



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Jim "Gyro" Coakley, Director of Alumni Relations,  
Editor

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## Spring News



Mac Rand (photo by Jim "Gyro" Coakley)

**Paddles Flashing in the Sun: Volume II:** I hope that you have all seen the announcement that Mac Rand has agreed to edit a sequel to the 1995 original *Paddles Flashing in the Sun*. The release date is the 100<sup>th</sup> reunion year, 2013. Mac needs your contributions. And since time is short, he needs them *now*. Put on your thinking caps, and recall your Pathfinder memories. If you discover that you have a memory or a story, write it down; save it in Word 1997-2003; and send it off to Mac at [shadypoint@hotmail.com](mailto:shadypoint@hotmail.com). When I met with Mac in March, he was enthusiastic about this project and needs your submissions to get the ball rolling.

The very first submission was by James Kimberly (1949-60). James wrote, in part:

"Favorite personalities on staff: Bill Ferguson, the sailing instructor who went the extra mile to eliminate my severe homesickness; ditto for Jim Cameron. Must include Freddie Bush, who ran the Indian Lore Department; he could shake a rattle at a campfire setting and cause it to light itself, every Saturday night, for 5 years. Chief Norton taught us a lot about how to get along with others. Campers: Dyke Williams, same age as me, who took a hero picture of me, right after I removed a tooth from one of my arch-enemies in the boxing ring. "

*Paddles, Vol. 2* is being compiled and edited by Mac as a project of Pathfinder's 100th anniversary celebration. For the complete announcement, including other ways to submit memories or stories, go to:

<http://www.camppathfinder.com/news-and-notes/alumni-chatter/>

# Winter Events

**Sladds is on the Road:** Camp Director Mike Sladden has been recruiting campers all over the Northeast, Ontario, and Ohio. He reports that as of April 1, second half was nearly full, with only a few spots left for younger campers in the last two-week session of the half. First half had room for a dozen boys. On the staff side, the roster is complete, and Sladds is thrilled to have almost all of last year's crew back again. For a roster of campers and staff, go to:

<http://www.camppathfinder.com/news-and-notes/>

**Winter Weekend at CPI:** A group of current and recent staff from the Burlington, Vermont area met up with Charlie Katrycz from Montreal. They spent a winter weekend at Pathfinder Island. They reported that the island is in good shape. The group reported that the ice on Source Lake was smooth with very little snow cover at the time of their visit. They shared photos of a hockey game out in front of the canoe dock, along with other winter activities.

**Fundraiser at Cole's in Buffalo:** About three dozen camper and staff alumni met at Cole's in Buffalo in March. Alex Thomson organized the gathering to watch the Sabres/Leafs away game and eat some wings. Half the event fee went to the Algonquin Campership Fund. \$400 was raised. Among many in attendance, Brooks Anderson had brought along Pathfinder felt patches his dad R.Q. had earned some 60 years before. Brooks photographed these and they're posted on the alumni page of the camp web site. Some are very familiar, while others -- like Senior Leader patches, and a mysterious logo with an O and triangle design -- need decoding by older experts. Check them out and get in touch.

**Current and Recent Staff meet a Tripping Award Winner from the 1960s:** A group of current and recent staff had the opportunity to meet a tripping award winner from the 1960s. While reviewing the Pathfinder mailing list, I noticed that Trip Anderson lived less than a half mile from my house in New Hampshire. Trip was a two-year tripping award winner in 1967 and 1968. The group of current staff included Caleb Atwood, James Berking, Ben Bristow, Grif Edwards, Chris Mui, and Henry Shepley, who had gathered at my house for a winter sports weekend. Trip stopped by and brought out his Algonquin Park map. Everyone shared trip stories and traced their Algonquin routes. It was great to observe how Pathfinder people who are 35 years apart have many common tripping experiences.



