

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

JULY 23, 2017



Hello from the shores of Moose Pond! If you are the parent of a First Session or Full Season camper, welcome back to the weekly newsletter! For the families who just dropped your campers off a few days ago, you'll be receiving these newsletters each week with a roundup of all things new in Senior Winona.



The final week of first session flew by as quickly as the session itself. This week Senior had two mountain trips, a canoe trip, an overnight kayak trip, a mountain biking trip and a rock climbing trip. Not to mention the two sailing regattas and the basketball and baseball games. The totem has been caught, captured, lost and—luckily, found again. Evening Programs have been running at a nonstop pace. To say it's been busy in Senior Winona would be a colossal understatement. If you were just to look at the Master Chart you would see that **Will Analdi, Rieky Bol-Rik, Jackson Codd, Nico Cuenca, Eduardo da Silva Witzke, Ian Hoffman, Rijs Johansongordet, Derek McDonald, Connor Owen, Georges Ruiz-Picasso, Parker Stair, Will Strachan** and **Nick Voyzey** all have Full Merits. To receive a Full Merit, a camper must have a Merit in swimming, canoeing and campcraft and at least five Merits in other activities. It is an accomplishment to achieve one's Full Merit, and a greater one to complete it in only a couple weeks. It has been quite the First Session! Here's our recap of all the trips and athletic competitions this week...

On Sunday afternoon, a staunch basketball team of **Ben Chadwick, Derek McDonald, Nico Cuenca, Christian Sweeney, Mason Cilley, Will Thompson, John Benson, Kevin Allsopp, Chatim Kouk, Nuar Bol Bol** and coach **Uncle Niko** departed the beautiful shores of Moose Pond to take on Camp O-AT-KA. While the Winona team quickly realized that it was outmatched in physical size, it was not however, short of heart. They played hard through the first half of the game to be within striking distance at halftime—down by just six points. Relentless drives to the basket by **Derek** and **Nuar** brought the team within two points with five minutes left on the clock. Ultimately, the Winona boys returned home without the win, but a stronger team.



On Monday, **Uncles Kyle, Alex, Luch** and **Jeff**, along with mountain bikers **Louis Domart, Nick Voyzey, George Stephan, Harry Chadwick** and **Nick Davidson** took to the trails of Hurricane Mountain. Warming up for their thrill-filled day, the boys made their first stop at a local trail, where they were able to test-out the bikes while **Uncle Clay** snapped action-shots. **Louis** "sent it" off everything, encouraging all of his fellow campers to take advantage of the trail's topography. They then proceeded to the Red Tail Trail, a great downhill course with sweet jumps and deep berms that Winona rode with ease. The campers worked their way up from barely clearing the jumps to catching significant air. The boys took Hurricane Mountain by storm and had an excellent time.

The third annual Franklin County Ramble rolled out of camp Monday morning, bound for the whimsical wild woods of western Maine. **Uncles Ned** and **Alex** navigated the roads encircling the strange, lush Rangeley Lakes, making their way up to the fabulous high country of Franklin County. Joining them for the hiking adventure, **Ben Chadwick, Mauricio Luzardo, Elijah Rosen, Chris Saade, Jack Seskis, Lucas Sudduth** and **Charlie Sullivan** enjoyed the initial jaunt up a steep jeep trail to the tower atop Kibby Mountain, whence they gazed into Quebec and across a vast sea of peaks.

Tuesday saw our rambler's rocketing up to the sky-high peaks of Crocker Mountain, Maine's fourth highest, and en route peering into a rare glacial cirque (A cirque, French from the Latin word circus, is an amphitheater-like valley formed by glacial erosion.). They capped the second day as they had the first, hustling down to Huston Brook Falls, jumping from high rock walls and feeling the pull of whitewater.

For a final ramble, the crew scampered up ski slopes on Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine's second highest mountain, angling through Krummholz on the final stretch up to the Pyramidal Peak. Huzzahs were heard at the Bear Pond rope swing, the monkey men's last stop of the trip, where a splendid time was had by all.

Also on Monday, Winona baseball players **Connor Owen, Troy Rigby, Gus Edwards, Finn Stubbs, Matt McVane, Dan Krause, Derek McDonald, Stephen Lamont, Patrick DeMatteo, Parker Wright, Ben Nigrovic, Christian Sweeney** and coach **Uncle Sam** took on Camp Owatonna. Strong pitching from Finn and Matt combined for eight strikeouts. The game picked up at the bottom of the seventh the game when Finn hit a line drive to short-stop that brought in one run for Winona. Though Winona came up short with a 3-5 loss, the boys learned from the experience and are ready to go back out and play ball.

This week, Senior Winona switched from Maine's freshwater lakes to its salty seacoast for the annual Tidal Adventure Trip. Following a breakfast at camp on Tuesday morning, **Uncles Bruce** and **Ghael** and campers **George Stephan, Will Bavier, Derek McDonald, Parker Stair, Parker Wright, David Wallace, Christian Sweeney, Eduardo da Silva Witzke, Ignacio Galvez** and **James Thompson** left for the bay of Sheepscoot River.

Putting in at Parson Creek, they ferried their canoes through low-tide mud flats until crossing the Cross River. With favorable currents, they managed to paddle up the backside of Barter Island where Uncle Bruce bought lobsters at the Trevett Country Store. They finished their first day's paddle in a layer of fog. Before reaching Ram Island, they passed by a herd of hollering seals. That night's menu consisted of sizzling steak and simmering salmon, a sweet salad full of cranberries, almonds and feta and some of Uncle Bruce's world-famous gingered carrots.

