

THE ARROWHEAD

CAMP NEBAGAMON'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER

Volume XC

Number 6

June 2018

COMMENCEMENT

We are squarely in the throes of pre-camp right now. These special two weeks set the table for the summer. The pre-camp crew puts in all of the camp docks, cleans all of the cabins, rakes every inch of this place, paints buildings, and a variety of other tasks so that when the kids arrive in just 18 days, their new home is just that....a home.

Every summer, all of this work is executed by our pre-camp crew. Given the fact that this work begins just after Memorial Day, our pre-camp crew is usually made up largely of college students. This year, several of the crew are recent graduates. We eat our meals together around the Big House dining room table. (It is an AWESOME place for a family meal....especially when the family includes no actual blood relatives, just camp family relatives. There is less arguing that way!) Given the fact that some of the crew are fresh from their graduations, and I have just arrived at camp from my own son's high school graduation (Yeah...little Joshua just graduated from high school. And in a flash, I graduated to OLD DUDE.), it is not surprising that a good deal of conversation has centered around the idea of graduation.

This is graduation season. In late May and early June, graduations are ubiquitous. From full-blown pomp and circumstance affairs like high school and college graduations to less grand middle school graduations, the traditional graduations abound. In recent years, the graduation circuit has become even more clogged with elementary school graduations and even pre-school graduations! (I can only imagine how hard it is to find a cap and gown in a 4T.) Throw on top of those ceremonies the after school pottery class graduations, the Tadpoles swim class graduations which mark the auspicious and life changing rite of passage into the Minnow class, and the graduation ceremonies marking the change from bottles to solid foods that are a hallmark of so many Mommy and Me classes every spring (considered to be the absolute pinnacle of prestige for anyone on the commencement address circuit). Yes, there can be little doubt that this is the season of graduations. (Continued on Page 7)

NEWS OF THE CAMP FAMILY



It's been a couple of years since I've had a classic road trip out west with friends, until two weeks ago when five of us blasted out I-90 West to Custer State Park and Devils Tower National Monument. This was a trip modeled after similar trips of my youth, when in college...drive long into the night, sleep under the stars for a couple of hours and then grab some bad gas station coffee and hit the road until you reach your destination. This was meant to be a quick four day climbing trip in the Needles, South Dakota and a summit attempt on Devils Tower. Well there was no shortage of laughter, a couple missed turns and loads of bad coffee but great food and some amazing climbing. I'm not sure if any of you have had the chance to spend anytime around Sylvan Lake

campground in Custer State Park but if you haven't, please add that to your list of places to visit. There, you'll find beautiful stands of Ponderosa Pines along with stunning rock formations (that don't hold the shape of former presidents). Luckily for me I was climbing with some world class climbers with a great sense of humor that allowed me to convince myself that I could attempt and scale these slabs of granite. I mention my crew for this road trip because if it wasn't for them, I may not have had the positive reinforcement/humor filled peer pressure to walk up to this climb called Gossamer and climb up a crazy thin arete. I followed up my buddies Christian and Dean who lead the route, and once I got to the top I got to hang out on hanging belay with Dean for a bit. Next, we made the 80-foot rappel to the ground. This weekend was also my first multi-pitch climb. Dave Pagel (a great local author from Duluth) and I climbed Spire 2 in the Cathedral Spires of Custer State Park. Once we reached the top, there standing on top of Spire 3 (just next to us) was Dean and Kaija and below us on Spire 2 (but climbing a different route) was Rick and Christian. After a couple photos and some hootin' and hollering to each other, we rappelled back to the ground and hiked out. Now this was only day two of the adventure, and at the end of each day of climbing I would think this just can't get any better. Well it did. That night we hit the highway west and ended up at Devils Tower which is what inspired this quick trip west in the first place. Three out of the five of us never climbed it and the other two have written guides to climbing the tower and have climbed it multiple times.

