

# The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2013

## 24 HOURS: PINE ISLAND

by Matthew Hawkins

Every day at Pine Island is a busy, packed 24 hours. With four hours of activities and free time in between, there are a million combinations you might do. Here's an example of a day.

**7:15:** Wake up! The head officer for the day (O.D.) plays music to wake the camp up to get ready for breakfast.

*If you go:* 100% Dip: In the morning there's an option to jump in the lake to wake up. Although completely optional, participants, called "100-percenters," have a famous "spring in their step, and a gleam in their eye."

**7:45:** Breakfast. Every breakfast consists of cereal and a hot meal. Breakfasts can range from pancakes and eggs to breakfast burritos. After breakfast is activity signup. The activities are canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rowing, woodshop, woodcraft (skills for the many PIC trips), archery, riflery, and tennis.



**8:45:** Tent cleanup. The O.D. checks the tents and cabins and judges their cleanliness. If a tent wins 2 days in a row, they get a flag. At the end of the summer, whichever tent had the flag most goes out for a special dinner.

**9:15:** Password. The O.D reads an inspirational speech that he/she has written, but not before everyone sings a song from the PIC songbook!

**9:30:** Morning activities! One of

the two activities that you selected after breakfast.

*If you go:* Boating: If the weather's nice try one of the many boating activities. The PIC fleet has more than forty boats to try out!

**11:30:** Free time / General Swim (G-Swim). An hour of free time where you can go swimming after the hard work of morning activities.

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## CANOEING ON THE CANADIAN BORDER

by Stephen Kovaz

PIC sends out quite a few canoeing trips every season, all of which are beautiful and exciting, but one trip in particular stands out to me. The trip's title is Chip Lakes and it takes place on the Canadian border!

The trip starts early in the morning, before anyone is up, and

you grab a quick breakfast and head to the mainland. There is a 4-hour drive to the drop-off, but it's not so bad because it's a scenic route. Once you arrive, you have a nice lunch and then we're off to the first camp site. I'm actually not sure what the first camp site looks like, or how nice it is, because it

was completely occupied and we had to paddle to the site of our first portage (so it was nice we knocked that out the first day) and we slept where only a stream separated us from Canada.

The second day is the longest paddle, and I may say, the hardest. There is a half-mile portage after a short amount of rapids, but the sign

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# KING KABABA

by Xander Schwartz

Here at PIC we have something called Kababology. It's the study of our sacred king, King Kababa. King Kababa was the original landlord of Pine Island. He gave the island to Clarence Colby for as long as the campers are kind-hearted and have a belief in the king. He now resides at Mount Philip (across the lake) with his henchmen and sacred animals.

Every year (typically on packing day) the henchmen conduct

a sacred ceremony. It results in a new sacred animal along with its chant. Last year's was Phospho the Phosphorescent Phirefly. Its chant is: Phospho! (bang bang) Phosglow! (bang bang). It crescendoes.

The people in charge of Kababology are the Kababologists. They studied at the Yale School of Kababology. Every year there is also a sacred journey. This consists of many young, new campers

learning about Kababology. The trip concludes with finding new information like a new chant or a new animal.

During meals we will do chants 3 times, followed by bowing towards Mount Philip. As you can tell, Kababology is an important part of the Pine Island lifestyle.



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*If you go:* Dustball: A type of dodgeball. Dustball is a never-ending game. If you get hit by the ball, you're out, but if the person who got you out gets out, you're back in!

**12:30:** Lunch!

**1:30:** Rest Hour! A period of rest and rejuvenation, this is the time to nap, listen to music, or write a long letter home. In my opinion

it's the best hour of the day!

**2:30:** Afternoon activities! It's the second activity that you signed up for in the morning!

**4:30:** Free time/Afternoon G-Swim. It's hangout time, with more swimming and more dustball. It's also a great time to prepare acts for campfire.

**6:30:** Dinner!

**7:15:** Boats Out! A time to take out a boat on the lake and again, more Dustball! More time to get ready for...

**8:00:** Campfire! Part open-mike night, part theatre, and part game show. Campfire is the time to showcase your talents in acting, music, and various games!

