

WIGWAM

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Camp Kawanhee, Weld Maine

March 1998

NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY SLEDDING & COOKOUT IN MAINE

A truly memorable New Year's Eve and Day were shared by many members of the Kawanhee family. Kris Simanek and Mark Gibson welcomed Nick Aiello, Mike Altmaier, Simon Doolittle, Russ Jessen, Todd Fichter, Brad Fichter, David Girard, Jorge Granado, Doug Mitchell, Mark Nelson, Jerry Nering (from the General Store), and Jen Wojcik into their lake home to ring in the New Year.

We kicked off our evening festivities sledding at a resort in Windham, Maine, which was followed by a delicious cookout back at the house. Gibby manned the cooking grill and everyone else pitched in to help out. Highlights of the evening included a highly competitive Hearts tournament, participating in the idiot IQ test, and everyone had the opportunity to imprint their facial likeness onto an orange with a marker - Simon, Nick, and Doug taking high honors in the event. Many happy Kawanhee memories were relived and more were created.



HOLIDAY REUNION IN NEW YORK

Post Christmas 1997 found a large gang of Kawanheans in New York City for an outstanding day of fellowship and laughter. Nate Duncan, Sean Duncan, Russ Jessen, Torrey Liddell, Doug Mitchell, Mark Nelson, Jamie Strawbridge and Kris Simanek met for a comical and delicious lunch at Mickey Mantle's Restaurant, and then they hit the streets to tour the holiday sights and sounds of downtown NYC. Sean kept them all in stitches as he surprised them by bringing, and then wearing and posing in, his wrestling singlet that he sports during competition for the varsity squad at his school. A festive time had by all!

EARNING THE WHITE "K"

On January 2nd, Russ Jessen, Doug Mitchell, Mark Nelson, and Kris Simanek were in Weld to have a tour about camp. Russ and Doug had the opportunity to earn their white K's by snowshoeing out to Bass Rock. Camp Kawanhee looked great covered in a couple feet of snow, and we were happy to see the names of all the visitors that had registered on the blackboard of the Rec Hall on their visits prior to ours.

It is so hard to explain to people who are not familiar with a camp experience how strong a camp friendship can become. Why not spread the gift and invite a friend to join the Kawanhee family! Please call or write to me if anyone has any new ideas for programs or events that they would like to see added this summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in June for the seventy-eighth season at Camp Kawanhee! Camp will run from June 21st to August 9th.

— Mark Nelson

WINTER CLIMB AT TUMBLEDOWN

by Nick Gill, Kawanhee alumnus

On December 28, 1997, Kawanheans Lorenzo Baker, Nick Gill, Bill Proctor, John Duncan, Mark Sengelmann, Scott Hadley, Chris Shearer, and Keith Erf along with their porter, Blaine Asher and Dick Gilbane set out for a winter ascent up Mt. Tumbledown. The trip was intended to be a warm-up for the Katahdin December '99 climb already being organized by Lorenzo Baker, our fearless leader.

As we found out very quickly, winter mountaineering is a very different exercise than summer climbing. Proper clothing is more than a convenience, it can be life-saving. Lorenzo outfitted the climbers with the latest hi-tech clothing and equipment, courtesy of the Gould Academy. We wore gigantic arctic boots, known as Mickey Mouse boots, along with snow shoes.

Following a Paul Bunyan breakfast in downtown Mexico, Maine, we set off for the mountain. The decision was made to take the longer, less steep Parker's Ridge Trail because of the weight in our packs and the depth of the snow. The day was spectacular with a bright blue sky and 20 degree temperatures at the base of the mountain. Proctor and Erf, with all aboard, pushed their vehicles as far as the Parker's Ridge logging road could possibly allow, but after that we were on our own. About three exhausting hours later, we reached the right spot (about one-half a mile below the summit) to set up camp.

