

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 6, 2017



Greetings from the shores of Moose Pond! If the last newsletter had you wondering just how many activities your son could do in the span of seven days, it looks like you'll have to wrap your head around another jam-packed week here in Senior Winona.



If you were to have looked up at the summit of Pleasant Mountain on Wednesday morning, you might have noticed forty Senior campers perched atop Pleasant Mountain North Ridge Trail. This long-time Senior Winona tradition-affectionately termed "Morning Masochist" - affords campers the opportunity to be among the first people in the country to witness the day's sunrise. Campers were woken as the stars were beginning to give way to the early dawn. The boys navigated Moose Pond's early morning ripples to the base of Pleasant Mountain. In record time, the unit sped up the grassy ski slope where they were welcomed by a kaleidoscopic canvas of colors at sunrise. After enjoying the view, they cruised down the slope, paddled back to camp and took the opportunity to rouse Intermediate Winona with a rendition of the Senior unit song.

Ending the day in the salty spray of Portland's seaside, Senior Winona hooted, hollered and hyped up the crowd and players at Hadlock Field. On the second trip of the summer to a Portland Sea Dogs baseball game, the campers soaked up all the competition in a nailbiting game against the Richmond Flying Squirrels. With all the heated back-and-forth on the ballfield, you might think that our boys would get a little too rowdy--on the contrary, the unit was so well-behaved that a couple sitting behind the boys ordered them all pizza. Though the Flying Squirrels ended with the sweet taste of victory in the 11th inning, the boys left for home with the savory taste of pepperoni.



What do Madison Square Garden, Red Rocks and the Senior Wiggy have in common? Well, they have all been venues for this summer's hottest musical stars. I can explain. On Thursday night, one could hear....or should I say watch, as the Mohawks, Delawares, Ojibways and Senecas competed in a fierce Lip-Sync Battle. With tremendous performances by **Mason Cilley**, **Rieky Bol-Rik**, **Ethan Cyr** and **Ian Hoffman**, the unit rocked out to hits that ranged from Disney's "Moana" to some country music favorites. Debuting some of their best musical repertoire, special guests Uncles Nick Giunta and Sam Stone lit up the dance floor, while judges Uncles "Grouchy Ghael" Fobes, "Canadian Chris" Burke and "Lucho-Sync-O" Bol delivered some of the night's biggest laughs. Record labels beware.

The Senior campers selected to be a part of this week's Camp Council were: **Eli Rosen**, **Troy Rigby**, **Parker Stair**, **Rijs Johansengordet**, **Mason Canon** and **Finn Stubbs**.

On the activity front this week, **Gus Edwards**, **Nick Davidson**, **Owen de Cordova** and **Henry Clark** earned Merit pins. Recognized with Full Distinctions were **Eli Rosen**, **Rijs Johansengordet** and **Mason Canon**. Additionally, both Mason and Rijs earned the prestige of being the first campers in the unit to achieve their Full Excellences!



Following an exciting send-off from **Aunt Michelle**, **Finnius** the llama and the **BAT**, the Honors 2017 Great Green Mountain Gala Adventure Extraordinaire, went west Monday across the White Mountains and into the marvelous state of Vermont. **Uncles Niko** and **Alex F.** and campers **James Bennett**, **Carl Bruening**, **Patrick DeMatteo**, **Cooper Dutton** and **Jack Seskis** were joined by **Uncle Sam Wyllie-Cain** and **James Thompson** on the first day for an ascent up Mount Mansfield's Adam's Apple and Chin in daypacks, and a swim at Bingham Falls.

The boys' backpacking escapade ensued on an odyssey extending all the way from burly Smuggler's Notch to Sterling Pond, Madonna, Morse and Whiteface Peaks, Bear Hollow, Prospect Rock, Laraway's Lookout, and Butternut and Bowen Mountains and rare, beautiful Ritterbush Pond. Though the mountains after Mansfield were lower in elevation, the hikers delighted in simple pleasures--feasting on fine cuisine (e.g. pulled pork, pizza, pasta, pancakes, bacon, steak & guacamole, Ritz crackers).

Winona's one and only trip to Vermont ended with its participants adept at the art of outdoor living, exuberant, and eager to return their bodies to the backroads and have their fill in the wild hills.

On Monday, the Senior soccer team traveled to Camp Agawam to compete in their Annual Six-on-Six tournament. In spite of having a young team, Winona competed with extraordinary grit and outstanding levels of sportsmanship. **Nuar Bol Bol** made multiple impressive saves while in goal and was aided by the staunch defense of **Luis Fernando Sanabria** and **Daniel Kearney**. The skilled offense was led by **Esteban Navarro** and **Rieky Bol Rik**. The team played exceptionally well and kept up the intensity through the very last game.

