



# SENIOR NEWSLETTER

## July 21, 2019



Greetings! The compilation of this week's newsletter started on change-over day. It's the start of the Second Session and we have just called lights-out after a flawless mid-season "Opening Day 2.0". 28 Senior boys joined our 44 Full Season campers. They spent the afternoon settling in to camp life in the Senior grove.

Let's take a look back to this past week.

Last Sunday, as the Senior boys were finishing their tent work, a bull moose decided to pay us a visit. Appearing at the corner of Tent 10 most of the unit saw the young "Bullwinkle". There was great excitement as the boys took in this awkward creature. From my vantage point (and evidently poor eyesight) I immediately thought it was The BAT but the boys unanimously agreed it was a 10-point moose showing! [Editor's Note: video of the bull moose swimming to Winona's shores can be viewed on our Facebook page]. We have also had the pleasure of seeing a large bald eagle soaring just above the treetops of the Senior grove.



Last Sunday night the Senior campers travelled to Camp Wyonegonic to watch, listen and even dance to a variety of music. The choreography seemed to interest our campers, as several of our Winona Seniors took to the stage to sing and dance. Decked out in counselor whites were: **Charlie Collins, Tom Spater, Kevin McDonald, Max Jones, Ian Hoffman and Jack Bonnefond.**

How do you get the Senior unit charged-up at assemblies? The BAT! He made an appearance after rest hour on Monday. A quick get-away up and out of the trunk room, certainly had our campers guessing. Then as everything settled down our famous BAT re-appeared! The element of surprise once again assured a clean escape.



On Monday, **Uncles PJ and Garrett** took **Ian Hoffman, Eli Shifrin, Luca Depolla, Chase Gerber, Eathan Heath, Austin Gauggel and Jordi Quirch** on the three-day, first session honors rock trip to Rumney, New Hampshire. As soon as the campers arrived, they headed up to the beautiful 5.8 crag and set up three climbs for the campers to get a feel for the unique climbing Rumney has to offer. After a great first day of climbing, they headed back and prepared a delicious mac & cheese dinner. The campers were physically tired and fell asleep early. The second day, the group ventured up to a new crag that turned out to be a diamond in the rough. PJ and Garrett set up three long, challenging climbs where the campers had to work on a whole new climbing technique: crack climbing. It was a great day of learning for the campers and they spent a few hours working on and developing their climbing skills. Rain prohibited the group from climbing the third day, but the climbers arrived back at camp very satisfied, and with a variety of new skills in their climbing repertoire.

On Tuesday, **Aunt Jesse and Uncles Sammy and Pat** embarked on a scenic cruise in the Bat Barge down to our sister camp, Wyonegonic, for the annual Wyonegonic regatta. Our Staunch & True squad included: **Paul Soubeyrand, Jack Henry, Thomas Vanden Berghe and Taylor Stansfield.** Despite a strong southerly breeze, the sailors had a slow start to the day. However, by lunch time, the finishes kept improving and the team had made its way up in the standings to right below the podium at 4th place. With a 1st, a 2nd and a couple of 3rd place finishes. The boys had fun supporting and continuing the special relationship with our sister camp. "Winonagonic!"



Senior canoers **Nick Griese, Gabe McGarry, Zimu Zhang, Guillaume Kopff, Aidan Larrabee, Ellis Thompson, Andrew Sack, Kevin McDonald and Rieky Bol Rik** departed camp on Tuesday with **Uncles Kyle, Will and Bruce** for the three-day Tidal Canoe Adventure on the salty ocean waters of coastal Maine. They put-in on the Sheepscot River near Wiccassett and paddled south to a first night of camping on Ram Island. Wildlife encounters along the way included an eagle's nest occupied by two juvenile eagles and a mama bald eagle eyeing them closely from a nearby tree. After a quick dock stop at a lobster pound to buy a few lobsters for a tasty treat to go with their steak and salmon surf & turf dinner, they paddled past "Seal Island" where 50 plus seals shuffled into the water and surrounded them with inquisitive eyes. The next day another seal sighting occurred when they watched a number of hunting seals explode out of the water with fish and ocean spray everywhere as the seals enjoyed their meal of the day. It was a very rare and exciting sight to see. The boys camped that night on Castle Island in Hockomock Bay and woke up the next morning to perfect weather, wind and tides. After a paddle through Upper Hell's Gate and into the Kennebec River passing by an under construction Nimitz class naval destroyer at the Bath Iron Works, the boys paddled upstream to the take out completing another successful Winona canoe trip adventure.

(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.

You can find current photos of Winona by visiting us on our Facebook page (Winona Camps - Maine), Instagram ([winonacampsmaine](https://www.instagram.com/winonacampsmaine)) or our Bunk1 site.

