

# SENIOR NEWSLETTER

## JULY 16, 2017



It is the 16<sup>th</sup> day of camp; the first morning where we have a cool temperature (57 degrees) and overcast skies. Most boys are wearing an extra layer as the weather has allowed us to change pace, just a little. The Senior Wiggy fireplace is giving us added warmth while **Uncles Sam** and **Evan** with **Nick Davidson**, **Lucas Sudduth**, **James Thompson**, **Eli Rosen**, **Parker Wright** and **Riley Snow** play table games. **Troy Rigby** and **Christian Sweeney** are playing ping-pong. **Uncle Alex** and **Kyle** are overseeing a game of Magic with **Tommy Fois**, **Parker Stair**, **Will Jurek**, **Jackson Codd**, **David Wallace**, **Will Thompson** and **Ignacio Galvez Pineda**. A card game with **Derek McDonald**, **Zimu Zhang** and **John Benson** completes the list of the inside activities. On the lake I can see calm waters and **Uncle Niko** conducting a session on stand-up-paddleboards (SUP) with **Vitto Oprandi**, **William Strachan**, **Andy Zhang** and **Georges Ruiz-Picasso** (they were able to track a loon!). In the campcraft area **Uncle Vicente** with **Alex McDougall** and **Ivan Zhdanov** are practicing wet day fire building. The boys are really enjoying being together. Even on a day like this, happiness is everywhere! This is a very fine group!

On Monday, **Will Thompson**, **Cooper Dutton** and **Lucas Sudduth** along with **Uncles Evan** and **Ben** attended the Camp Takajo rock climbing competition. Their climbing tower is 40' tall and is noted for its elaborate "roof" overhang and a "chimney". The most memorable climbs came in the first 3 rounds. In round 2, **Cooper Dutton** climbed the hardest route on the wall. On round 3, **Will Thompson** climbed the same route. They both scored maximum points. The route included the "roof" overhang. The most challenging maneuvers occur when the climbers take their right handhold under the "roof" and the left on top. In the next move, the climbers matched their hands and brought their feet up to their hands. A pull-up is then required to complete the overhang challenge. On a different route, **Lucas Sudduth** also maximized points. Winona placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 15 & under. Cooper said, "The competition was good, but the ice cream was better!"



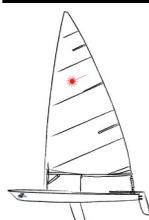
On Tuesday, our soccer players headed to Camp Wigwam for a 4 vs 4 tournament. It was a sunny, hot day to be on the pitch. The group was divided into two teams, the Bladers and the Scooters. The format allowed each team to play two games. The Scooters team comprised **Georges Ruiz-Picasso**, **Stephen Lamont**, **Will Bavier**, **Zimu Zhang**, **Derek McDonald** and **Rieky Bol Rik**. This team lit up the 1st game winning with a 2-0 score. The Bladers included **Will Ansaldi**, **Eduardo da Silva Witzke**, **Troy Rigby**, **Christian Sweeney** and **James Thompson**. Coach **Uncle Sam** commented, "The Bladers had to overcome a few difficult situations, and did very well maintaining their composure." Memorable moments from the day included fancy footwork from Rieky and Will Bavier, and Zimu ringing with two shots off the posts.

The kayakers set out to Popham Beach state park. Attending this 2-day trip were: **Harry Chadwick**, **Nico Cuenca**, **Ian Hoffman**, **Vitto Oprandi**, **Thomas Chassat**, **Louis Domart** and **Gus Edwards**. Popham Beach is a wonderful spot to relax and play in the surf. Ian and Vitto had fun body surfing. Thomas learned how to flat spin his kayak on the waves. Nico enjoyed the tanning action. Harry, Louis and Gus learned how to catch the waves and will soon join the world surfing tour. At campground the boys enjoyed playing volleyball and games of table tennis. The trip was a lot of fun.

On Wednesday, **Uncle Sam** coached the tennis team at Camp Indian Acres for a tournament. **Miles Brown**, **Mason Cillee**, **Georges Ruiz-Picasso**, **Troy Rigby** and **Christian Sweeney** all played 3 single and 2 doubles matches. Memorable moments include; in round 1, Troy and Miles were down 4-0 but came back to win in a tie break. In round 2, Georges won 4-1. The overall results placed Winona in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Christian said, "It was hot, but the spirits were high". **Coach Z** also attended and said, "The sportsmanship from Senior Winona was very positive. Mason had never played in a tennis tournament and he had a fun day".

