



THE ARROWHEAD

CAMP NEBAGAMON'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER

Volume XC

Number 3

March 2018

Sports

Luge? Bobsledding? Biathlon? Skeleton? Cross country skiing? Curling? You cannot be serious. What self-respecting sports fan could possibly get excited about these fringe sports? I mean come on...let's face it. The only reason that athletes get involved in these sports is because they are not good enough to play basketball, baseball, and football...right?

Admittedly, it was with this level of cynicism and skepticism that I went into this year's Winter Olympic Games. Given that I am a fairly hopeless sports junkie, and this is undoubtedly the weakest time of the year in the sports schedule, I still decided to try to get my sports fix through the Olympics.

First off, please indulge me as I justify my love of sports. I love sports because it allows us to view legitimate drama played out in real life where the consequences are basically harmless. I love to see how people perform when they are in pressure packed situations. I love to see whether they can maintain their skills under pressure, whether their skills improve or fold under pressure. I love to see how they react in victory, and how they react in defeat. And ultimately...none of it really matters. This is not the case in the real-world dramas that we are afforded the opportunity to view through the news of the day. And watching actors play out a drama on the stage or screen, is just that...actors playing out a drama...not the real deal. Watching sports is always a great ride.

And so it was, that in order to get my sports fix during this lull in the conventional sports calendar, I was going to be forced to watch ice dancers, bobsledders, and curlers! I did not have high hopes. I was absolutely expecting to watch a bit of the first night, then get bored, and shut it off. But, I found myself watching a tremendous amount of the Games. Not only does it give me the same drama seeking satisfaction that mainstream sports do, but there is something different and really wonderful about the Olympic events. This has to do precisely with the very things I was poking fun at in the opening line of this article. Many of the Winter Olympic events are FAR outside mainstream sports. There can be little doubt that curlers, bobsledders, and biathletes across the world do not get even remotely the attention and affection that athletes in more conventional sports do. When was the last time that ESPN did a 30 for 30 on Frank Masley, the greatest luger in American history?

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NEWS OF THE CAMP FAMILY



February was a great month of large scale community events in the Lake Superior region. The first one that I participated in was the annual Book Across the Bay – skiing across Lake Superior, at night, from Ashland, WI to Washburn, WI. Last year if you recall was the year of skiing 10 kilometers in one giant puddle. Thankfully that was not the case this year as my group along with the 3,500 other people enjoyed excellent snow conditions and a beautiful night sky that included a sweet crescent moon. Just an incredible evening to be skiing on the big lake! The following weekend I found myself down in Hayward, WI for the American Birkebeiner ski race. This too is a huge event that has 10,000 skiers from all over the world to either ski 25 or 50K. I hung up my skies years ago from “competing” in this awesome race and now I am the official water boy/energy drink maker for the Boedecker Road Aid Station. While these events are incredible to

take part in on a pair of skis, it's also a great chance to volunteer and be a part of the behind the scenes work. Both events, the BOOK and BIRKE, need an incredible number of volunteers to make them first class events. Of course, volunteering has its perks: you get to see the elite wave of skiers come flying by (just like Jesse Diggins did in the Olympics) and you meet some great people from all over the region. There was a couple this year that use to own a cabin on Lake Nebagamon, who had nothing but great things to say about the boys camp. They loved seeing the sailboats, canoes and hearing the bell echo over the lake. The day after there was a volunteer party (essentially the same meal served at a Village BBQ) and some guest speakers. One thing that stood out to me (besides the great BBQ chicken) was something the race organizer, Ben Popp, said to the group. He spoke about how the volunteers are all connected, and that if one group doesn't get their task done, then as a whole we don't succeed. We are all dependent upon each other to make this amazing race happen. And you know what? Everyone did what was asked of them and this year's Birke was perfect!

This is true for camp every summer. From cabin cleanup, to getting parent letters done on time, from pre-purchasing gallons of sunscreen, or serving dinner at 6pm, to collecting costumes for Cruiser Day, or getting laundry out on the right day. We all work together to get the job done and provide the best experience possible for our campers. It's a daunting task, but it is one that everyone accepts and loves doing.

