



# THE ARROWHEAD

## CAMP NEBAGAMON'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER

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### REUNION

As I am sure most of you are aware of at this point, this will be Camp Nebagamon's 90<sup>th</sup> season. To celebrate, we are planning an official reunion up at camp over Labor Day weekend this year. Needless to say, we are all very excited for the weekend as a great chance to reconnect with old friends and to get together to celebrate a place that has meant so much to so many. It is going to be an incredibly fun and powerful weekend.

I will admit though, that prior to this month, I was a bit nervous about whether it would work or not. Was it really doable to take a bunch of folks that had not been together for a very long time, throw them together, and expect that the magic would happen? Would people connect? Would they get along? Would the Nebagamon spirit rise?

I was lucky enough to engage in a dry run of such a situation this month. In celebration of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, one of my dearest camp friends arranged a weekend getaway for a bunch of our camp posse to go skiing in Utah. (Yes, like so many of you, I have camp friends that are WAY older than me. I mean I am sure you all know that I won't be turning 50 for a very long time. Ok, maybe it was last year!) The posse, a group of camp friends that had spent their entire camper careers together and then an additional five-ish years on staff together, had not been together for nearly 20 years. Admittedly, it took a fair bit of perseverance on the part of the birthday boy to get commitments from those invited, but I wonder if that was at least in part due to this same nervousness about it working, as I spoke of above. Nevertheless, after an obscene degree of detail oriented planning and organizing (this is a Nebagamon group after all!), we all turned up in Salt Lake City for the long anticipated weekend.

**(Continued on Page 3)**

## NEWS OF THE CAMP FAMILY



We talk about it at camp and on the road at new camper presentations... camp is a great place to venture outside one's comfort zones and try new things. It might be signing up for your first five-day Boundary Waters trip, climbing the climbing wall, or maybe trying broccoli for the first time at dinner in the Rec-Hall. Camp is a safe place to tackle the unknown to you and after talking about it and hearing it for many years I finally tackled the unknown of international travel for myself. I'm bummed that it took 42 years to travel outside of the states and Canada. I just returned from ten sweet days of fly fishing in Belize. I wish I could see photos of myself going through Belizean customs... I must have looked like a deer caught in headlights... I'm not going to lie, I was nervous. But the lure of catching a tarpon, permit, or stalking, and catching bonefish on the fly was just too enticing and the big push I needed to get my passport finally stamped!

Once through customs the nerves were settled and we were rigging up the fly rods for what we hoped to be ten full days of hard fighting salt water fish. With some rain but more sun and much warmer temps than Duluth, MN, I was able to finally fish salt water with the fly rod. Our entire stay was on Ambergris Caye. We hired a guide for a couple days, but mostly we fished on our own. Travel on the island is mainly these awesome golf carts with off road tires due to the "roads" which were not much to write home about. Each morning we would load up the fly rods onto the cart and head to a new location, park the cart and wade in the ocean pursuing bonefish, tarpon, and permit. Fishing for bonefish is just flat out exciting. We would walk the shallows slowly looking for schools of bones (they acted more like packs of wolves) and cast to them, hopefully enticing them to bite. And when they did, it was off to the races! A two-pound bonefish battles and peels line like a ten-pound steelhead out of Lake Superior. Overall, we really had a great time out on the ocean, meeting people from all over the world was entertaining, and off-roading in a golf cart in Belize was a real hoot. We even got to see two crocodiles. One we saw from the boat and the other was on a land-locked pond. That was a little sketchy... but not enough to stop us from fishing. A local mentioned some spots to catch little tarpon in these ponds but said to keep your eyes open for crocs. Seeing that I couldn't catch tarpon on Lake Nebagamon we had to try it out. I kept about eight feet of land between me and the water's edge (because that seemed like a safe distance) and started casting and scanning for crocs at the same time. We caught some tiny tarpon and luckily also saw a little six foot croc about 75 feet away in the water. The croc stayed put and we kept on casting. It was a sweet trip and I cannot wait to get the fly rod hooked into some more saltwater fish next year!

Adam Kaplan is on the road home from the west coast reunion tour, I'm starting the college fair staff recruiting trips and Briggs, Louis, and Steph are plugging away in the office. I trust your winter is going well but you cannot wait for the summer to start in the 54849! Remember, if you have any news please shoot it my way and I will get you in the next arrowhead. Email me (Fornear) at [fornear@campnebagamon.com](mailto:fornear@campnebagamon.com). Have a great day and don't be afraid to step outside that comfort zone!

**IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW** that in San Diego **Ace Burvall** is staying busy with soccer while his brother **Addison** is active in ballet and jazz dance. **Nurse Amber** tried teaching **Adam Kaplan** how to surf last week...haven't heard how that went but I'm guessing he's going to stick to golfing. **Ben Effress** competes in soccer, flag football, and volleyball. **Sean McSherry** is playing lots of guitar and Minecraft. In LA we learned that **Raphael Posen** played Titinius in the play Julius Caesar. **Jacob Lutsky** was in the musical 1776 and plays basketball.

