

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

JULY 3, 2016



Welcome everyone, to Senior Winona and our 109th season on the shores of Moose Pond! This is **Uncle Clay Miles**, Senior Unit Director with my first of many weekly newsletters, writing to keep you up to speed with the action here in Senior camp! As I sit at my desk this evening, the wind is blowing off the lake and into my cabin, the sky over Pleasant Mountain is a clear blue, and the sun is slowly starting to drop behind Mount Washington with just the right mix of clouds on the horizon to make for what will most likely be a beautiful sunset. Needless to say the view is, and continues to be, amazing! What is also amazing is how quickly we have gotten going with the business of summer. To be honest, I am not sure there are many, if any, other camps that can do what we do by going from no kids the morning of June 29th, to 200 plus kids (from all over the world, no less) and have them engaged and doing activities well before bedtime on June 30th. If you think about it, the logistics are simply staggering! With gorgeous weather aiding our cause, this has been just the case, and with only a couple of days to pursue requirements, many are already well on their way to obtaining their full Merit.

At this point I usually defer to **Uncle Alex Fobes** and his wonderfully penned Mountain trip write-ups as he is always the first to get out of camp and into the wilderness, but having just come down from the Intermediate baseball field and our 3rd annual All-Camp Tribal Games, I figured I would just keep rolling and tell you a little about what went on there.

Most notable about these games is that for this event unit ties are for the day undone, and the bonds of tribal brotherhood take over with Senior, Inty and Junior campers alike, working together in different activities as Delawares, Mohawks, Ojibways, and Senecas. The brainchild of CIT Unit Directors **Uncle Ben Stonebraker** and **Uncle Gus Polstein** these games are full of Tribal color and action. From flags and face paint to the slip 'n' slide relay and massive games of Ga Ga Ga, the day is capped off with a four-way tug 'o' war and an all-camp relay that finishes with the sled event that is reminiscent of a Roman chariot race with the senior chiefs acting as the horses and the Junior chiefs riding the sled as it is pulled around the grass track (minus and weaponry and crashing, of course!).



With the Games out of my system, we can get to Uncle Alex Fobes and his first two mountain trips:

Our celebrated Senior Mountain Trips program started sweetly on Friday with a visit to Cherry Mountain and Owl's Head in the White Mountain National Forest. **Uncles Alex Fobes, Ned Berube** and **Andrew Hey** led **Patrick DeMatteo, Peter Fulweiler, Dan Krause, Stephen Lamont, Jack Libby, Robin Nizou, Jacinto Pichardo Vila, Daniel Roque, Eli Rosen, Will Thompson, Sebastian Vila Cestero** and **John Walker** along a lightly used path to open ledges with views of Vermont, Maine, Canada and New Hampshire's Presidential Range. The explorers then capped their point A to point B hike with a pleasant plunge into the icy Ammonoosuc that flows westward from Mount Washington, and a good time was had by all.

Looming large just across our very own Moose Pond, pulchritudinous [Aunt Laura's editor's note for parents: even I had to Google this definition, "physically beautiful."] Pleasant Mountain proved the perfect destination for Saturday morning's mountain ramble. **Uncles Alex** and **Ned** led **Dmitrii Burkot, Gus Edwards, Gleb Gamsheev, Jal Kouk, Ivan Shabalinov, George Stephan, Zach Targoff, James Thompson** and **David Wallace** up the steep east slopes to Big Bald Peak with its beautiful views of the White Mountains, southwestern Maine, and the shoreline and pines of Winona.

(Over for more news!!)



On Friday evening the official beginning of the summer was marked and nicely punctuated by an exceptional Winona Night that took place in the Cobb Memorial Building. In addition to the awarding of 2nd and 3rd year patches and honor shirts (for those campers with four or more summers at Winona), the evening serves to renew timeless traditions, sing camp songs, review the previous years banners and ultimately to announce the summers tribal and color leaders. To that last point, the Grays this year will be ably led by Captain **Dierhow Bol Bol** and Lieutenants **John Walker** and **Andres Hubsch**. The Reds will find their way forward and possibly another banner with Captains **Peter Fulweiler** and **Oliver Vasconcelles** and Lieutenant **Daniel Weeder** at the helm. As far as the tribes are concerned, the Ojibways will be led by Chief **Zach Targoff** and Sub-Chief **Eduardo Perez Ortiz**, the Delawares by Co-Chiefs **Reiland Domingue** and **Jackson Libby**, the Senecas by Chief **Charlie Ngoal** and Co Sub-Chiefs **Jal Kouk** and **Gus Edwards** and finally the Mohawks will be led by Chief **Ned Kolva** and Sub-Chief **Ross Klipp-Kaplan**.

Well, there you have it for short week number one! My next installment will be substantially longer as Rock, Kayak, Canoe, and Mountain trips will have gone out and returned, athletic contests will have been played, Regattas sailed, and activities ramped up! There is a great deal to come!

So, until then, this is Uncle Clay, from his desk on the shores of the most beautiful lake in the world, hoping that your week is as excellent as I know our's will be!



Clayton "Clay" Miles (1964-1974, 1976-1982, 2004-2016)

The BAT 1978

Senior Unit Director

Editors Note: Your son's unit's weekly Newsletter may also be accessed online: <http://winonacamps.com/welcome-parents/unit-newsletters>. Please note that in the weekly unit Newsletters, we focus primarily on out-of-camp trips and sporting competitions which are just a small part of the entire program here at Winona.