**9:00:** Bedtime! Brush your teeth and go to sleep to prepare for another packed day!





## THE FIVE THINGS I LOVE MOST ABOUT PINE ISLAND

by Buckley Livingston

The first thing that I love most about Pine Island is wood shop, where you get to make shelves, birdhouses, and stuff like that.

The second would be the food. The food is great, they feed us bacon and eggs for breakfast, maybe a sloppy joe for lunch, and shepherd's pie for dinner.

My third favorite thing is the sacred animals. The reason I like them is because their names are fun to say and I like their chants.

Number four is SNS. The SNS is fun because you can get candy and get to watch a great show.

And last is number five: That I get to go in the water a lot.

And that's just it.



*Canoeing on the Canadian Border continued from page 1*

for the portage must've been pretty well-hidden, because we missed it. Although I must say we took a more ideal, scenic path through the open lakes of Canada. And looking at the map, we found that there was a narrow stream that led to the next lake so we wouldn't have to portage at all. Unfortunately, once we got there, we realized it was class-5 rapids (the strongest they can get) with a 6-foot drop, so we couldn't do that...luckily, there was another portage right there...but it was a mile. Nonetheless we did it and had a great lunch, and were back on track. We got to the second campsite which was an island smaller than PIC, and it was beautiful. Waking up the next morning is harsh after a long paddle, but the next day is worth it.

The third day is just open lakes. A beautiful and short paddle to the third and final campsite (I forgot to mention that though the campsites are fairly buggy, they are all clear of rocks and roots—the ideal situation for camping in tents). We had quite a while at that campsite for card games and reading, and quicker than you'd expect it was time for bed. The next day is average. Not too beautiful or short, but not long and uninteresting. This may be because it's the fourth day and honestly we were all ready to be back at good ole PIC. We arrived at the pick-up, strapped up our canoes and were back at PIC before we knew it!



**MAINE PEAKS**  
by Benedict Santos-Pearcy

This year lots of trips have gone out, and lots more to go. So far I've gone on only three trips, but I will tell you how it was, because I know that parents are never satisfied with their son's trip reports.

The first trip I went on was Maine Peaks, which was a five-day, four-night trip. You go over three 4000' peaks. The first day we went four miles then when we got to the campsite it started to down-pour. Later that day we saw campers from camp Runoia, which is a camp across the lake from PIC. The next day it was raining too hard to keep going, so we stayed in a whole other day. The third day we went 11 miles to summit Saddleback. When we got into the campsite we realized

that it was the 4th of July, and we were met by a very patriotic group of through hikers. The next day we did a solo hike for a bit, then we summited another mountain which name I don't remember, but before we could get to our campsite we had to cross an ice cold river. That was a very exciting 20 minutes. We camped on an old railroad bed. On the last day we liked Sugarloaf; we hiked down a double black diamond ski trail. When we got down we got picked up. That is what happened on one of the many trips Pine Island sends out.



**PINE ISLAND'S GOT TALENT**  
*PINE ISLAND'S MUSIC WORLD*  
by Matthew Hawkins

Music plays a big role at PIC. We sing a song before Password each morning and there are lots of musical acts at campfire every night. The island is crawling with musical talent in the form of guitarists, singers, pianists—even banjo players.

And what better place to showcase that skill than at Club Honk! The musical climax of the season, Club Honk is a night-club-themed open-mike night for all kinds of musicians. From old standards such as Johnny Credit Card and the Hippie Cowboys to new musicians making their debuts, it's a night of fun!

Complete with glowsticks, a spotlight, and a stage, Honk Hall is transformed into a hopping joint. Waiters in wacky costumes serve candy. And the night is closed by a super group of Johnny Credit Card and the Hippie Cowboys singing a version of Neil Young's Keep on Rocking in the Free World, called Keep on Riding on the Tilt-a-Whirl. All in all, a perfect night.

