



SENIOR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 5, 2018



Greetings from Senior Winona! My goodness, the summer is flying by. Here we are in week six! As I'm writing this newsletter our mountain trippers are summiting Mount Katahdin, our canoe trippers are on the West Branch of the Penobscot River and our kayakers are running the rapids of the Kennebec River. Meanwhile here at camp we are looking at the schedule about to unfold, by planning the crescendo of activity known as Red/Gray week. Behind the scenes, the Senior staff have been preparing for several events. We'll bring you that news soon. For now, let's take a peek at the events, which occurred this week.

On Monday, our Honors Mountain Bike trip headed to North Conway, New Hampshire. Campers **Nick Davidson**, **Ellison Roper**, **Tanner Roper** and **Oscar Katzinski** went with **Uncles Alex S.** and **Sam** riding with them and our designated "chauffeur" **Uncle Sammy J.** in the van. The group started by riding the *Rattlesnake Trail*. *Rattlesnake* has a nice uphill climb, which got the blood pumping, and a fun downhill, which is quite twisty and exemplifies the trail name. On this trail there is an old abandoned, quarry. The site provided a nice backdrop for a cool photo op. The group continued on and traveled to the top of Hurricane Mountain Road to ride the *Red Tail Trail*. After a short hike to the start of the trail, the group began their descent. *Red Tail* is known for its fast and technical sections. The trail utilizes impressive rock-work and has multiple technical root-filled sections, as well as several jumps which the boys enjoyed. The day's highlight included discovering an impeccably built rock wall. This feature made for an awesome end to a fantastic day of riding.

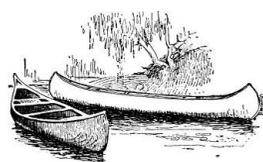


The Honors 2018 Katahdin Nesowadnehunk Backcountry Exploratory Adventure Extravaganza left Monday for the wilds of the north. **Uncles Ned**, **Niko** and **Alex** led **Ben Chadwick**, **Charlie Collins**, **José Garcia**, **Max Jones**, **Kevin McDonald**, **Eli Rountree**, **Will Sonne**, **Ben Stevens** and **Cole Vaupel** up to Baxter State Park, where they spent their first day paddling to, and swimming by, the famous high cliffs lining Upper South Branch Pond. Great blue heron, grouse, turkey, rabbit, snake, loon and beaver supplied but a few of the week's sights and sounds.

Tuesday saw the boys complete a rugged circuit of Mount Coe and South Brother, ascending via a picturesque rock-slide and gazing out across the numinous Klondike toward the Katahdin massif. The adventurers drank in an even more dramatic view Wednesday after attaining the enthralling airy ledges atop Doubletop Mountain. Après hike, as the day before, the crew opted to visit beautiful Ledge Falls.

Thursday found the group farther down Nesowadnehunk Stream, exploring the paradisiacal waters dropping from Big and Little Niagara Falls as well as seldom-seen Lily Pad Pond. En route they met a few thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail, the 2200-mile long scenic byway whose northern terminus is the highest peak of Katahdin.

That apex was the objective of their final day: the wayfarers climbed the celebrated *Cathedral Trail* reaching flying buttresses only Raymond Carver (American poet and author of the short story *Cathedral*) could dream of. Kaleidoscopic cloudscapes colored their ever-changing view as the mountain men traversed across the fabulous Knife Edge from Maine's highest point to legendary Pamola Peak. Stories were told, believed, doubted and embellished, and the counselors were roundly impressed by the boys' stamina, self-sufficiency and teamwork on this major ascent and over the course of their northwoods odyssey.



Meanwhile...if you float down the outlet from Lobster Lake for a couple of miles, you will meet the West Branch of the Penobscot River coming in from the west and gaining some speed. This is where the Senior canoe trippers met the West Branch for the first time on day two of our expedition. We had spent the previous night on Ogden Point enjoying our kebabs and watching the sea birds flock on an offshore rock.

In the last two trips, **Jenoup Bol Bol** has blossomed into a versatile paddler who is equally effective as skipper in the stern or as power in the bow. Other stern men included **Alex MacDougall** (a very strong paddler) and **Vincent Mellet**. **Andrew Shanahan** made his debut in the stern on the day the river offered us a number of swift rapids sections.

A Dutch oven (DO) is a big cast iron pot with a close-fitting lid. **John Mahar**, a utility prep man in the kitchen, helped to fill the DO with diced onions and bacon to flavor the potatoes. A few coals underneath and few more on top will finish the spuds and melt the cheese. We ate them all along with grilled steaks. **Tyler Beliveau** and **Chase Gerber** lent a hand in cutting and assembling chicken kebabs to cook over the first night's fire. Dessert was a watermelon cooled in the waters of Lobster Lake.



