



# THE ARROWHEAD

## CAMP NEBAGAMON'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER

Volume XC

Number 4

**April 1**, 2018

### **Closing the Gap**

While I know that, for the most part, in these articles I try to highlight something wonderful about Camp Nebagamon and how the members of our camp family benefit from being a part of our special community, I apologize in advance, for this article will be very different. Sadly, I feel the need at this moment in United States history acknowledge Nebagamon's complicity in this crisis.

According to the Pew Research Center, the United States is now ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the world in science education, 24<sup>th</sup> in the world in reading proficiency, and 39<sup>th</sup> in the world in mathematics education. These numbers have been declining steadily since the late 1980s and we now have reached a crisis state.

Sound the alarm!

Unfortunately, as much as we all feel passionately about Camp Nebagamon, if we are honest with ourselves, we must acknowledge that institutions like Nebagamon bear significant responsibility for this educational crisis in the United States. One need only look at our project board offerings to realize that we too have neglected our children in key areas. While other countries have math, science and reading summer programs, we are mired in useless areas like athletics, canoeing, cooking, and rock climbing. Sure there are those of you out there not yet willing to cop to our role in this crisis that might suggest that our Nature Lore program is associated with science education, but let's be honest here, Bro Nat Matt spent 12 years focusing on petting bunnies and using a magnifying glass to burn your name into a piece of driftwood..... hardly the STEM education that our children have been denied, and on which they have fallen behind their peers on the world's stage.

Nebagamon's complicity in the degradation of the United States ends now.

(Continued on Page 3)

## NEWS OF THE CAMP FAMILY



While the reunion tour has ended for camp there still has been plenty of travel this month. What seems to be a tradition now, I again headed to rural, middle of nowhere Idaho to fish for steelhead with good friends. While the fishing wasn't spectacular, it was still great to wade in the South Fork of the Clearwater and cast the spey rod to lurking 15lb steelhead that were swimming upstream on their annual migration. Luck was on my side as I landed the only four fish of the three day adventure. They were (I'm teaching you some fishing slang here) some big pigs – 15 lbs and 31-34 inches long.

They pulled lots of line and doubled over the fly rod. It was totally worth the trip. Another highlight was that the crew I was fishing with loved to play Cribbage. So when we weren't casting for chrome (another lesson – chrome – referencing the silver in color of steelhead or salmon) we were playing Cribbage late into the night and telling the same stories over and over...similar to many nights at camp! I'm comfortably saying that I am now ready for the staff Cribbage tournament this summer at camp... bring it on Hank!

Once again it was great to spend some time in Boise catching up with friends and hanging out with all of the Nebagamon folk that now call it home. There's Joe Briggs, Kate Bennett, Jeremy Nordin Berghuis, Louis Levin, Nick Copeland, the Hanson/Kaplan crew, and GREGGORS (who I sadly missed). It's funny how many Nebagamon-ites are out there in Southwest Idaho but it sure makes for some fun times!

In other news of camp, the Trip Program is ramping up for a busy season. We have a great crew signed on and I hope all of our campers this summer plan on keeping them busy. Isle Royale and Pictured Rocks permits are acquired and soon the dates for climbing and sea kayaking trips will be finalized. I will be sending out an email to the parents when those are dialed in.

Seeing that the reunions are done I need your help with the news! I will start cold calling/emailing for information but if you have something to share please send it my way (fornear@campnebagamon.com)! Thanks for your help and I hope to hear from all of you in the next couple of months. Hope your spring is going great and you cannot wait for the start of Camp Nebagamon's 90<sup>th</sup> summer!

**IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW** that **Jack Rogen's** (Shaker Heights, OH) photo 'Go On With Purpose' was a 2018 State of Ohio Governor's Award winner. Jack's photo was 1 of 300 photos selected out of 3000 regional winners and now will be featured in an exhibition in Columbus. **Coleman Madland** (Eden Prairie, MN) has been busy running cross-country and playing lots of soccer. **Josh Hanson Kaplan** (Boise) received an honorable mention for Boys 1A basketball for his solid play on the court. Josh played point guard for Riverstone High School.

