

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2011

THE YACHTS OF PINE ISLAND by Matt Hawkins

Pine Island has a variety of boats that are used in activities and Boats Out. Our sailboats are two custom catboats, four JY15 racing yachts, and two Bezumerangs, which are small boats a bit bigger than a Sunfish. Our fleet also includes five dories, named after the Beatles – John, Paul, George, Ringo and Stu. We also have many canoes and kayaks, which are sometimes used for trips.

Boating at Pine Island can range from extremely difficult to easy. Each activity has different ranks, and as you reach a higher rank, you are given new options to explore in boats.

My own experience in boating includes rowing two miles, soloing a Bezumerang, and bracing a kayak. Ranks are achieved by completing “blocks,” which are small demonstrations of skill. I have my first two ranks in both sailing and kayaking, and my first rank in canoeing and rowing. Overall, I think that sailing Pine Island’s fleet is a great way to spend a morning, or afternoon, or both.



THE BEST FIREWORKS ON GREAT POND

by Gray Hill

This year, the Fourth of July was a memorable experience produced by Ben Rausch and Josh Treat. Although Rhoads Miller (a former Pine Islander) was not here to let PIC experience the full caliber of his professional fireworks creativity, it still blew me away.

As is traditional, teams of campers created floats to burn as part of the festivities. While the floats of a pirate ship and of Charlie Brown's Christmas tree glow in the background, a flashy show of reds, whites and blues explodes overhead, lighting up Pine Island. Although people all over Belgrade were showing their patriotism with similar colors, none compared to the lights flaring up from the PIC swim float.



CAMPFIRE

by Jackson Guthart

THE LAST MILE

by Noah Brodsky

Feeling the burning sensation in my legs, tiredness washed over me as I climbed over the rock that stood towering over me. One last mile, one last mile was all I was thinking as we neared our destination on the second day of Maine Peaks. Maine Peaks is one of the many amazing trips that were sent out at the beginning of the summer. This particular day we had been going on a difficult part of the Appalachian Trail for about eight miles. We all wanted to reach the end for the long-awaited sleep that was one of the two things keeping us going. The other was food.

We came to a sign that said "Piazza Rock Campsite, 1 mile."

As the campfire glows so does the excitement.

Sparks fly as delightment grows.

The act ends they say good-bye the next act just slipt by.

Around the bend comes another -

As the O.D. speaks the text.

The next act is a skit. It's about finks that stinks.

The O.D. winks like he's telling

Us it's the last act but there was one more.

The night of the fire ends.

We think of the time before.

And think how great the next one will be.

Now I knew for sure that there was only one mile left. We stopped for one last break, and I let the cool, smooth, clean taste of water flow down my throat. I knew that for this last mile I wouldn't stop. And I didn't. We started up again at a relatively fast pace. After about 15 more minutes of the burning sensation still lingering in my legs slow-

ing growing worse, we caught sight of the campsite. Finally, after what seemed like eternity but was probably three seconds, we set down our packs and let the tiredness take over. That was the last mile.



SACRED ANIMALS

by Teddy Hincks

“Sacred Animals are statues of the creatures who live with King Kababa, and the spirits of these creatures can inhabit the statues at will.”

--Josh Treat, Kababologist

Every year if he is happy, the King – King Kababa – will send us one of his sacred exotic animals. King Kababa is who Clarence Colby bought the island from in 1902. The way the king communicates with us is by sending us signs on birch bark written in ball point pen with his signature. We are constantly receiving signs throughout the summer.

