

SENIOR WINONA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2, 2017

Hello, and a warm welcome from Senior Winona. This is Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin, Senior Unit Director; with my first weekly newsletter of the 110th Anniversary Season. Senior Winona is off to a great start!

On Opening Day, the Senior staff greeted 68 boys, ready to experience a full Winona schedule the minute their wheels touched down. They will be taking off soon, as the 110th season calendar is full of fun options, including 160 activity sessions, 16 mountain trips, 6 multi-day canoe trips, 12 kayak trips, 9 rock climbing trips, 3 tennis tournaments, 4 soccer tournaments, 4 mountain bike trips, 3 basketball games, 3 baseball games, 1 volleyball match, 1 archery match, 5 sailing regattas, 1 lacrosse match, 6 movie nights, an Advance Guard trip, a Portland Sea Dogs trip, the George Sudduth Memorial Road Race, Senior Circus, Wyo/Winona Playday, totem showings, Red/Gray games, and The BAT! Yes indeed, there will be a lot of tales to tell!

On the first night of camp, our tent groups traditionally participate in introduction activities. This summer we are fortunate to have 15 countries represented in Senior: China, Japan, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Mexico, Australia, Beirut, and the United States. We thought it would be fun to permanently display a giant map of the world. All campers and staff members had an opportunity to tell where in the world they are from, and then place a flag-pin on the map. Although we have heard "Winona's call" (read at Winona Night by Uncle Spencer; see at the end of this Newsletter) from these 15 countries, together we will be building a strong community and friendships to last a lifetime.

On Friday, Senior Winona's extensive mountain trips program kicked off the 2017 season with a scramble up rugged Wildcat Ridge in the eastern White Mountains. **Uncles Ben, Kyle and Alex** led campers **Will Ansaldi, James Bennett, Ian Hoffman, Rijs Johansongordet, Dan Krause, Derek McDonald, Matthew McVane, Victor Quirch, Elijah Rosen, Max Sanchez, Mark Snyder** and **Billy Strachan** up the craggy ridgecrest, following a link in the Appalachian Trail. From sundry outlooks along the route, the boys reveled in the dramatic vistas of New Hampshire's numinous Presidential Range. Descending via ski trails, they stared across the valley at scattered snowdrifts still lingering in Mount Washington's Tuckerman Ravine. All the counselors were impressed by the adventurous spirit of the wayfarers, each of whom capped the day with an invigorating plunge into icy, clear, refreshing Emerald Pool in Pinkham Notch.

Winona Night is camp's official opening ceremony. Junior, Intermediate and Senior along with the CITs joined as one camp in the Cobb Memorial Building. Well-rehearsed unit songs filled the Cobb along with the "*W in Winona*" and "*Hurrah for Camp Winonagonic*". Our returning campers were presented patches acknowledging their 2nd and 3rd year, and campers who have attended Winona 4 to 10 years were given honor shirts.

The Senior banner with a summary of the 2016 activity was recapped. The Grays won the banner last year by a 30-point margin. The Ojibways took tribal honors with a 6-point margin. This summer's leaders include Red Captain **Elijah Rosen**, Lieutenants **Derek McDonald** and **James Bennett**. The Gray team Co-Captains are **Finn Stubbs** and **Gus Edwards**, with Lieutenant **Nicholas Voyzey**.

The tribal leaders were also announced. The Delaware tribe will be led by Chief **Riley Snow** and Sub-Chiefs **Troy Rigby** and **Jackson Codd**. The Seneca tribe will be led by Chief **Charles Sullivan**, and Sub-Chiefs **Nicolas Cuenca** and **Nicholas MacConnell**. The Ojibway tribe will be led by Chief **Patrick DeMatteo** and Sub-Chief **Parker Wright**. The Mohawk tribe will be led by Chief **William Ansaldi**, and sub-Chiefs **Dan Krause** and **Parker Stair**.

In Senior, the boys select a new totem each summer. This year, Senior Winona decided to commemorate both Winona's 110th anniversary, while also recognizing the new Senior Unit Director. The wooden totem is in the shape of a king-sized bacon and onion cheeseburger: a Bubba Burger! The totem also has "110" toasted into the bun.

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.

After a second day hike to Royce Mountain on Saturday, Uncle Alex reported:

Ten stalwart Senior trekkers celebrated the first day of July with an expedition into nearby Evans Notch. **Uncles Ned** and **Alex** guided **Nicolas Cuenca, Eduardo Da Silva Witzke, Tommy Fois, Ignacio Galvez Pineda, Stephen Lamont, Ben Nigrovic, Connor Owen** and **Finn Stubbs** up a steep incline to the angular apex of East Royce. There the boys enjoyed unique cloudscapes and singular views of Speckled, Moriah and the Wild River wilderness. A territorial grouse guarding the peak afforded the opportunity for a lesson in respecting wildlife. Rounding out the day, the adventurers refreshed themselves in western Maine's waters, jumping from high ledges into the Bear River and swinging from a rope into scenic Bear Pond.

Each Saturday night, Senior cooks the evening meal over a wood fire. This Saturday, under stormy skies and waves of rain, the staff rallied to defend the grill. Laughter, dancing, singing, cheering and an expertly crafted tarp held off sheets of rain and a gusty breeze. The boys watched in awe from the safety of the Senior Wiggy, as 160 expertly crafted Bubba burgers were prepared.

The first week of camp has been a lot of fun. I am pleased to report the Senior grove is filled with happy boys. I have written most of this newsletter from the Wiggy. From my vantage point, I overlook the T-Dock and the tent line. I can hear counselors teaching canoeing. I can see the campcraft area with boys working on knot tying and axe handling. I can hear **Uncle Wally** and the JMG candidates working on map & compass requirements. I can see a few boys sitting in hammocks, one immersed in a summer reading book. Under the towering pines, there's no place on earth this perfect!

I look forward to bringing you next week's newsletter as we throttle up to Winona speed. The calendar includes; 2 mountain day hikes, and a 4-day mountain trip to Franconia, 2 technical rock climbing trips, 3 kayak day trips, a mountain bike day trip, 2 tennis matches, a soccer tournament, a hoop tournament, sail racing, a send off for the 8-day Allagash canoe trip - and those are just the featured events!

Until then, I hope you have a great week too!

Brix Brax,

Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin (1983-1986, 2002-2017)

The BAT 2015

Senior Unit Director

WINONA'S CALL

"Winona sends its call anew
to campers who love days in
the open with tent and canoe,
paddle and knapsack, glowing fire
sizzling bacon, fishing in stream and
Lake exploring mountain crag and deep ravine
and who enjoy the comradeship
of home encampment with
swim and horses,
games and contests, sailboats swift,
keen rivalry on land and water,
learning the ways of the
great outdoors
with counselors who
understand them."

(We apologize for the formatting of this week's Newsletter. We are experiencing power outages and wanted to make sure you received your Newsletter on time, but we have limited computer access right now. Next week it will look spiffier!)