



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition 2 – Winter 2011

Jim “Gyro” Coakley, Director of Alumni Relations, Editor

Winter News

New York Camper/Alumni Reception

Over a dozen alumni gathered together with about two dozen campers, their parents, and prospective campers and families at the Princeton Club in New York City on Thursday, February 16, 2011. I was able to attend. It was great to reconnect with those that I have not been in touch with for a number of years. Campers, their parents, and prospective camper families enjoy meeting our alumni. We had former campers and staff from the 1960s all the way up to the present.



Left to Right: Gordon Williams, Alex Norton, G.T. Laub, Andreas Nauleau, Chris Cotter, Graham Brown, James Cart, Will Hopkins, Brennan Keating, Rob Rahn, Mimi Mairs, Mike Sladden

Upcoming Events

Spring is on the Way

The May crew will soon arrive on the island. While some of us are buried in snow, it is hard to imagine that the ice went out on Source Lake on April 4 last year, one of the earliest dates on record. The early crew arrived on the island in the first part of May last year. Assuming that you are reading this early in March, it is only about eight weeks until we will have staff at CPI.

Last year's major project was completing reconstruction of the Alumni Swim Dock, under the guidance of seventh-year staff member Gill Stanley. Gill also spent five years as a camper, and has signed up for his thirteenth summer in 2011. Sladds will keep him busy this spring.

In the meantime, there is plenty of skiing and snowboarding to be had, and I am intending to pack in several more days.

Algonquin Campership Fund

The Campership Fund operates on a April 1 to March 31 fiscal year. Scott Forsyth reports that for the eleven months through February 28, the fund had raised almost \$50,000. The scholarship committee is reviewing applications for the upcoming summer. You can still donate to the fund. Make your check payable to The Algonquin Campership Fund and mail it to:

Rochester Area Community Foundation
500 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

Alumni Interview



Margaret Roggow celebrating her 99th birthday.

Early in the year, I asked Bob Roggow if he would ask his mother if she would be willing to be interviewed for the Alumni Newsletter. I sent these questions to Bob, and he sat down with Margaret and his sister Valerie Grier, at the celebration of Margaret's 99th Birthday.

What was your most recent year at camp? And what have you been doing since then?

I was at Pathfinder for the summer of 2003 (also the camp's 90th anniversary.)

Norm died in 1993. I moved from North Tonawanda, NY to Las Vegas in 1996 where I lived with my daughter Valerie and son-in-law, Terry Grier. In 1998 I moved with Valerie and Terry to Sequim, Washington. I continue to live there with them.

I have been quite active in Sequim. I play pinochle with other seniors 4-5 days a week and work out daily at the local recreation center. Each visit I ride a stationary bike 5 miles and do a series of water aerobic exercises. I also commute around town on my scooter.

Margaret, you've had 50 years at Pathfinder. We believe that no one else has had that many years. Tell us about how you first came to Pathfinder.

Chief Norton was recruiting PE teachers in Western, NY and Norm accepted the \$50.00 contract for the summer of 1944, 45, 46, and 47. He also was able to take my stepson Bud with him as a camper for free. I stayed home having just delivered Bob the previous September. I first came to camp for the summer of 1948 with Bob while my daughter Valerie went to Northway.

What were your first impressions?

It was a long way to the fort. Field mice would run along the tent stringers where we were living. The nights were cold.

The only females besides staff wives were the nurse and the cook. Women had to stay on the ladies' dock when they wanted to swim.

Cooking was done on a wood stove. There was an icehouse in the kitchen to keep the fresh food cold. Ice was cut out of a frozen Source Lake in winter and stored in sawdust in the ice house for the summer.

All lighting was from the kerosene lamps and Coleman lanterns.

The food was delicious (thanks to Mrs. Purdy.)

An organ was carried down to the chapel for Sunday's services.

Guests slept in Lodge I with Mic Macs.

Chief charged 25 cents for guests to come to the island.

How has Pathfinder changed since you first came to the island?

Much stuff is still the same.

The wood stove for cooking was replaced by propane stoves. The ice house was replaced with a walk in cooler, and freezers were purchased.

Electricity was added in the dining hall and recreation lodge.

Women staff were hired and the women could swim at the men's or main swim dock.

Lou (Monty) Montgomery's track disappeared.

Lodge I became a shop.

The Rec Lodge was built as was a new Ladies fort, Roy's Cabin, and Guest Cabins.

The porcelain dishes were replaced by paper plates and more recently by Melmac.

In addition to you and Norm, many of us have heard the names "Tick," "Clip," "Monty," and "EK Smith" as long time senior staff during Chief's years. Can you fill us in on the "Brain Trust?"

The Senior Staff that were at Pathfinder when I first went to CPI in 1948 besides Norm were the following (Chief Norton would hold regular meetings with these individuals to get their input relative to Camp issues...but he would make the final decisions):

- Ralph ("Tick") Tichenor (and wife Edna): "Tick" was the Head of Tripping.
- Ray ("Clip") Clippinger (and wife Mary): "Clip" was Chief's secretary.
- Lou ("Monty") Montgomery (and wife Ruth): "Monty" was Head of Athletics and set up a full track and field on the ball field area with all the events including: pole vault, high jump, low and high hurdles, shot put, etc.

