



## SENIOR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 16, 2017



Greetings from the beautiful shores of Moose Pond! It has been an incredible final week to cap off an extraordinary summer. As is likely the case, you are reading this newsletter during your son's period of post-camp hibernation-- hopefully this can tie you over before he can give you a full synopsis.

Here is a quick recap of the 2017 Red/Gray Week:

This year's Wyonegonic/Winona George Sudduth Memorial Road Race brought as much surprise as it did sweat. Starting at the home of Carol Sudduth, a Director of Wyonegonic, runners and walkers from both camps rallied along the hilly 4.2 mile route on Sunday. A good number of Senior campers and staff crossed the Finish Line at the Winona Farmhouse. Faster than any other camper-or counselor for that matter was **Garrett Bergold**, whose first-place finish helped the Reds secure four of the top five Senior camper positions. Other top-ten camper performances included **Patrick DeMatteo** (3), **Dan Krause** (5), **Owen de Cordova** (7), **Will Ansaldi** (8), **Jack Dresser** (9) and **Chatim Kouk** (10).

On Monday, installations and props filled the Senior Grove, the site of our annual, world-famous Laser Tag. With the aid of infrared lasers, the campers enjoyed a series of objective-based games that ranged from deactivating "bombs" to rescuing "hostages". For a majority of the day, campers suited up in sensor-covered vests that are activated by laser beams. However, in a slight change from past years, the afternoon activities included a round of Archery Tag. Campers shot soft-tipped arrows to score points for their teams (we promise the arrows did not hurt). Victories in both the morning and afternoon placed the Reds on top.

In one of the week's most anticipated matchups, the Reds and Grays met on the Senior soccer field. Both teams had incredible players, making it bound to be a game for the ages. The Grays jumped out to a commanding lead with help from players **Troy Rigby** and **Stephen Lamont**. They were able to hold their advantage and add to it thanks to goalie **Gus Edwards** who wowed the crowds with his saves. However, the Reds never gave up. They answered back with goals of their own thanks to **Patrick DeMatteo** who was helped by **Jack Dresser** and **Ben Nigrovic** who did their best to control the midfield. It was a spirited battle and in the end the Grays maintained their lead to win the game 5-3.

On Tuesday **Aunt Virginia** and **Uncle Alex** and **CIT Jacob** led the last mountain trip of the season to scenic Mount Tecumseh. Campers **Garrett Bergold**, **Rieky Bol Rik**, **Owen de Cordova**, **Rodrigo Mata Keri**, **Esteban Navarro**, **Rafa Omana**, **Vitto Oprandi**, **Jack Seskis** and **Bob Verniers** summited the 4000' peak and then enjoyed beautiful views while descending Waterville Valley ski trails on the backside of the mountain. A fun swim at the sunny Swift River capped an outstanding day and season for our mountain trips program.

Like fireflies ablaze on a hazy summer night, the headlamps atop the Red and Gray runners lit the way for the 2017 Treasure Hunts. On Wednesday night, Senior campers set out in search of clues that led them all throughout camp, up Hio Ridge Road, and even in canoes to Treasure Island. The annual tradition unites color teams as they take on three separate clue hunt competitions. The longest route, run by Red and Gray A, is an impressive exhilarating ten-mile journey. The B and C groups, completing eight and six-mile runs respectively, had to avail themselves of some additional brainpower to solve the most cryptic clues. Eeking out victories in very close races were Red A and B, and Gray C. At the finish every camper enjoyed the flavor of lodge, soda and **Uncle Vicente's** grilled cheese sandwiches.

The morning after hunting for clues, our campers and counselors had another treasure: Sleep-in! The day continued to improve as the unit packed bathing suits and sunscreen for our annual, very popular Beach Day excursion. For the past couple years, Senior Winona has enjoyed the sand and spray of Crescent Beach. During the day, the boys tossed frisbees and enjoyed rounds of Spike-Ball. In the afternoon, the unit loaded up their sandy sandals and salty swimsuits for a barbecue at nearby Fort Williams Park. Much like Crescent Beach, Fort Williams Park is another Senior Winona favorite with its open fields and forts dating back to the Civil War and overlooking beautiful Casco Bay. Feasting on gourmet cheeseburgers, the boys marveled at the sun setting behind the Portland Head Light--just as the lighthouse began casting its warning out to nightly navigators.

The Red/Gray lacrosse game was an exciting spectacle to watch. It started off with a few quick goals by **Parker Wright** and **Nick Davidson** of the Grays. And even with **Will Thompson** making amazing saves in goal, the Grays couldn't stop the Red onslaught that ensued. Both **Konnor Gike** and **Patrick DeMatteo** scored multiple goals for the Reds, and **Jack Dresser** made saves in goal to help the Reds cruise to a 11-4 victory. Both teams exhibited great sportsmanship, and many kids got the experience of playing in their first lacrosse game.