The following morning, a thick blanket of fog required that the crew follow a 282° compass bearing from Ram Island to Long Ledge. After flying through Goose Passage into Knubble Bay, the crew enjoyed a quick pitstop at Beal Island. They paddle up the outflowing tide, their efforts were rewarded with a stay at Castle Island, where they feasted on a medley of lobster, shrimp and chicken, on top a bed of veggies and rice, and some pineapple upside-down cake.



The final morning, their Old Town canoes sped through Upper Hell's Gate (this time with the help of tidal current), where they met their larger Naval counterparts at the Bath Iron Works. A short paddle up a small section of the Kennebec brought a sweet end to the Tidal adventure.

(Over for more news!)



First Session kayak trips ended this week with Winona's bi-seasonal visit to the Kennebec River. Running at 39,000 cubic-feet-of-water every second, the Kennebec had some additional force this year, thanks, in large part, to significant snowmelt from the winter. Led by **Uncles Cody, Joe, Chris and Sam**, campers **Louis Domart, Max Sanchez, Victor Quirch and Ben Stevens** all braved the whitewater of the Lower Kennebec. With an even greater thirst for adventure, **Thomas Chassat and Dan Krause** expertly navigated the highly technical upper portion of the river. Highlights from the first evening included watching a gorgeous sunset and swimming at the Indian Pond campsite. On the second evening, the boys went to Moxie Falls and enjoyed swimming under the 70-foot waterfall. And to top off an already action-packed Kennebec experience, the boys reveled in bridge jumping on each of the three days.

Tuesday saw Senior Winona rock climbers venture out of the beautiful state of Maine into the Granite State of New Hampshire to the southern edge of the White Mountain National Forest. The Rumney Rocks, a renowned destination for sport climbing, **Uncles Evan and Jake, CIT Reiland Domingue** and campers **Cooper Dutton, Will Thompson, Will Jurek, James Bennett, Patrick DeMatteo** and **George Boulukos** began their first day of climbing on the Meadow's Crag. The following day, after breakfast, the group went on a short twenty-minute hike to Triple Corners Crag, where they, as they had done on the day prior, set up and climbed their routes. This course was considerably harder than the first day, but the campers kept up the effort. Later in the day, the crew moved to Bonsai. With perhaps the hardest climbs of the trip rated at 5.9+ and 5.10, ascents up Bonsai were made by Cooper and Will Thompson. Exhausted from two full days of climbing, the crew spent the third and final morning doing light bouldering. The Rumney trip ended with a dip in a nearby river.

On Tuesday, Winona's sailing team headed to the other end of Moose Pond via the BAT Barge for the Camp Wyonegonic Regatta. The day's wind—or lack thereof—proved difficult for the boys and the regatta, as thunderstorms caused there to be only five races. With the help of **Uncle Cam and Aunt Jesse**, Skippers **Nick Voyzey and Henry Clark** both worked with their respective crews, **Finn Stubbs and Harry Chadwick**, to earn third, fourth and fifth place finishes. Even without full cooperation from the weather, CIT **Jack Libby** and crew **Ben Nigrovic** managed to breeze past Camp O-AT-KA. Overall the team placed seventh and brought home the coveted Aunt and Uncle Teeth—a Senior Winona/WYO tradition.



The high point for Senior Winona this summer—in elevation, at least—was attained by a gregarious group of mountain trippers on Thursday. **Uncles Ned and Alex** guided **Nico Cuenca, Tommy Fois, Baptiste Mathevet, Georges Ruiz-Picasso, Riley Snow, Mark Snyder** and **Zimu Zhang** up Mount Jefferson's Caps Ridge above the treeline and into a wall of white cloud. Lo and behold, as the boys scrambled up the summit cone, the sun shone through and the skies cleared, revealing a vast and impressive panorama of pulchritudinous peaks, crags, ravines and rivers. Into one such river, the mighty Ammonoosuc, the campers plunged après-climb, capping their terrific day on an alpine ridge.

On Thursday, Winona took eight sailors to the Wohelo sailing regatta. Skipper **Nick Voyzey** and crew **Finn Stubbs** took fourth. Skipper **Henry Clark** and crew **Ian Hoffman** got a fifth and third place finish at the end of the day. Skipper **Gus Edwards** and crew **Harry Chadwick** amazed everyone by winning first and fourth. **Will Ansaldi** and **Ben Nigrovic** sailed just as the wind began to pick up, finishing in fourth and seventh. At the day's end, Winona narrowly missed third place, winning fourth out of eight crews.

It is Saturday night as I write this —the end to a bittersweet day. It is the end to a wonderful First Session. Three and a half weeks filled with competition at games, matches and regattas, grit on the EP field, totem showings and Field Day. But the sweet part about today is that we have so much to look forward to in the weeks to come. Just to name a few: honors trips, JMG testing camp, Red/Gray week, Treasure Hunt, Laser Tag, Beach Day, Play Day, Senior Circus, the Great Relay and, of course, BAT showings! We woke up this morning saying goodbye to our first-half friends, and we are going to bed saying goodnight to those who have joined us today. I can't wait to get started.

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

Find us on  You can find current photos of Winona by visiting us on our Facebook page (Winona Camps – Maine) or our Bunk1 site.