



SENIOR NEWSLETTER

July 18, 2023



Greetings from Senior Winona on a very “Fine ... Fine ... Fine” Monday morning. The sky is clear making today a perfect camping day as we begin Second Session. A striking contrast from yesterday’s rain when we had kayakers racing in the grove. We have enjoyed a week full of activities, trips and games. So here we go, a look back at life under our pines.

The Senior Mountain Trip program rounded out the First Session with an exciting adventure in Vermont’s marvelous Green Mountains. Trusty driver **Uncle Todd** took the intrepid trippers out to Couching Lion Farm, whence **Uncles Alex F., Alex S. and Eli R.** led campers **Claudio Boada, Pepe Elias de Tejada, Tucker McNamee, Jack Rannik, Federico Schad Imbert, Miguel de Sebastian Torres** and **Rhys Williams** up to Montclair Glen Lodge at Wind Gap for steaks on their first night on the world-famous 265+ mile *Long Trail*, which follows the crest of the Green Mountains from Canada to Massachusetts traversing ancestral lands of the Wabanaki.

Tuesday morning the sun shone brightly, and they ascended Camel’s Hump, one of Vermont’s iconic peaks, which they, rather miraculously, had all to themselves. In the afternoon the crew resumed their route southward, passing over the high summit of Mount Ethan Allen before pitching camp and cooking up some tasty backcountry pizzas.

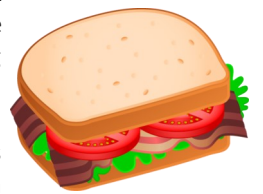


On Wednesday morning, everyone enjoyed breakfast bagels on beautiful Burnt Rock Mountain, which afforded them fantastic views in nearly every direction. Wednesday’s hike also included a visit to “Molly Stark’s Balcony” on Molly Stark Mountain, where the wayfarers encountered some stark weather followed by sunshine and another stunning panorama. The counselors were all duly impressed by the campers’ fortitude on this challenging stretch. Wednesday night the group feasted on cheesy pasta at Stark’s Nest, a spacious hut atop Mad River Glen ski area that stays open for hikers in the summer. From their seats on the deck, our gentlemen reveled at the spectacular sight of the sun setting over Lake Champlain and New York’s Adirondack Mountains.

For an encore Thursday the group climbed Mount Ellen, which itself is actually tied with Camel’s Hump as the third highest mountain in Vermont. Standing there above the highest runs of Sugarbush ski area, the trekkers gazed back at faraway Camel’s Hump and surveyed the rugged route they had just traveled. All were elated to find bright-eyed, bushy-tailed pickup driver **Uncle JK** at the trailhead, whom they all regaled with tall tales of their peripatetic odyssey. The counselors were pleased the hikers had deepened their understanding of minimum impact camping and come to know a new mountainous region on this unique and rewarding trip.

Tuesday morning, the three-day Popham beach trip departed in search of one thing, big waves! Popham Beach is a very nice, sandy beach which extends southwest about three miles from Fort Popham, at the mouth of the Kennebec River. It is near the site of the short-lived Popham Colony, founded in 1607 and abandoned the following year. The Winona group arrived at the beach and headed into the surf. After a couple pointers from **Uncles Dan and Ned**, the campers were carving in the waves like pros. **Connor Sims, Jamie Piramoon, Sam Rather, Max Soderstrom, Cavan Finnerty** and **Ronan Zweifler** displayed a high level of skill as they maneuvered into the waves. Later in the day, the kayakers set-up their campsite at Hermit Island. After collecting firewood, the campers participated in a scavenger hunt while **Uncles Quinn, Harry, Ned** and **Sam** prepared a delicious dinner of buffalo chicken mac and cheese. The next morning the campers took to their boats and even bigger waves. As the paddlers got more comfortable in the waves, Ronan learned to do 360s while surfing. The second night at the campground was entertaining when the campers performed pre-supper skits before digging into a scrumptious dinner of tilapia and spaghetti.

Also on Tuesday, morning Senior canoers **Sebastian Calderon-Chubb, Nuer Bol Rik, Jordan Woodfield, Liam Colgan, Brayden Paradis, James Sennott, Liam Manning** and **Alex Putnam** along with **Uncles Ingi, Bruce and Donald**, and Cousin/**CIT John** drove to the Magalloway River where they would start their three-day adventure. The weather was fair and the boys enjoyed a nice paddle onto Lake Umbagog. When camp was set-up, the boys had a refreshing dip in the water and played games before it was time to start dinner. That night they made extra cheesy mac’n’cheese with all the fixings and a salad on the side. After the dishes were washed the boys gathered around the campfire to roast s’mores. The next morning they paddled down the lake to a second campsite on Big Island. Once the tents, hammocks and tarps were up the boys made BLTs for lunch, played cards and had a nice rest hour. Wednesday evening, they prepared schnitzel with a crisp cucumber salad and green beans with capers on the side. That night, Brayden and Nuer made brownies which the boys enjoyed by the campfire while sharing stories and singing. The final morning the canoers prepared a relaxed pancake breakfast before heading out on the waters and back to camp.



Tuesdays third trip of Senior campers **Henry Lamphier, Dylan Henwood, Dain Gutmann, Duncan May, Wesley Letellier, Conrad Krauskopf, Leif Sonne, Lyle Fuchs, Cooper Holton** and **James Gasperini**, along with **Uncles Eli R and Garrett**, and **CIT Camden**, ventured out to Glenn, New Hampshire for an overnight rock-climbing trip. On the first day, they hiked up to White Horse Ledges, where they set-up a 5.8 mixed face and crack climb, as well as a 5.10 crack climb. That night they had Mac and cheese loaded with chorizo and hamburger. They started off Wednesday morning with homemade breakfast burritos before driving to Pinkham notch, where they climbed the 5.5 chimney and 5.8 crack on Square Ledge. Unfortunately, a sudden rain storm canceled the climb, but a quick pancake lunch brought them back to camp on a high note. The boys had a great time crack climbing, which many of them had never had the opportunity to do before, and exposed them to the great world of outdoor climbing.