Anyhow there I was, standing at the base looking upward at the Durrance Route of Devils Tower wondering what I was doing. Confidence was higher from the two previous days of climbing but I was still nervous. Backing out now was not an option, so upward we went. Rick and Scott started up first and Dave, Christian and me followed. Pitch after pitch we went. Some of the climbing was classic crack climbing, while at other moments you were trying to fit your whole body into these cracks and shimmy your way up. It was a grind but at the same time it was all smiles and laughter. Life is great when you are surrounded with great friends. A couple hours later and on the 7th (and last pitch to the top) I was standing on top of that sweet geological feature! So awesome! We high fived, signed the log book, drank the last of our water and made our way back to the cliffs edge to begin our four long rappels down. Once down on the ground I let out a big shout. Twelve hours later the five of us were packed back into the truck and headed back to Duluth. Road trip completed, and more importantly, more memories created. I cannot wait for that next adventure!

Even though *The Arrowhead* is going into hibernation for the next three months, please keep on sending any news of the camp family. Thank you for your contributions, and I look forward to sharing updates with you after the summer. Can't wait to see many of you this summer and I hope you are ready to create some sweet memories for yourself!

IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW Ben Kessler (Chicago) was in his school's musical, Wizard of Oz. **Ryan Kessler's** (Chicago) rock band is playing at the House of Blues in Chicago this coming weekend. **Ben Hanson Kaplan** and **Josh Hanson Kaplan** (Boise) played soccer on the same team together, the Riverstone Otters.

IN THE WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW DEPARTMENT: Ming Lowe (DC '86-'87) interview with the DC Mayor's Office was published on their website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. ([#AAPIVoicesDC: 31 Days in May's AAPI Heritage Month, 31 unique perspectives | apia](#)). **Hugh Broder** (Detroit/NYC '66-'69,'74-'75,'16-'18) is a Waterskiing Specialist at Camp Nebagamon and recently celebrated his birthday on April 3rd. **Mike Singer** (Glencoe/Detroit '93-'96,'98-'01) is a Senior Business Development Manager at Barton Malow Company.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RECENT ENGAGEMENTS go to **Michael Cohen** (Atlanta/Dallas '05-'07,'09-'10) and Emily Kahn (Atlanta/Dallas).

BAR MITZVAH CONGRATULATIONS go to **Emmitt Gerstein** (Washington D.C.).

IN THE BIBS AND DIAPERS DEPARTMENT: It's a girl, **Lucy Hall**, for **Chole Ahmann Kessler** (University Park, MD/D.C. '12) and **Jacob Kessler** (St. Louis/D.C. '99-'04,'06-'09,'11-'12). It's a girl, **Emilia**, for **James Bleshman** (Brooklyn '06,'08) and Maya Scherer (Brooklyn). It's a boy, **Max**, for **Robyn Lessinger** (Atlanta/Lancaster, PA '05-'06) and Steven Elias (Lancaster, PA).

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 GRADUATES

June is graduation month for many campers, staff, and alumni, and we want to say "Congratulations!" Obviously this list is not exhaustive, so please let us know of other members of the camp family that you know who have graduated this year. We'll include those names in the October *Arrowhead*. Also, this newsletter is a great place to note which college's people are attending in order to connect with other members of the camp community at the same school. So please e-mail us that information as well.

High School Graduates: Josh Levitas, Zach Rozen, Sam Branstad Phillips, Josh Hanson Kaplan, Matthew Lazarov, Alex Swett, Charlie Gordon, Charlie Fromm, Graham Brimmer, Tony Bogolub, Eli Striker, Ben Turok, Ethan Berman, Max Fleischer, Ethan Strull.

College Graduates: Julia Scharff (University of Missouri), Zack Stern (Amherst College).

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

MEET THE 2018 NEBAGAMON STAFF!

We had an excellent year recruiting staff for the upcoming summer. Saying that we are proud of our 2018 staff lineup would be an understatement! Many of them have a wealth of experience working with kids and everyone is excited to continue the tradition of counseling amongst the tall pines! Their experiences vary from finishing their junior year of high school to spending their winters in Antarctica. Whether they are from California, Memphis, River Falls, WI, London or Poland, they all have one common goal, to create a positive experience for the 320 campers coming to camp this summer!



