

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

JULY 9, 2017



Saturday July 8, 2017, 5:30 AM. As the morning's first light appeared, **Uncles Bruce, Ghael & JK** along with the "Staunch & True" crew of **Rijs Johansongordet, Nicholas McConnell, Owen de Cordova, James Bennett, George Boulukos, Dan Krause, Connor Owen, Benjamin Stevens** and **Mason Canon** awoke with big smiles, ready for a great river adventure. Senior Winona paddlers departed for a sure-to-be fantastic canoe trip on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. I look forward to sharing tales from the river upon their return! As you would expect, the Senior Grove is currently fast asleep. A rare moment of peacefulness before the wake-up bell tolls. It has been a perfect camp week with temperatures in the high 70's and low humidity. Here is a whirlwind recap of our week in Senior Winon0a...

...On Sunday, the fourth annual All-Camp Tribal Games took place. At this event Senior, Inty and Junior tribes compete together in various games and races, and the CITs, after singing a song, organize and officiate the games. This year's event included: Ga Ga Ga, British Bulldog, Kingpin and Dodgeball. The day's finale included a four way Tug 'O' War and an all-camp relay. It's always fun to see the human dogsled race. The Senior Tribal Chiefs pull snow sleds, while the helmeted Junior chiefs ride aboard, and slide around the grass track. The Senecas took first place this time, followed by the Ojibways, Mohawks and Delawares, respectively.



This past Monday, Senior Winona set off on the first canoe trip of the 110th camping season. Led by **Uncles Bruce** and **Ghael**, campers **Tommy Fois, Will Jurek, Chris Saade, Vittorio Oprandi, Zimu Zhang, Andy Zhang, Ivan Zhdanov, Will Ansaldi** and **Jack Seskis** embarked on a three-day overnight trip on Umbagog Lake. Though the first day consisted of only a short paddle, strong headwinds made for some sore muscles and even heartier helpings of Uncle Bruce's renowned panko-breaded pork chops, gingered carrots, corn bread and s'mores. The boys enjoyed a splash in the lake known for its relatively shallow depth (Umbagog is the Abenaki word for "shallow water"). The second day's windy weather was no match for the man-powered Old Town canoes as they made their way across the largest lake along the Maine/New Hampshire border. The second day's dinner menu brought paella and Winona's classic pineapple upside-down cake. On the final day, the crew paddled up the Magalloway River to the pick-up site where they saw Intermediate Winona setting off on a reverse itinerary.

The tennis team travelled to Camp O-AT-KA on Monday morning. In classic camp fashion, the coaching staff gave a tactical strategy lecture during the van ride. The team consisted of **Finn Stubbs, Georges Ruiz-Picasso, Christian Sweeney**, and **Ben Nigrovic**. The team of Sweeney & Nigrovic are noted for playing well, while having fun. If I understand correctly this pairing was a first for both guys! Winona won the match 3-2.

Our Senior Mountain Trips program opened the week with an outing on Monday to the Ice Gulch in the northern White Mountains. **Uncles Ned, Vicente** and **Alex** led intrepid trekkers **Nuar Bol Bol, Miles Brown, Ben Chadwick, Mason Cilley, Henry Clark, Nick Davidson, Chatim Kouk, Eli Rosen, Lucas Sudduth, Charlie Sullivan, Troy Rigby** and **Parker Wright** through one of the few spots in the east with permanent ice and snow. In the depths of the ravine they discovered huge bones of a moose skeleton! To cap the invigorating hike, the boys headed down for a swim in the Ellis River, where a good time was had by all.



Departing Tuesday for a four-day odyssey in the heart of the White Mountains, **Uncles Ned and Alex** brought adventurers **James Bennett, Harry Chadwick, Patrick DeMatteo, Dan Krause, Mauricio Luzardo, Baptiste Mathevet, Georges Ruiz-Picasso** and **James Thompson** into Franconia Notch and up the scenic Falling Waters Trail. Climbing above the cascades, the boys pushed upward to treeline and the alpine apex of Mount Lincoln. At that vantage point the campers were treated to an extraordinary panorama of peaks, spanning from Mount Mansfield in Vermont all the way to Pleasant Mountain in Maine, located directly west of Winona.

This expedition afforded the boys an opportunity to learn the skills necessary for safe and enjoyable off-trail travel, which they practiced while exploring picturesque ravines and rock-slides of the Pemigewasset, by far the largest wilderness area in all of the White Mountain National Forest at over 45,000 acres. The Pemigewasset, or "Pemi," as it is locally known, is also a river, fed by various tributaries, including fabled Franconia Brook, into which the boys plunged with great gusto at both Thirteen Falls and downriver at the celebrated Franconia Chutes, natural rock waterslides etched into granite by the paradisiacal waters.



The Senior Kayakers headed out of camp on the 4th of July. They travelled to Steep Falls and the Limington Rips section of the Saco river. Due to the recent rainfall the Saco was setting up for high water levels. **Max Sanchez** and **Victor Quirch** led the charge followed in hot pursuit by **Owen de Cordova, Sam Cushman** and **Ben Nigrovic**. They worked on basic whitewater navigation at Steep Falls which included "ferry gliding", "eddy turns" and "river etiquette." Just before lunch, the paddlers packed up the trailer and drove down to the Limington Rips for a rowdy good time running the rapids, surfing the waves and enjoying the holiday. Hot, tired, and ready to rejoin camp's flow, they arrived back at Winona just in time for dinner and MOVIE NIGHT!

