



SENIOR NEWSLETTER

July 2, 2023



Greetings from Senior Winona. This is Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin, Senior Unit Director, with my first weekly newsletter of the 116th Season.

Last Sunday we were pleasantly surprised by the weather forecast which predicted rain showers. Instead, the sun was shining and the temperatures were just right for Opening Day. The Senior Unit came alive with meeting new friends, friends reacquainting, swim tests and canoe tip tests. After lunch the boys chose between games of basketball, ultimate frisbee or flag football. Senior tent time is scheduled each Sunday evening and is dedicated to building cohesion amongst tentmates. Examples of tent time activities include family style board games, an evening canoe paddle or assembling s'mores by a campfire. Winona's new 6-person Stand Up Paddleboard, known as "The Manatee", has been a great success. Before lights out, the tent groups crisscrossed the tent line introducing themselves, helping them to learn the names of new friends.

On Monday, Senior Winona jumped right into activities. Merits earned during the week are:

Tennis: **Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera, Miguel de Sebastian Torres, James Gasperini, Inigo Gil de Juan, Shema Iranzi, George Senft and Warner Vanderweil.**

Aunt Christina reports from the Senior waterfront that 40 Senior campers have already achieved swimming Merits. Aunt Christina and Uncle Jack have challenged the 23 other campers to earn swim Merits. I expect next weeks newsletter will report an impressive 100% completion.

Kayak: **Tristan Baker, Liam Colgan, Cavan Finnerty, Wesley Gibbons, Kiefer Gilligan, Cooper Holton, Dain Gutman, Liam Manning, Jaime Piramoon, Jaak Rannik, Victor Rannik, Samuel Rather**

Lacrosse: **Teddy Dickinson, Ben Lemieux and Wyatt Russell**

Mountain Biking: **Sebastian Calderon Chubb, Dylan Henwood and Tucker McNamee**

Sloyd (woodworking): **Alex Kirkwood and Lucas Vannoni**

Campcraft: **Briggs Demangone and Brayden Paradis**

Arts & Crafts: **Henry Lamphier and Wesley Letellier**

Archery: **Nuer Bol Rik and James Bessingpas** earned his Merit & Distinction.

Technical Rock: **Claudio Boada, Dylan Henwood, Duncan May, Max Soderstrom and Darryl Villasenor**

Canoe: **Liam Colgan, Haret Jucup, Florentino Perez Colmenar and Lucas Vannoni**

Basketball: **Michael Covington and Federico Shad Imbert**

Our seven new-to-Winona campers learned their Color and Squadron team assignments and the Wiggy roared with excitement as they were received by teammates.

Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera: Swift Falcon & Red

Bastien de Saint Meleuc: Dirigo Raven & Gray

Miguel de Sebastian Torres: Dirigo Raven & Gray

Jose Maria Elias De Tejada: Swift Falcon & Red

Inigo Gil de Juan: Dirigo Raven & Gray

Teddy Dickinson: Ocean Osprey & Red

Luke Wesner: Ocean Osprey & Gray

James Sennott: Dirigo Raven & Gray



Monday night Evening Program (EP) was Ultimate Showdown. Challenges included memory recall, physical fitness, comedic showmanship, speed art and endurance. The Reds amassed more challenges and the 1st team points of the summer. Second EP was a fun Squadron game of "Name That Tune." The Falcons/Hawks combined efforts and musical knowledge of artists, and album names outscoring the Osprey/Raven team. The answers given typically follow only a few seconds of music, quite impressive.

Winona Night, the annual official opening of the 116th season, was celebrated on Tuesday evening. The Red & Gray Captains & Lieutenants were announced. The Red Captains this summer are **Tristan Baker** and **Nuer Bol Rik**. The Red Lieutenants are **Ben Lemieux** and **Leif Sonne**. The Gray Captain is **Wyatt Russell**. The Gray Lieutenants are **Kiefer Gilligan** and **Tucker McNamee**.

The Squadron leadership positions include Pilots & Co-Pilots. Pilot **Lyle Fuchs** and Co-Pilots **Max Fabbriante** and **Duncan May** will lead the defending Mountain Hawks. The Dirigo Ravens will be led by **James Gasperini** and Co-Pilots **Briggs Demangone** and **Haret Jucup**. Pilot **Jaime Piramoon** and Co-Pilots **Alex Kirkwood** and **Sam Rather** will lead the Ocean Ospreys. The Swift Falcons will be led by Pilots **Kasper Potter** and **Darryl Villasenor** with Co-Pilot **Brayden Paradis**. Good luck this season!

(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) or Instagram (winonacampsmaine).