(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 campsite on day two was Smith's Halfway House (named for the distance yet to travel by the river drivers shepherding logs on their trip to the mill at the turn of the last century). After pitching tents and setting up the kitchen, the boys could take a break and wade upstream in the fast-moving water, drifting back down to the campsite over and over again. The cool water felt great on a hot day.

Bald eagles were sighted nearly every day. Juvenile and adult birds could be seen especially along the river. The young are mottled brown and the adults sport the identifying bright white heads and tails. One gave us a fly-by less than ten yards away, giving us a look at the amazing wingspan of the national bird.

John Mahar and **Eric Paradis** were notable in their cheerful willingness to pitch in to finish the many chores that come with a multi-day canoe camping trip. Always willing to help with food, dishes, wood gathering or tent-pitching, they were an example to their friends.

Our final night was spent on an island near the north end of Chesuncook Lake, the third largest lake in Maine and a highway for log traffic in its day. Nearby is Chesuncook Village where year-round population has dropped to less than 100. A stiff south wind made us glad to come ashore at the campsite. A carb-load of mac & cheese with ham, peas and cherry tomatoes revived the crew long enough to enjoy some stargazing in the very dark skies. **Miles Gardner-Berg** thrilled the crew with his impromptu horror stories. Morning brought us a view of Katahdin to the south. A wonderful grand finale memory!

Representing Senior Winona on the Camp Council this week included: **Nuar Bol Bol**, **Ian Hoffman**, **Jack Campbell**, **Mason Cilley** and **Kevin Allsopp**.



On Tuesday, the Winona Kayakers left on their annual Honors Trip to Northern Maine paddling on the Penobscot River and Kennebec. Seniors: **Kristian Baker**, **Owen De Cordova**, **Harry Chadwick**, **Oscar Katzinski**, **Bob Verniers**, **Grayson Cueno**, **Sam Potter** and **Thomas Chassat** accepted the invitation for the 5-day trip to celebrate their many accomplishments throughout the summer. With a special early morning send-off from the BAT who met them at the stop sign near the Farmhouse, they began the drive to the

Penobscot River. Along the way, for a well earned break and some lunch, they stopped at The Forks, Maine for Italian sandwiches. After another short journey along Golden Road on the edge of Baxter State Park, they arrived at their destination, Roll Dam Campground - home for the next three days. After setting-up camp, the campers immediately took to the refreshing waters of the Penobscot River and enjoyed the beautiful blue sky. Right next to the campsite, the river offered some sweet rapids to run and class waves to surf. A great way to freshen up before dinner, a camp fire and lights-out to dream about the whitewater that lay down stream. For the next 2 days, the campers ran the class III rapids, perfecting and developing skills, surfing waves and shredding from top to bottom.

After an awesome three days they headed South back to The Forks to paddle the mighty Kennebec River. To start the day, **Uncle Cody** and **Uncle Ben** took Harry, Thomas and Sam down Upper Kennebec River. This section of the river puts-in just below the dam where the water flows at 5000 CFS. The campers enjoyed crashing through and over the big waves and paddling down the fast flowing turbulent rapids. The boys gave a big cheer at the end of the run! Congratulations and welcome to the club!

The rest of the guys got on at the middle put-in, where they had great fun navigating the grade 3 rapids, bouncing down the waves and smiling from ear to ear.

To wrap-up the honors trip, they ordered eight large cheese pizzas and swam at Frenchman's Hole before arriving back "home". Throughout the trip, the boys did an incredible job and paddled to the best of their ability. As counselors, we are extremely proud of the achievements made throughout this trip and truly, the honor was all ours! Thank you.

On Wednesday, **Uncles Sammy J.** and **PJ** took **Will Thompson**, **Will Jurek**, **Cooper Dutton**, **Lucas Sudduth** and **PJ Henwood** to the North End of Cathedral Ledge located in New Hampshire. It is home to some of the best moderate crack climbs in the northeast. The boys climbed on some classic finger cracks, learning the subtle, but painful, art of crack climbing. Dealing with new techniques, wet rock and tricky climbs, the campers fought their way to the top of the routes successfully. Later, they were rewarded for their efforts with some of the best pizza in New Hampshire.