In keeping with tradition, we need to give a big camp HOW! to **Emily Prudhomme**, **Chris Willett**, **Mitch Cohen** and **Joe Crownhart** (Joe skied the Kortelopet – no small feat) for skiing an awesome Birkie this past weekend. With the reunion tour all down please take a moment to email what's going on in your life. Send the news to fornear@campnebagamon.com. Hope your winter is going well and that you can't wait to take part in Camp Nebagamon's 90th summer!

IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW that **Henry O'Connor** (Chicago) has been skateboarding a ton before winter set in and now, when not prepping for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, he can be found at a local indoor climbing wall climbing. **Sam Shapira** (Chicago) has been competing in fencing this winter. **Jack Goodman** (Chicago) has been playing club soccer this winter while **Matthew Garchik** (Chicago) has been staying busy with robotics. This winter **Simon Mann** (Chicago) was spending as much time as he could on the slopes in the Midwest and Aspen. **Ben Layfin** (Chicago) and **Jacob Layfin** (Chicago) both have been playing basketball during the winter months. **Ben Shacter** (Chicago) is on his school's talent show committee making sure everything runs smoothly. **Jordan Carlin** (Los Angeles) competed in several speech and debate tournaments for his school.

IN THE WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW DEPARTMENT: **Joe Rosenbloom** (Newton, MA '56-'58) has written a book, *Redemption: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Last 31 Hours*. Joe has worked as a staff reporter and editorial writer for *The Boston Globe*; an investigative reporter at Frontline, the PBS documentary series; and a senior editor at *Inc.* magazine. Please check it out! **Jonathan Gerstell** (DC '05-'10,'12-'15) is working on the campaign for Kelly Mazeski who is running for the Congress in the Illinois 6th Congressional District. **Ben Davenport** (Chicago/Piedmont, CA '05-'08,'10-'11) is an urban planner for the City of Piedmont in California. **Alex Elson** (Chicago/DC '90-'94,'96-'00,'03) is Senior Counsel for the National Student Legal Defense Network. The NSLDN is a non-profit organization that works, through litigation and advocacy, to advance students' rights to educational opportunity.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RECENT ENGAGEMENTS go to **Eric Sommer** (Duluth '10) and Lacy Habdas (Duluth).

IN THE BIBS AND DIAPERS DEPARTMENT: It's a boy, **John Ahlberg Myers**, for **Kristin Ahlberg** (Bennett, WI/DC '92-'98) and Phil Myers (DC). It's a girl, **Molly Bea**, for **Ben Solochek** (Chicago '99-'02) and Julie Werman (Chicago).

STAFFING NEEDS REMAIN!

Know someone looking for a great Summer 2018 experience? Below you will find a list of positions that remain open. As always, the best source for new staff is the camp family. If you contact the camp office with a referral, we will follow up quickly, or you can have interested individuals contact us directly.

Senior Counselors
Wilderness Trip Leaders
Nurse Assistants
M.O.C.A
Office Assistant
Waterskiing Instructor

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS SUMMER

The summer is getting closer, and enrollments are still rolling in to the office. We still do have some spaces available in each session for 2018. If you know of any prospective new campers, please have them contact the camp office soon to ensure that they can register for the summer. Listed below are boys that registered in January and February.

2nd Grade Campers: Gabe Fisher, Graham Rontal, Jacob Solomon

3rd Grade Campers: Ace Burvall, Miles Hall, Ben Hesser, Eli Hoffman, Eli Karp, Asher Lindgren, Avi Maidenberg, Ryder Meisel, Linus Quinn-Pasin

4th Grade Campers: Emmet Felner, Jack Fisher, Nathaniel Kehrberg, Luke Read, Levi Whalen Stewart

5th Grade Campers: Judah Callen, Brooks Coyle, Ben Harrington, Phineas Lindgren, Rafa Posen, Theo Schiff, Leo Susser, Eli Terman, Ben Wolf

6th Grade Campers: Addison Burvall, Alberto Martinez Treviño, Patrick Meehan, William Schwarz

7th Grade Campers: Lucas Daskal, Nick Fleisher, Jacob Greenwald, Seth Lambert

8th Grade Campers: Jordan Carlin, Charlie Davis, Jackson Goldblatt, Charlie Peters, Harrison Reichert, Toby Shapin

