



Camp Nokomis Chatter

April 2011



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR... You all probably know by now that March Madness ended in disappointment for the UConn Women and triumph for the UConn men. I was properly sad for the women, but very excited for that young Texas A & M team that fought so valiantly, and I was truly thrilled when that team finally won it all. It is good to see new teams emerging at the top of the women's game. So I can live with the outcome. I'm less than pleased, however, with the Red Sox current status. A 1-7 record is not my idea of quality baseball for a team with Championship potential, even if they did beat the Yankees, finally.

Aside from all that, as I write this Lake Winnepesaukee is still very frozen and the water temperature is 36 degrees. That's mighty cold! Marty has returned from his winter vacation in the south and is eager to get to camp and get to work, partly to get things up and running and partly to put the finishing touches on Cabin Five. However, that's not happening any time soon. Last weekend David Hamblet snowmobiled across the lake to check things out and reported that all is well at camp. However, the gurus are mumbling "ice out by Easter." It's hard to believe that just a year ago we had one of the earliest ice outs in years. Hopefully some warm, glorious spring days and an early heat wave will warm up the lake in a hurry!

Throughout the winter I've heard regularly from staff, old and new. Although the "real world" has claimed some faces that we all love, I'm confident that I've added wonderful new people who will bring fresh ideas and interesting life experiences to our program. I'm glad to report that the Leadership Team is essentially intact with Associate Director and Risk Management Supervisor **Karen Parker**; Associate Director and Waterfront Director **Sarah Spalding**; Staff Development Supervisor and Bookkeeper **Gretchen Seifert**; Program Director **Alex Grindle**; Middler Unit Head **Faryn Shiro**; Senior Unit Head and Assistant Waterfront Director **Sarah "Spam" McGuire**; "Aide Mom," Head of Sailing, & Assistant Waterfront Director, **Jessie Baker**; and Trip Director **Jessica Robinson Parker**. Our newest team member is **Molly Prudden**, Junior Unit Head, succeeding **Jaimie Merrell** in that role. Sadly, we have lost Jaimie to other demands of her life, but she will be at camp during precamp and the First Session, specifically to get the Craft Shop underway and help where she can. The other cabin/activity leaders are as follows: **Courtney Anglin**, **Robin Armstrong**, **Emily Baker**, **Georgia Bodle** from New Zealand, **Molly Cannon**, **Cassie Condon**, **Alexis Damish**, **Becky DeMott**, **Danielle Gumley** from the UK, **Nicole Hamblet**, **Hannah Hughes** also from the UK, **Julie Howard**, **Emily Kent**, **Mags Lederfine Paskal**, **Ella Lemos**, **Emma MacAllister**, **Lydia Mesler**, **Marina Plesons**, **Morgan Prudden**, **Meghan Styles**, **Laura Styles** and **Melisa Templeton**. Our wonderful nurses **Beth Benham**, **Charlene McCarron**, and **Stoney** will be back as our health care team, along with a very gifted new nurse, **Jessica Richardson**. The C.I.T.s complete our cabin/activity staff and are as follows: **Anna Bradley-Webb**, **Kathryn Brebner**, **Siobhan Coleman**, **Moira Cronin**, **Erin Farrington**, **Lindsev Hamblet**, **Caroline Higley**, **Michela Maczko**, **Sarah Papa**, **Maggierose Smith**, and **Antonia Vitagliano**. Camp Nokomis will be in good hands!!

Sadly, we have lost our popular cook **Sally Niezelski** to a new life in Florida near her daughter and her granddaughter. The Food Service Company with whom we work is diligently processing resumes in order to identify the best possible team of cooks available for us this summer. With Sally's help, and my review, the menus have been revised and improved, in our opinion. Of course we have the recipes for homemade rolls, special salad dressings, Spiders and Congo bars! To complete our kitchen staff we will have one returning staff: **Carlos Vaquiro Rondon**, plus five new helping hands - **Ling-Chun** from Taiwan, **Nicholas Carrington** and **Shelley Chadwick** from the UK, **Abdulkadir Erturk** from Turkey and **Luitani Bonilla Bonilla** from the Dominican Republic. Thankfully, **Marty Fletcher** remains our talented and hard-working Facilities Manager, assisted by his wife **Laura** when he needs an extra hand. The Transportation staff definitely looks promising with **Cheryl Titone** as the Transportation Coordinator, supported by **Matthew Gibbs** from the UK, **Meike Schramm** from Germany, and **Connor McGrath** from the USA.

Registrations have come in well this winter, resulting in fairly lengthy waiting lists for Middlers and Senior in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sessions and for Juniors most of the summer. There are still 3-4 openings for Seniors in Session One. Cancellations do happen in the spring so if you know anyone who would enjoy camp, encourage them to call our main office. If they go on the wait list now, they join the priority registration group next fall. Additionally, everyone should have received an Activity Sheet by now, so by all means call the office if yours hasn't arrived. Remember it's important to mail it promptly, especially if you want to take Waterskiing. "Get Acquainted Sheets" and "Medical Forms," if they are ready, can be mailed in the same envelope. And while you're at it, if you have some great idea for camp this summer, write me a note and send it along. We're always glad to have camper suggestions. I should add that Camp Lawrence has openings as well, especially in Sessions One and Four – so spread the word! Several of our Leadership Team met the new Camp Lawrence Director, **Todd Lennig**, at the New England Camp Association spring conference and he's a definite thumbs up. Sorry, ladies, but he is married and has two little boys, ages 1 and 3.

There isn't a lot of camper and staff news at the moment. A number of last year's CIT's have received college acceptances from more than one school but I do not have a list of those who actually made their decision. I do know that **Alison Hiatt** had a lead in the fall production at her school and is in the spring production as well. She continues to excel in school, as does **Allvson McCarron** – so it must go with the name. **Gillian McCarron** also can be proud of her school grades. Alison Hiatt also participated in the Boston Model UN. **Melissa Haitt** has had a great year as well, being nominated to the NH Division III girls track All-Star team and traveling to Alabama in December to compete in the Junior Olympics. She too gets high grades. **Julia Howard** loved Scripps College and was doing well in her classes, her job, and a variety of activities until she came down with mono and has had to take the rest of this semester off. She is working hard to recover so she can continue to be a staff member at camp and get you all enthused about Outdoor Education! **Sica** and son **Joshua Parker** stopped in Stamford during their mid-winter break. It was terrific to see them and to know they're doing so well. (*Continued on back*)...

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Check our website for newsletters: www.mvymcacamps.org



WANT TO TOUR CAMP?
Join Us:
Sunday, May 29, 2011
10 AM and 2 PM Boat Departure
Saturday, June 11, 2011
10 AM and 2 PM Boat Departure
Sunday, June 12, 2011
10 AM Boat Departure
Reservations are required
Call 978-975-1330 to reserve a date



That does it for now. I've begun ordering camp supplies, including a new Sunfish-like boat, necessary program supplies, great cabin activity materials, and interesting camp store items. Camp is coming soon! I hope life is good where you are and that we will see you at camp this summer. In the meantime, ponder these wise words from my little book, "Gold Nuggets." "Do good. This should be the aim of every human being, to make the world a better place for having lived." And "It doesn't cost anything to be nice." As we all know, nice matters, and good deeds improve the world – one step at a time. Be part of life's solutions! Bring your good deeds to camp.

And while you're thinking positively, continue to believe in miracles, "Go, Red Sox!" (They're leading the Yankees right now!)

My love to you,

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