- Elmer (“EK”) Smith: Camp Director.
- In addition to the Senior Staff were:
- Mrs. Purdy (cook) and Fred Lamke (handy man). I believe that Mrs. Feaster was the nurse.
- There’s photo evidence of Tom Dodd and Bill Swift (Swifty) being at Camp during those early years.
- Nick Zona, Roger Hancher (and wife Georgi), and Bill Quenin came later.

When Bill Swift and Frank Horton purchased the camp and first ran it (summer, 1962) only Fred Lamke, Mrs. Purdy, Nick and Monty from the “old guard” were present along with Norm and myself. We returned to Camp after missing the 1959 – 1961 summers. Norm had a “falling out” with Chief at the end of the summer of 1958.

What was the role of the staff wives?

When I first came to Camp, women didn’t generally have a role -at least weren’t paid for anything they were asked to do. They certainly were asked/expected to help out in various ways from time to time. The only paid women were the nurse (who mother believes was Mrs. Feaster) and the cook (Mrs. Purdy). I don’t remember if there were kitchen girls back then.

In fact, staff wives had to “ask permission” to leave the island which didn’t always go over well...particularly with Edna Tichenor (“Tick’s” wife).

In the 1950s I did help to take care of Mic-Macs (e.g. led “story time” so that staff could go swimming and also was the “Director of Unorganized Games”). Georgi Hancher (Roger Hancher’s wife) took over as Chief’s secretary once the Clippinger’s left in the 50s. I’m not sure if she was paid for her services.

There was a ladies table in the dining hall for a number of years. It was moved to the kitchen under Swifty because of the number of very young staff children (infants and toddlers) who were making too much noise in the dining hall;

I believe that the first paid female staff (other than cook, kitchen workers and nurse were my daughter Valerie (Arts and Crafts) and Bob’s first wife Kathy (swim dock), both in 1977.

What was it like to raise children at Pathfinder?

It wasn’t a problem. When they became old enough, we just put them in the Mic-Mac program. For example, Bob joined just short of his 5th birthday. Also, we didn’t have to cook, and the kids could be outside most days. The Camp Staff would look out for them.

You must have met some interesting Characters in your years. Tell us about some of them.

Too many to recount and too many stories! Certainly “Monty,” Bill Quinen, Tom Dodd, “Swifty,” Chief, would be included as characters, along with many, many more.

You must have some interesting tales, can you share a few?

There have been many, but here are a couple:

Chief was looking for Clip one night in his motorboat. Clip and his wife Mary were with Norm and me and some other staff at Porky Point. When Chief came to Porky, the group hid Clip under a poncho and sat on him. Chief never discovered him.

When Chief had the policy of staff wives not leaving the island without permission, Edna Tichenor (“Mrs. Tick”) stated that she wasn’t going to ask permission...and from that point forward, never did.

GT and Mitch Anderson dressed up in nice clothes and took my granddaughters Kristin Roggow and Jennifer Jabs to the movies in the Dining Hall. The girls were 5 years old at the time.

I remember the feeding of the chipmunks at the Roggow cabin.

I remember the break-in of the camp safe when Roy owned the camp. I helped to spearhead the finding of jewelry in the woods by the camp road. I was nicknamed “Mrs. Find It” as well as “Mrs. Fix It” (primarily because I helped to work on the camp kerosene stoves and lamps and also the Coleman lanterns.

Are you planning to attend the 100th Reunion?

You never know, but I hope that I am able to.

Thanks, Margaret.

Mary Clippinger

One of the people that Margaret mentioned, Mary Clippinger, passed away in September, 2010. The obituary in the paper says “They resided in Rochester, New York and enjoyed summers at Camp Pathfinder, Algonquin Park.” Also, “In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Algonquin Campership Fund, Rochester Area Community Foundation, 500 East Avenue, Rochester NY 14607.” Bob Roggow, who shared this with me remarks that “Mary was a most wonderful individual, always Up-Beat”

Did You Know

Pathfinder is one of the few wood canvas tripping camps in North America. We do have a few ABS canoes, primarily for use in the big rivers with rapids. At one time, the camp tried aluminum canoes. Sometime after World War II, we believe in the early 1950s, Chief bought six Grumman aluminum canoes. They lasted a long time, as they were not popular with the campers and staff. Do you know what year we had our first ABS canoes?

Do you know what year we put the first generator into service? It was a Model T Ford engine, complete with crank start, and was located under the wing of the kitchen that is now the office. And, do you know what year the underwater cable was installed, connecting us to the power grid?

If you were a camper and/or staff between 1956 to 1992, or 1998 – 2010 you may be able to look up a copy of your trip postings. The older postings have been carefully re-created to closely resemble the paper copies in the trip archives, complete with the original typographical errors. These can be found in the Library section of the Camp Website. There are trips missing, as the original paper records from which these were copied have missing trips. To access the trip postings go to:

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

Ideas

Do you have anything you would like to see in the next newsletter? If so, please contact me at jcoakley@comcast.net.