A snow pit was dug with a diameter of 15 feet for our fire. The walls of the pit ultimately made ideal snow benches. Our tents were actually tarps held up by a rope between two trees. Trenches were dug and hanging tarps were placed over them. We then piled up snow on the tarps' sides. This made for relatively wind tight shelters. Before going to sleep, (or I should say, attempting to go to sleep — no one slept), Lorenzo boiled water and filled our plastic water bottles. These boiling hot bottles were placed at the foot of our sleeping bags and helped keep our bags warm until morning. Lorenzo estimated the nighttime temperature at minus 15 degrees!

The next day we climbed to the top of Little Jackson and enjoyed spectacular views of the Presidentials, Bigelow and Mt. Blue. The roof of the Dining Hall was very visible. Winds were howling at the top, so we quickly descended to a frozen, and yes bottomless, Crater Lake. After a brief stay, we made our way back to the camp, then packed out and hiked down the mountain safely. All of us had a great time!

GREETINGS FROM THE TOP OF TUMBLEDOWN

by Kris Simanek

It was February break, the weather forecast was for nothing but sun, the peaks were covered with snow, and we had a group of four outdoor enthusiasts ready to hit the mountains. So, that's exactly what we did.

George Moore, his friend Cameron, Mark Gibson, and myself headed out early Monday morning for Weld. We stopped only long enough to fill up our water bottles and pick up some snow shoes, for we were eager to set out on our winter backpacking adventure. We parked at the road entrance to the Little Jackson trail, strapped on our packs and hit the trail on foot.

In mid February, one might expect to encounter great depths of snow in the mountains of Maine. However, due to a major ice storm in January that turned much of the state into a disaster area, we did not know what kind of conditions we would come across on the mountain.

The road in was easy going because the snow had been hard packed by snowmobiles. Once we hit the Little Jackson trail head, however, things became more difficult. Trees had been coated with ice during the ice storm. The weight of that ice caused branches and trees to fall over, blocking much of the trail. For a good portion of the way up the mountain we had to dodge trees and branches by climbing over, ducking under, or bushwhacking around them, in order to make progress up the mountain - this is not always easy with heavy backpacks in snow and ice. After much strenuous work, we finally reached tree line and the views opened up. Our first view was of Lake Webb itself. Once we got up over the Pond Link trail, the views to the west also opened up, and there sat Mt. Washington off in the distance in all it's glory, along with Crater Lake just a short jaunt below us.

We had planned to spend our first night at the lake so we hiked down and set up camp and started to cook dinner. One thing about winter camping, unless you want to carry a lot of extra batteries, light is limited due to fewer daylight hours; therefore, you get a long night rest. This, however, did not come to us until after a much contested game of Hearts, as we all packed into one tent to try to stay warm.

The next morning we woke up to another beautiful day, cooked breakfast, packed up, and headed off to our next destination. This time we hiked back over toward the Little Jackson trail, set up camp, and then continued to hike up Little Jackson. Once again the views were spectacular. After two full days of hiking we were ready for a good night rest. This night we were expecting snow, and sure enough the next morning we awoke to several inches of new snow - enough to cause the tents to cave in. It continued to snow all day which made the hiking fun. We wanted to

Another group of Kawanheans ascended to the top of Mt. Tumbledown later during the winter. See the following article about their trip in the next column.

(Greetings from the top of Tumbledown - continued from page 2)

have time to wander around camp that afternoon, so we packed up and hiked out early. Once we got back to the truck we were all very happy to take our heavy packs off and head to town to get something warm to drink, but at the same time we were all sad that our trip had come to an end. For the remainder of the day we hiked into camp with our snowshoes, now accompanied by Alex and Allayna Nering, and then walked out across the lake to Bass Rock. We all had a wonderful time.



1998 CAMPER ENROLLMENT

Applications for the 1998 season have been received for the following campers. If your name is not on the list, please contact Herb Birch, Walter Estabrook, or Mark Nelson to make sure that a place will be reserved for you. This enrollment is considerably ahead of last year.

