



## SENIOR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 7, 2011

GREETINGS FROM THE SHORES OF MOOSE POND . . .



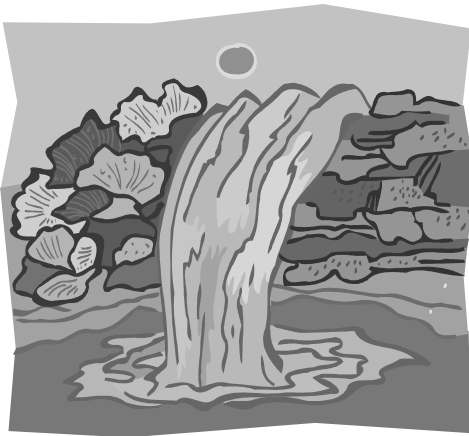
As I sit here on this blustery Saturday night writing to you, the Senior Unit is already gearing up for the busiest week of the summer (still trying to figure out how the word busier is being used). We are already two activities into Gray-Red week, about to take part in the George Sudduth Memorial Road Race, planning the Treasure Hunt, the Great Relay, our "Playday/Dance" with Wyonengonic, and starting to look towards Unit and Awards nights. It just does not seem possible that we are getting to the end, wasn't it only days ago that we started the summer? Well, enough about what is to come--I still need to fill you in on what has been accomplished this past week, and I apologize in advance for the relative brevity of this letter and promise to make up for it next week in an epic volume that will chronicle all that there is to be told!

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Katahdin

On Monday, **Uncle Rocky** left **Alex Emmons, Andrew Moreau, John Rigby, Nikita Uvarov, Perry McCarthy, Leyton Johnston, Max Keser, and Branden Laverdiere**, along with **Uncles A-Frame, Scotty Israel** and **Mike Harrist** on the shores of beautiful South Branch Pond at the far northern end of Baxter State Park. The crew began their journey across Baxter by scrambling up the ridge of North Traveler to catch breathtaking glimpses of the "Forever Mountain," Katahdin, as booming thunder storms crashed in the distance, lighting up the horizon and setting a rugged tone for the gnarly trip into the Great North. The next morning, the adventurers rose early, stuffed their packs, and crossed to Upper South Branch Pond. Here they launched themselves off the legendary 45ft cliff wall into the seemingly bottomless depths of the pond. After the adrenaline rush, the crew felt their blood flowing and set off to make the manly ten mile traverse through the Pogy Notch to Russell Pond, stopping at the isolated Pogy Pond lean-to to watch as hail and wind cut across the vista of Katahdin, and to have a taste of Ritz crackers and delicious wild salmon. Arriving at Russell Pond after the rest of a soggy hike, the boys were spell bound by the almost magical beauty and stillness of the place. The next day, after a solid rest, the expedition party crossed Lake Umbagog where they squeezed eleven for a pleasure cruise under the sheer the misty rainforest under Greene beautiful waterfall in Baxter. That for what might have been the most mountain trips that summer. At the the party set out for the remote and Hiking through driving rain, fording that resembled waterfalls more than nally reached Davis Pond lean-to cold and rain to eat a warm tasty lunch of quesadillas, hot cocoa, crackers and kielbasa. Sufficiently warmed, the team navigated their way up the seemingly vertical wall of the basin to the Northwest Plateau, overhanging the Klondike on Katahdin's shoulder. Here they crossed, ensconced in misty clouds, to descend the Saddle Slide to Chimney Pond, unquestionably the most beautiful campground in the east. The following day the adventurers awoke to clearing skies, and gazed at the clouds lifting from Katahdin's sheer ledges hanging over Chimney Pond. After a quick breakfast the crew began their long awaited ascent of the mountain, scrambling above the clouds up the Cathedral Trail, a series of daunting rocky spires towering above Chimney Pond. The mountaineers continued their climb to Baxter Peak (5267'), the highest point in Maine, and crossed to nearby South Peak, where they found a quiet place to sit and reflect as the clouds rushed over the rocky ridge- one minute surrounding the crew in dense white, the next exposing far reaching views and the sheer drop down to the valley floor. After enjoying their solitude on the side of South Peak, the gang made their way across the legendary Knife's Edge, bordered by clouds to the southern and western edges, creating an awe inspiring scene that cannot be captured in words. After the traverse, the boys took their time to descend the Dudley Trail as the late afternoon sun fell behind the mountain. The next morning, under sunny skies, the crew scrambled up Hamlin Ridge to take their last look back at Baxter Peak and the Knife's Edge. They recalled the adventure and sublime beauty of the previous day, before descending to Basin Pond for a brisk and very necessary swim, and then to Roaring Brook Campground to meet **Uncle Ben Farrell** for the return to camp and the end of one of the most spectacular trips these three trip counselors have ever taken.



