

Kinkeegwan:

*Camp is in full swing and we hope that you are enjoying your summer too, even if you can't spend it in The Valley.*

*For information about Camp or alumni events call 1-800-414-2267 or send an e-mail to [tohko@tohko.com](mailto:tohko@tohko.com).*

See [www.tohko.com](http://www.tohko.com) for information about Camp and the Alumni Association.

July, 2009



## Camp Tohkomeupog Alumni Association

### 48 at 4,000

*The following is an excerpt from Nate Rickler's college application essay. He is a recent graduate of the Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, and will attend Bates College, in Lewiston, Maine, in the fall.*

At the age of ten, and at an elevation of 4,135 feet, I had caught the fever. That glorious morning a fire was lit inside my soul that would be inextinguishable for the next six years. On that day, I had reached the peak of my very first 4,000 footer. In the state of New Hampshire, where my summer camp, Camp Tohkomeupog is located, there are 48 mountains that exceed 4,000 feet. I made it my goal that day, standing on that peak and looking around in breathtaking views, to hike them all. By the end of my first stay at summer camp, I had accumulated three of the 48...*not too bad*, I thought. The only problem was that now I had to wait 11 months before I could hike more of them. That summer taught me many things that I valued so much upon leaving Camp Tohkomeupog; the first and foremost was a true appreciation for the great outdoors. Another life lesson still instilled in me was the principle of, and ability to, set goals and strive to achieve them.

As summers progressed, I never thought camp would become so much of a central part of my life as it did. Every year, I hiked more and more mountains, each one special in its name, elevation, and ascension. As I grew older, the trips became harder, the mountains more challenging, and the friendships stronger. I had seen and been scared by bears, caught in thunder and lightning storms, suffered from near scares of hypothermia, and often questioned why I pushed myself so hard to hike these mountains when I did not have to. This could be partially answered by the sweet allure of hiking, and how different a person I became while in the mountains.

I feel so much more simple and down-to-earth when I have my hiking boots on; I can wipe worries away like sweat from my brow, for at 4,000 feet there are not too many things I have to be concerned about, except falling! There are also other times in which I hate hiking—like when a freezing rain dumps from the sky—but these are the things that only reinforce my love for hiking. For, without these things, hiking would be simple and boring, predictable and methodical.

After four years as a camper, I had accumulated 22 mountains. I knew that I would have to work very hard to finish by my final (sixth) summer as a camper. In my fifth summer I truly went all out, climbing 24 mountains over a six-week period. I had singlehandedly (or two-footedly) hiked half of the 48 in one summer. This was only possible through personal sacrifice. I decided to stay an extra week at camp and not go to my family vacation on time, and instead of relaxing at my family's summer house on an island in Maine, I was toiling away in the



*Nate and Doug Verney standing on top of their 48th and final 4,000 footer.*



*A fork in road on the journey to conquering all 48.*

White Mountains of New Hampshire. That trip was known as, "the Francs" because all of the hiking was done in the Franconia range and it was one of the hardest things I have ever accomplished: 16 mountains in four days, hiked over the course of 46 miles. We had 40-pound frame packs and no tents, only tarps to shield us as we slept from the thunder, lightning, and rain. At the conclusion of that summer I had 46 done and could not wait one second until the next summer where the final opportunity lay to finish my long conquest.

The two mountains that I had left were quite isolated from the rest, and are often a hiker's last two. They don't offer great views or outlooks, but for me, they offered something so much more valuable: the prospect of finally accomplishing my six-summer goal. This was something I had wanted to do so badly, and as I reached the summit of number 48, Mt. Cabot, I felt relieved, thankful, and strangely odd. I felt relieved because I had finally accomplished an extremely daunting task. I felt thankful because I was able to experience the great outdoors through an extraordinary summer camp while really developing and maturing into a different person than the person I was while at home in the city. *Continued on page 2.*

## Camp Update from the Big Chief

Tohkomeupog opened for its 78th season on Sunday June 28th. Overall numbers for this season are a couple short from 2008, though camp revenue will be up. The weather for the first several weeks was quite wet, but it didn't dampen any spirits. Everyone at camp is enjoying the new float at the Waterfront and once again "woolagon" to all that helped make this happen. We have assembled another fantastic staff with all staff for the first four weeks being veterans. Returning directors include Don Barton as assistant camp director, John Sexton has moved to the Waterfront, George Croft in the Bear Clan, Dan "Digger" Bowers in the Wolf Clan (with Colin McKaig pinch hitting for two weeks Mid July), Chris Siddell returning as Deer Clan Director and Jon Rees returning to camp from a few seasons away as the Panther Clan Director. Stevo returns to his role as director of "Tribal Relations". John "JP" Petersen is running the riflery program and his Dad Ken returns to the archery center as well as overseeing flint and steel and wet weather fire building. Tim Folsom returns as our tennis pro and John Nute serves as Etiquette Advisor and keeps us all in line. I'm happy to report that we hosted two ACA visitors on August third and we received a perfect score aside from one voluntary "no" for not requiring bedrails on bunks beyond the Bear Clan. We will be reaccredited by the ACA this fall for three more years. We hope to see everyone for Alumni weekend. Keste', Andrew



Deer Clan campers and staff on their Osceola Tecumseh trip.