The technical rock climbers took a trip to Jockey Cap on Wednesday. This was originally a ski area in the 1930s. This small granite dome offers fun and challenging bouldering. Bouldering is free climbing without ropes. The climbers utilize spotters and landing pads to protect from falls. **Will Jurek**, **Jack Seskis**, **Chris Saade** and **Eli Rosen** progressed from the beginner routes to the harder climbs where they needed to be boosted off the ground. The boys enjoyed having lunch at Jockey Cap before returning for afternoon of in-camp activities.

On Thursday, the Winona archery team participated in a match at Camp O-AT-KA. This event is designed so each team shoots at designated times. The Winona team consisted of **Charlie Sullivan**, **John Benson** and **Jackson Codd**. The archers shot straight and true. The final results take a few days to tabulate - details to follow!



On Thursday, **Uncle Cam** and the sailing team headed to Camp O-AT-KA on for the first regatta of the season. Sebago Lake is known for a good breeze and waves. Despite the torrential downpour in the morning, skipper **Nick Voyzey** and crew **Henry Clark** managed to overcome a slow start and finish with a 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and another 2<sup>nd</sup> in the first three races. The team took a short break with grilled Philly cheese steak sandwiches, in true regatta fashion. The weather improved and skipper **Gus Edwards** and crew **Harry Chadwick** sailed their first race, crossing the finish line in 5<sup>th</sup>. In their second race they applied outstanding race tactics for a key 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. This lifted the Winona team and they brought home the 3<sup>rd</sup> place regatta trophy!

Friday was the second day in the Camp Agawam Cup series. The sailing team of **Gus Edwards**, **Nick Voyzey**, **Henry Clark** and **Marcos Snyder** enjoyed the afternoon session and tight racing.

On Friday night, all of the boys in camp traveled to our sister camp, Wyonegonic, for the opening night of the play, **Thoroughly Modern Millie**. The boys agreed this was one of the best productions in years!

Saturday, Senior swimmers **Thomas Chassat**, **Nico Cuenca**, **Louis Domart**, **Ian Hoffman**, **Will Jurek** and **Parker Stair** traveled to Camp Takajo to compete in a meet against five other camps. We finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. While all of the boys enjoyed swimming, the most fun events were swimming together in the medley and freestyle relay races.



(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) or our Bunk1 site.

On Saturday, **Uncles Sam D.** and **Sam WC** coached the soccer team of **Will Bavier, Stephen Lamont, Troy Rigby, Eduardo Da Silva Witzke, Lucas Sudduth, Rieky Bol Rik, James Thompson, Tommy Fois, Zimu Zhang, Christian Sweeney, Derek McDonald, Parker Wright** and **Nuar Bol Bol** at Camp Indian Acres. Within the first 30 seconds, Troy took a nice pass from Will and scored a goal. Three minutes before the half, the opposing team tied the game. Nuar had several amazing saves keeping the score tied. The defense of Derek, Parker, Lucas and Eduardo also kept the offense at bay. A penalty against Rieky gave Winona a great opportunity for a dramatic end. Troy took the penalty kick and scored. The whistle blew to end the game and give Winona a 2-1 victory!

---

The 2017 Katahdin/Traveler Baxter State Park Exploratory Wilderness Adventure Extravaganza departed Monday for Maine's great north woods. **Aunt Nina** drove **Uncles Alex, Ned** and **Max** up to beautiful South Branch Pond Campground with staunch trekkers **Sam Cushman, Patrick DeMatteo, Baptiste Mathevet, Matt McVane, Ben Nigrovic, Victor Quirch, Max Sanchez** and **Finn Stubbs** who spent two idyllic days in the northern region of the park, swimming beneath stark cliffs, feasting on fine backcountry cuisine and climbing The Traveler (a sprawling, starfish-shaped mountain of volcanic rock).

On the third and fourth days of the trip, the group explored the inviting country around Wassataquoik Stream. Long ago this was a site of logging camps, now serene meadows guarded by cedar and pine. Along Ledge and Grand Falls, the crew luxuriated in picturesque pools and in remote Russell Pond the boys espied two moose!

The expedition culminated in an awe-inspiring climb up Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain, on days five and six. The Uncles were duly impressed with the campers' overall mettle and spunk. Friday they ascended the magnificent northwest ravine.