**IN THE WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW DEPARTMENT:** **Marty Brodsky** (St. Louis/Boulder '97-'02, '04-'05) was published recently, he's been writing short stories. Follow this link: <https://mojagear.com/journal/2017/11/14/dihedral-dogs-short-story-adventure-risk-absolute-freedom/>. **Katy Neusteter** (Denver '00) recently started as a Senior Writer for American Rivers, an organization dedicated to protecting our wild rivers.

**BAR MITZVAH CONGRATULATIONS** go to **Jordan Carlin** (Los Angeles).

**REUNION** (Continued from Page 1)

To be clear, none of us were the same people that had left camp all those years ago. Much had changed in our lives. Our faces had changed some, hairlines had changed a lot, our mid-sections had changed a lot, and our priorities had changed. The boy who was famous for wearing boxer shorts on the tennis courts and jamming to his air guitar had turned into a payroll service expert. The birthday boy, who was all-sports all-day as a camper, had become a business partner with another of the attendees, another all-sports all-day type, in a hotel staffing business. The center-of-attention jokester and sports junkie had turned into a travel agent. The outrageously funny boy that treated his cabin mates for years to his prodigious flatulence had become a commercial real estate agent....who still has a gas problem! And the boy who was nearly kicked out of camp on several occasions for having lapses in kindness towards other kids, was now a camp director at a prestigious boys' residential camp in northwest Wisconsin!

And guess what folks....it worked. It totally worked. I cannot believe I even doubted it for a second. We played games, we skied, we ate, but most of all, we talked. We talked for hours and hours. We talked about our favorite baseball teams, we talked about our favorite movies, we talked about our favorite meals at camp, we talked about our favorite counselors at camp, we talked about our favorite activities at camp, we talked about the best pranks that had been pulled at camp, and we talked about the best GTC acts that we remembered. (I marveled at our ability to recall events and conversations from those days in the North Woods with such vivid accuracy. It was truly amazing.) Most of the conversations we had that weekend were the same conversations that were had in cabins all over camp this past summer....and during the 89 previous summers at camp.

Yes....it still worked. It worked great.

Can't wait for the next reunion on Labor Day 2018. Signed up yet? Hurry up, we are already nearly 75% full and registration has only been open for two weeks! <http://campnebagamon.com/90th-reunion/>

**2018 ROAD SHOW CONTINUES!**

Adam Kaplan is ready to head west! Below are the details for February's reunions. Please contact us at the camp office if we somehow missed you on our invitation list and we'll be sure to get you the details so you can RSVP. Hope to see you there!

City	Dates	Reunion Details
Houston	Feb. 6	7:00 PM
Denver	Feb. 11	6:00 PM
Minneapolis	March 9	6:30 PM
Boise	TBA	

**K E E P T H E F I R E S B U R N I N G**

## At Camp

### CARETAKER JOE VISITS YELLOWSTONE

One of my favorite things about camp is that it is a place that fosters firsts. The first time you are away from your parents for an extended period of time. The first time you have to share a room with someone other than your siblings. The first time you get to plan your whole days activities without a parent or older sibling actively or covertly influencing the decision making process. And with over 20 different project offerings at camp, the opportunities for firsts becomes staggering; the first time paddling a canoe, kayak, rowing shell, or row boat. The first time successfully getting up on water-skis. The first time shooting a bow and arrow. The list is endless. For me personally, the most fascinating firsts I get to observe are campers experiencing their first outdoor wilderness trip. One of the most simple and most exciting firsts to watch is a Swamper's first overnighter. It's a straightforward trip by most standards, but is one that can instill the love of wilderness tripping for the rest of the camper's life. The pure joy and excitement on the youngest campers' faces upon returning from their adventure the next morning is priceless. You can tell that each and every one of them, whether they enjoyed or disliked the trip, experienced many things for the first time in their life.



Well one of my favorite things about firsts is that no matter how old or experienced you are, if you keep yourself open to new things, life will never stop surprising and delighting you with firsts. I, for example, at the age of 56, just got back from a winter back-country skiing trip to Yellowstone National Park (YNP) that was bursting with firsts for me. Right in that sentence are two firsts: seeing YNP in the winter, and going back country skiing! When I started making arrangements for the trip with my travel agent (my travel experienced wife, Wanda) I felt much like I imagine a new Camp Nebagamon wilderness tripper must feel: full of anxieties and uncertainties. Would my skill level be sufficient to meet the challenges the trail was sure to bring? Would my physical limitations (asthma and a 38-year-old right knee reconstruction) be able to handle the 8,000 foot altitude base camp and the physical exertion it would take to cross country ski in the deep powder that YNP is famous for? Would my introverted and socially claustrophobic personality cause tension for me, my trip mates, and guides, all of whom were complete strangers to me? I'll admit that I had to stop several mental bouts of uncertainty and anxiety more than once with deep breathing sessions in the weeks leading up to the departure day. To overcome my physical uncertainties I started roller-ski training in October and was certain by trip time that my cardio training level and bad knee would be ready to meet the challenges of high altitude and deep snow.