## 48 at 4,000 Continued

And I felt odd because I had never before experienced such a feeling of completion, such a closing to something I had pursued for so long. On my way down, my first thought was, "What's next?"

As I look back upon the whole journey summer camp has been, now a camp counselor at that very camp, now leading the trips myself and trying to instill in the kids a great appreciation and a true understanding of the wilderness that was once instilled in me, I have found the answer to that question.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

**Alumni Weekend - August 28th - 30th, 2009**

Mark your calendars for this years Alumni weekend, punctuated by the 14th the Alumni Golf Tournament on that Friday.

Contact: Andrew, amahoney@kingpine.com

-or- Phil Porter, pp\_keste@yahoo.com

**Harvest Festival - October 23rd - 25th, 2009**

Come up to camp for this fund raising event in support of the Laura Mahoney Foundation.

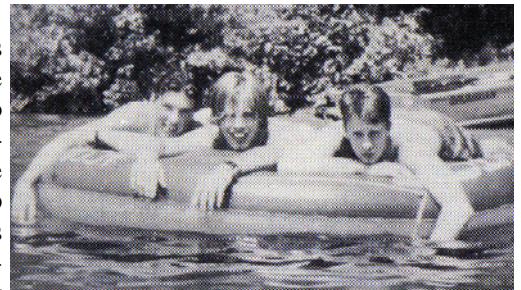
Contact: Steve, kalhouzit@roadrunner.com

-or- Andrew, amahoney@kingpine.com

## Great Moments in Camp History

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1994

With the Bear, Panther, and Wolf clans all on trip, the Deer clan had the entire camp to themselves. What better way to take advantage than to commandeer anything and everything that floats and take the whole clan on a very leisurely trip across the lake to Sunset Beach. Thus was born The Deer Clan Armada. The tradition continued for years afterwards, being a favorite of campers and staff alike.



Josh Davis, Andrew Porter and Jeremy Levangie working hard during the Deer Clan Armada.

## Camp News & Notes

♣ **Weddings!** Love is in the air and we have a slew of Camp weddings to announce. **Cy Samai and Emily Taylor** tied the knot in Atlanta in May. **Marianne Croft and Tom Gilmore** also took the plunge in May. **Zach Oberfield and Felicia Lin** had a wedding party in New York this June. **Dave Banister and Amy Rourke** (pictured right) got hitched in July. And to cap off the summer, **Mike Barton and Allison Stoddard** are set to be married this September.



♣ **Babies!** **Mike and Alisa Croft** are the proud new parents of Jonathon Croft, born this July (pictured right). **Trevor and Katie Dodge** welcomed their second child, Emery Dodge on 6/30/09. **Pat and Beth Monaghan** announce the birth of Isabelle Monaghan. And last but not least, Addison Darling was born to **Will and Tammy Darling** on 07/08/09.



♣ As of May 3, 2009, **Sam Kellog (CIT 2007)** was 927 miles into his Appalachian Trail bid, which put him at Port Clinton, PA. A quick perusal of his Trail Journal ([www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?trailname=8675](http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?trailname=8675)) reveals the wit and humor that Sam is known for, with such nuggets as, "Why did they put Georgia so damn far away from Maine???"



♣ **Mac Everett (CIT 1960)** has recently retired from many years of teaching young kids. He wrote in to say, "I am forever grateful for the mentoring I received from many terrific role models at camp. These men taught me so much in terms of how to understand and work with kids, and how gratifying it can be. I send best wishes to all of you!"

♣ **News and Notes Submissions:** Got an update to share? Know of a noteworthy achievement by a camp alumnus? Curious about the exploits of an old bunkmate? Send a note in to the new Alumni Newsletter Editor in Chief, Tom Latronico: [tlatronico@gmail.com](mailto:tlatronico@gmail.com).

**The Alumni Association Board:** Kevin Thomson ([kt\\_keste@yahoo.com](mailto:kt_keste@yahoo.com)), Philip Porter ([pp\\_keste@yahoo.com](mailto:pp_keste@yahoo.com)), David Banister ([dbanister@fessenden.org](mailto:dbanister@fessenden.org)), Steve Harding ([kalhouzit@roadrunner.com](mailto:kalhouzit@roadrunner.com)), Todd Gochman ([tgochman@gmail.com](mailto:tgochman@gmail.com)), and Nick Todd ([nicktodd99@yahoo.com](mailto:nicktodd99@yahoo.com))