On the last day, from their spectacular lean-tos on Chimney Pond, the adventurers scrambled, among amazing cloudscapes, up the buttresses and crags of the famous Cathedral Trail to Baxter Peak, the apex of the leviathan. Enveloped in clouds on the descent, they met the inimitable **Uncle Ben**, their ebullient pick-up driver, who merrily greeted them and proffered sweet treats. Traditions were upheld, tales of the Traveler, Forest Crawler and infamous Airver were told, and a very good time was had by all.

---



The journey began early Saturday morning, as campers **Rijs JohansonGordet, Nick MacConnell, Owen de Cordova, James Bennett, George Boulokus, Dan Krause, Connor Owen, Ben Stevens** and **Mason Canon** along with **Uncles Bruce, Ghael** and **JK** got up to load the last pieces of gear, eat cereal and catch a glimpse of The BATs as they headed up the camp road for the eight-day trip to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

The group arrived at Chamberlain Bridge in the early afternoon, filled the boats with gear and crew and headed up the lake. On the way, they got off the lake to wait for a storm front to pass, then proceeded to the Ellis Brook site where they devoured a delicious dinner of Panko Pork Chops, seasoned carrots and cornbread.

On day two, they headed for Lock Dam where the crew portaged the boats over the dam to the spillway below. Coming out of the dam, they were given a taster of the Waterway's whitewater. The small rips flowed into Eagle Lake where they stopped to see two enormous locomotives that had originally been used to move logs around the lake. Following a few photos, they paddled across the lake to the Pump Handle site for lunch of bratwurst sausage and then onto Scofield Cove for some paella and s'mores.

Day three's morning began with an early departure for the Churchill Dam, the inflow to the infamous Chase Rapids. This nine-mile-long stretch of rapids is a favorite of whitewater canoe enthusiasts and begins the extensive river portion of the trip. With some unexpected rock drops and foam spray, Chase lent for some minor steering mishaps and thus unexpectedly moist posteriors. Ranger Bob at Churchill Dam graciously offered to shuttle our gear to the end of the whitewater. At Bisonette Bridge, we loaded up the boats and headed toward Rocky Ledge.

The following day brought favorable tailwinds and golden skies. Long Lake shortened as the fleet joined together to hoist sails and take advantage of the gale-force gusts. The day's journey saw a friendly flier in no less than a resident seaplane pilot, who dipped his craft's wing to greet our six Old Town canoes. We finished off the paddle on Round Pond with stomachs full of sizzling steak, creamy macaroni and cheese, and a savory cranberry almond salad.

Some relaxed ripples in the river made day five's morning a breeze. The Winona crew set up for two days at the Deadwater campsite. For days five and six, Junior Maine Guide candidates made meals, pitched personal shelters and fried donuts. The non-JMG candidates enjoyed a couple afternoons of fishing, storytelling and good old-fashioned hammock-time. After a delicious dinner of hamburgers, the last night at the Deadwater was capped with what could be now known as "*the best game of Mafia ever*" and a retelling of one of Winona's renowned campfire tales, The Baggamores.



After a layover day at Deadwater, Allagash Falls occupied most of the following morning. The three-quarter-mile-long portage ended in a dip in the downstream current of the 40' falls. Campers enjoyed jumping off of natural rock ledges and swimming in the cool swift waters of the Waterway. A short paddle later, the group finished the eight-day-trip with a stay at the Big Brook East site. In the afternoon, boys filtered the water from the brook that cut through the site, and in the evening, they received their Allagash River names.

After a quick camping breakfast of oatmeal, on the final morning the crew headed out of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and back to Moose Pond Momma. Great job, gentlemen!

---

Though hard to believe, this time next week we will have already said goodbye to our first half campers and will be ramping up for the second half. With so many activities, trips, games and events, time flew by but the memories will last for a lifetime. We've had an amazing time and I know our campers will delight in sharing these memories with you.

It's currently 6:00 am on Sunday morning. The grove is quiet and will stay that way until 9:00 as this is a sleep-in morning. As I look across the Moose Pond water, a fog is cloaking Pleasant Mountain but there is a deep blue sky overhead. **Uncle Clay** will be lighting the grill soon, preparing for our traditional grilled French Toast breakfast. Our low-key morning is a great opportunity to reflect on the week we have just experienced. I look forward to bringing you all of next week's action!

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