level as EMS professionals because WE CARE. FOR EVERYONE. Our dedication and lifesaving skills are put to the test every day. We are called to care in big cities and in small towns, in private homes, businesses, schools and on our nation's roadways.

Whether it's saving a young victim of a motor vehicle crash, helping an elderly patient who has forgotten to take their medication, stabilizing a construction worker who is experiencing chest pain on the jobsite, or treating an overdose on a city street, we're trained and ready to deliver a range of medical interventions and support, because WE CARE. FOR EVERYONE.

Our roles and responsibilities are growing and changing, and we are rising to the challenge. From community paramedicine to preventive healthcare, we are tasked with providing next-level patient navigation and care in new surroundings, using modern technologies. We are there for our community, whenever and wherever they need us. Because WE CARE. FOR EVERYONE.

It was a time to show our gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics and First Responders who provide lifesaving care across the nation every day. EMS Week is also a time to educate the public about EMS, and the essential service we provide to communities.

This year's theme is "We Care. For Everyone. National Associations of Emergency Medical Technicians NAEMT partners with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) on EMS Week to encourage the nationwide recognition of EMS Week and contributions of EMS professionals.

The History of EMS Week

In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS professionals and the important work they do in our nation's communities. National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of

those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's frontline. EMS Week is presented by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in partnership with the (NAEMT). Together, NAEMT and ACEP lead annual EMS Week activities. These organizations are working to ensure that the important contributions of EMS professionals to safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of their communities are fully celebrated and recognized.

On Friday May 16th Sawyer County Ambulance sponsored a Picnic type lunch at the Hayward ambulance station at 12 noon for all EMS workers. Several from the Round Lake Moose Lake area attended along with many from the entire county.

Administrator John Froemel recognized Connie Lepley for her 15 years of service with Sawyer County Ambulance. He said from day one she has given a steady, compassionate, and dependable presence to the service. Over the years she not only responded to countless calls and helped countless patients, but she was a mentor, teammate, and friend to many of us here. Unfortunately, due to medical issues Connie has made the difficult decision to retire. While I wish her time with us would continue, we understand that your health and well-being must come first. We support her fully. Connie's retirement marks the end of a remarkable chapter, but her Legacy will not be forgotten.

The vacation I took was the same place that I have visited many times over the past thirty years. Pipestone Fly-In Outposts camps are located in Wabakimi Provincial Park in N.W. Ontario. Canada. The Air Base is located one hour north of the Minnesota Canadian border which is north of Emo Ont. Mike and I both grew up in the Eau Claire Chippewa Falls area.

Mike has had his Fly-In business for about 30 years with five camps located on five different lakes. Some of these lakes are over three times the size of the Chippewa Flowage. This spring Mike received permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources to build a cabin on a lake that is named Rockcliff lake. It is a lake that is about the same width as Moose Lake but just over 10 miles long. Mike asked me to come along to observe how they would transport all the building materials by two large planes and by helicopter from the air base on Savant Lake to his building spot on Rock Cliff Lake. He told me that there may be limited time to fish but it should be interesting. He told me that they would be making many trips from this airbase that belongs to a friend of his to his building spot. This is about a 30 min. flight.

Rockcliff is a lake that has never been fished before as far as Mikes knows. There is only an old trapper cabin on the lake at the same location where Mike is building his new cabin. The trapper cabin is falling apart and has not been used by anyone for many years. This cabin will be torn down after completion of the new cabin. The only access to this location is by float plane or some people refer to them as seaplanes. Mike had a good construction crew hired to build the new cabin, so he was hoping to have everything completed by the end of June.

I left for Canada on the morning of May 10th. I arrived at Mike's and Kelly's airbase at 6 PM. We went out for dinner that evening. Sunday morning, we got, organized, and packed many different things for our trip. The temperatures early that week were in the 90's. Monday morning we left for Wabakimi Park. Our base camp will be at Kenoji Camp. We will be going back and forth during the day. The carpenters will stay in the old trapper cabin once they get it livable. Mike's other crew would fly back and forth to Kenoji which is only a short distance.

All afternoon Monday and all-day Tuesday two Otter planes, one which is owned by Mike and another plane that he rented hauled lumber from the Savant air base to the building site. This was a 30-minute flight. This was going terribly slow, so Mike called for the rental of a helicopter to also haul lumber. This was available on Thursday to help with the transportation of the materials. It would cost him \$3000 a day but this is the cost of doing business. He had to get the job completed as soon as possible.

Tuesday afternoon we could smell smoke in the air. We felt this must be from a fire. We were informed the other side of the lake was burning. The wind had picked up with gusts of wind up to 40 MPH. The Forest Service showed up and informed us that we would have to terminate our work of hauling lumber from this location. They told us they were setting up sprinklers all around the property to protect their buildings. We got on our planes and left the Savant airbase. We were hoping that the lumber that still needed to be moved which was several thousand dollars, would not get burned or get soaked with water.

I flew back to the main airbase because Kelly and I were driving to Winnipeg Manitoba on Wednesday morning, which is a 5-hour drive to pick up supplies that we needed. I have never been to Winnipeg, so it was a pleasant experience and a very interesting day. We arrived at the eastern side of Winnipeg at about noon. We stopped to get gas and noticed the visibility was only about one to two miles. We were told at the gas station there was a wildfire burning just north of where we were. You could smell the smoke in the air. They said it had been burning since Sunday. There are numerous commercial buildings in the area where the fire was located. There were buildings lost, and many explosions that were heard throughout the area. I got a little excited and told Kelly I wish I could help them out. She said no you are on vacation.

After our day in Winnipeg, a city of 730,000 people, it was time to drive back to Mike's airbase in Emo, Ontario. We got back at 9:00 O'clock or about dark. Sun set at Mike's is about one hour later than in Hayward.

The next day I flew back to Wabakimi Park to watch the construction crew and the moving of tons of lumber. We were hoping that the buildings at the airbase were saved from the fire, and the fire brought under control.

Upon my early arrival on Thursday morning May 15th our group was informed that we could land our planes again at Savant air base. This was because the water bombers dropped water up until sunset, the night before. They received some rain over night and a change in the wind direction. The fire then took a turn to our advantage which pushed the fire away from the air base and was being controlled by excellent fire management. The firefighters did a wonderful job. This was good news to hear.

Thursday morning Mike had a helicopter arrive at the airbase to also help move the building materials along with two thousand horsepower Otters. These are large float planes. The three aircraft got the job done in a couple of days. The carpenters needed the building materials so they could keep working. This is an expensive way to build a building so you cannot have any down time. By the end of the weekend the carpenters had all four walls up. By the time I left for home on Tuesday the 20th the electrician was being flown in to wire the building and install the solar panels.

Oh, I must not forget Mike and I spent several hours fishing on Sunday evening, the 18th and Monday the 19th. Yes, we did catch some nice walleyes out of Clearwater Lake, the lake that Mike's airbase is located on. I had a nice 24-inch walleye, along with many smaller fish.

Belated birthday greetings this week go to Joan Weidling on the 23rd of May, Joshua Walsh on the 24th and Marilyn Karns on the 25th. Birthdays this week are Sharon Haak on the 31st Belated anniversaries this week are Derek and Carla Sorenson on the 19th Forrest and Bonny Melius on the 24th and Bill and Carrie Jo O'Brien on the 25th of May. Current anniversaries this week are Scott and Laura Gilkey on June 1st and Daniel and Alisa Marvin on June 4th. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all of you.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week with moderate temperatures and some forecasted moisture. Please send your items of interest to my new e-mail address emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org> JO.