(Over for more news!)

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.

Find us on  You can find current photos of Winona by visiting us on our Facebook page (Winona Camps – Maine).

On Wednesday, the following first-time kayak trippers also visited Limington and Steep Falls: **Nick Voyzey, Gus Edwards, Thomas Chassat, Cooper Dutton**, joined veteran kayakers **Victor Quirch** and **Max Sanchez**. This trip was similar to the kayak trip on the 4th of July, with one major exception. On this day, the group decided to paddle all the way to Limington from Steep Falls on the wild and scenic waters of the Saco River. In about an hour, the river rats were styling the bottom section of Limington before arriving at the picnic area where they enjoyed chicken bombers and chips. The day ended with a short drive back to camp for dinner and Evening Program.

On Wednesday, **Parker Stair, Rijs Johansongordet, Jackson Codd, David Wallace, Will Bavier**, and **Sam Cushman** with **Uncles JK** and **Kyle** headed out on a blue sky day to climb Mount Potash. Early on in the hike the climbers had a tricky ford of Downes Brook. Luckily, no one got wet! The hikers bushwhacked to exposed ledges with awesome views toward Waterville Valley and the White Mountains. Following a summit view lunch the hikers headed downhill and found a fun swimming hole along the Kancamagus Highway. The dip in the Swift water was classified as "refreshing"!

Also on Wednesday, **Uncle Evan** along with **William Thompson, Alex McDougall** and **Uncle Jake** from Intermediate Winona, accompanied by **Ben Libby** and **Chase Gerber** and traveled to Square Ledge for a technical rock climbing adventure. The group indicated the day was challenging and they all had a great time!

And Wednesday night, 39 Seniors journeyed to Hadley Field in Portland to watch the Portland Sea Dogs take on the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. The game turned out to be a pitching duel. The Fisher Cats beat the home team.

On Thursday, the Advance Guard trip went to Fun Town Splash Town. It was a big hit! **Ivan Zhdanov, Eli Rosen, Riley Snow, Troy Rigby** and **Connor Owen** were just a few who mentioned they had a "Brix Brax" time!

On Friday, the Winona sailors traveled to Camp Agawam for the first day of the 5-week JY15 series. The sailors included skipper **Nick Voyzey** and crew **Gus Edwards**. Skipper **Henry Clark** teamed up with crew **Andrew Sack** (Intermediate). The sailors stated there was a good breeze and they were pleased with the first day's results.

Saturday, the mountain bikers ventured into the hills of North Conway, New Hampshire. The staunch trippers included **Nick Davidson, Kevin Allsopp, Louis Domart**, and **George Stephan**. The Pudding Pond trail has many twists which helped the Mountain Bikers gain confidence in carving turns.

Also on Saturday, **Derek McDonald, Nuar Bol Bol, Finn Stubbs, Chris Saade, Chatim Kouk, Christian Sweeney, Ben Chadwick, Matthew McVane, Nico Cuenca** and **Patrick DeMatteo** participated in a basketball tournament at Camp Indian Acres. In the first game, Winona got off to a hot start with a 8-0 lead due to a solid offensive attack. Derek had several key drives to the basket and was virtually unstoppable. Great defense and sportsmanship was noted by coach, **Uncle Niko**. At the buzzer Winona came up short by only two points.



After a two-hour break, Winona squared off against Camp Robinhood. Winona started off slow and fell behind 10-3. Winona turned up the heat in the last ten minutes of the half and took a 24-13 lead into halftime. In the second half they stretched the lead with the hustle of Christian and Nuar. Winona came away with a 21-point lead to win game 2.

Saturday brought **Uncles Alex** and **Evan** to lead a special combined Mountain/Rock Climbing trip to Tumbledown, one of Maine's classic peaks. The old Chimney route proffers exciting varied terrain and a thrilling final technical pitch, which our campers in past summers have greatly enjoyed. Though purple skies and rolling thunder thwarted their summit bid on this occasion, the outdoorsmen quickly changed course and set their sights on nearby Angel Falls, a roaring cataract of foam. **Sam Cushman, Cooper Dutton, Tommy Fois, Will Jurek** and **Jack Seskis** all bathed beneath the sublime seventy-foot fall, Maine's second-highest.

Memorable Evening Programs included a fun non-Red/Gray game of "British Bulldog" on Monday night. Thursday night's Red/Gray event, "Steal the Bacon," the Grays won. Preceded by a thrilling visit from The BAT, Friday night featured an extra long game of "Capture the Flag," which was won by the Reds. The week concluded on Saturday night, with a cool-down game of water polo, and a Gray win.

In this first full week of camp, we hit a home run! The Senior Unit is buzzing with activity, laughter, and smiles. The week ahead includes a rock climbing competition, two separate rock day trips, 2 kayak day trips, the world-famous 5-night mountain trip to Katahdin, the Wyo play, the return of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway paddlers, and a few full Merit awards too.

Until then, I hope you have a great week!

Brix Brax
Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin (1983-1986, 2002-2017)
The BAT 2015
Senior Unit Director