My YNP adventure was a five-day, four-night stay, based at Yellowstone Expeditions's yurt camp near YNP's Canyon Village. We were located in the west central part of the park within a mile of the picturesque Yellowstone River Grand Canyon gorge. My trip mates were one other guy, Gary, a retired social worker from Bloomington MN., and six women, four who lived in Bozeman, MT. and two that hailed from Boston, MA. The six women didn't all know each other but were all connected to one another by their trip's instigator, Lisa, who was a recent transplant from Boston to Bozeman. Also staying at the yurt camp that week were two crews of cinematographers, one with the BBC, collecting footage for the winter portion of a 'Planet Earth' like documentary, and one from a Bozeman based production company, filming scenes for a 'How animals survive harsh winter conditions' documentary. Our only interaction with the camera crews was at dinner after sunset, when their day's work was done.

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Now, there isn't space in this article to go into the details of the trip, (If you would like to read about my adventure and see my daily ski trip photos, check my [Facebook posts](#)) but I am happy to report that most of my anxieties faded soon after the trip began, and the list of firsts I experienced was long — here are just a few. The first time I saw wolves in the wild at a kill; we saw eight feasting at a bison calf carcass on our way into the park about 200 yards from the road, and 14 wolves at an adult bison kill a mere 50 yards from the road on our way out. The first time I went a whole week using only a sauna and snow scrub to keep clean, and I felt cleaner and fresher than when I have a shower available. The first time I skied up a set of switch backs to climb up a 500 foot canyon wall. The first time I learned that I absolutely love skiing up canyon walls and traversing large hills in general. The first time I saw a three foot trench plowed by a lone bull bison in a mountain meadow.

Overall, I came away from my winter wilderness trip with the realization that we can't let the anxieties and imaginings we have about things we have never tried stop us from trying those things. Once we get under way on our new adventure, all of those negatives fall away, and we are presented with firsts at every turn, and ultimately are left with a new set of accomplishments that will bolster our self-confidence and show us that we are better at new things than we give ourselves credit for. This is exactly the reason one of my favorite things about camp is that it is a place that fosters firsts.

Eager to experience the next big adventure and collect more firsts, it's Caretaker Joe At Camp.

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### **IT'S 2018. DO WE KNOW WHERE OUR STAFF IS? You Betcha!**

You Betcha! Back in late 2017, many staff contacted us to say they would like to return. This ensures that we will have veterans in place to lead the charge into another great summer underneath the towering white pines. Many of our key positions have been filled, and cabin counselors and trip staff are coming into the fold.

We are excited to announce that David Sachs and Jason Hirschhorn will be sharing our Swamper Village. Alex Gordon will be our Logger Village Director for his eighth year while alumni Andy Rolfe returns back to camp as the Axeman Village Director. Heading up our Lumberjack Village will be Dave Knoepfle. New to program directing but not camp, Louis Levin will be our Program Director for the summer of 2018. The Waterfront will once again be led by Henry Pulitzer. Meals at camp will be awesome again as Anne Rowe returns for her 14<sup>th</sup> summer! Also returning to our awesome food staff is Alex Fuller, Elissa Skaggs, Lindsey Evans, Bailey Evans, Jay Gaare and Grace Edwards. Linnea Moss will spend another summer as our town driver. Ralph Greil will once again run a safe target shooting project and Grant Rosskamm returns to rock CNOC. Heading up Nature Lore is Cindy Rolfe and returning as head of Arts & Crafts is Ellie Berler. Spencer Brown will head up tennis for his third year. Amber Burvall returns for her eighth summer as our nurse. Jaye Hensel returns to the office for her third summer. Cathy Fries will be starting her 20th season as the camp housekeeper. Our senior counselors are as follows: Jeremy Berkowitz, Alex Aronoff, Isaac Murray- Stark, Ben Huston, Gabe Sher, Dan Finan, Michael Deutsch and Josh Hurst. Second year Junior Counselors returning is just as sweet with Josh Levitas, Zach Rozen, Sam Branstad Phillips, Josh Hanson Kaplan, Charlie Fromm, Matthew Lazarov, Alex Swett and Charlie Gordon. Trip staff returners are Julia Sachs, Jonah Domskey, Zayla Asquith Heinz, Kate Bennett. New to trip staff is Ben Turok, Ethan Berman and Zach Halpern. Ron Gaare, Amy Mack and Bill Hensel are all returning as trip drivers and Allen Bennett will be our Quartermaster. Jamey Sharp will be the Assistant Trip Director. Lastly, Adam Fornear (that's me!) will be the Trip Director. So, as you can see, we already have a wickedly sweet staff lined up for the summer. There are also many others that I'm in the process of talking with and will be announced later in the off-season!