## Six-Aside Soccer

On Monday and Tuesday the footballers travelled to Agawam to defend their title in the much-anticipated Six-Aside Soccer Tournament. The competition was strong, yet the team rose to the challenge and came out of the first round with a record of 2-0-2. On day two we drew a very tough Timanous team in the semis that the guys had previously played to a 1-1 draw. A fluke goal by the opposition was the difference between going home and a return trip to the finals. Winona took third place in a rematch of last year's title game against Agawam. The game ended with Winona on top 3-1. In his debut as the Winona keeper, goalie **Marc Vieta Fernandez** was an absolute "wall" and deemed the best keeper in the tourney.

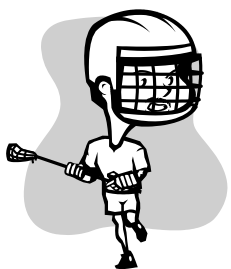


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## Lacrosse

On Monday, Laxmen: **Walker Crouse, Tom Middleton, Matt Clayton, Matt McShea, Fritz Gemmer, CJ Harrington, Alex Vasconcelles, Sam Newcomb, Isaac Kouk, Luchmuch Bol Bol, Spenser Simon, David Fields**, and goalie **Brian Loughran** ventured to Indian Acres for one of the toughest lacrosse games of the summer. The boys started the game out strong, playing physically but with some intelligence as well, and ended the half up 3-2. The first part of the second half saw the score and lead change a number of times eventually coming down to a 5-5 draw with only minutes to play. Unfortunately, Indian Acres manage to net a goal in the last minute to take the game 6-5. There was no head hanging here, however, as the laxmen of Winona played their hearts out in well fought battle.



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Tuesday was a crazy day for us here in Senior. In addition to the second day of the Six-Aside Soccer Tourney, three trips departed from the shores to a variety of locations all over Maine and New Hampshire. The first was the Honors Rock Trip to Acadia National Park, next was the Honors Kayak Trip to the Kennebec River and finally the 4-day Mooselookmeguntic canoe trip. Here is how they fared:

### Mooselookmeguntic/Richardson

On Tuesday Wassatquoik Lake and guest **CIT UD Benji Messinger-Barnes** along with **CIT Rob Roriston** led campers **Alex Brown, Matt Parker, Josh Karen, Matt Clayton, Vicente Hoyos, Will Banes, Walker Crouse, Dominic Vernazza, and Charlie Rodiger** to a four day paddle on the Rangeley Lakes of Western Maine. Starting at Haines Landing on Mooselookmeguntic Lake, the crew had a rather easy thirty minute paddle to the Stony Batter Campsite. At Stony Batter the campers enjoyed a fantastic paella dinner along with a heart-warming dessert of rice pudding. The following day, the party had a slightly longer paddle to Halfmoon Cove on Richardson Lake, with a 250 yard portage that was enjoyed by few, but had to be done. After a lunch of beefy cheese and macaroni, wood collection and napping made way into a kebob dinner with steak and a whole host of vegetables. Berry dumpcake and fly fishing marked the highlights of the evening. The third paddle was another short one to shelter cove, where a Thai mango chicken lunch was served to the campers, followed later by a Dutch oven lasagna. At night the group chilled around the campfire eating s'mores and telling stories. On Friday the trip had to come to an end. Although little paddling was involved, the scenic views and excellent food made for a fantastic trip.