(* denotes a new staff member)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND PROGRAM SPECIALISTS: Adam Kaplan (Director), Stephanie Hanson (Director), Joe Briggs (Associate Director/Office Manager), Adam Fornear (Associate Director/Wilderness Trip Director), David Sachs/Jason Hirschhorn (Swamper Village Director), Alex Gordon (Logger Village Director), Andy Rolfe (Axeman Village Director), Dave Knoepfle (Lumberjack Village Director), Louis Levin (Program Director), Henry Pulitzer (Waterfront Director), Jaime Hensel (Waterfront Director), Grant Roskamm (CNOG Director), *Cindy Rolfe (Nature Director), Ellie Berler (Artshop Director), *Heather Kennedy (Art Specialist), *Bennett Jacobs (MOCA Director), Ralph Greil (Riflery Director), Graylan Vincent (Climbing Wall Specialist), Cassandra Owens (Climbing Wall Specialist), Hugh Broder (Waterskiing Specialist), *Roksana Brozek (Photo Specialist), Michael Rivkin (Sailing Specialist).

SENIOR COUNSELORS: Alex Aronoff, Ben Huston, Gabe Sher, Daniel Finan, Matthew Wilhelm, Isaac Murray-Stark, Jeremy Berkowitz, Eli Weiskirch, Zach Pearson, Ian Bogucki, *Austin Dowis, *Dakota Kosarek, *Reece Torricelli, Diego Santa Cruz, *Andrew Hewat, *Edward Cockworth, *Fergal Spencer, *Thomas Smith, *Angus McColl, *Nicolas Ricardo, *Jacob Buggie, and Reid Balsler.

JUNIOR COUNSELORS: Josh Levitas, Zach Rozen, Sam Branstad Phillips, Josh Hanson Kaplan, Matthew Lazarov, Alex Swett, Charlie Gordon, Charlie Fromm, Graham Brimmer, Tony Bogolub, Eli Striker, Drew Aronoff, Alex Buring, Maurico Zambrano, Lucas Jalnek, 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, Eli Hecht, Will McCreary, Joey Rivkin, Eric Portillo, Eli Asher.

TRIP STAFF: Adam Fornear (Trip Director), Jamey Sharp (Assistant Trip Director), Amy Mack (Driver), Ron Gaare (Driver), Bill Hensel (Driver), Allen Bennett (Quartermaster), Julia Sachs, Jonah Domsy, Zayla Asquith Heinz, Kate Bennett, Michel Doege, Andrew Meyer, *Trenton Flegel, *Grayson Nolan, *Elizabeth Becker, Ethan Strull, Ben Turok, Ethan Berman, Max Fleischer, *Ted Chazkel, Zach Sullivan, Noah Stein, Nick Copeland.

FOOD STAFF: Anne Rowe (Food Service Manager), Cody Keys (Cook), Daisy Mack (Cook), Alex Fuller, Elissa Skaggs, Bailey Evans, Lindsay Evans, Jay Gaare, Grace Edwards, *Tommy Bellaire, *Ganz Voorhees, *Jonathan Burbul, and *Kaitlyn Lundeen.

MEDICAL STAFF: Amber Burvall (Nurse), *Morgan Mack (Nurse's Aide), *Melissa Moy (Nurse Assistant), Betsy Murray (M.D.), Trent Rosenbloom (M.D.), Mitch Cohen (M.D.), Brian Blair (M.D.), Bill Strull (M.D.), Toni Golen (M.D.), Andrew Gordon (M.D.)

OFFICE STAFF: Joe Briggs (Associate Director/Office Manager), Linnea Moss (Town Driver), Jaye Hensel, Molly *Elana Scharff, Sara Feinstein.