9th Grade Campers: Asher Burvall, Matthew Garchik, Noah Keim, Nathan Maybach

At Camp

Caretaker Joe

This year February proved to be anything but normal up at camp. The month started off with two weeks of frigid temperatures that were 10 to 20 degrees below normal. We then started to get a taste of spring when the temps jumped up to 10 degrees above average. Then just as we started to convince ourselves that an early spring was on the way the mercury again crashed and was 10 degrees below typical. And now the forecast is calling for temps to again jump above the usual by 10 degrees for the last few days of February and the first week of March, with several days predicted to be near 40 degrees. Our snow on the ground measurement has been anything but normal this month as well! We started the month off with a mere 8 inches on the ground (about 12 inches below normal for the start of Feb.) until the week of the 18-24th when we nearly tripled our on the ground measurement to about 27 inches. All of that 18 inch gain came in two storms, a 12-inch dump from Monday into Tuesday and another 6-inch deposit on Friday of that week. The big snow fall last week and the predictions of very warm temps this week has me very uncertain about what we are in for this spring. Will it be a year when the temperature jumps up and stays or will it start out warm and then drop below normal? Last year the temps jumped and stayed above normal, and just a few years earlier we had a winter that wouldn't go away until May!

The skiing at camp hasn't been the greatest this winter. With the near drought-like lack of snow fall up until last week, the trail base has been very thin, and with the severe outbreaks of warmth, it had become hard and icy for most of the month. I thought that with the snow late in the month things would be getting better, but those hopes have been dashed with the prediction of near 40 degree weather for the next two weeks. The poor trail conditions at camp haven't kept me off of my skis though. I have been making the short drive over to the Brule State Forest After Hours Ski Trail, where conditions have been fair to good. The Brule area has been getting more consistent snow fall (they have been receiving inches when we have gotten trace amounts) and the DNR has better grooming equipment that can revive the snow better than my home made groomer. I have also been doing some more back country skiing over at our cabin, 15 minutes to the west of Camp Nebagamon on the Amnicon River. On one trip over to the cabin I literally skied on the river for 6 miles! I read about river skiing many years ago and have done it several winters since. I've skied the Lester River in Duluth several times and have tried to ski the Amnicon River at least once a year since we purchased our cabin off of County Road B. (If you have ever made the trip over to Pattison Park during camps mid-season change over, you have driven a mere ¼ mile north of our spot.) River skiing is a lot of fun; you can often hear the river burbling under your feet and there are often a lot of ice heave zones that leave very interesting formations. The trips can range from long out-and-back cruises like the one I took this month, to short trips with abrupt endings where the water has flowed out of a large crack and covers the ice. To stay safe, I usually follow deer and other critter trails that are on the ice. I figure most deer are near my weight, and so if they haven't broken through with their pokey hooves the ice should be safe for me with my large, ski clad feet. I also stay near to the river edge and poke the ice with my poles a lot to test for ice depth and strength. I have on occasion broken through and gotten the bottom of my ski wet but have never gone deep enough to get a wet ski boot. And as many of you who have taken canoe trips on the Brule or Namikogan Rivers with Camp know, the views one gets of the forest from the river bed are very beautiful. This past weekend I relived a bit of my Yellowstone Adventure as I back country skied the 18 inches of fresh powder from the most recent snow storm over at our river property. The first lap was slow and deep as I cut track through the fresh powder, but the track I set was sweet on the successive laps!

Looking forward to spring but hoping for a little more time on the skies, it's Caretaker Joe At Camp.

PARENT PREPARATION PACKET COMING YOUR WAY!

One certain sign of spring is the arrival of the packet of information to help you plan for the summer. This year all the paperwork for you camper will again be available in an online-only format. We will still be mailing the Parent Handbook and the official Nebagamon luggage tags, so please look for them in the mail. (If you want to go ahead and contact Travel One, Camp Nebagamon's official travel agency, please call them at 800-245-1111.) This important mailing will leave camp's winter office by the end of March. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact us at 208-345-5544 or briggs@campnebagamon.com with any questions you may have about getting ready for a wonderful 2018 season!

Sports (Continued from Page 1)

Regardless of the fact that they are not given much attention, these athletes dedicate so much of their time and young lives to their given sports. And why???

