

THE MCWAIN NEWS

Summer 2004

McWAIN POND ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Peter Leslie
7 Cragmoor
Cape Elizabeth, ME
207-799-5100
207-583-4021
pleslie@maine.rr.com

Vice-President: Peter Sevcik
955 Emerson Dr.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-971-6631
207-583-2039
Peter@netforecast.com

Secretary: Annette Tomaino
125 Lafayette Ave.
Chatham, NJ 07928
973-635-8537
207-583-4530
Attping@aol.com

Treasurer: Heather Labenski
44 Plimpton St.
Walpole, MA 02081
508-668-4418
207-583-6781
heather@mail.wazi.com

Memories of Summer Camps on McWain Pond

For many of us who love the woods and water of Maine, some of life's best memories were formed at summer camps along the shores of McWain Pond.

So many fine camps have called McWain home, it is common to hear of families that have packed off two or three generations of campers — with mixed feelings and plenty of bug repellant — to form their own memories.

Several association members who now spend vacations on McWain with children or grandchildren first discovered the lake as “happy campers” a generation or more ago. Some of them have helped create an informal collage of photographic and written recollections to share with the rest of us. Enjoy.



Greg Tomaino waterskiing at former Camp Waganaki

Remembering Waganaki

By Greg Tomaino

At 7:00, we awaken to the sound of the “Acme Thunderer.” Then, it is off to the washhouse to brush our teeth. Up the hill to breakfast at 7:45. A bowl of Rice Krispies followed by French toast. After breakfast, we race back down the hill. The first campers to the sign-up

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Heads Up! Annual Meeting is July 17 at Camp Waziyatah, 10 a.m.

FOR THE RECORD, McWain Pond iced-in Dec. 5, 2003, and ice-out occurred April 19, 2004. Last year, the ice left April 24, which was 14 days later than 2002.

KEOKA LAKE ASSOCIATION failed by two votes at town meeting this spring to ban jet skis.

SPRINGER'S GENERAL STORE has re-opened under the ownership of Dave Springer, who is no relation to Wilma Springer, the former proprietor for whom the store was named. Dave and his sister, Joy Smith, and her husband Dan, together with Dave's father-in-law, Herb Bowers, all plan to work at the store. Year rounders have raved about the homemade soups and pizzas and everyone is glad to see our landmark store operating again.

DIEHARD FANS OF TUTS know that the store and restaurant is again operating under previous owners, Paul, Kay, and Mi-

chelle Legare, but with a new name, Melby's Market and Eatery.

THE MELVOIN FAMILY is back in their McWain Pond home, having rebuilt after a devastating fire.

REPLANTING HAS TAKEN PLACE on the lot that was clear-cut on McWain Shores after advice from the Lakes Environmental Association and a request from Selectmen.

LINDSAY LEE PATTON, third granddaughter of Nancy and Bill Hanger, made her debut March 29, 2003. A belated welcome to her and congratulations to parents Jill Hanger Patton and Bart Patton from Ohio.

BART and MARY ANN HAGUE welcomed a grandson, Joseph, in November in Shropshire, England, compliments of daughter Mary and her husband Stephen Yearl.

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board get their first choice of activities. Water skiing, riflery, archery, and woodshop are usually the first to get filled up. Cabin clean-up for 15 minutes, then off to morning activities. At 11:00, the Acme Thunderer signals time for instructional swim. Back up the hill at noon for lunch. Ravioli today washed down with grape bug juice. Red Jell-O for desert. Then, time for the second big race down the hill for afternoon sign-ups.

What's on the board for this afternoon? A baseball game against Wig-Wam? How does the wind look on the lake, a good day for sailing? Are the fish biting today? This is also the time to sign-up for trips. A two-night trip leaving tomorrow for Mt. Washington. I could be back just in time to head right back out for a canoe trip on Flagstaff.

Back to the cabin for "rest" hour. Nobody (except the counselors) sleeps now. Time for letters home or reading comic books. At 2:00, time for afternoon activities followed by free swim. After swim, back up the hill (are you sensing a pattern here?) for dinner. Chicken and mashed potatoes are on the fare tonight.

After dinner, time for evening activities. Wednesday is movie night and woodcraft on Sundays. Some cabins walk to Springer's for ice cream. In the rec-room, a few games of pool and ping-pong. In the lower grove, tetherball, horseshoes, and basketball. On the level spot, always a softball game. If it is still warm at 8:00, time for a dip (not to be confused with an official "swim") At 8:30, milk and crackers for the younger campers, a trip to the washhouse and taps at 9:00. For the older campers an extra hour to read, joke, and play their transistor radios (680 AM WRKO from Boston) until sleep overtakes us.

At right, Patrick Leslie demonstrates his homemade iceboat, proving that winter on McWain Pond can be nearly as much fun as summer. Pat made the boat over the holidays out of scrap wood, an old windsurfer sail, and sawed off skis. It reached over 30 mph.

A Good Day at Camp McWain

6:00 Up and ready for a day of swimming, sailing, fishing, antiquing, or golf.

11:00 Back for lunch and a siesta.

2:00 Down to the lake for relaxation and a swim – maybe even some laps.

4:00 Shoot some baskets, throw horseshoes, swing a tennis racquet, whack the volleyball or smash a badminton birdie.