**IN THE WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW DEPARTMENT:** **Michael Jorgensen** (Boston/Cascade, ID '01-'07,'09-'10,'13) teaches math and science along with being the medical program assistant at the Alzar School in Cascade, ID. **Gene Dattel** (Lakeville, CT '54-'58,'59-'61,'66) has published a new book called 'Reckoning with Race: America's Failure' which is the sequel to "Cotton and Race in the Making of America".

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** go to **Jim JK Koretz** (Chicago '74-'79, '81-'84,'86-'88,'04,'06) and Elissa Polan (Chicago).

**IN THE BIBS AND DIAPERS DEPARTMENT:** It's a boy, **Aaron Nathaniel**, for **Mike Singer** (Detroit '93-'96,'98-'01) and Sarah Broder (Detroit).

## **Closing the Gap** (Continued from Page 1)

It is with great patriotic pride that we wish to share with you dramatic changes to our project offerings for the summer of 2018. The mind numbing Sailing Project will be replaced with our brand new Algebra program. Our worthless Campcraft program will be scrapped in favor of our new Inorganic Chemistry Project. The Tennis Project will be replaced by a traditional English Literature Project that will focus exclusively on the classics. And the Canoeing program will be cancelled in favor of Inorganic Chemistry (yes, I know I already mentioned Inorganic Chemistry as replacing Campcraft...but you never can quite get enough of Inorganic Chemistry as a 9 year old can you?). Indeed, every single one of our twenty current projects, with the exception of one, will be eliminated in favor of a new academic offering. We will keep our cutting edge photography program and darkroom in place. The boys will still have the opportunity to work with cameras that use film and our 40-year-old enlargers.

It is our expectation that through these programmatic changes, Nebagamon will shed its shameful role in the downfall of the United States and become a part of the solution in reinstating our nation's role on the world stage.

Additionally, we must do away with one of the other foolhardy Nebagamon traditions: allowing the boys to choose their own activities. Campers will be handed a ~~class~~ project schedule upon arrival at camp. Their routine will extend from four-project, languorous days to eight-project-a-day, academically rigorous experiences.

I call on all of my fellow camp directors to follow suit. If we all pitch in together and make these types of changes, our national goals of rising to 23<sup>rd</sup> in science, 38<sup>th</sup> in math, and 23<sup>rd</sup> in reading should be achievable within just a few decades...

As a gift to our current families, we will be offering all of this new programming without ANY rise in tuition. Your child will be able to vault up the international educational rankings basically on us (plus your normal tuition, book fees, and academic testing fees). You are welcome families....We at Nebagamon are just doing our part to strengthen our flagging nation.

Looking forward to a great Summer 2018....

And Happy April Fools Day from the camp office in Boise.

### **PARENT PREPARATION PACKET ON ITS WAY!**

This year's Parent Handbook and official yellow Nebagamon luggage tags are en route to you! As in recent years, all camper forms will be available in an online-only format. If you have any questions in the meantime about getting ready for camp, please don't hesitate to contact us via email at [briggs@campnebagamon.com](mailto:briggs@campnebagamon.com) or give us a call at 208-345-5544.

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



### **MANY FAMILIAR FACES RETURNING FOR 2018!**

There have been many phone calls from veteran staff who want to return and others who wish to become first year junior counselors. We have enjoyed talking to all of you and can't wait to share the summer of 2018 with you!

We are pleased to say that our counselor positions are quickly being filled. Our first year junior counselors are Drew Aronoff, Alex Buring, Maurico Zambrano, Lucas Jalenak, Andrew Guest, Zack Lechter, Isaac Weiss, Ben Lasseter, Ryan Silver, Matthew Grosman, Andrew Frisch, Michael Berler, Erik Montag, Jason Eisen, Bryce Endrizzi, Leo Preiser, Jimmy Tapia, Simon L'Tainen, William McCreary and Joey Rivkin. Returning Junior Counselors are Josh Levitas, Zach Rozen, Sam Branstad Phillips, Josh Hanson Kaplan, Matthew Lazarov, Alex Swett, Charlie Gordon, Charlie Fromm, Graham Brimmer and Tony Bogolub. Our senior counselors are Daniel Finan, Alex Aronoff, Ben Huston, Gabe Sher, Michael Deutsch, Isaac Murray Stark, Jeremy Berkowitz, Eli Weiskirch, Zach Pearson, Ian Bogucki, Zack Stern and Angus McColl.