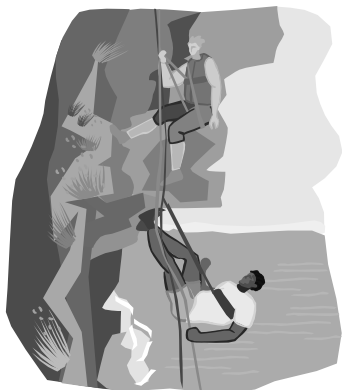


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## Acadia Honors Rock

On Belay? Belay on! Climbing! Climb away!! Senior Honors Rock was a huge success at Acadia National Park, led by expert rock climber and Winona alum, **Ben Weaver**. Campers **Deaquan Bryant, Taran Daley, Alex Vasconcelles, Connor Grant, Geoffrey Keating** and **Ben Kruteck** topped challenging courses at Otter Cliffs and Morning Glory Wall overlooking the Atlantic. The campers also learned to safely set rope courses and belay on challenging terrain. Despite some rain on the second afternoon the climbers braved the elements and had a great time camping out at Blackwood Campgrounds between climbs. Routes included intermediate ratings of 5.5 to 5.8 at Otter Cliffs and steeper, tougher climbs of 5.8 to 5.10 at Morning Glory Wall. All the climbers were able to summit the final Morning Glory route (rated at a challenging 5.8) that led from a cave at sea level, up sideways across the cliff face to the top 60 feet above the ocean. All things considered, a rockin' time was had by all!



## Kayak Honors to the Kennebec River

Early Tuesday morning the last overnight kayak trip of the summer left for the Kennebec River. The van attacked the driving winds and aggressive rain as it made its way north into the remote woods of Maine. The first day of paddling on the high volume Kennebec was interrupted halfway through by an impressive light show. After their minor setback the trippers completed their first descent of a classic whitewater river and set up camp at Indian Pond Campground. The counselors **Ben Hurd** and **Cody Wasuta** prepared dinner while everyone frolicked in the lake. Over dinner, separate stories were swapped, and everyone went to bed early due to their strenuous day on the water. The next two days consisted of fantastic river levels that kept everyone content with the quality of paddling they experienced. The food was good, the experience was better, and the campers returned to camp with satisfaction written on their faces.



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## Soccer

It was a beautiful, sunny day on Thursday when the Senior Winona soccer team hosted a game against Camp Micah. Our defense of **Brian Ash, Teddy Craven, Albert Gratacos, Louis Reveilhac, and Tim Harris**, and “keeper” **Mark Vieta Fernandez**, set the tone and maintained it throughout the game by letting in only one goal in during the entire 90 minutes of the match. On the offensive end, the cast of **Alex Rochet, Charles Rivkin, Max Winfield, Johannes Wittig** and **Eric Cosmopulos** played excellent team soccer, controlling the rhythm of the game at midfield and pushing the ball through to strikers **Henry Kremer** and **Conor Ingari** who constantly challenged Micah’s defensive. Ultimately, it was the foot of **Conor** who put Winona over the top, netting the ball a total of three times to give Winona the win. While the win was nice, **Uncle Javi** was most proud of how all the players showed sportsmanship and teamwork during the entire morning.



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## Winona Regatta

Thursday morning arrived with almost no wind . . . not a good thing when you are hosting one of the largest camp regattas in the state of Maine! However, in typical, “git it done” fashion, the sailing staff of **Uncles Bubba Dropkin, Jimmy “Steak” Catlin, and Aunt Casey Dropkin** worked their magic and managed to get in almost 25 races sailing across three fleets of boats (Flying Juniors, Lasers, and Optis), while at the same time entertaining more than 100 campers and staff from all over the state at the Junior beach. Sailing as skippers were **Jack Krivitsky, Eric vom Lehn, and Sammy Jones**. Supporting them as crews were **CJ Harrington, James Geraghty, Nick Cagganello, and Spenser Simon**. The boys sailed well in a rare, but extremely fluky, easterly breeze to a third place finish overall. On a final note, kudos should go out to **Uncle Steak** for once again showcasing his culinary talents on grill as he kept the campers and staff of the sailing program pleasantly full with his delectable steak & cheese and chicken & cheese subs.



