



Winnebago Alumni Newsletter

—Fall 2005

The Winnebago Alumni Association

12316 Spur Lane, Rockville, VA 23146

The Summer of 2005

Serendipity Summer Features Close B&G Finish, Special Events, Familiar and New Camping Trips

From one of the closest Big Captain elections ever to the final contest of B&G with the season still on the line, the 2005 Serendipity summer was sensational.

The day-to-day camp program was under the leadership of first-year Program Director Ed Knupp, who did a marvelous job intertwining tradition with many of his new ideas.

The summer was filled with successful trips with which you are very familiar. We sent two sets of Seniors out to climb Mt. Katahdin and paddle the Allagash Wilderness Waterway—all the way from Telos Landing to St. Francis on the St. Johns River.

The Seniors also now do a four-day white water kayak trip on the West Branch of the Penobscot River in conjunction with the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset. The Falcons climbed Mt. Blue, the Crescents paddled the Moose River, with calls of “Mooooose” ringing through the dining hall upon their return.

There were special events from Mardi Gras to Halloween, assemblies like Airband and the long-running Mr. Winnebago contest, and an array of division plays that graced the Winnebago stage, ending with the Senior show, “The Lion King,” and the staff show, the ubiquitous, “Grease.”

From ASL to intercamp, from socials to community service, the 2005 season was filled with moments of classic Winnebago. It was a summer to remember, cherish, and build upon as we look forward to 2006. —Uncle Jim



Two scenes familiar to any Winnebagan frame a season at camp: buses unloading on arrival day, and final campfire in the council ring. These and many others will spark your own memories. Find them on the Winnebago website.



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Winnebago Phonathon Reaches Out to Alumni

On June 14th, a dedicated group of alums gathered at Tom Janover's office to dial for dollars for the scholarship fund. Were you called? Can you help us next time, in June 2006? Please e-mail us.

Winnebago on the Web!

- See photos of Camp
- Read the WAG
- Read the Echo online
- Find news of friends
- Post your latest news
- Watch the Camp video
- Take a virtual tour
- See Winnebago in winter

All of this and more at—

www.campwinnebago.com

And the NEW Alumni page at
www.winnebagoalums.org

Winnebago Whispers....Alumni News...

Returning after an absence of two decades, **Uncle Selim Benbadis** (Staff '70's-'80's) will be camp doctor for the first two weeks in July '06 with his nephew, niece and daughter.

A week at a ranch in New Mexico brought back a lot of camp feelings to **Uncle John Bodkin** (Staff '80's). "Great to share time with my sons, Dylan, 14 and Charley, 11 active in Boy Scouts. Also have a daughter Molly, 9. If you were in my Bunk 9 in the 80s you'll be sad to know I haven't changed a bit. I still wake my kids with a 'Wakie, Wakie!' There's a canoe killing a spot on my lawn."

Back in touch after decades, **Bob Caine** ('47-'50) gave us a recap. From Great Neck, he moved to NYC. Riverdale was followed by NYU and NYU Law. His area of expertise was litigation, mostly matrimonial and commercial; however, he also spent many years working in the court system in Nassau County, NY. Bob married Susan in 1964. They have two sons and five grandchildren. Retired in 1999, they now live in the Berkshires, but travel south for the winter.

The NY Journal News awarded **Julian Chender** ('99-'00) first prize for his sports reporting in the newspaper of the Masters School last spring. He is now enjoying his freshman year at Swarthmore.

Uncle Norm Doyle (Staff '90's) and Sarah, at last report, have a wedding date planned for this winter. Norm reports, "Sarah and I are doing great, both having started new jobs. I am deputy head of a Sixth Form. Sarah is now working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, writing policy documents on Human Rights for the UN team.

Eric Feder ('89-'95, Staff) writes that interviewing at law firms and being a Winnebagan is "like being a Freemason or something...It really opens doors....My interviewer...mother of two campers...ended up talking about camp during half of my 20 minute slot."

Uncle Eric Gyasi (Staff '97) was married this past June in the Bronx, in a service which Paul and Barbara Schwarz were fortunate to attend. Eric and Amma live in Yonkers. Eric manages a home for developmentally disabled adults in Westchester County.

Uncle Mark (The Whopper) **Hall** (Staff '80's) has stepped down from coaching high school basketball and is concentrating on teaching. "My wife and I are expecting our second child in January. Maybe this one will be a future brown or green captain!"

Vadim Kogan ('97-'99) "spent the spring 2005 semester in Madrid, and had the best time of my life." He is in his last year at UVA, will be finishing with a Finance degree, and looking for jobs in NYC.

After finishing Suffolk University in Boston in 2003, **Nikos Liakounakos** ('89-'93) stayed in Boston for another six months attending Harvard for a couple of courses. He is back in Greece, working in a health care company.

Teddy McNeill, ('98-'04) is in the middle of his college search. "I'm reminiscing of camp often. I'm most certainly coming back as soon as I can."

The current editor of the Harvard Lampoon, **Simon Rich** ('94-'99), gives all the credit to Camp. "Winnebago encouraged me the most creatively. I loved the plays, the skit nights, the WAG. Guys like Billy Carter and Patrick Higgs taught me almost everything I know about jokes. They really inspired me to work harder for laughs – to write something honest and confessional – not just go for the cheap, mean joke at some other kid's expense. That's something I didn't know when I got to camp and did know when I left and it's probably the most important thing I ever learned about comedy. It's one of the most important things I've ever learned, period. If it isn't 'all in fun,' then it isn't worth doing."