MAINTENANCE STAFF: Andy Mack (Head Caretaker), Joe Crain, Jack Raatz, Cathy Fries (Big House Housekeeper).

Begin Again

Whether it is teaming up to travel the historic 8.2 mile Grand Portage, cooking a full meal for your cabin on a fire during cabin cookout, or figuring out how to live in a cabin full of strangers for four or eight weeks, seemingly impossible and larger than life challenges that require help from everyone involved are central to camp life. Believe it or not, these challenges begin long before the kids show up and even before the majority of staff arrive at camp. *Pre-Camp* is the ten day period before staff training when a group of 20 staff team-up to break camp out of its winter hibernation and into the space where all of the magic will occur in the upcoming summer. Under the leadership of camp's caretaker, Andy Mack, this team, ranging from 19 to 63 years old and varying from long-time camp veterans to a handful of folks that have never laid foot within camp's gates, must work together to get a seemingly impossible job done.

For those of us that spend our off-seasons in school or working in *traditional* settings, the most notable aspect of pre-camp is that we all have to spend the entirety of every day together to get the job done. Whether it is eating, working, or sleeping, this group is literally always together. It's not that there isn't much to do in downtown Lake Nebagamon (especially with the Dairy Queen closed until June 15th), but there just isn't time in the day to get away from each other. There is no lengthy commute with traffic to sit in, no errands to run, or even a computer to hide behind. We are just together, and certainly this helps us achieve what would otherwise be a lofty goal...setting the table for the upcoming camp season.

In one day, we turned the waterfront from an empty beach into the activity-packed utopia that campers run to when the bell rings after cabin clean-up. We worked through *eight* hours of rain, holding docks up while treading water and running from task to task. And, beautifully, we all did this while communicating clearly, looking out for each other, and never enduring more than a minute without laughter. Even after setbacks and mistakes, such as stripped bolts or 9/16 inch ratchet attachments dropped into the lake (thank you Hank for diving after it and not giving me *too* hard of a time after finding it), we still managed to achieve our goal and even more. Sitting around the Big House table eating dinner afterwards, this unique collection of people didn't just have things to talk about, but they were able to bond over a challenge met, a job well done, and the knowledge that they couldn't have done it without the people sitting around them.

As I mentioned earlier, this lesson is central to camp life. We can achieve things that we never before realized were possible with collaboration, support, and friendship. We will get to see the campers realize this throughout the summer in their cabins, at projects, and on trail. However, the point of this article is that the campers are not the only ones that get this perk. Don't worry, the pre-camp crew will get all of the *important* things done. Cabins will be ready, the tables will be set, and camp will be exactly as you remember it. But secretly, our staff will leave pre-camp with more than just enough money to buy a DQ Blizzard and a tank of gas. They will leave with a job well-done, 19 new friends, and the clear understanding that they couldn't have done one without the other.

-Jamey Sharp

WILDERNESS TRIP REMINDER!

If you have a son in ninth grade and have not sent in a copy of his birth certificate along with the parental release form that we sent you this spring, please do so at your earliest convenience. This is necessary in order to go on canoeing and backpacking trips in Canada. Please contact Adam Fornear at fornear@campnebagamon.com if you have any questions. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE YOUR CAMPER FORMS!

With camp just around the corner, our office has been busy checking in forms and getting ready for the first round of campers to arrive on June 18th. Regardless of which session your child is attending at camp, please submit his required paperwork if you have not already done so.

Please make sure the following items are completed as soon as possible:

- ***Cabin Preference Form:** We need this information within the next few days in order to work on cabin placement before the season begins.
- ***Health History Form:** Parents, make sure to complete all sections of this form (including medications and vaccination records) so that we are able to accurately understand your camper's health history and prepare for his arrival. If your child needs prescription medications, please place your order with CampMeds, Inc. at www.campmeds.com. The ordering deadline is **30 days** prior to your son's arrival at camp.
- ***Physician's Examination Form:** We need paperwork showing that your son has received a physical exam within the past 12 months. You may download our physician's examination form for your child's doctor to complete or submit a copy of similar documentation from the doctor's office. Please note that any immunization records provided by your doctor should also be entered in your son's online health history form by you.
- ***Medical Treatment Authorization Form:** This form **MUST** be signed by a parent/guardian prior to camper arrivals. A copy of his health insurance card should also be attached.
- ***Objectives & Personality Form:** This information helps our counselors prepare to guide your son towards completing a happy and productive summer. You may also email a more detailed letter to his counselors at info@campnebagamon.com.