Jeffrey Abbott
Noboru Akimoto
Walter Akimoto
Adam Aldrich
Alexander Aldrich
Spencer Aldrich
Ted Aldrich
Carlos Amerigo
Darren Belskis
Andy Bonasera
Conor Branch
Spencer Branch
Trevor Branch

Karl Kremling
Richard Kubank
Lukas Kuhn
Michael Kunze
Mike Lenard
Patrick Linn
Scott Luken
Jorge Marcial
Jose Marcial
Gabriel Martin
Fernando Martos
Matthew McGee
Benjamin Morgan
Zachery Mueller

Matthew Brown
Ned Carson
Sam Carson
Jon Casto
James Chagaris
Scott Chapin
C.J. Clarke
Joey Clarke
Ben Colonna
Benedict Connelly
Robert Connelly
Frank Cook
Dan Crane
David Crane
Jim Crane
Ryan Davis
Chris Duncan
Matt Duncan
Sean Duncan
Nate Duncan
Alexander Dunn
Hadrian Engel
Christian Erbs
Ben Estabrook
James Forbes
Matthew Fortunato
George Fraley
Jaime Galiana
Javier Galiana
Ramon Gaztambide
Hunter Gimbel
River Gimbel
Steven Jaramillo
Jake Jones
David Jovic
Steven Jovic
John Kelly

Adam Muther
Alex Nering
Rodrigo Nevares
Ryan Nuanes
Brian Nuanes
Brian Osar
Daniel Osar
Collin Patierno
Mike Pierson
Leo Pilgerstorfer
George Pingeon
Ben Porter
Tristan Ramirez
Dan Reed
Michael Robinson
Javier Rubio
Jeff Ruhle
Chris Ryan
Peter Sengelmann
Dan Sharpe
Christian Smith
Devereux Smith
Andrew Spencer
Alex Standen
Jed Standen
Jamie Strawbridge
Tripp Strawbridge
Sam Tillett
Tom Tillett
Etienne Tremblay
Rodrigo Valderrabano
Marc van den Broeck
Emilio Vassallo
Jim Wallingford
Michael Werhahn
Matt Wilson
Peter Yen

***** AS KAWANHEE TURNS *****

Kawanhee fortunately has weathered the winter storms well so far in spite of extensive ice damage in the area. Many of our Weld friends and neighbors were not as lucky, and were without electric power for several days, and suffered damage to buildings and trees. Kirk and Lori Neiswander mailed a happy announcement Gloria ("Grace") Neiswander weighing 7# 1oz. arrived to keep brother Ben company. They will be visiting camp this summer and we will be glad to welcome them. There have been several visitors signing our guest board this fall and winter including Steve Fink ('65 - '72), John Redick ('59 - '69), Andy Wallace ('45 - '47) with lots of years visiting family, David Lamb ('70 - '73), and Bill Freeman ('43 - '45?) ---- Bill adds that his dad, Fred, was one of the very first if not one of the first campers with the Frank brothers. Andy Coward, the 1984 Captain of the Maroons, is going to be married in July to Fan-ni Liu from Taiwan, Republic

of China. Both were in Masters' programs at Ohio State University and now will be in doctorate programs at the University of Texas in Austin. Andy in Music - specifically vocal performance and Fan-ni in educational psychology. Shane O'Neill has opened a new business in the German Village, Columbus, Ohio which is being very well received. The name is Shane's A Gourmet Market. Jerry Nering of

Weld and president of the Appalachian Club and Tumbledown Regional Coordinator has announced National Trail Days June 5th, 6th, and 7th. Jerry has information and if you are in the area, check in with Jerry. A lifetime resident and a good friend of Kawaphee, Althea Lee has died recently in Weld. Our sympathy to the family.

Please send changes of address and news to the Wigwam at 415 South Drexel Avenue, Columbus, OH 43209. We hope to hear from you

CAMP KAWANHEE FOUNDATION

We are very grateful to those who contribute to the Foundation, and we would like to list the names of those persons who made a donation since our December 1997 issue.

Sue Altmaier
Lorenzo & Ann Baker
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