

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

July 23, 2023



Greetings from Senior Winona where today's weather was simply spectacular: blue skies, 81 degrees, a moderate breeze, a full day of activities and the Big W swim meet. We also enjoyed our weekly cook-out with Bubba burgers and all the fixings. Following dinner, the grove became quiet due to half of the Senior campers away at Hadlock Field, home to the Portland Sea Dogs. The Full Season campers who travelled First Session to a Sea Dogs game watched a movie in The Cobb. They also enjoyed Lodge (candy) and a frozen treat. Although I wrote to you five days ago, as promised there is a lot of news to share.

This past Tuesday, **Tristan Baker, Ben Lemieux, Jose Maria Elias De Tejada** and **Claudio Boada** embarked on another regatta on Sebago Lake. The campers pushed through heavy wind which changed directions constantly. They took the podium with a third-place finish. Scoring 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in their combined races with an overall point count of 34, the Winona sailors did an incredible job of staying calm in challenging waters. The skippers and crew completed a phenomenal day with ice cream in Naples to celebrate the victory.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, the kayak trip departed for the Bear Notch section of the Swift River. Paddlers **Carlos Carriedo Creixell, Dylan Henwood, William Hogue, Rhys Williams, Laz Golden, Ben Lemieux, Victor Rannik, Santiago Gonzalez Urista, Cesar de Meeus d'Argenteuil, Tristan Baker** and **Kiefer Gilligan** arrived at the river, donned their kayaking gear and began the journey downstream. Under the direction of **Uncle Ben**, they navigated the shallow river, being careful to avoid boulders. When the kayakers reached the takeout, they had lunch on the rocks while gazing at the rapids of Rocky Gorge, a technical 3' drop directly into a 7' waterfall. After eating sandwiches and hydrating with water and apple juice, the campers watched as **Uncles Quinn, Harry, Dan, Ned, Ben** and **Sam** ran the Rocky Gorge rapid expertly. After some careful consideration, campers Tristian and Kiefer decided they were up for the challenge. Tristian went first, as he followed Uncle Quinn down the two drops, coming out the other side safely. Kiefer was close behind, also hitting the line perfectly. The other campers stood by and cheered them on from a great vantage point above the gorge.



Also on Wednesday, **Uncles Baird, Alex** and **Jose** lead a mountain trip to Mount Potash (2700') located along the famous Kancamagus highway in New Hampshire. The summit has a beautiful 360-degree view of Mount Passaconaway, Whiteface, The Sleepers, Tripyramids, the Huntingtons, Hancock, Carrigan and Chocorua with **Calder Kaplan, Aidan Judge, Bennett Ash, Julian Springer, Cooper Holton, George Senft** and **Inigo Gil de Juan**. Along with the spectacular views, the hikers enjoyed some rock scrambling. The trip concluded with a swimming hole visit to the Swift River with some cliff jumping.

Senior canoers **Kasper Potter, Tucker McNamee, Nuer Bol Rik, Ronnie Farrell, Liam Colgan, Miles Dinger, Sebastian Calderon Chubb, Jack Drechsler, Peter McDermott** and **James Gasperini** along with **Uncles Ingi** and **Drew** departed on Wednesday toward the coast of Maine for the annual three-day Tidal canoe trip. They arrived at the put-in on the Sheepscoot River where at the lower portion is a complex island estuary. It was a high slack tide so the canoers could follow the tide out paddling to Ram Island for the night. On the way they picked up a couple of lobsters which went perfectly with dinner that evening, a steak and shrimp stir-fry with fresh corn on the cob. After dinner the boys gathered around the campfire for s'mores and played games before a well-deserved sleep in tents and hammocks.

Thursday morning the boats were loaded shortly after low tide and the trippers paddled towards Castle Island, where they would spend their second night. The boys explored and circumnavigated the Island and picked a large quantity of blueberries which they shared with the rest of the group. Friday morning was foggy during breakfast, but the fog then burned off and the boys loaded the boats. On the last morning the boys paddled through "Upper Hell Gate" where they fought the current since the tide was rising and finally made their way into the city of Bath on the Kennebec River where they viewed a couple of US Navy Frigates moored by Bath Iron Works. After a quick lunch the boys reflected on a great and successful Tidal trip.