Last, but not least, when you have logged in to the camper forms system, make sure YOUR contact information is up-to-date and that you have listed two emergency contacts besides a parent/guardian. You may do so by clicking on "Update Addresses/Phone Numbers" under the *Your Family* section.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CAMPER LUGGAGE AND TRAVEL

LUGGAGE TAGS:

These should be firmly attached to every bag a camper brings with him, whether it is being checked in, carried on an airplane, or taken on the Chicago bus. This applies to everyone, regardless of airline or travel arrangements to camp. It is important that we, and airline personnel, are able to identify **all baggage** by the **yellow Camp Nebagamon tags**.

DUFFEL BAGS/LUGGAGE:

ALL Airlines: Please pre-pay baggage fees for your son's return flight. This has changed from recent years and now **includes Delta Airlines**. (Please note that if for some reason the airline does not allow you to pre-pay, we will pay the fees on the return trip and charge your son's spending money account.)

If you need to **ship** bags to camp, please notify Briggs ahead of time and send them at least one week prior to your son's arrival at camp. Camp's physical address (needed for any UPS/FedEx deliveries) is **11454 Camp Nebagamon Dr, Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849**. Please note that if you also want the luggage shipped home at the end of the camp season, it is simplest for our office (and our local UPS & FedEx drivers) if you can mail to Briggs's attention at camp (briggs@campnebagamon.com) completed FedEx/UPS tags or forms. *(Please note that due to limited storage space at camp, and our arrangement with the MSP airport, we do urge you to check bags on the trip home if possible, especially on Delta Airlines.)*

CAMPERS TRAVELING VIA AIRPLANE:

If you are booking your tickets through our travel agent, Travel One, any questions about airline tickets should be directed to Travel One at 800-245-1111. Ask for Liz Egge or Sonni Banks. Travel One issues electronic tickets for each camper, so do not worry about receiving a paper ticket for your child. **If you are arranging travel independently, please submit the information via the online transportation form.**

At Camp

CARETAKER JOE ENJOYS THE THAW

There is an old saying about the weather in Wisconsin that goes: "If you don't like the weather right now, just wait ten minutes." Boy has that adage come true this May! Typically our temperatures swing about 20 degrees from the morning low to the day's high in May, but this year mother nature was a bit more erratic and our temperature swings were averaging closer to 40 degrees. The old weather phrase especially rang true on the 7th, when we experienced a dazzling 50 degree swing. And speaking of dazzling swings, we even experienced a day mid-month, that had everybody talking, that went from 80 degrees down to 50 degrees in literally ten minutes, and the weirdest part was that there wasn't a cloud in the sky the whole day. Thankfully most of the swings throughout the month were more gradual, and in the low to high direction. As a matter of fact, almost all of this May's temperature swings ended with temperatures well above the mid-60 average, and we enjoyed a lot of days in the upper 70s and lower 80s. In and of itself, this was a bit dazzling to us winter-weary northlanders. After all there was still ice on the lake the whole first week of the month.



You may recall that in my April article I talked about the bittersweet experience of skiing on the lake deep into the month, and that at the end of the month there was still 27 inches of ice covering the lake. Many of us locals were convinced that it would be well into mid-May before we would be seeing waves out on the water, and there was little chance the ice would be off for the fishing opener on May 5th. Astonishingly, all of the ice was gone by May 4th!! There was a pretty big traffic jam at the public access the morning of the 5th, because eager fishermen tried to be the first boat out on the lake, a task that typically would have been done weeks earlier. Though not a record for latest ice-out, it is pretty rare for the lake to still have ice in May. There have only been six times since 1948 that this has been the case, three times in the 1970s and now three times since 2013. In 1972 and 1975 the ice-out days were May 1st, and in 1975 it was May 5th. In 2013 the ice held on all the way to May 14th, the record latest date, and in 2014 the ice held on until May 7th. On average the lake is ice free by mid-April.