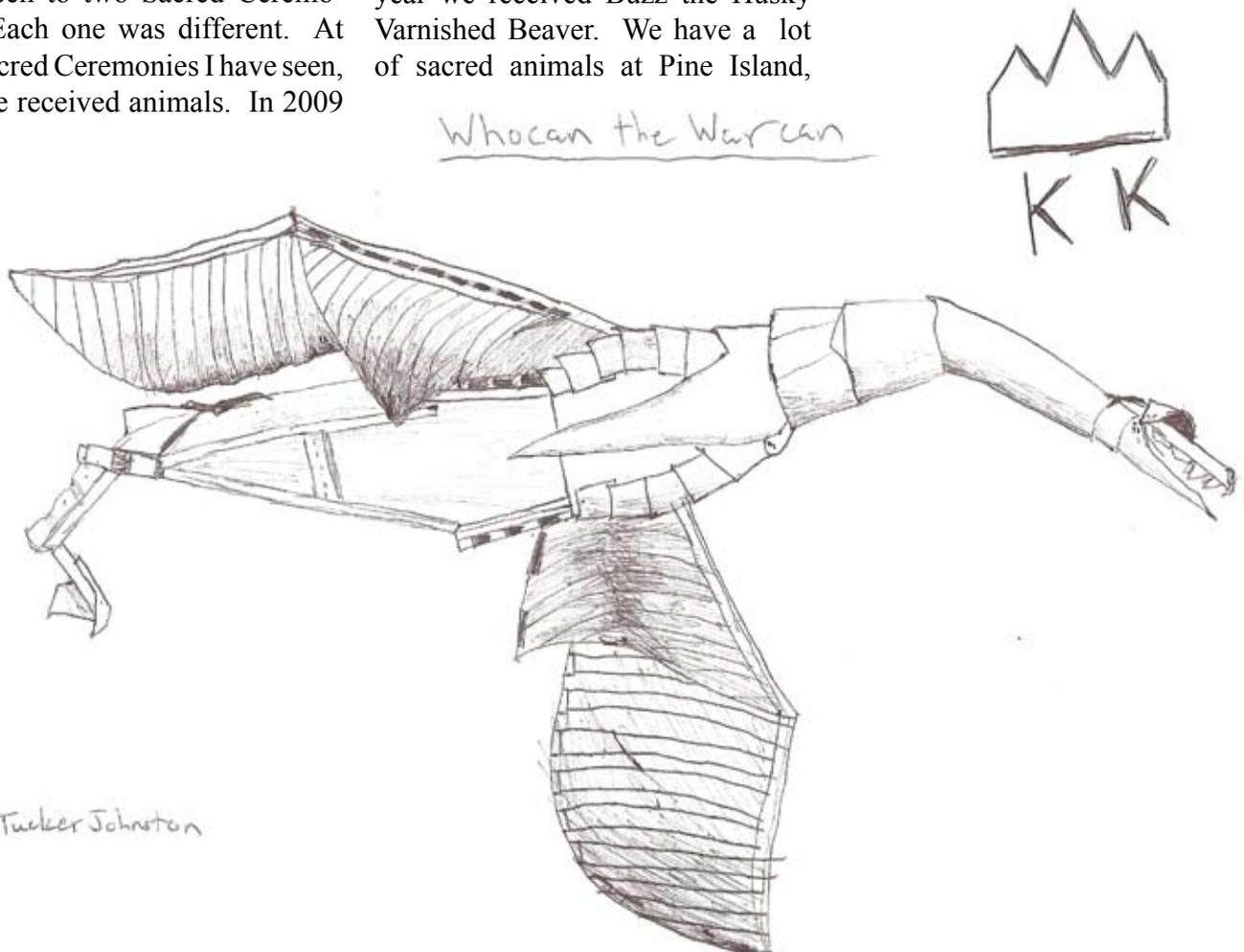
At the end of the summer, there is a Sacred Ceremony where we actually receive the animal. I have been to two Sacred Ceremonies. Each one was different. At both Sacred Ceremonies I have seen, we have received animals. In 2009



Buzz, the Husky Varnished Beaver

we received Bel and Cos the Bel-ligerants. They are always fighting; they are also brother and sister. Last year we received Buzz the Husky Varnished Beaver. We have a lot of sacred animals at Pine Island,

but some of them run away back to Mount Phillip, which is where King Kababa currently lives.



DUSTBALL

by Matt Miller

Picture a game of dodgeball with only one ball and no sides. Roughly . . . that is what dustball is. The game is played in a large dirt court outside the Dining Hall. Any number of people will play at a time. At the beginning of the game someone will spike the ball into the air, then a frenzy breaks out to try and claim it. Some smaller campers will take this time to run back to the corners, where they are less likely to be hit. By now one camper will have the ball and have gotten out those still standing around him. One rule in the game is that the person with the ball may only take three steps before throwing the ball.



What really brings a twist into the play is that if the person that got you out gets out, then you're back in. It becomes extremely difficult to win, because you have to get each and every one else who is playing out or else you can't get someone out without letting people in. People have a large variety of strategies. Some people create alliances with their friends. The only problem with this strategy is that in the end there is no one else to get but those friends. Others will stay back and only when the ball comes to them will they pick it up and get a few people out. The system works pretty well, but only if you are quick to get the ball. Whatever way you play, though, you are sure to enjoy the game and its diverse gameplay . . . I know I do.



THE PRESTIGE

by Peter Kulko

When you get off the boat on the first day of camp, one of the first things you see is Northhampton, the luxurious cabin for the senior campers of Pine Island. This year is my fourth year at PIC and I have been coming here every summer since I was 11. Living in a tent is great, but the call of glory of being one of the oldest campers in camp has pulled in me every year. So this year I was delighted to find out that not only did I have two great counselors, Josh Treat and Kevin Hubbard, but I was living in Northhampton with a bunch of my friends from the year before. As we got settled in, I noticed our beds were brand new pine bunks with longer, thicker mattresses. I asked Josh about them and he said he and Ben Rausch had built them that spring. I was very excited

when I lay down on a bunk that released an aroma of pine wood.

My time in Northhampton has been one of my most comfortable stays on Pine Island. Sometimes when it is raining and ev-

eryone is inside, I sit on my Crazy Creek chair on the roofed porch and just look out at the lake and listen to the rainfall. But no matter where you stay on Pine Island, you come to realize you are living in a wonderful place surrounded by beauty.



THE NEXT MEAL

by Tucker Johnston

One of many campers' favorite aspects of Pine Island Camp is the delicacies served in the Dining Hall. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, you can count on something delicious being on your table. The Kitchen Crew dedicates many hours of their day feeding the hungry boys of PIC. Every day I find a bowl of granola is the perfect way to start your day. But if you're not a cereal person, there is always some delicious breakfast course, whether it be French toast and bacon, or muffins and sausage.

For lunch you can find meatball subs or quesadillas upon your table. But many say the best meal of the day at PIC is dinner. For dinner you have an array of spicy Mex-



ican food, or any form of pasta with delicious garlic bread.

But the thing the Kitchen Crew does best is dessert. At the end of every meal, you anxiously await the arrival of the dessert. Whether it

is sugar cookies or a delicious array of cakes, you're sure to enjoy it. At the end of a hard day's work rowing or playing tennis or whatever you may do, you always look forward to the next meal.