On Thursday, back at camp, **Rhys Williams, Connor Sims, Wesley Letellier, Lazar Golden, Carlos Carriedo Creixell, Felix Eitingon** and **Max Soderstrom** left the shores for Goose Eye Mountain (3860') located in Oxford County, Maine for a two-day extravaganza. The intrepid mountaineers blazed an eight-mile path to the top before having a cold cut lunch, prepared by **Uncles Eli** and **Taylor**. Afterwards, they trudged through a mucky ridge to the scenic campsite for the night, where they ate a meal of pulled pork, mac and cheese, and fried s'mores tortilla. The next day, they backtracked through the muddy wilderness, before beginning their descent of six miles. Uncle Eli led the staunch group of campers through a miraculous terrain of mud and rock, as well as crossing multiple rivers through the rain before meeting **Uncle Kristian** at the trailhead. Despite the tough weather conditions, the campers kept a positive attitude fueled by good conversation and exciting backpack maintenance.

Also on Thursday, the Senior Winona tennis team went to a nearby camp for a tennis tournament. **Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera, Inigo Gil de Juan** and **Miguel de Sebastian Torres** represented Winona in the singles draw, with both Rodrigo and Inigo making the quarterfinals in that draw. On the doubles side, the pairings of **Lyle Fuchs/ Wyatt Russell**, and **Leif Sonne/Florentino Perez Colmenar**, both played incredible to win their first matches and both teams made it to the semi-finals in the doubles draw. While neither team came out of the semifinals, they played some of the best tennis we've seen all year with a match that went to a third set tiebreak, and it was a pleasure to watch.

(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 Friday morning, kayakers **Will Hogue, Lyle Fuchs, Inigo Gil de Juan, Kiefer Gilligan, Cesar de Meeus d'Argenteuil** and **Claudio Boada** travelled to the Bristol section of the Pemigewasset River in New Hampshire. The paddlers arrived at the put-in and gazed at the immense 40' dam that marked the start of the river. After getting into the river and practicing some ferry gliding, the paddlers began a two-mile journey downstream. There were many waves in the river which helped the kayaker become accustomed to paddling in moving water. After reaching the takeout, the group swam the rapids and ate cold cuts for lunch. They were shuttled back upstream for a second rundown the river. After the speedy lap, the campers quickly packed up the trailer and the van to make it back to Winona in time for Banana Split Night!

Also on Friday, **Uncles John** and **Garrett** took **Jaak Rannik, Henry Lamphier, Viktor Rannik, Wesley Gibbons, Santiago Gonzalez Urista, Leo Lothian** and **Adrien Domart** to Whitehorse Ledge to let the climbers experience crack climbing. Setting up an easier 5.7 climb next to a challenging 5.9 crack, they enjoyed pushing their physical and technical limits for a few hours, with most climbing at least 4-5 times. They also held a short anchor building lesson, teaching climbers how rock gear is used safely and how to properly set up an anchor for the top of a climb. We wrapped up the day with lunch and a short hike out.

On Friday, the Winona Basketball team of **Tristan Baker, Max Fabbicante, Ben Lemieux, Shema Iranzi, Flynn Williams, Aidan Judge, Bennett Ash, Darryl Villasenor** and **James Bessingpas** with coach **Uncle Mateo**, played a home basketball game against a nearby camp. The Winona boys played hard against a tough and bigger opponent during two, 20 minutes halves. With an efficient start from the opposing team, Winona finished the first half down 13 points. A run by Tristan and Darryl put Winona back in the game. At the beginning of the second half, with great stops from Shema and Ben that turned into baskets from Aidan and Bennett, the home team cut their lead to 4 before they had to call a timeout. Unfortunately, the Winona run came short as the second half ended with a final score of 37 to 43. The Winona team played excellent basketball against a very well-organized opponent.

Saturday afternoon Winona hosted the Big W Swim meet with our sisters from Wyonegonic joining us. History was made on the shores of Moose Pond with the boys of Winona pulling off a win against Wyonegonic. Wyonegonic scored 1,025 points to Winona's 1,100 points. In Senior, the following campers competed in this event: **Jaime Piramoon, Will Hogue, Tristan Baker, Liam Colgan, Adrien Domart, Conrad Fiedler, Wesley Gibbons, Santiago Gonzalez Urista, Brayden Paradis, Leif Sonne, James Gasperini, Max Fabbicante, Viktor Rannik, Connor Sims, Alex Putnam** and **Lazar Golden**.



Congratulations to the following campers who achieved Full Merit this week: **Tristan Baker, Miles Dinger, Jose Maria Elias de Tejada, James Gasperini, Alex Kirkwood, Henry Lamphier, Ben Lemieux, Peter McDermott, Kasper Potter, Connor Sims** and **Lucas Vannoni**. Our first Full Distinction was awarded to James Gasperini.

Our week ahead includes trips to Mount Katahdin, kayaking on the Pemigewasset, Newfound and Winnepesaukee Rivers, technical rock climbers will visit Rumney Rocks and the canoe trip program heads to Lake Cupsuptic to Mooselookmeguntic and then Lake Richardson. We end the week with Red-Gray competitions and the George Sudduth Memorial Road Race.

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