On Friday, one could smell sweet scents from the Senior Grove as the boys prepared for the Winona/Wyo Playday. This year our sister camp traveled to the Winona side of the pond for a day full of activities. From playing tennis and Zumba to pushing one another off the floating Shark Mat, Senior Winona and Wyo enjoyed a longstanding day of activities and traditions of the oldest brother sister camp in the nation. The day came to a close with a Beach Day dance, replete with coral reefs and various props with an elaborate Caribbean motif.

From afar, one might think that any normal day at Senior Winona was worthy of a circus-like title; however this past Saturday evening, the unit fully owned the honor. One of Winona's most engaging traditions, Senior Circus, allows the older boys to give a carnival for the younger campers. Decked out in a fine assortment of crazy costumes, the Senior campers and counselors transformed the Cobb to resemble a circus tent and the Senior Wiggy to mirror a casino. The Cobb housed games such as Shave-the-balloon, Balance Beam Battles, Sumo-Wrestling and performances such as Happy Harry and the Haunted House. In line with years of Winona tradition, campers spent, bought and bartered Necco Wafers in exchange for rounds of county-fair style activities and games including milk-crate climbing, grove-style mini-golf croquet and the Sponge Toss. At the end of the evening, the laughs and smiles could be heard and seen across lake.

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.

For the final Red/Gray event of the week, each camper utilized his expertise in his favorite activity to help his color team pass the baton to victory in the Great Relay. During the relay, campers completed various challenges, availing themselves of skills they learned this summer in their activities. Some examples include x-rescues at canoeing, target tarp-pitching for Mountain trippers, and layups and free throws at basketball. After each event, a runner would carry the baton to the next activity. One-of-a-kind opportunities included the racing of the nearly century-old, ten-man war canoes, and the making of a wet-day fire in Campcraft as the final event. After a riveting back-and-forth with the batons, the Reds boiled their can of water first to win this summer's Great Relay.

I'm extremely proud of all our boys. Not only did our campers exhibit tremendous grit while competing this season, but they have also demonstrated a wonderful grace and sportsmanship in both victory and defeat. This grace was on display on Tuesday night when I announced that it would a Red Mohawk banner. As we awarded our final prizes and sang our camp version of "County Roads," our boys linked with arms over shoulders, and tears in their eyes.

Being Unit Director has been a tremendous honor. Working with our veteran, dynamic Senior Winona staff has been phenomenal! I sincerely hope that your sons carry the spirit of this summer home with them for a successful winter. I'm already counting down the days (318 to go) till we meet again at the opening of Winona's 111th season, which will also be the 100th year of THE BAT!

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

**2017 SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER  
 Year 2017**

**BEST CAMPER**

Finn Stubbs

**2nd BEST CAMPER**

Elijah Rosen

**HONORABLE MENTION**

P. Stephen Lamont

Nicolas Cuenca

**ACTIVITY**

**CHAMPION**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Swimming

Benjamin Stevens

Ignacio Galvez Pineda

Canoeing

Parker Stair

Rishi Goel

Campcraft

Charles Sullivan

Kristian Baker

Riflery

William Ansaldi

Alexander MacDougall

Archery

Jackson Codd

Charles Sullivan

Tennis

Troy Rigby

Miles Brown

Baseball

Garret Bergold

Matthew McVane

Recreational Sailing

Harold Chadwick

Gleb Gamsheev

Regatta Sailing

Nicholas Voyzey

Henry Clark / Augustus Edwards

Riding

Benjamin Stevens

Mason Canon

Soccer

Troy Rigby

Benjamin Nigrovic

Kayaking

Daniel Krause

Harold Chadwick

Tech Rock

Cooper Dutton / William Thompson

Sloyd

Jackson Codd

Riley Snow / William Strachan

Lacrosse

Patrick DeMatteo

Ian Hoffman / Connor Owen

Basketball

Derek McDonald

Nuar Bol Bol / Christian Sweeney

Mountain Biking

Jackson Dresser / Konnor Gike

Tribal Winner

Mohawks

Color Team

Red

JL Gorham Smith Award

Luchmuch Bol Bol

Senior High Point

Rijs Johansongordet

Douglas W. Turrell Award

Patrick DeMatteo

**JUNIOR MAINE GUIDES**

Elijah Rosen

Connor Owen

**TRIP BANNER**

Kristian Baker

James Bennett

Patrick DeMatteo

Rishi Goel

Baptiste Mathevet

Jack Seskis

Benjamin Stevens