It can only be because they genuinely love their sport. Each of them has found something that they are passionate about, and they have decided to pursue it with gusto. It may not have been the sport that most of their friends were playing as they were growing up, it just happened to be the sport that they loved...plain and simple.

It will come as no surprise to you, this is very much how I view what we do at Nebagamon. We are a place that offers MANY different options to boys when they are at camp. A day at camp can be filled with everything from conventional sports, to orienteering, to cooking, to art, to sculling, to nature. Nebagamon is a place where you are encouraged to explore your interests. It doesn't matter whether it is an activity that "everyone is doing," or if it is one that only you like to do. You are as celebrated here for hitting a home run as you are for knowing how to make home fries. You are as vaunted here for throwing a football skillfully as you are for throwing a pot skillfully. You are acknowledged here for shooting a bulls eye or a beautiful photograph. It is a place where you are celebrated no matter which arena you have chosen to spend your energies.

So, I hope the Olympic athletes throughout history will accept my apology for disparaging their "fringe" sports throughout the years. They are the embodiment of one of the ideals most central to Nebagamon. And I have no doubt in my mind that as soon as orienteering becomes an Olympic event, the champion will be a former O-Cup winner!



22nd ANNUAL ICEBREAKER CONTEST STARTS NOW!

It's time for the annual icebreaker contest! We're hoping spring will soon be upon us, so when exactly will the ice break? That's the question facing us as we begin this year's contest.

In 2012 Lake Nebagamon experienced its earliest icebreak on record, falling on March 21st. The latest ice breakup was on May 14th in 2013. The **Official Lake Nebagamon Ice Recorder** is none other than our own Andy Mack. He is already monitoring the lake for the village and will let us know as soon as the ice disappears, whether it happens mid-afternoon or at 3 a.m. Yes folks, Andy spends every waking moment (eating, sleeping, and working!) on the very shores of Lake Nebagamon to let us know EXACTLY when the ice breaks up (correct up to the second)!

To enter, simply send an email with your guess of when you think the ice will break up to briggs@campnebagamon.com. **All entries must be received by April 1st.** Of course, it would be wise to read the fine print below before making your guess. Winners could be contacted by Bravo TV, the Cartoon Network, VH1, the Discovery Channel, and other major networks and also will receive prominent mention in *The Arrowhead*. So don't wait until the last minute. Send us your guess right away!

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO THE SWEEPSTAKES ABOVE:

Sweepstakes begins on the day you receive this Arrowhead and all entries must be received by April 1st. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, incomplete, illegible or postage-due mail. Entries become the property of Camp Nebagamon LLC and will not be returned or acknowledged. Any prize notice that results from a printing, production, typographical, mechanical or other error will be void. If due to an error, more than one prize notice is issued, the prize will be awarded in a random drawing among all such notices issued and received. Sweepstakes open to the residents of the United States and Canada and to residents in selected parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, Mexico, North America and South America, where made available and where permitted by law. Employees (full-time) of Camp Nebagamon LLC and members of those employees' immediate families are not eligible. Select camp dogs permitted to submit entries; cats prohibited. This offer is subject to all applicable federal, state, provincial and local laws and regulations and is void whenever prohibited or restricted by law. Winner selection and random drawings are under the supervision of Ostrow Reisin Berk and Abrams Ltd., an independent accounting firm whose decisions are final. Random drawings will be held within 5 days of the ice breaking, no later than 5:00 p.m. at 877 Chardie Road, Boise, ID 83702. Winners will be notified within 10 days of the selection/drawing. Any prize or prize notification returned to the sponsor as undeliverable will result in the awarding of that prize to an alternate winner in a random drawing. Prize is not transferable except to a surviving spouse. Substitution for the prize may be necessary due to unavailability, in which case a comparable prize of equal or lesser value will be awarded. In countries where cash prizes are prohibited, substitute merchandise of comparable value will be awarded. Taxes (and any expenses not specified herein) are the responsibility of the winners. Entry and acceptance of the prize constitute permission (except where prohibited by law) to use the winner's name, hometown and likeness for purpose of advertising and promotion on behalf of the contest sponsor without further compensation. If you've read this far, congratulations! The fine print is a joke, but the contest is for real!

