

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2008

For the second summer in a row, we are happy to offer a mid-season Pine Needle. This year we asked campers to describe their favorite things about Pine Island; what follow are their creations.

CAMPFIRE

by Moss Robeson

Whether it's playing tennis with Kit and Ben, playing blues with my friends, or even sitting on the bench in dustball, I love every moment of being at Pine Island. Out of everything, I love it the most when the OD blows the whistle for campfire.

Personally, I think campfire is the most enjoyable part of the day. But the even better thing about it is the feeling of being in it. I actually had a streak of being in every campfire which unfortunately ended on July 10th when the OD told me that there wasn't enough time for me to go. In that streak, I tried as much

as I could to do a song and when I didn't have a song I would do a game or a skit. Even if it didn't go so well, I still felt good about doing something and being part of that night's entertainment.

Among all the campfires, my favorites are Club Honk and Farewell Feed. Club Honk is a campfire that is in Honk Hall and is only musical acts. It's all lit up with different colors by putting flashlights in colored Nalgens, and decorations everywhere. Farewell Feed is the final campfire of the year with all the parents watching, so it is almost like an all-star campfire. All the best musical acts, skits, and maybe even games are in the lineup. Farewell Feed is magical. But at the same time, with every act that comes on, there's that odd feeling: "Camp's over, it's almost over." And then, the final act: the PIC version of *My Sweet Carolina*. We call it *My Sweet Pine Island*. With this song, after every moment I get that feeling. "Don't end, camp's almost over."

After the final note, after the applause, after we sing *Abide With Me*, half of me knows I'm going home and that camp's over. The other half of me feels like it's just another day. I expect people to go "Dip?" but that never comes. I figure I'll go to my tent but when we do go to my tent, I'm not going to bed. I'm getting my bags. At *this* moment, it feels as if I'm finally whole. For some reason at this moment I always seem to accept the fact that camp's over. I go home and start school and dream of Pine Island. I think about my tentmates and who might be in my tent next summer, but whether it's playing tennis with Kit or Ben...



Simon Abranowicz, Gus Stern, Charlie Krause, Ned Pressman, and Max McKendry

LUCIEN'S PERSPECTIVE:

MT. WASHINGTON
by Lucien Malle

When you hike up Mount Washington and you go to the summit you're pretty tired and you're pretty mad because you see a parking lot and people just riding up the mountain but you're also proud because you hiked the mountain.

July 12th 2008

Priceless

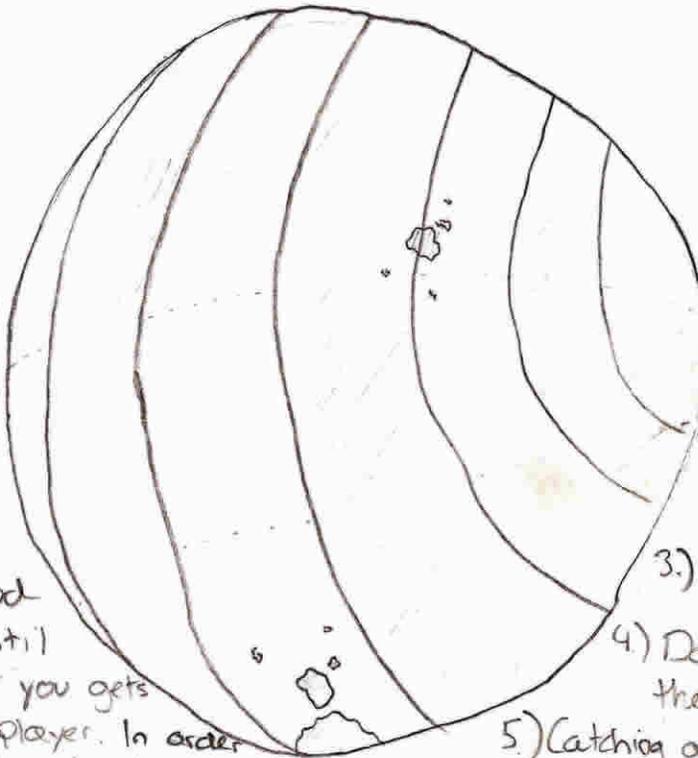
DUSTBALL FOR DUMMIES

Will McGuire + Khalil Debraff

Now
with FREE
Tips!

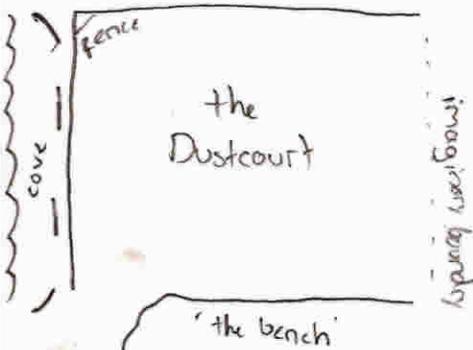
How to play?

