

The Pine Needle



BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2007

Back when the camp season was ten weeks long, Pine Islanders published and printed a mid-summer Pine Needle in addition to the treasured winter issue. In our modern technological era, it has become possible to rekindle this tradition. We hope you enjoy these articles written by campers containing their reflections on the progress of another fabulous PIC summer.



PINE ISLAND: A General Look by Will Clark

On June 22, Pine Island Camp opened for its 105th season, one of its biggest seasons yet. About 40% of the camp is new.

At 7:30 every morning we wake up and take 100%. Everyone who jumps into the lake every morning gets their name announced at the Farewell Picnic.

Pine Island is different from other summer camps in that we have no electricity (besides in the kitchen). We bathe in the lake, that is how hard-core we are.

Our kababologists are David Lombardo and Max Huber.



THE LAKE
by Nick Miller

What I enjoy most about Pine Island is the lake. The campers, the counselors, and everyone else on the island depends on the lake, not only for washing, but for cooking, transportation to the Mainland, and also daily activities. I depend on it for my favorite activity, kayaking.

I feel very free in a kayak, for the vehicle is both easy to move and maneuver, which would make a kayaking trip easier than most other trips. Though I haven't gone on one yet myself, I have been on two other trips, including A.T.C. Hawg and Whitehead II.

A.T.C. Hawg was a six-mile clean-up hike on the Appalachian Trail. Our job was to hike the trail, cleaning it up as we went along. The food was exquisite, so it was worth the hike! Whitehead II was four days of relaxing on Whitehead Island. At the end we ate lobster, but I couldn't stomach it. I thought the fact that all its guts were spilling out was too horrible. However, I had fun at the Whitehead Game. My team, Port, won 25-1!

I also enjoy the traditions on Pine Island, such as the sacred animals. My favorite is Who-Can the War-Can, and my favorite chant is Zephyers the Please-Don't-Melt-Down-Nukapillar, which is "Heavy-duty diesel power caterpillar bulk!" My second favorite is Foster the Ubbatt, and his chant is "Ubba, Ubba, Ubba This and Ubba That, Ubba is an Ubbatt." There is also campfire, which is an hour of entertainment before bed. I'd say Pine Island is the best place in the U.S.A.

ACTIVITIES ON THE MAINLAND

by James Reston

When I first came to Pine Island, I did many things on the Mainland. Tennis on clay was new to me. I was used to playing on hardcourt. I wasn't very good on clay, and the serve was totally different.

Riflery I had never tried before, so I was a little scared at first. My first five shots missed the target. The ranks of Riflery are Minuteman, Musketeer, Rifleman, Marksman, and Sharpshooter.

Archery was pretty hard because the string can hurt your fingers. But I was lucky and got an arrow in the yellow. The ranks for Archery are Junior Yeoman, Yeoman, Junior Bowman, Bowman, and Archer.

In Woodcraft, the first rank, Islander, was easy to get. Chopping wood was also easy to learn. The Woodcraft ranks are Islander, Mountaineer, Guide, and Expedition Leader, with Medic as an auxiliary rank.

Overall, these activities are going very well. In Tennis, we play lots of games and practice our ground strokes and volleys. In Riflery and Archery you are shooting the whole time. In Woodcraft you learn how to split wood and build fires.

DUSTBALL

by Robert Young

Dustball can be a brutal sport. It is a game that some say measures the true worth of a camper, guts and glory or total shame. It's survival of the fittest, where it's eat or be eaten: an every-man-for-himself dodgeball.

Dustball is played during free time. It gives campers a chance to go berserk on the counselors and vice versa. Dustball is a chance for redemption. It can be forgiving or very unforgiving. Once you get the ball you can only take three steps and then you must pick your target and fulfill your destiny. Then you have three seconds to run from the target's friend. You must complete the four Ds and one J of dustball: Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, and Jump. Some kids just annihilate people but can't doge for their life. Others are amazing at dodging but don't get too many people out. You've just got to do what works for you.