**Trip Anderson**  
(photo by Anna Louise Anderson)

**Chris Brackley Map:** Sladds showed Chris Brackley's recent map project to a group of alumni at Erik and Patricia Willers' house in Buffalo. Brack helped Sladds show where our AA trips have gone over 15 recent years; from the Bloodvein in the far west to the Rupert out east. He chose a stunning format which depicts all of eastern North America with the curvature of Earth intact - truly like a view from space. Brack also provided a version of the map you can view on the camp web page at:

<http://www.camppathfinder.com/the-library/>

# Upcoming Events

**Ice Out:** It is the folks at Canoe Lake who keep the most accurate records of the ice-out dates. Check them out at:

[www.canoelake.ca/iceout](http://www.canoelake.ca/iceout)

From the web site, we note that the earliest ice-out date was April 3 (2010) and the latest was May 8 (1992, 1996, and 1997.) The average is April 24. My sources in Algonquin Park are predicting an average year. I am going with a few days earlier, April 20. Alumni are welcome to guess the ice-out date. To add your guess, go to the Camp Pathfinder Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Camp-Pathfinder/145541795456659>

**Spring Crew:** Weather and ice permitting, Spring Crew's first wave will be at the car dock on April 28 this year, and by quitting time the next day should have the motorboats working, the water system running, and the kitchen open at Pathfinder Island.

Once that bit of magic is complete, attention turns to power crew projects. Last season, the big push was for completion of the new swim dock. The dock was 2/3 financed by camp and 1/3 by alumni who attended the 95th Reunion in August 2008. Headmen completed this massive project under leadership of Gill Stanley, and with occasional advice from the stalwart Tom Pigeon.

This spring the focus will be on a new structure at Pathfinder, a workshop devoted to canoe repair and woodworking. The shop will begin to emerge from piles of lumber during May and June. Once the staff and campers arrive, classes will be taught there by Warren McDermott, who was in Maine this winter attending a special course in preparation.

While the shop takes form, Lodge I will continue as the spring canoe shop. Finish coats of brilliant red paint are sometimes brushed on near the fireside in the palace end of the dining hall. Meanwhile, at Hurley Canoe Works, two new trip canoes, ordered by camp, are being finished by Jack, and five of our veteran trip canoes await repairs by Warren and Jack. Currently the fleet stands at 36 16-foot wood canvas trip canoes. The newest addition will be the Mary Chestnut, built in 2010 by the CIT class. It will be dedicated to Mary this summer.

Of course spring crew includes many more tasks. Tent platforms and stringers are worked on during the bug season; there's brush to burn, floating docks to move, trails to repair, trip gear to sort, and the set up of activities from Ropes to Archery to A&C.

**School Groups:** After the spring crew puts in many hours on the projects, Camp is scheduled to host school groups from Wilson Magnet High School in late May and a group from the John Seaton School in early June. The Wilson Magnet High School Group has been supported by the Algonquin Campership Fund in the past. After that there is a full schedule of Headman Training, Whitewater Training, and then the staff arrives for Staff Week.

## Did You Know?

*Response from the last newsletters Did you Know section:* Bruce Miner wrote to report that the aluminum canoes were at camp at least from 1949 forward. Mr. B reports that his father bought one of the used aluminum canoes from Swifty in 1968.



See the aluminum canoes on the rack next to the oil shack (photo by Mike Sladden)

No one responded about the ABS canoes. The first ones came from Langford, and arrived in 1978. This was a few years after the Chestnut Canoe Company closed down, and before we went back to cedar/canvas canoes from Hurley Canoe Works. The first ABS canoes lasted a long time, and saw many days on the trail.

No one responded about the date that the hydro line was brought under the water to the island from Hydro Ontario. Mac reports that it was 1994. The hydro project was supported by alumni donations.

## Contact Information

By the time you read this, we will be days away from moving from Pennsylvania to New Hampshire. We lived in New Hampshire for many years, and all of our children are in New England. My email address has not changed: [jcoakley@comcast.net](mailto:jcoakley@comcast.net). I'm always looking for good story ideas for future newsletters.