

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2010

CAMPFIRE

by Matthew Hawkins

I think that this summer has provided some very interesting campfires, with what seems like more staff participation, especially in games. This is not to say that the campers' games are not good, but the staff's seem to stand out. One of my favorite games was with Page, the medic, who had three campers act like they were injured with ketchup as blood. The object of the game was to have three chosen campers to care for the victims by washing and bandaging the wounds. It was very funny.

Another great part of campfire is skits. Some of the skits include the classic "Smooth and Creamy," followed by the parody "Hot and Spicy."

I find that the overall anchor of campfire is the music. We have a lot of guitar and a few group songs. Some of the artists



include Johnny Credit Card, the Kababa Kids, a band composed of Ben Schachner, Ben Catania, and me (Matt Hawkins), and Otto Lyon, who played guitar for the first time in front of a group this year.

Campfire often winds down with a story from Ben Swan or on occasion Emily. So far some of the stories have been "The Magic Finger" and "Fantas-

tic Mister Fox," both by Roald Dahl.

Overall, my favorite part of campfire is how we can entertain each other without being embarrassed about making mistakes or not having very much experience. I love the sense of community it gives and I think it's an essential part of camp.

TRIPS

by Nathan Spiro

At Pine Island one of the most fun things to do is go on trips.

Personally, my favorite trip is Junior Katahdin. It's the last mountain on the AT (Appalachian Trail). There's a wide variety of

trips to go on, about 40.

If you're not really into hiking trips, there's also a lot of trips on the water. For example, there's kayaking, canoeing, and also trips in the War Yacht.

The War Yacht is an oversized canoe that fits about 12 people. There are many trips that go out on the War Yacht, including

Oak Island, which is a first-year camper trip. The trip goes out as a preparation for the upcoming trips later in the year.



SAILING

by Tommy Mottur

I got into the sailboat and on a windy day like this, we started off at a tremendous speed. I was in control of the tiller and it was hard to steer. Huge waves splashed me

in the face as we rushed across the lake, harnessing the power of the wind. We went on in that fashion, loving every second of it. We then had to go in, but I had a fabulous time. I love sailing because I feel

in control of the wind and it's my friend instead of my enemy. In sailing, I can go with the flow and chill. That's why I love sailing.



PINEOPOLY

by Teddy Hincks

This summer Pine Island has a new game to add to its collection of many games. Pineopoly is a version of Monopoly built by Ned Bishop [alumnus and member of the PIC Board of Directors-ed.]. Pineopoly has the *K.W.S.* as Go, and Mount Philip, Whitehead, and York's Crossing (the War Game site). You can buy tent platforms and river and mountain trips. In Pineopoly you use poker chips in-

stead of paper money. Green chips are worth \$200, reds \$100, blues \$50, and white \$25.

On the tent platforms you can buy tents to increase the rent cost. Same goes for the mountain and river trips, but you build lean-tos. You can also buy moorings in the Cove. There is Honk Hall, the Second Island, the Mainland, and the Campfire Circle as railroads. There are also draw spaces

with cards that say things like "Go to Mount Philip" and "Do not go to the *K.W.S.*," "You sleep an extra hour because it's raining," "Skip a turn," "You are the star of the Saturday Night Show," "Collect a \$50 prize."

At York's Crossing you can chose to play the War Game. If you win (by rolling an even number), you collect \$500. If you lose, you have to pay \$500.

So when it's raining, sign up for Pineopoly!

WILD EDIBLES AT WHITEHEAD by David Carpenter

On my second trip to the wonderful island of Whitehead, we did many things, from looking at tide pools to playing the Whitehead Game. All these things were great fun, but the one thing I enjoyed most was preparing for the Lobster Feast.

We had a smorgasbord of food, from hand-rolled sushi to home-brewed tea, from roast beef hors d'oeuvres to garden salad. We had spent the whole day collecting wild edibles for ingredients. We had collected seaweed earlier in the day when we were at the tide pools. We had Irish moss, dulce, kelp, and another kind that was paper thin for the sushi. We used the Irish moss for pudding, dulce for a kind of chip, and the kelp in miso soup.

Later, we split into groups, one going clamming and mussel hunting, another looking for all kinds of plants, and another, mine, that stayed back and helped prepare the food. I went to the garden and picked kale, lettuces, mustard, beet leaves, and other things for a salad, while Nathan picked chives and Otto went out looking for blueberries for the salad.

Once the plants group came back, we took some sea rocket and rolled it in roast beef and a mustard-mayo mix. We had a minty tea and a raspberry tea, which were both bitter but refreshing. This group also had brought back some periwinkle snails, so we boiled those.



Down at the Lobster Rock, we lit our fire and filled the pot with layers of seaweed, lobster, mussels, and clams. The end result of our labors was a feast to remember that everyone had a hand

in so everyone could be proud. It was a great day, and I can't wait to go back!



“WANNA SEE A MAMA MOOSE?”

by Tommy Mottur

I am warm and snug in my sleeping bag in the base camp of Katahdin, until I am shaken awake by Emil, my counselor. It's three in the morning, and I am about to ask him why he woke me up, when he urgently whispers, ‘Shhuush! There is a baby moose sniffing your feet!’

I look down, and sure enough, an adorable moose is about two feet away from my face! Even without glasses, I can clearly see the animal in vivid detail. Its nose is light brown and looks similar to the nose of a dog. It has big brown eyes that flick up to my own eyes for a brief second before it looks away.

Then Emil says, “Wanna see a mama moose?” “Sure!” I reply. We slowly turn our heads around the edge of the lean-to and right there, four feet away, looking right at us, is a moose taller than me. It has no horns, but I have no doubt that it would hurt me badly if it wanted to.

I quickly go back into my sleeping bag and go back to sleep. This moment will stay with me forever.

MAIL

by Matthew Hawkins

One of the more exciting parts of the Pine Island day is collecting your mail. It is always a frantic rush to get to your mail slot and see into it.

Of course there are two alternate endings to this story. One is that you rush up to your mailbox but find an empty box, and you go back groaning and griping.



Otherwise you might run up and find your box stuffed with letters, and if you are really lucky you might find a package slip.

Yes, mail collection is a very active time.

Getting mail is really exciting because it's like your only connection to the outside world you are used to. It is truly amazing how with no electricity we can still maintain contact with the outside world.

PINE ISLAND'S NEW RIFLERY

DEPARTMENT

by Ned Rossman

Josh Treat, an all-American Pine Island riflery teacher, rebuilt Pine Island's riflery range this spring. He redid the floor so it was jacked up and had a nice coat of paint, rebuilt and reshingled the roof, and screened the whole place. Josh also tries to save money for Pine Island by teaching us to clean the guns after every class instead of paying a guy to do it for us.

Josh Treat has been at Pine Island Camp for ten summers as a camper, LTIP, and a counselor. He is an experienced rifleman who participates in target shooting contests. Riflery is fun for me because it involves a lot of focus and skill to get ranks. So sign up for Riflery!



Far Leaguer July 4th Raft Before...



...And After