



SENIOR NEWSLETTER

JULY 1, 2018



Greetings from Senior Winona! This is **Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin**, Senior Unit Director, with my first weekly newsletter of the 111th Season.

On Opening Day, the Senior staff greeted nearly 70 "Staunch & True" boys ready to experience a summer chock-full of activities and trips. The Opening Day festivities included sundry games and catching up with old friends. After completing swim and tip tests (canoe safety test), the Senior boys played a game of dodgeball and enjoyed a campfire where we heard our Seniors tell of their favorite camp activity or trip. **Uncle Ghael** shared a few facts related to Opening Day travel. The camper who traveled the farthest: **Zimu Zhang** with 6,617 miles while the shortest distance travelled goes to **Ethan Cyr** with 12 miles. Maine is the number one home state with 14 campers, 12 hail from Massachusetts and 17 other states are currently represented in Camp 8: Hawaii, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, California, Florida, Minnesota, Georgia, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Utah, Illinois, Maryland, Colorado, Ohio and Virginia. Senior is also an international community with friends from Portugal, UAE, Belgium, Spain, China, Russia, Iceland and France.



As the campfire was reduced to embers, **Uncle Cody** told a story of his kayak adventure in Africa. The tale included the Zimbabwe God Nyami Nyami of the Zambezi River. Uncle Cody explained his great adventure started as an Intermediate camper when he looked up to **Uncle Ben** and said, "I'll give that a try." At camp we have the ability to ignite interest in activities to last a lifetime.



On Friday, Senior's world-famous multifaceted tripping program kicked off the 2018 season with an engaging outing to the White Mountains. **Uncles Kyle, Niko and Alex F.** led **Kristian Baker, Will Bavier, Ben Chadwick, Ethan Cyr, Elijah DeHart, Ari Dennis, Ian Hoffman, Baird Hruska, Elliot McDean, Taylor Stansfield, George Stephan and Lucas Sudduth** up pulchritudinous Cherry Mountain, where they reveled in a very scenic panorama of the Presidential, Pliny, Pilot and Crescent Ranges of New Hampshire's North Country. Après hike, the boys enjoyed a dip in the cool waters of the Saco at Breeder's Pool. [Editor's note: Uncle Alex Fobes likes to use uncommon, advanced vocabulary. It's fun! See if you can find a new word each week.]

Winona Night is camp's official opening ceremony each summer. Junior, Intermediate and Senior along with the CITs joined as one camp on the David G. Lubrano Grove. **Uncle Spencer Ordway** read Winona's Call. Well-rehearsed unit songs along with "The W in Winona" and "Hurrah for Camp Winonagonic" filled the air. Our returning campers were presented patches acknowledging their 2nd and 3rd years, and campers who have attended Winona four to ten years were given honor shirts.

The Senior banner, 2017 activities and competitions were recapped. The Reds won the banner last year by a 50-point margin. The Mohawks took tribal honors with a 45-point margin. This summer's leaders include Red Captains **Kristian Baker** and **Miles Brown**, and Lieutenant **John Benson**. The Gray team Co-Captains are **Cooper Dutton** and **Benjamin Stevens**, with Co-Lieutenants **Nicholas Voyzey** and **Will Thompson**.

(Over for more news!)

The tribal leaders were also announced. The Delawares will be led by Co-Chiefs **Harry Chadwick** and **Owen De Cordova**, and Sub-Chief **Mason Cilley**. The Seneca tribe will be led by Co-Chiefs **Carl Bruening** and **Nick Davidson**, and Sub-Chief **Henry Clark**. The Ojibway tribe will be led by Co-Chiefs **James Thompson** and **Ben Chadwick**, and Sub-Chief **George Stephan**. The defending Mohawk tribe will be led by Co-Chiefs **Nuar Bol Bol** and **Christian Sweeney** and Sub-Chief **Gleb Gamsheev**. Everyone is certain the Delawares will win, but we shall see what happens...



In Senior, the boys select a new totem each summer. This year, Senior Winona decided to commemorate Winona's 100th anniversary of The BAT. The wooden totem is in the shape of a hundred-dollar bill with The BAT replacing Ben Franklin. The note is authenticated with the signatures of Winona's Directors, **Aunt Laura Ordway** and **Uncle Spencer**.

Saturday morning featured a favorite Winona event, Tribal Games. It included several of Winona's most popular competitions: Gag Ga Ga, King Pin Dodgeball, British Bulldog and Tug-of-War. The boys seemed to have a lot of fun helping their Junior and Intermediate tribal brothers while racking up points for their tribes. The Delawares were the undisputed winners.

Saturday afternoon saw **Uncle Alex** hitting the trails again, this time with familiar fellow wayfarers **Uncles Ghael** and **Ned** on a hot day hike along the Saco River with campers **Tibo Bonte**, **Miles Brown**, **Nick Davidson**, **Maxime De Clercq**, **Owen de Cordova**, **Vincent du Fayet de la Tour**, **Murphy Holton**, **Matt McVane**, **Vincent Mellet**, **Victor Quirch**, **Max Sanchez** and **Mark Snyder**. Leaping from edges, swinging from ledges, all parties found the deep waters a sensory treat and wonderful respite from the heat.



On Saturday nights our evening meal is cooked over a wood-fired grill: bacon onion cheeseburgers for our Seniors with all the fixings. The counselor parade and the "Dirty Burger" is Senior's way of opening the grilling season. After the meal, just as the boys were preparing for a raucous version of the ever-popular evening program "Steal the Bacon", The BAT swooped in for an unexpected and daring showing.

The first week of camp has been a fast-paced warm-up for the exciting events coming up. The boys are planning multi-day trips to the Adirondack Mountains and the Allagash River. Next week I will also report on athletic events, regattas, kayak and technical rock trips. The Senior schedule is brimming with activities, games, trips and adventures that keep everyone enthralled and engaged. Under the towering pines, there's no place on earth this perfect!

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

Staunch & True

Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin, Senior Unit Director and Guardian of Tripper the Cat

Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin

(1983-1986, 2002-2018)

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.