(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.

The final trip of the 2017 Senior canoe trip season was everything that was promised and more. The goal was to paddle into Lobster Lake, continue down the West Branch of the Penobscot River and end with an exploration of the north end of enormous, historic Chesuncook Lake. They had the happy privilege of canoeing on a living river with a strong current and swift rapids. And, naturally, they ate like kings.

The trippers were **Kristian Baker, John Benson, Rishi Goel, Stephen Lamont, Juan Ignacio Loynaz Kaehler, Ty Slaton, Will Sonne, Ben Nigrovic** and **Jack Campbell**. It was a solid group of experienced trippers mixed in with a few fellows who had seldom -if ever-ventured Maine waters. Led by **Uncles Bruce, D. Todd** and **Todd**, the first leg of the trip took them into Lobster Lake. They were also adventurous when it came time to fixing up dinner. Cutting up some fine swordfish steaks and made kebabs with vegetables and mushrooms, the meal was as good as the scenery.

The Penobscot River and the Chesuncook Lake were the scene of great river drives in which millions of logs were floated downstream to the coast and to mills. The boys saw evidence of this history in places like Chesuncook Village which used to support hundreds of residents a century ago, but now has fewer than ten year-round residents.

On Tuesday, Winona rock climbers took on Square Ledge. Located near Gorham, New Hampshire in beautiful Pinkham Notch, Square Ledge offered **Will Thompson, Grayson Cuneo, Bob Verniers, Jack Dresser** and **Konnor Gike** beautiful routes and scenic views. The Winona crew shared the crag for part of the day before the boys shimmed up the chimney route. It was first rock trip for many of the campers, and, if their smiles were any indication, it certainly won't be their last.

Early Tuesday morning, Senior Winona kayakers journeyed past Millinocket onto the Golden Road. Affording them access to Maine's most pristine wilderness, the Golden Road took them to the sacred headwaters of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, where they settled into their first evening surrounded by hues of bright orange and yellow. That night, **Owen de Cordova** led the group pitching tents while **Gus Edwards** and **Dan Krause** enjoyed a round of fly fishing. The following day, **Harry Chadwick** got his first taste of the Seboomook section of the river—a series of Class III rapids dropping into a pool full of osprey, eagles and moose. Similarly, **Sam Potter's** return to the Penobscot allowed him to show off his skills, with much style and ease.



The third day saw the kayakers rallying for a final lap of the river before a series of storms rolled in. To top off the trip, the crew received a proper bridge jumping tutorial from expert **Sasha Barinsky**.

On Wednesday, Senior Rock Climbers went to Jockey Gap. 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. After ascending various routes, campers **Parker Stair, Eli Rosen, Miles Brown, Nick McConnell, Nick Davidson, Lucas Sudduth** and **Nick Beliveau** cruised down an old ski slope and swam from the famous Bear Pond rope swing.



On Thursday, **Uncle Cam, Aunt Jessie** and Winona's sailing team hosted the annual Winona Regatta. The wind started light for the first race but began to pick up as the day went on. Skippers **Ben Beckerman** (Inty camper) and **Henry Clark** took to the FJ's, and with the help of their crews, **Nick Davidson, Finn Stubbs** and **Parker Wright**, took home 2nd, 4th, 4th, 3rd, 5th and 2nd. Henry and **CIT Ned Kolva** completely outdid the competition in the Laser races getting only firsts between the two of them. Enthusiastic participant **Ian Hoffman** helped to encourage the sailing team after the races were cut short due to inclement weather. At the end of the day, Winona's superb sailors took home a third place trophy.

On Friday, the Senior Winona Baseball team ran the bases around Camp O-AT-KA to end an incredible season of competition. Led by **Uncle Alex S.**, campers **Parker Wright, Finn Stubbs, Jack Dresser, Luis Sanabria, Ellison Roper, Ty Slayton, Stephen Lamont, Ben Nigrovic, Garrett Bergold, Jack Campbell** and **Will Sonne**, performed amazingly, both on the field and at bat. In the first five innings, Garrett gave up only one run, and then Parker shut out the game. Once again, Finn rocked the bases with a single, double, and triple—just a home run shy of a cycle. Overall, he delivered four of the eleven runs batted-in. Swinging-in hot, the team was nothing short of perfect.

Wow, what a week it has been. Campers right this moment are running up to their friends returning from a six-day Green Mountain trip to ask how it went. Sunday is the Winona/Wyo Road Race and the end of the race is just the beginning of the best week of camp, replete with Treasure Hunts, the Great Relay, Playday, Laser Tag, Beach Day, Senior Circus, Unit Night, Awards Night and so much more!

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Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin

(1983-1986, 2002-2017)

The BAT 2015

Senior Unit Director