



# SENIOR NEWSLETTER

## July 30, 2023



Greetings from Senior Winona. The Honors trips have all returned with awesome stories and huge smiles. The trip leaders have done a great job reporting on these adventures. Memories were made on mountain summits, challenging rivers, granite slabs and swift rivers. Those of us who remained in camp kept busy with Red-Gray events, the Winona Regatta and Playday. I hope you enjoy this week's re-cap.



The Junior Maine Guide (JMG) program is a joint initiative with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Summer Camps. The goal of JMG is teaching advanced outdoor leadership and living skills. In preparation for testing camp, the candidates take time every day practicing skills in canoeing, map & compass, tree identification, encampment protocols, axemanship, fireplace building, cooking, map of Maine, environmental concerns and first aid. **Uncles Wally, Todd, Eli, Rowan and Kevin** (all JMG alumni) continue to lead our JMG program. **Leif Sonne, Alex Kirkwood, Duncan May and CIT John Proulx** represented Winona this year. The tasks at testing camp include building their wilderness campsite from scratch and cooking meals without counselor help. Congratulations to Leif, Alex and John who returned to testing camp for the second year in order to become certified Junior Maine Guides.

At the start of last week, Senior's staunch mountain trippers **Tristian Baker, Lyle Fuchs, Tucker McNamee, Wyatt Russell, Darryl Villasenor, Haret Jucup, Jamie PiraMoon and Nuer Bol Rik** lead by counselors **Uncles Kristian, Alex and Miles** left for Baxter State Park and Mount Katahdin. Tuesday morning began with a hearty pancake breakfast and an easy 8-mile hike to Russell Pond. Wednesday was a big day requiring an early 5AM start. Elevation was quickly gained as the group departed for Howe Peaks via the *North Peaks Trail*. This is one of the most spectacular and difficult trails in the northeast at 4,646 feet above sea level. A tough hike down Hamlin Ridge led the crew to Chimney Pond where they looked up at the summit of Katahdin looming high above. It was an early bedtime as Thursday would also be an early start. The crew got a sliver of a sunrise as they trekked up the stunning *Cathedral Trail*. The final push to the summit of Mount Katahdin was engulfed in the clouds but Mother Nature awarded their efforts at the top and the clouds broke for an extraordinary view of northern Maine and Baxter State Park. The descent is one of the most unique and technical hikes in North America, the *Knifes Edge* of Katahdin. They could not rest at the bottom though as Mother Nature was back at it with rain. After careful deliberation the counselors decided the safest option was to hike out the nearby Roaring Brook where **Uncle JK** met them with dry cloths and a warm van. In total this trip included 6 peaks all above 4,000 feet and the highest being Katahdin at an elevation of 5,266 feet.



Tuesday morning, Senior canoers **Julian Springer, Liam Colgan, Fritz Schüele, Jordan Woodfield, Brayden Paradis, Michael Vannoy, Max Fabbicante, Wesley Gibbons, James Bessingpas and Conrad Fiedler** along with **Uncles Ingi and Donald** left for Lake Cupsuptic where they would start their five-day adventure on three different lakes. The first night they paddled to Birch Island and when camp was set-up some of the boys went fishing while the others prepared a wonderful Greek inspired shrimp and chicken stir fry dinner. Wednesday morning, the boys paddled to a big rock which provided a perfect perch to jump into the refreshing waters of Lake Cupsuptic. Later they headed onwards to Stoney Batter Campsite on the second body of water, Mooselookmeguntic Lake. The boys prepared a steak with Dutch oven potatoes dinner with a side salad. When the dishes were washed, the boys enjoyed a pineapple upside down cake for dessert.

Thursday, with an eye on incoming weather, the paddlers quickly cooked a pancake breakfast before going out on the lake. On the way to Birch Point (their campsite for the night), they got drizzled on but that only gave them an incentive to hurry to their destination. Just as they arrived, the rain started picking up and they quickly set-up the big kitchen tarp in an attempt to keep most of the gear dry. As lunch was cooking the rain got heavier but thankfully everyone kept dry and warm. After a much-needed rest hour the boys made schnitzel with green beans and a cucumber salad for dinner. For dessert they made a delicious apple crumble with hand whipped cream. Friday, the canoers faced the biggest challenge on the trip. After paddling to Upper Dam, they portaged into Richardson Lake where they would spend their last night. Once camp was set-up, the boys made a quick lunch before spreading out to do many different activities. Liam, Julian and Fritz prepared firewood for the evening, Conrad, Jordan and Michael played cards while James, Max and Uncle Donald went fishing and Wesley and Brayden caught up on some sleep. The evening meal was Mac & cheese and fire roasted s'mores. The final morning the boys had an early wakeup at 6AM and a quick, but filling, oatmeal breakfast before heading to the takeout.