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## Swimming

Early Friday morning, the Senior swimmers traveled to Camp Micah for an invitational that included Walden, Timanous, Micah, Fernwood Cove, and Nashoba. **Christian Chiafullo, Brad Goodman, Tom Van Kralingen, and Spenser Simon** competed for Winona in a variety of races in the under-fifteen category. **Tom** placed second in both the 50 yard backstroke and 50 yard freestyle, **Spenser** finished third in the breaststroke, and the 200 yard freestyle relay team placed second. While the competition was tight, Winona campers in all three units pulled together for a second place finish overall and enjoyed a great day in the pool.

## Lacrosse

Lacrosse has often been called "The Brother of War," and the Winona Warriors did not disappoint in the battle against O-AT-KA. Led by General **Martin Donovan** and Lieutenant **Nate Brown**, the company of **Luchmuch Bol Bol**, **Lander Vasconcelles**, **CJ Harrington**, **Fritz Gemmer**, **Tom Middleton**, **Matt McShea**, **Sam Newcomb**, **Spenser Simon**, **Brad Goodman**, **Sammy Jones**, **Brian Loughran**, **Tom Van Kralingen**, **Isaac Kouk**, **Sam "The Stoneman" Stone**, and **Nick Cagganello** took on the opponent with intensity and focus. **Fritz Gemmer** and **Matt McShea** jumpstarted every possession with their stellar face-off talent, and **Tom Middleton** was a presence to be reckoned with on the field.

Goalie **Brian Loughran** received a medal of honor for only allowing two goals, and on the other end of the battlefield **Spenser Simon's** tenacity awarded him a hat-trick. A rookie to the Platoon and a novice to the game, **Nick Cagganello** provided the comic relief to lift the troop's spirits. At the end of the day, the boys won both the battle and the war, traveling home with a 12-2 win and the sweet taste of victory lingering upon their taste buds. Private **Logan Garrels** was also there.



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## Basketball



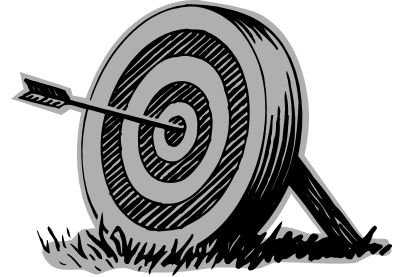
Senior Hoops hosted its final basketball game of the season on Saturday. With heat radiating off a court hot enough to boil an egg, **Nick Cagganello**, **Eric Cosmopulos**, **Conor Ingari**, **Isaac Kouk** and **Albert Gratacos** staunchly rose up and defeated O-AT-KA. **Ruay Bol Bol**, **Luchmuch Bol Bol**, **Sam Stone**, **Spenser Simon** and **Eric vom Lehn** provided fierce tactical support off the bench to lead the maelstrom that was presented to our opponents unsuspecting squad. The moxie the team displayed throughout the season reinforced the magnetic energy that coalesced nicely by season's culmination. Kudos to the boys for finishing up the summer season with a stellar 8-3 record, and a big thank you to **Uncle Bear** and **CIT Alex Griese** for their help.

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## Archery

On Saturday a six-man team of O-AT-KA archers showed up on the shores of Moose Pond to face off against the men of Winona in an archery rematch of epic proportions. Among the bowsmen were **David Fields**, **Matt Eisenberg**, **Josh Karen**, **Brad Goodman**, **Matt Parker**, and **Page Thibodeaux**. Although, O-AT-KA managed to pull out a narrow victory, Winona's sharp shooters are to be commended for their composure and marksmanship.



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As I mentioned at the top this letter, Senior Winona is definitely gearing up for the final push to closing day. If I had room here I would gladly publish the schedule for the last week of camp just to help you understand what



busy means by Senior Winona standards. Let's just say that starting Monday there is not a block of time--morning, afternoon, or evening--where there is not an event or preparation for an event occurring. When your kids get home they will be tired--there is no doubt about it--but what they will also be, is completely pumped with what they have accomplished this summer. I could not be more proud of the way that they have gone about the business of being campers of Senior Winona! So until next week, and my final newsletter, this is Uncle Clay, from his desk overlooking the most beautiful pond in the world, wishing you well!

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