Our Village Director lineup is now complete! Dave Knoepfle will be our LJ Village Director, Andy Rolfe is the Axeman Village Director, Alex Gordon is the Logger Village Director, and David Sachs and Jason Hirschhorn will be sharing the Swamper Village. Returning to the office is Sara Feinstien and starting her first summer is Elana Scharff. There are some awesome additions to our specialist crew as well. Cassandra Owens returns as a climbing wall specialist. Heading up M.O.C.A is former camper Bennett Jacobs. Recent additions to our wilderness trip program are Zach Sullivan, Trenton Flegel, Grayson Nolan and Elizabeth Becker. Returning to our kitchen crew is Daisy Mack, Cody Keys, Alex Fuller, Bailey Evans, Lindsey Evans, Ethan Skaggs, Elissa Skaggs, and Grace Edwards.

We'll have a full publishing of our staff in another Arrowhead. We have a great looking staff for 2018!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **STAFFING NEEDS REMAIN!**

Don't let the prolific list of staff members above lead you to believe that we've filled our staffing needs. 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.

- Waterskiing Specialist**
- Senior Cabin Counselor**
- Nurse Assistants**
- Kitchen Assistants**

### **Camp family: We need your help!**

In celebration of Camp Nebagamons 90th Anniversary, we're creating a commemorative video that will feature a montage of as many members of the camp family as possible saying "Keep the Fires Burning". Simply shoot a video of yourself saying this phrase and e-mail it to [louis@campnebagamon.com](mailto:louis@campnebagamon.com). We want you to be a part of this piece of camp history!

**At Camp**

**CARETAKER JOE AWAITS THE THAW**



Although we have passed both the metrological (March 1<sup>st</sup>) and the astrological (March 20<sup>th</sup>) first days of Spring, it is still looking very much like Winter here in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. We still have a solid foot of snow on the ground, the temperatures have flirted with the 40s but have mainly stayed in the mid-to-upper-30s, and as reported by caretaker Andy, who has been getting out on the lake for some “spring” ice fishing, the lake ice is still 27 inches deep with a mushy 8 inches of snow on top. If you haven’t entered your guess for the ice breaker contest yet may I suggest that a late April or

early May date may be a winner this year. If one observes closely there are many signs of Spring to be seen though. With southern exposure, the snow banks have receded from the roadside several feet and a strip of brown grass has begun to appear along the north side of east-west roads. Grass can also be seen emerging under the large pine trees where the snow depth is kept shallow by the trees’ evergreen branches. The surface of the snow has become hard and crusty, and my little 5-pound dog, Bilbo, is delighted that he can scamper over the surface of the snow to access all of the yard, and not just the shoveled trails I provide him with throughout the winter. And the most promising sign of the coming of spring is the arrival the first Robins. I had my first sighting of the year on March 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as the emergence of the first chipmunks from their subterranean winter hideouts; I saw the first one skitter along the edge of the garage around the 21<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, it looks like our slow motion melt down this spring will continue for a few more weeks - this morning’s forecast (March 30, 2018) is predicting 6 to 10 inches of snow overnight tonight and another week in the mid 30s, DOH!

Fortunately the lingering winter has not stopped the local contractor that we hired to do the expansion work on the Axemen Porch of the Rec-Hall. The work being done is to accommodate a long needed expansion of the walk-in freezer. The new freezer box will be 4 feet wider and about a foot taller, but will remain the same depth as the old box and will add about 32 square feet to the freezers foot print. The new box being both wider and taller than the old has required a wall to be moved out and the roof to be raised up on the east end of the Axman porch. Luckily there was just enough space between the nice stonewall and the old porch wall to accommodate the needed expansion without affecting the wall. The crew has been hard at work the last couple of weeks enduring snow squalls, lots of dripping from the old roof edge, and both liquid and frozen water underfoot. With the work nearing completion, the change made fits well with the old section of porch. With our insistence, the contractor used all of the same types of materials as the old construction, so as the new wood ages it won’t be long before the change will be little noticed. Of course, to the new group of first year Swampers this is how “their Rec-Hall” has always looked. The best part of this change will be the big relieved smile on our head cook Ann Rowe’s face all season due to her ability to easily access and store all of the great food we gobble up every day at camp.

Reluctantly looking forward to skinny skiing the CNST for a bit of April, it’s Caretaker Joe At Camp.

\* \* \* \* \*