6:00 Into town for dinner. Or, if it happens to be Thursday, a delicious lobster roast down at the lake with many scrumptious covered dishes with the whole camp.

9:00 Socializing or cards with friends. Watch the sunset.

9:30 Flashlight tag.

10:00 Quiet time & reading.

11:00 Peaceful slumber.

— Bruce Whichard



Camp Joseph

Camp Joseph was founded in 1958 by the Jewish Community Camps of New England to serve 150 boys from ages 8 to 16. It provided a full range of activities, including basketball, tennis, volleyball, baseball, archery, riflery, arts and crafts, and waterfront activities — swimming, canoeing, waterskiing and sailing. Campers, mostly from the Boston area, also enjoyed a variety of field trips, climbing Mt. Katadhin, riding the flume, and attending Deertrees Theater. There was a Jewish chapel on-site for Saturday Sabbath services and the dining service was kosher. Each summer culminated with a color war known as the Maccabiah and a strategic all-camp game of capture the flag. Camp Joseph remained an all boys camp until 1965 when the youngest girls from its sister camp, Naomi in Raymond, relocated to the McWain Pond site. In 1972 it became a coed camp for teens and in 1974 the facility was used as a conference center. In 1976 the camp was sold for \$280,000. Camp Joseph was on the southern end of McWain Pond, across from former Camp Waganaki.

— Gail Levine



Rose Barinelli of Arlington, Mass., enjoys her Camp McWain-style spa treatment.

“Help the Other Fellow” has been the motto at Birch Rock Camp since 1926

- 7:15 am There goes that wake-up bell again.
 7:30 am I better hurry to the Flag Raising Ceremony and daily work assignments.
 7:40 am Time for a good breakfast to fuel a busy day.
 8:30 am Sign-up for Daily Activities. So many to choose from. What do I want to do today?
 8:35 am First, clean-up the cabin for the daily inspection.
 9:00 am For activity period, I'll start up on The Hill with volleyball, then lacrosse.
 11:00 am Time for the general swim. The lake really feels great today. It was hot up on The Hill.
 11:45 am Ah, rest period, followed by lunch at the lodge.
 2:00 pm An art project, mountain biking, riflery.
 6:00 pm The flag comes down. A brief rest before dinner.
 7:30 pm Ping pong tonight? Maybe an astronomy lesson.
 9:15 pm Lights out for the Upper Camp. It seems early to go to bed, but I am really tired. Maybe tomorrow I'll go canoeing, sailing, fishing, or windsurfing. I wonder who will be the next camper to swim the lake. Maybe, next year, it will be me.

— **Bruce Whichard**

There's never “nothing to do” at Camp Waziyatah . . .



At left, Camp Waziyatah campers from the 2003 season enjoy kayaking and horse riding, among other activities.

Above, Eddie Muzik, waterfront director, and Bruno Tomaino, assistant camp director, at Camp Waganaki in 1970.

President's Letter

We were fortunate to spend ten days at the pond over the winter holidays and the lake was pretty good for skating. We met many of you on the lake skating, ice fishing, or taking a stroll. At night there were lights sparkling around the pond.

Our family for years has built ice-boats with varying degrees of success and some of hilarious failure. The rule is that you have to build it out of materials on the property – you can't buy anything. This year, our son, Patrick, who many of you will remember from his water quality testing projects in the pond, exceeded all previous efforts. For a few days when the wind was up we scooted across the ice holding on for dear life. The real triumph was not just the speed attained, but also the fact that, you sailors will understand this, we could tack the boat – turn it around without getting out to do it. The plans are not secret; all you need are some

old skis, scrap wood, rope, and an old sail. The patent is NOT pending.

On a more serious note, Kay and I attended meetings at the town hall this winter having to do with the very serious erosion from the Hawk Mountain Road into Mud Pond and from there into Keoka Lake. The Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District and the state were represented and, working with townspeople and town officials, a good plan was developed at modest cost.

The plan itself is simple (the best plans often are). Water coursing down will be diverted and the road will be temporarily closed to vehicles during mud season.

Our colleagues at the Keoka Lake Association asked voters at town meeting to permit them to seek a ban on personal watercraft, much as we did a few years ago. They failed by two votes.

We continue to be concerned about the prospect of an invasive plant getting into and ruining our pond, so please keep alert to this threat. Inspect your boats for foreign vegetation and make sure visitors' boats are also examined. Nothing will spoil our pond faster than milfoil or hydrilla.

A longer-term danger is the gradual erosion of sand and soil bearing phosphorus into the pond. Please do all you can to stabilize your property and control erosion by using vegetative buffers and water diverting systems. If you have any questions, the Lakes Environmental Association, of which we are members, is always glad to help.

We look forward to seeing you on the pond this summer. Please feel free to contact me on any subject. I'd like to hear from you.

Peter Leslie

207.799.5100 (home)

207.583.4021 (McWain)

If you have ideas for The McWain News, or can help with its production, please contact Mary Martin at:

mary-martin@earthlink.net

At the end of summer 2003, McWain Pond was again rated at the Moderate/High level of concern for water quality, primarily because of dissolved oxygen depletion, according to Lakes Environmental Association.

Mary Martin / The McWain News
955 Emerson Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901