Find us on   

The first ever Kennebec/Moxie combined kayak/mountain trip departed for the wilds of northern Maine. **Uncles Dan W.** and **Alex F.** led the mountain part, guiding trekkers **Maxime De Clercq, Hugh Devine, Max Jones, Eli Rountree, Tom Spater** and **Finn Wentz** up the seldom-visited Sally Mountain with its beautiful views of Attean Pond and the nearby hills of Quebec, Canada. The boys then joined their kayaking counterparts at a wonderful campsite on Indian Pond near the headwaters of the Kennebec River. After feasting, camping and bridge jumping with their rapids-running friends, the trippers spent their second day visiting Moxie Falls, New England's tallest waterfall at nearly 100 feet. For an encore, on Thursday, the crew headed west to Coburn Mountain, the highest peak in the Kennebec Valley. From its observation tower, the wayfarers appreciated panoramic views that included almost the whole state of Maine: Saddleback, Sugarloaf, Bigelow, Flagstaff, Moosehead and even Katahdin. While returning they learned about Leave No Trace camping practices that have helped keep Maine's wilderness the treasure that it is. The adventurers celebrated their sweet sojourn up the Kennebec with further bridge jumping into that selfsame river and a refreshing sugary Moxie.



Camp Council was selected on Tuesday: **Lucas Sudduth, Daniel Schlumberger, Vincent Mellet, Theo Saujet** and **Murphy Holton** served Winona Cinema's most favorite movie night snack: popcorn!

**Uncles Sam D.** and **Alex F.** led a mountain trip on Monday to the famous photogenic Mount Chocorua with campers **Peter Berlizov, Maxime De Clercq, Dakin Ebmeyer, Henry Hoffman, Max Jones, Aidan Larrabee, Kevin McDonald, Ellis Thompson, Finn Wentz** and **Zimu Zhang**. The crew ascended picturesque crags of the *Carter Ledge Trail* over Chocorua's "Sisters" to its open, rocky top which afforded them panoramic views of all the White Mountains. The boys enjoyed bouldering on the summit and learned about the legend of Chief Chocorua from whom this celebrated peak takes its name.

On Thursday July 18th Winona attended a regatta hosted by Camp Wohelo in Raymond. The nautical camping crew was led by **Uncles Sammy J., Trip** and **Jay** accompanied by five salty lascars from Senior: **Paul Soubeyrand, Jack Bonnefond, Thomas Vanden Berghe, Taylor Stansfield** and **Alexander "Jack" Henry**, the three shipmates from Intermediate included Ward Jenkins, Renzo Martinez and Tristan Baker. The morning westerlies were inconsistent catspaws, backing and veering unpredictability which presented an initial challenge to the Winona sailors. In the afternoon Winona boat crews squared away their boats, sails and tactics for a strong finish, narrowly missing a 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy. Morale was lifted during the final race of the day with a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish by Jack B. and Thomas.

Also on Thursday, the basketball players of Senior Winona travelled to Camp Wildwood to participate in a 3v3 tournament. One team consisted of **Charlie Collins, Jasper Brown** and **Daniel Schlumberger** who competed hard against their opponents and did great on both sides of the ball. On the other team **Kevin Allsopp, Dakin Ebmeyer, Montgomery Dube** and **Garrett Dexter** worked together and came out with a few wins.



On Friday, the Senior Winona lacrosse team took to the field against Camp Indian Acres in the only lacrosse game of first session. **Lee Wilson** kept Winona in the game after making some big saves in goal. Lee was helped out by defenders **Kevin McDonald, Max Jones, Quinn Hoffman, Finley Wentz** and **Tom Spater** who also made his mark on the offensive end of the field after going coast to coast to score. **Baird Hruska, Jordi Quirch, Jasper Brown, Ian Hoffman** and **Charlie Collins** led the Winona teams scoring run and were helped out by **Ian Carey, Eathan Heath, Eric Paradis, Jack Bonnefond** and **Jackson Monz** who all led the way in transition and created offense to lead the Winona team to a decisive 14-5 win. Great job, boys!

Last summer we started a new tradition. The last Evening Program to end the 1<sup>st</sup> half, Red vs Gray soccer! This season's game was played on Thursday evening. With another Red "w", the Grays are looking forward to having their team fortified in the second half. There's still plenty of opportunities ahead to balance out the score sheets!

The following campers achieved Full Merit this week: **Luca Depolla, Aidan Larrabee, Jorge Enebral Alonso**.

Senior Winona celebrated Unit Night on Friday. As darkness fell a small campfire was lit giving off a warm glow while **Uncles Bruce, PJ, Alex M.**, and several campers, including **Drew McHold-Burke** and **Hugh Devine**, played their guitar, while **Aidan Larrabee** led a wonderful rendition of "Country Roads". Tent awards were presented and the boys shared several "remember whens" to close out the first half.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our first session campers for their enthusiasm and spirit. Together we had a fantastic 3.5 weeks. Stay tuned for upcoming trips, games and special events, as we are only at the halfway point, and our calendar is very full. In the meantime, I hope you have a great week too!

Brix Brax,  
Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin  
(1983-1986, 2002-2019)  
The BAT 2015  
Senior Unit Director  
Caretaker of Bailey & Tripper the cat