On Thursday, **Uncles Dierhow** and **Sam** took **Nuar Bol Bol**, **Buay Koak**, **Kevin Allsopp**, **Mason Cilley** and **Tanner Roper** to play a 2v2 mini hoops tournament at Camp Wigwam. Buay was "throwing down some thunderous dunks" and Kevin was shooting from deep. The boys worked hard, giving each game their best effort. Senior played in four games: won two, lost two, finishing in second place. The coaching staff was proud of this Winona team.

This past Thursday, Winona hosted the annual Winona regatta. The wind was not shy as we experienced gusts of up to 25 knots in the morning alone! Our skippers **Henry Clark**, **Jack Bonnefond**, **Gleb Gamsheev** and **Nick Davidson** along with Intermediate campers **Ben Beckerman** and **Ward Jenkins**, took their crews **Billy Strachan**, **Miles Brown**, **Ty Slaton**, **Sam Marwill**, **Matthew McVane** and **James Thompson** to a series of races. After the high winds canceled the Laser races, our sailors went through a shifty course and managed to finish in 3rd place in the club Junior boats. Jack and Sam got the team's only first place on a solid start! This wraps up the regatta season for the summer and our campers are already looking forward to next year.



A Senior baseball team was assembled Friday to face Camp O-AT-KA at home. Coached by **Uncle Sam S.**, Winona's team consisted of **Nick Davidson, Jack Campbell, John Mahar, Ty Slayton, Tanner Roper, Henry Clark, Matthew McVane, Andrew Shanahan, Thomas Beltran, Ethan Cyr, Jack Bonnefond, Ellison Roper, Tyler Beliveau, Mason Cilley and Eric Paradis.** Winona and their opponent both scored three runs in the first inning. Winona started off the inning with Tanner taking a walk to 1st base. Next Matthew smashed a home run to center field. Jack followed with a double and then got home on a passed ball making the score 3-3. After a solid one and two thirds innings on the mound, Eric came off and John stepped on for Winona. John finished off the inning with a much needed strikeout. In the second inning, the Winona bats got hot again and we scored a run off a Nick's hit. The game progressed with notable defensive work by the Winona Senior team. In the bottom of the 6th, Winona with four runs needed to achieve a walk-off win. The score was 6-9. Jack hit a double and scored on a passed ball making it 7 to 9. Tanner walked and then Ellison hit him in making it 8-9 with one out. Unfortunately, we stranded Ellison on base after two strikeouts from the other pitcher. The final score was 8-9. Next time, boys!

On Friday, Senior swimmers **Ben Libby, Andy Deng, Lucas Sudduth, Cooper Dutton, Will Jurek and Sasha Barinsky** suited up and took to the pool at the Camp Micah Swim meet. The boys competed in 7 events: 50 yard freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly, 100 individual medley, and 200 freestyle and medley relays. Andy started the meet for Winona with a fantastic performance in the 50 free, followed with top-3 finishes by Lucas and Ben in the 50 back and 50 breast, respectively. Sasha and Cooper both had top-5 overall finishes in the 100 IM and 50 fly, respectively, showing off their skill and resolve in the most exhausting events in the meet. The 200 free relay team of Ben, Lucas, Andy and Sasha fought hard for a 4th place overall finish, and the 200 medley relay team of Will, Cooper and Inty campers, **Huber Matos-O'Neil and David Steinbrick,** placed 3rd overall in their very competitive race. The Senior swimmers came in at 4th in the 15 and under division. Coaches **Uncles Kyle** (Senior) and **Cam** (Inty) are very proud of the boys, and were very impressed by the spirit, support and hard work demonstrated throughout the meet.

There have been several boys completing the requirements to attain their Full Merit pin. In Senior, attaining this recognition takes a significant amount of work and perseverance. Attaining Full Merit to date includes: **Kristian Baker, John Benson, Rieky Bol Rik, Ben Chadwick, Harry Chadwick, Mason Cilley, Henry Clark, Cooper Dutton, Ian Hoffman, Will Jurek, Guillaume Kopff, Taylor Stansfield and Alexander MacDougall.** **Ian Hoffman and Cooper Dutton** achieved their Full Distinction. Congratulations boys!

It is a quiet Sunday morning as I finish this week's newsletter. The tent line is still asleep. The wake up bell this morning will signal the start of Red/Gray week. The annual George Sudduth Memorial Road Race will take place this morning. Next week I will be writing to you with highlights of Laser Tag, Treasure Hunt, Beach Day, Great Relay, Senior Circus and Playday with Wyo.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great week too!

Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin

(1983-1986, 2002-2018)

The BAT 2015

Senior Unit Director