Dustball gives everybody a chance to be king of the court. Dustball is where friends are made and lost. Dustball is a great sport.



W.S./F.L., volume 1
by Ezra Dulit-Greenberg

Last Sunday the Welder Superior-Far Leaguer games continued, as they do every Sunday. The Welder-Far Leaguer games are a contest that takes place over the year. During each week, campers have the opportunity to sign up for special activities. This week we chose between: *Goldsworthy*, *Sports*, and *Capture the Flag*.

Goldsworthy involves making designs or structures out of natural materials. *Sports* involves playing sports. Then there are the intangibles, which means if you use teamwork or do something good, you get points – and vice versa.

In *Goldsworthy*, the Welders built a shrine to King Kababa and an Aztec calendar. The Far Leaguers built a domino and a teepee. In *Sports*, the Far Leaguers won because the Welders lost a lot of points. In *Capture the Flag*, the Welders won. With the score about even, one can only guess what the rest of the summer will hold.

FREEDOM

by Cameron Hart

There are many things I like about Pine Island. The thing I like the most is that you aren't forced to do a certain activity or a certain trip, but you can pick what you want to do.

I like to go on a lot of trips. I like hiking trips but I think that trips on the water are the most fun. My favorite trip is C.L.I.K. (Chip Lakes in Kayaks).

There are lots of fun activities that you can do on Pine Island. The activities that I enjoy most are the activities on the water.



SNS REVIEW
by John Black

I am writing about the first SNS of the summer. SNS stands for Saturday Night Show, which is basically a show or performance on Saturday night. These Saturday Night Shows have been going on for decades. Imagine 105 years of laughs, performance, and creativity!

The latest SNS was a spoof of “The Lord of the Rings.” Our version was “The Lord of the Ring Game.” The ring game is a ring tied to a tree branch, which you try to swing onto a hook from a certain distance away. This game is addicting and we made fun of it in the show. We made it so the ring game was so addicting it was making everyone lazy. Associate Director Joe Kovaz designed it for this purpose so that he could be lazy. Our heroes are Alfredo (played by Simon Abranowicz) and many others. They go on a quest and defeat the counselors who try to stop them. Finally they throw the ring into the perch where it was created!



MY FAVORITES

by Will McGuire

At Pine Island, you can choose from many different activities, whatever suits you. If you love to swim (which is one of my favorites), you can do it both at General Swim and as an activity.

As I said before, swimming is one of my favorite activities. I love the feel of the cool water and hot sand in the Cove. It's also a great way to get cleaner and cooler

My other favorite activity is kayaking. Powering through the wind and waves is exhilarating and exciting. Recently a trip, C.L.I.K. [Chiputneticook Lakes in Kayaks], went out, and I was on it. Everyone on the trip had a great time, and we were amazingly lucky, with strong tailwinds the whole way through.

Another great thing to do is dustball. The level of energy and excitement you get from it is amazing! Of course it's also fun to throw a ball as hard as you can at counselors.

Pine Island is a great place with great people, and everyone has fun.



PIC TOP TEN LISTS

Robert Young

10. Whittling
9. Trips
8. War Game
7. Saturday Night Show
6. Ping Pong
5. Kayaking
4. Dustball
3. Food
2. Sailing
1. Rest Hour

Will Clark

10. Saturday Night Show
9. The Weather
8. The Sloan and Betsy
7. Friends
6. Whitehead
5. Campfire
4. Freedom
3. War Game
2. Honk Hall
1. Sailing

Jack Larkin

10. Food
9. Activities
8. Tennis
7. Hot Chocolate
6. Rain
5. Rest Hour
4. Dustball
3. Campfire
2. Whitehead Game
1. War Game

Cole Gibson

10. Freedom to whittle
9. Storms
8. Ping Pong
7. Trips
6. Saturday Night Show
5. The War Game
4. Food
3. Activities
2. Campfire
1. Dustball