Also on Tuesday, **Uncles Garrett, Eli and Dash** departed for a three-day honors rock trip to Rumney, New Hampshire with **Henry Lamphier, Dylan Henwood, Cooper Holton, Jack Rannik, Leo Lothian, Adrien Domart, Wesley Letellier and James Gasperini**. Getting an early start, the group was able to get a solid half day of climbing in at the *Buffalo Pit*, a small, but challenging cliff. Setting up a 5.7 and a 5.8 climb, the boys were able to get used to the higher climbs that were experienced at Rumney. They were also introduced to the tricky, but very fun, slab climbing, and the technique required in order to complete this climb (continued on the next page).

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, the campers were eager to participate in a full day of climbing. They departed for *The Meadows* wall, an exposed cliff face that tested both crack climbing as well as slab climbing skills. The campers were also treated to a display of much harder climbing, as a few experienced climbers attempted some difficult routes next to us. After a long and strenuous day of climbing, the campers were surprised when they met up with the Winona kayaking trip. Together they enjoyed a big cookout in a park where they watched a group of kayakers surf a wave. Thursday morning rain unfortunately concluded our time at Rumney Rock. Breakfast burritos were prepared and served before we hopped into the van and headed back to camp in time for the end of afternoon activity periods, finishing out the 2023 second half Rumney trip.



Wednesday, kayakers **Kiefer Gilligan, Connor Sims, Rhys Williams, Inigo Gil de Juan, Will Hogue, Viktor Rannik and Santiago Gonzalez Urista** departed for Bristol, New Hampshire, to a section of the Pemigewasset River from Ayres Dam down to Bristol Center. The river consists of multiple fun rapids with a variety of features enabling the group to develop their skills in preparation to step-it-up to the next level on day two of the trip. After completing an awesome day on the Pemigewasset River, they made their way to the campground where they cooked a feast of pasta and kielbasa for dinner on the beach, watching the sun set and reflecting on the day. On day two, they had a warm-up run on the Pemigewasset River and swiftly made their way to the Winnepesaukee River. The group ate lunch in the town of Franklin, next to a world class surfing wave where a number of the campers surfed and learned some new tricks. After lunch, Kiefer, Connor, Will and Rhys, embarked on an epic lap of the upper section of the river. This section consists of Class III and Class IV fast flowing rapids, putting their skills to the ultimate test. As they began our decent down the river, the waves began to increase in size. They navigated the lines with ease and style, making it to the end with huge smiles and a sense of unbelievable accomplishment. The rest of the day was spent surfing the wave at Franklin and sharing dinner next to the river with the Senior Rumney Rock trip. Thursday, the kayakers set-out for a final morning paddle on the Pemigewasset River where they spotted a bald eagle flying overhead.

Red-Gray riflery took place earlier this week with Reds **Jack Drechsler** and **Henry Lamphier**. **Federico Schad Imbert** and **Omar Manahe** for the Grays. The riflemen were tested in three techniques: speed, accuracy and steadiness. In speed, Jack started strong with an impressive 33 seconds. Henry scored an equally impressive 77 for his accuracy. Showing off his ability as a statue, Jack scored a 4/5 in the steadiness test, securing the overall win for the Reds. Great sportsmanship was shown by both teams.



On Friday, Winona hosted the first ever intercamp pickleball match coached by **Uncle Baird** and **Coach Z**. The match was hard fought with **Rodrigo Ansaldo Primavera** winning his match in convincing style. **Flynn Williams** and **Bennett Ash** rallied well in two close games. Finally, the two doubles teams of **Inigo Gil de Juan** and **Federico Schad Imbert**, and **Calder Kaplan** and **Ben Lemieux**, took the court. Federico and Inigo made quick work of the competition, and Ben and Calder lost by just a single point. This proved to be a “keeper” future competition as everyone had fun playing under the lights.

On Saturday Senior Winona hosted Playday with our sister camp, Wyonegonic. Rainy day activities were scheduled due to inclement weather. A few classic games included Ga-Ga-Ga, Name That Tune and Pictionary. The counselors also offered a few special activities like Origami, Gimp and Friendship Bracelets. Raindrops began to fall just before the dinner bell. Our Senior cookout area is well protected: we have a large tarp to keep the grill master and his minions dry and ready to serve a small group of 200 campers and staff. The Cobb Memorial Building then took center stage as the mixed groups performed air band style songs. The evening concluded with a dance. A fun light-hearted event to end a perfect week on the shores of Moose Pond.

It's now Sunday morning and we just woke the unit for a cook-out style French toast breakfast. We will soon be starting the George Sudduth Memorial Road Race with Wyonegonic. Later today, Senior Winona will be performing Vespers. Tonight, the Red-Gray Soccer match will finish the day's activities. Coming up this week are the closing events of our 116<sup>th</sup> season. Beach Day, Treasure Hunts, Great Relay and Unit Night are all on the calendar before Closing Day.

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