



21,000 Miles and Counting

By SAM WARD

Last summer my brother Ben (CIT '06) and I set off to thru-hike the length of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), a 2,650-mile footpath following the Sierra and Cascade mountain ranges from Mexico to the Canadian border. Along the way we would pass through 7 National Parks, 3 states, deserts, wildflowers, burn areas, raging mountain streams, lava fields, snow fields, and spectacular scenery. The trail would be entirely new territory for two boys from Maryland who had never set foot on the diverse West Coast landscape. However, we would be well equipped with valuable wilderness skills gained from many moons spent at Tohko. Perhaps the most essential to our success was something someone taught me my first week as a new camper in the Panther Clan: Suck it up.

The 2010/2011 snowfall on the West Coast set records for the high elevations occupied by the PCT, particularly Central California, aka the High Sierras. With over 660 inches on the season, storms as late as May dumping three feet of snow, and ski resorts open for 4th of July, many thru-hikers went around this section or got off the PCT en-



Ben and Sam Ward traverse the snow pack somewhere along the Pacific Crest Trail with a friend.

tirely. For those of us that went for it, in Central California there was no trail in sight and getting lost became a daily or even hourly chore. For about 500 miles we were sliding down icy snow pack in the morning and slogging through heavy snow in the evenings, constantly debating which mountain pass we should be aiming for and wondering where the first place we could buy a GPS was. We made it through though; relying on so much of the knowledge, confidence, and fortitude gained from our summers in East Madison, and achieved our goal of a continuous border-to-border thru-hike of the

PCT.

Ben is currently thru-hiking the 2,176-mile Appalachian Trail (AT) southbound with Leo Tannheimer (CIT '06) and a friend, Ian Wilson. Jake Mehlman (CIT '10) is expected to complete his northbound thru-hike of the AT in June of this year. Ten different Tohko Alumni have hiked a total of roughly 21,000 miles (and counting) continuously along one of the National Scenic Trails. The length of the Earth's equator is roughly 24,900 miles. Many hands make light work.

ALUMNI WEEKEND - SAVE THE DATE!

LABOR DAY WEEKEND, FRIDAY AUGUST 31ST - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD. SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.



John Peterson poses with campers during the presentation of Week 2 Deer Clan Riflery awards.

SUMMER 2012 CAMP UPDATE

Tohkomeupog opened for the 81st summer of Outdoor Adventure, Friendship and Opportunity on July 1, 2012. Our camper count is on par with last summer, and we're happy to report that again we will have 100% of our staff returning from prior summers in East Madison. We continue to struggle with recruiting Bear Clan aged campers and because of this we will have Bear aged campers joining the Deer Clan for five of the seven weeks. Stevo and Reid return as directors in the Deer and Panther Clans. Dan Bowers returns to the Wolf Clan after a season with the Bears. George Croft will handle sailing instruction and step out of director retirement to oversee the Bear Clan for two weeks. Don Barton is back as camp AD and John Sexton will continue as waterfront Director. Ken and John Peterson will be in charge of the Archery and Riflery ranges once again. Dawn Petersen

will manage the office and store and Tim Folsom will oversee all the action on the tennis courts. For those of you who aren't on our weekly summer newsletter list please send us an email at tohko@tohko.com. We also now have a presence on Facebook and if you haven't "liked" us yet please find us at <https://www.facebook.com/tohkomeupog>.

Kesté,
Andrew Mahoney
Tohkomeupog Director

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

For the 2011 summer camping season, your generous donations helped send 10 boys to Camp, including 5 sons of alumni! 2012 scholarships are being finalized as this newsletter hits the press – we expect to help send 12 boys to Camp, including 4 sons of

PEEPING TOM

TEN YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER...

PEEPING TOM SAW JON REES' ENTIRE BEDROOM FLOATING ON A RAFT OF CANOES ON PURITY LAKE. NO WORD ON WHETHER OR NOT JON'S SECURITY BLANKET, "BINKI", WAS EVER RECOVERED.

alumni. As always, we encourage alumni with sons to apply for scholarships.

As summer's approach recalls your happy Tohkomeupog memories, we hope you consider making a donation to the Alumni Fund. All donations are much appreciated and will be used make enjoying Camp affordable for selected boys. Please send donations to Ross Faldetta, 24 Woodland Street, Sherborn, MA 01770. Make checks payable to "Camp Tohkomeupog Alumni Association." If your employer matches charitable donations, please contact Ross or the Alumni Board (tohko-alumni-board@googlegroups.com) for additional details regarding this opportunity. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Ross Faldetta,
Scholarship Fund Treasurer

ALUMNI WEEKEND & GOLF TOURNAMENT

NARRAGANSETT BAY, RI - Greetings Camp community and we hope you are enjoying your summer. Alumni Weekend festivities will begin on Friday afternoon, 8/31/12, where many folks will gather at Sunset Beach for swimming and volleyball. Fire on Wolf Hill will begin a bit after sunset.