Brian Rose ('89-'94) was married last July, with fellow campers Jesse Friedman, Mike Wolf and Michael "Chippy" Klein in attendance. In Houston, Brian is in his second year of Law School, and his wife is in her third year at Baylor College of Medicine. Brian has started a Camp Winnebago group on friendster.com.

Doug Schoen ('62-'67) has been a political consultant for 25 to 30 years. "Mostly for Democrats, though we do work for Mike Bloomberg." (Did OK this fall, didn't he?) Doug remembers Fred Levy, his camp big brother, as a warm person who also overlapped a year or so at Horace Mann. Doug has "written books, traveled the

(Continued on page 4)

Words for Winnebago—from the President

Thanksgiving. It's a time to take stock of what you can be thankful for in your life. I trust you have much to be thankful for—a cornucopia of things. I'm thankful for Winnebago and what it gives to our campers. Our goal is to give that opportunity to twelve campers each summer so that each of them to can add his experience at camp to his "thankful" list. Again, our goal is for the Alumni Association to fund twelve scholarship campers, two in each division, Eagle through Senior. So far, financially, we are woefully under what we need to meet this goal.

Each summer we take a lot of time giving our staff the history of camp. From Chief to Uncle Howie and Uncle Phil, we try to instill in each new counselor how important the tenets of camp are to us. We think that each successful summer is proof that we are getting this message across to them. We all know that history and how integral is it to the development of young people. We know that history, and it's time to show it. It's time to make the effort to give this great opportunity to as many young people that we can—and only you can make this happen.

So many of you have sent your sons to Winnebago. If you look at any Echo you'll see that photo of Sons and Alumni. I'm still in it with my son, Bennett, now a counselor at Camp, after eight years as a camper. You have given us your sons, the most valuable of gifts. The most valuable gift you can give us now is your donation to us so that we can share this experience of a summer on Echo Lake, soaking in the Winnebagan experience, with those who could not otherwise ever make it to camp.

Thanksgiving. Thankful for camp? Make that something a child much less fortunate can also be thankful for in his life. I hope you make the time and the decision to give. Have a safe and fun holiday season full of pep and vim. —Uncle Jim

Yes, I'll Help the Winnebago Scholarship Fund!

I want to make it possible for minority scholarship campers to enjoy the gift of camp by attending Camp Winnebago. I enclose the following tax-deductible contribution, payable to The Winnebago Alumni Association:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____ (any amount)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

My years as a camper: _____ counselor: _____

News for the next Alumni Association Newsletter: _____

_____ (or attach a page)

Mail to: Jim Astrove, 12316 Spur Lane, Rockville, VA 23146

Thank You!

Since the Spring 2005 Newsletter, the Winnebago Alumni Association has received contributions from the following alumni, parents, and friends:

- Tony & Jane Asch
- Nancy Bard & Don Baer
- Emily & Donald Bloom
- Jeffrey Bobrick
- Andy Casden
- Kim & Mark Cheiken
- Thomas Corwin
- Mark Davis
- John & Carol Drake
- Ellen & Lester Eber
- Resa & David Eppler
- Barbara Fain & Jason Gilbert
- Dan Feldman
- Sharon & Rod Feldman
- Jim & Jane Felix
- Mary & Richard Felix
- Yale & Donna Fergang
- Arthur & Jill Frankel
- Mike Friedman
- Jesse Friedman
- Paul Gabriel
- Maureen & Andrew Gilbert
- Kevin Gile
- Vicki Gilmore & Terri Greiss
- Steve Gold
- John & Stephanie Golfinos
- Bruce & Majorie Gruder
- Dan Hirschhorn
- Jimmy Janover & Marcy Sandler
- Marc Kaiser
- Donald & Lina Katz
- Eddie & Bill Kaufman
- Leni Klaimitz & Mitchell Berg
- Mark Kaufman
- Rob & Penny Klatell
- Chris Klatell
- Henry Levy
- Steven Lewent
- Lynn Lienthal
- Susan & Mark Madoff
- Steve Males
- Susan & Jay Markowitz
- Jill & Richard Meyer
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Minnium
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- Ken Rothchild & Hilarie Blumenthal
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- Madelaine & Michael Sprung
- Al & Ginny Stein
- Louis Stern
- Dana Strupp
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- Baila, Bruce & Andrew Waldholtz
- Jill & Cass Waller
- David Weil

Winnebago Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Winnebago Whispers....

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world for business and pleasure, and tried to be philanthropic....How successful I've been is open to question, but I would say that being big captain in 1967 did have a determinative effect on my life. For what it's worth, my father—who went to the now defunct Kennebec—believes Winnebago was critical to the formation of my character, such as it is. I believe my time in Bunk 3 and Bunk 6 (1962 and 1963) made all the difference.”

A recent issue of Fortune magazine featured **Eliot Spitzer** ('68-'70), and included an in-depth look at his seven years as New York State Attorney General and a preview of the 2006 Gubernatorial campaign, calling Eliot "one of the few true hopes of the Democratic Party."(see spitzer2006.com, and click “about Eliot”)

Uncle Dale Ulmer, (Staff '77), has fond memories taking pictures and teaching photography at camp. He is now a successful architect in Florida and happily married, with three girls.

Save the Dates!

Winnebago Family Camp: August 16—27, 2006

Alumni Reunion in Manhattan On Saturday, March 11, 2006



Successful 2005 Reunion! Don't miss the next one!