(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  

This week, Senior Winona participated in two regattas that pushed the sailors to thrive in a competitive environment on Moose Pond and Crescent Lake. On Tuesday, Wyonegonic hosted their first brother-sister camp regatta since 2019. **Wyatt Russell, Tristan Baker, Kiefer Gilligan** and **Miles Dinger** participated in bringing both camps together once again to revive the tradition of Wyo-Winona events. All of the skippers and crew sailed well in a light breeze. Not only did this regatta help each camper move forward in their sailing career, it gave everyone an opportunity to strengthen the bond between our camps. And on Friday **Pepe Elias De Tejada** and **Claudio Boada** finished in 2nd and 3rd place at a Sail Series at a nearby camp. The strong winds they encountered tested their boat handling skills and their resilience in rough conditions. Motivated by friendly competition, both campers represented the Staunch and True qualities of Winona. All of the sailors showed great skill and knowledge on the lakes this past week and will return for another great set of regattas in Second Session.



The 3rd annual Winona Cross Country 5k took place on Wednesday. The 3.1-mile course zig zags around camp with 2.2 miles on dirt roads and .9 over trails and fields all of which are in camp. Congratulations to 1st place overall winner **Miles Dinger** with a winning time of 21:25. The top 10 Senior finishers were: 1st **Miles Dinger**, 2nd (5th overall) **Bastien de Saint Meleuc**, 3rd (11th overall) **Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera**, 4th (13th overall) **Inigo Gil de Juan**, 5th (16th overall) **Alex Kirkwood**, 6th (19th overall) **Tristan Baker**, 7th (20th overall) **George Senft**, 8th (24th overall) **Luke Wesner**, 9th (29th overall) **Lazar Golden** and 10th (30th overall) **Teddy Dickinson**.

On Friday, the Winona Basketball team of **Michael Covington, Haret Jucup, Tristan Baker, Max Fabbriante, Ben Lemieux, James Gasperini, Connor Sims, Sam Rather** and **Dain Gutmann** with coach **Uncle Mateo**, played on the 3v3 Boys Basketball Intercamp Tournament in the 15 and Under category. The Winona boys participated with two teams on each side of the bracket. The 1st Winona teamed played very well against a tough and bigger opponent. Our defense played well against a fast-paced team. The 2nd Winona team lead by Tristan and Connor had a great run taking Winona to the quarterfinals, in a hard-fought game. Clutch shots and big stops made the difference and brought Winona to the final four of the tournament. As competition became much more difficult Winona lost the semifinal game but ultimately finished third place in the tournament.



On Saturday, **Uncles Dash** and **Garrett** took Seniors **Cooper Holton, Leif Sonne, Duncan May** to an inter-camp Rock Climbing competition, where the campers competed against three camps for individual and team prizes. With each camper climbing four times, the three best are scored based on difficulty in order to determine a winner. After several hours of hard climbing, Leif and Duncan earned a shared first place in the 15 and under category. To cap things off, Team Winona walked away with the overall team victory in our first time back in several years

Red/Gray Soccer, the final Evening Program of First Session, was played under the beautiful skies of Friday evening. Immediately after the starting whistle, intense action began. Fierce competition in the midfield put on a brilliant show of talent for the spectators. From the Grays, strong plays from **Claudio Boada** and **Bastien de Saint Meleuc** deftly moved the ball up the field to **Miguel de Sebastian Torres** up top. Stopping the Gray's attempts on goal were staunch Red center backs **James Gasperini** and **Florentino Perez Colmenar** and goalkeeper **Jaak Rannik**. In the Red midfield, **Tristan Baker, Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera** and **Noah Bruchou** linked pass after pass to slice through the opposing defense to get the ball to **Ollie Lambert**. Center backs **Inigo Gil de Juan** and **Kiefer Gilligan** battled with Ollie and Red winger **Connor Sims** for control, and goalkeeper **Max Fabbriante** made many saves, but Ollie could not be stopped from scoring a hat trick. A close game the whole way, with incredible demonstrations of talent and athleticism from both sides, but by the end the Reds pulled ahead and cemented their win with a last second goal. The Reds were victorious, 4-2.

The following Full Merits were achieved this week: **Inigo Gil de Juan, Nuer Bol Rik, Sam Rather** and **James Gasperini**.

In a reveal ceremony today, our new to Winona Seniors learned their Color & Squadron teams. **Carlos Carriedo Creixell** a Gray and Ocean Osprey. **Adrien Domart** is a Red and Ocean Osprey. **Felix Eitingon** is a Red and Mountain Hawk. **Ronnie Farrell** is a Red and a Mountain Hawk.

As mentioned earlier, today was a perfect camping day. Our second half campers were busy in various activities, checking of the following Merits: **Leo Lothian** swimming, **Santiago Gonzalez Urista** kayaking, **Adrian Domart** technical rock, **CJ Kaplan** kayaking, **Jack Drechsler** archery, **William Hogue** archery, **Cesar de Mees d'Argenteuil** swimming, **Carlos Carriedo Creixell** basketball, **Conrad Fiedler** swimming and **Flynn Williams** kayaking.

This week's calendar is chock full, which includes the tidal canoe trip, a mountain overnight trip, a kayak trip to the Swift River, a Regatta, the Big W swim meet, a trip to the Portland Sea Dogs, a soccer match and a basketball game.

Sound like fun? Stay tuned next week for all the details.

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