Camp facilities will be open for use on Saturday, perhaps for a basketball game or tennis match. The softball game will take place on Saturday afternoon, followed by a cookout and live music. The golf tournament will be held Sunday morning (details below), while camp facilities will be open before lunch, followed by afternoon waterskiing at Sunset Beach. The Committee, Andrew and Philip Porter, have reached an agreement with Province Lake Golf Club to host the 17th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament! Golf Professional Patrick D'Angelo has re-

ported very favorable playing conditions with tight fairways and fast greens.

When: Sunday September 2 at 8:15am

Where: Province Lake Golf Course

Why: to support the Camp Tohkomeupog Alumni Association

Over the past 16 years the golf tournament has raised more than \$20,000 for the Alumni Association. Join us for a morning of golf with old friends and new. Please email The Committee to reserve your tee time at Pp_keste@yahoo.com.

Kesté!

Andrew and Philip Porter, and Todd Gochman

PROPOSED SPRUCE POINT SHELTER



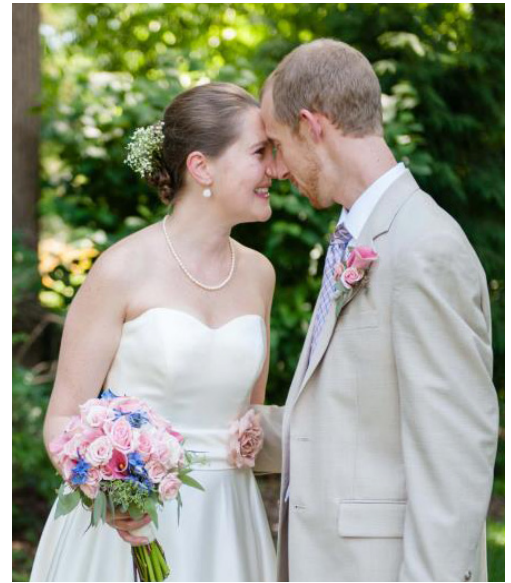
Many thanks to Jon Chace for providing plans and the rendering above. We are happy to report that the town and state have green-lighted construction. Stay tuned for build-date and work weekend details!

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

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ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Left: Brandon Cicero and Erica Lynn Holtz celebrate their nuptials. Right: Jillian Oberfield and Benjamin Fenwick share a moment on their big day.

IT'S WEDDING SEASON!

- Brandon Cicero and Erica Lynn Holtz were married May 18, 2012.
- Jillian Oberfield and Benjamin Fenwick were married June 23, 2012 in Media, PA.
- Sarah Banister and Nick Todd were married July 11, 2011 in East Madison, NH on Sunset Beach, Purity Lake.
- Allison Croft and Mark Conklin were married on July 9, 2011.
- Ken Veit and Jenna Sternberg were married May 21, 2011 in Bernville, PA.
- Todd Goldenberg married Stephanie Greenbaum over Memorial Day weekend in Jupiter, FL. Kudos to Keith Berman who traveled from his home in Dubai, UAE to attend the ceremony!
- Jon Chace is engaged to be married to Sarah Davis.
- Adam Goodman is engaged to be married to Jo Schaalman on October 27, 2012 in Boulder, CO.

THE TOHKOMEUPOG TRIBE CONTINUES TO GROW

- Mark and Lindsay Mazzetti recently welcomed their newborn son, Max.
- Zach Oberfield and Felicia Lin welcomed their newborn son, Theodore (Theo) Henry Oberfield.
- Todd, Amy, and Henry Gochman welcomed Andrew Wales Gochman to their family. Andrew weighed 10lbs. 9oz. and is 25" tall. Andrew is looking forward to his first Pine Point swim in 2016.

MISCELLANEA

- Congratulations to Jon Rees for matriculating into UConn Dental School and Ross Faldetta for matriculating into University of Chicago's Booth School of Business for Fall of 2012.
- Congratulations to Doug Belliveau on his graduation from Southern Connecticut State University and Tom Latronico for graduating with his M.B.A. from Boston College.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? KNOW OF SOME TOHKO ALUMNI NEWS?

EMAIL THE EDITOR, TOM LATRONICO, AT TBLATRONICO@GMAIL.COM.