Find us on  

On Wednesday, Senior kayakers spent the day at Steep Falls on the Saco River. The recent rainy days is a delight for the kayakers. **Tristan Baker, Kiefer Gilligan, Lazar Golden, Sam Rather, Connor Sims, Rhys Williams, Jaak Rannik, Cavan Finnerty, Ronan Zweifler** and **Jaime Piramoon**, led by **Uncles Quinn, Dan, Harry** and **Ned**, reached the parking lot of Steep Falls and gazed at the rapids to come. Before any paddling Uncle Quinn taught river safety and river signals. The kayakers also practiced kayak rolls. Once ready, Uncle Harry led the group downstream through the rapids. Max and Rhys had to wet exit their boats as they attempted the hydraulic, while Jaime noticed the capsize and deftly navigated his kayak towards them. Tristian and Kiefer practiced playing in an eddy as they learned to get their boats vertical. As the kayakers continued down the river, Cavan had a chance to practice and show the group his safe rapid swimming. The paddlers had a chance to surf the popular "surf wave" and Jaak and Connor demonstrated their expert boat control by carving in and out of the wave. On the way back to camp, the group stopped in Bridgton to enjoy a pizza lunch.



On Wednesday, Uncles **Alex** and **Jose** took Senior mountain trippers **Wesley Gibbons, James Gasperini, Bastien de Saint Meleuc, Peter McDermott, Miles Dinger, Haret Jucup, Wyatt Russell** and **Tucker McNamee** climbed Mount Willard (2,865') located in Carroll County, New Hampshire. Mount Willard is a fairly steep trail but a fun day-hike. The boys romped their way up the 1.5 mile trail hoping to take in the spectacular view which overlooks Crawford Notch. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans and the summit was cloudy. The boys were not discouraged and they quickly descended the trail to beat an incoming rain shower. A hot chocolate stop on the return to camp helped to keep the boys warm.

On Thursday, the CITs organized Squadron Games. This fun Field Day event includes tug-o-war, races and games. The CITs are presently taking their Wilderness First Aid course and will submit final Squadron point totals early next week.

Also on Thursday, The BAT appeared during assembly. **Kiefer Gilligan** attempted to create a memory, however The BAT slipped away before Kiefer could take a selfie!

On Friday, **Uncles Rowan** and **Garrett** took **Darryl Villasenor, Dylan Henwood, Henry Lamphier** and **Dain Guttman** to Jockey Cap, a staple of Winona's rock program. Eager to get off to a challenging start, they set-up a 5.7 and 5.8. Learning the differences between wall climbing and real rock climbing, each camper successfully ascended the two climbs. After a busy morning of climbing, the group hiked to the top of Jockey Cap to enjoy lunch. The boys returned to the climbs for a few more attempts. A successful first rock trip of the season.

The Senior Mountain Trippers departed after a leisurely breakfast Friday morning. The trip led by **Uncles JK** and **Kristian** took a staunch and able crew consisting of **Leif Sonne, Nuer Bol Rik, Sebastian Calderon Chubb, Lyle Fuchs** and **Jordan Woodfield**. The eager crew headed to the Presidential Range in New Hampshire where they had a steep 2.4 mile ascent to the peak of Mount Crawford. They ascended 2073 feet, burning 1127 calories on the way up. After stopping for a filling mountain top lunch, the boys took time to observe the stunning views of the entire Presidential Range. The hiking crew then quickly descended the trail burning another 658 calories on the way down.

On Saturday morning, waking up at dawn's first light were this year's Allagash Wilderness Waterway adventurers. **Wyatt Russell, Duncan May, Sam Rather, Darryl Villasenor, Ronan Zweifler, James Gasperini, Haret Jucup, Jaime Piramoon** and **Max Soderstrom**. The boys have affectionately named this trip The Viking Cruise with **Uncle Ingi** at the helm. **Uncles Bruce** and **Kevin** round out the leadership. Uncle Ingi will tell us all about it in 8 days when these Staunch & True canoe trippers return to camp.

On Saturday afternoon, the entire Senior unit participated in the 4th annual Tough Mudder. This event took the boys on a mile long obstacle race through camp. Along the course the runners crawled through mud, climbed obstacles, and so much more. All the boys completed the race in true Staunch and True style, covered in mud. The weather was spectacular and the competitors cooled off at race conclusion by taking a dip in Moose Pond and sharing tales of their adventures.



The Top10 Mudders included: 1st place **Tucker McNamee**, 2nd place **James Gasperini**, tied for 3rd place **Miles Dinger** and **Lyle Fuchs**, 5th place **Claudio Boada**, 6th place **Inigo Gil de Juan**, 7th place **Cooper Holton**, 8th place **Sebastian Calderon Chubb**, 9th place **Wesley Letellier**, 10th place **Ben Lemieux**. This event is Red/Gray. The Grays scored 33 points. The Reds scored 23 points.

Saturday night cook-out is a weekly highlight in Senior. To open the cook-out season, the counselors don their favorite costumes and lead the "Dirty Burger" parade (a traditional counselor parade and the honor of the first burger is Senior's way to open the grilling season and assures it will be successful.) The boys circle around and hear about this timeless tradition. **Wesley Gibbons** was ultimately chosen to be first recipient of this season's famous "Bubba Burger" (bacon onion cheeseburgers for our Seniors with all the fixings; we have veggie burgers, too).

The week ahead is full of activities. A Mountain bike trip, a soccer match, three rock trips, a several mountain trips, a tennis match, three kayak trips, the Winona 5K, and a baseball game. Action galore and so much more!

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

Brix Brax,

Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin (1983-1986, 2002-2023)

The BAT 2015

Senior Unit Director, Caretaker of Bailey, Senior's favorite Chocolate Lab