With the big weather flip in May, we have really been running full tilt around camp trying to get all of the big projects completed that had been held up by the weather. The first couple weeks saw us feverishly working on the remodel of Kozy Korner, camp's staff lounge. With a big chunk of that done, I left caretakers Andy and Jack, as they worked on sanding and refinishing the floors, to blow the leaves and detritus, left from the unusually long winter, off of the grass spaces around camp. I was able to blow all of the grounds in about six days working alone, a job that is usually done in four to five days in the spring by two of us. From there we jumped into the Rec Hall where Jack finished up a major floor repair he had started back in November just before his winter lay off, and Andy and I erected the new larger freezer box out on the end of the newly expanded Axeman porch.

Wow, what a wild ride the last three weeks have been!!

With lots left to go, I am really grateful for the helping hands of this year's pre-camp crew and excited for the start of the 90th season! At Camp, it's Caretaker Joe.

COMMENCEMENT (Continued from Page 1)

While it is certainly fun to give a little grief to the pervasiveness of all of this graduating that is a part of the modern world, I actually am a firm believer in marking the comings and goings of different chapters of our lives. To be clear, while I don't truly believe that a graduation from elementary school is that gigantic of an accomplishment, I really do believe in the value of marking the end of something. By doing so, we are gifted with the opportunity to look back at the forest, when so much of the hustle and bustle of our lives requires us to pay attention to just the trees. Graduation encourages us to look back and take stock....a very healthy endeavor.

But there is more to it than that....

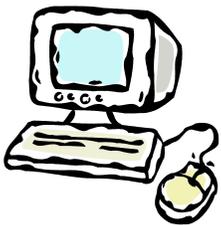
It has been noted, I am sure many times, that graduation ceremonies are commonly referred to as "Commencement" ceremonies. Isn't it fascinating that a ceremony that is all about celebrating past activities and previous accomplishments should be called "Commencement?" In my mind, this is a beautiful choice of words, for captured in that very small semantic decision is a very powerful statement. We are encouraged to look back with pride at our accomplishments, but also to understand that the end of one period of time leads to the beginning of another. Whether that new stage be entering the workforce, going to college, matriculation into middle school, or just moving into the revered Minnow swim lesson group, graduation does not signal solely an end....rather the end of one stage and the beginning of another.

I love that the graduation time of year juxtaposes so perfectly with the beginning of camp. Campers and staff alike will likely be looking back with pride at all they have accomplished throughout the school year. And while they are enjoying that sense of achievement, they will also be looking ahead. At this graduation time of year, with docks freshly erected at the waterfront, cabins cleaned and waiting for their summer occupants, the project board perfectly clear with only possibilities ahead, and a brand new summer at Nebagamon about to begin, this is truly a COMMENCEMENT. It is all ahead of us. We will run hard, learn hard, play hard, laugh hard, and camp hard...until that last Council Fire on August 10th. That Council Fire is written and performed by our 9th grade campers on their very last night as campers at Nebagamon...ever. It is their graduation night...and commencement ceremony.

Can't wait for our commencement ceremonies to begin on June 18!

ARROWHEAD TAKES A HIATUS...

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT ADAM'S UPDATES ONLINE THIS SUMMER



We will be taking a break from publishing *The Arrowhead* for the months of July to September, but you can still stay in the loop about what's going on at camp this summer by checking out ADAM'S UPDATES on our website, www.campnebagamon.com. Adam Kaplan will be writing online posts regularly, enabling all of you at home to keep up on the happenings at camp throughout the summer.