The objective of Dustball is simple; get the ball and hit other people with it. You must only take up to 3 steps in the free-for-all. If you are hit with the ball you are out, and sit on the bench, until the person who got you gets out by yet another player. In order to win you have to get out every other player; a very long + rare process.



TIPS

- 1.) Go for the closest person available; friendship has no place in dustball!
- 2.) Alliances can sometimes be useful (even though they're really cheap)
- 3.) Annihilate the councilors
- 4.) Dodge, don't just stand there.
- 5.) Catching gets the thrower out.



ACTIVITIES

by Robert Young

Activities are a major part of every day. They're 2 hour periods where you work on ranks and have fun. While general swim is looked forward to because of dustball, kids vie for who will be waiter at breakfast just so they can be first in the activity signup line.

The water sports available are sailing, rowing, kayaking, swimming, and canoeing. Sailing is a sport based on mother nature. When it's windy, boy do you move and your knuckles hurt after handling the jib or mainsail on a really windy day.

Rowing is very physically challenging. The oars are quite big and when they get out of the oarlocks it takes a little while to get back in rhythm.

Kayaking is probably the wettest water sport. The sport requires finesse and power for things like rolls, t-rescues, or winning a race.

Swimming uses and teaches aerial maneuvers, survival tactics, and strokes. You need to be able to tread water, know first aid, and know strokes—some as advanced as the butterfly.

Canoeing is a sport that requires two people. It also uses many different strokes such as the J-stroke and draw.

Favorite activities can change every day. Every camper has a favorite activity. Campers may even trade activities so they can have an activity twice. Activities are basically the favorite part of every camper's day.

Alex Shultz Reports:

Rumors about King Kababa

Some say that King Kababa gave Laphorista the Swan to Pine Island Camp in 1951 and that King Kababa himself was there for the ceremony.

Some say that King Kababa's throne is inside Mt. Philip and not on top of it.



Rowing to Oak Island



Canoeists and Sailors



Kayaking on a Beautiful Day

NEEDLE FOCUS: WHITEHEAD ISLAND



by Jamieson H. Burnett

Every week or so, Pine Island sends out trips to Whitehead Island. There is a lot to do at Whitehead. There are games, activities, and other fun stuff.

Your counselor must be with you at all times, except for free periods. Then you can go anywhere you want! The rocks are a blast! To get to them you walk down a path to the Lifesaving Station. You walk past that, and you're there. At the other end of the island, along the rocks, is the lighthouse. That's wicked cool!

There are games you play there too. The best is Nupeltucker. It's hard to explain, but it's great. The best part about Whitehead is the Whitehead Game. It's like the War Game. There are two teams, there are no boundaries, and each team gets rings. The point is to get your rings to the other team's post. There are two posts. You put the rings on the nails that stick out from the post. Whoever gets the most rings on wins! As they say, "Pine Island Always Wins!"

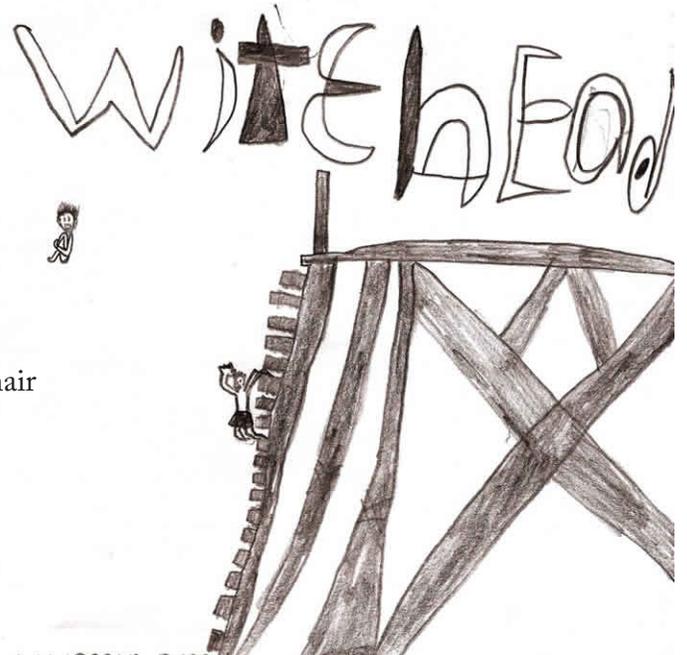


WHITEHEAD Lighthouse
By: Jamieson Burnett

WHITEHEAD

by Tommy Mottur

gathering your courage
getting ready
running,
thoughts rushing through your head like the wind in your hair
Jumping,
Joy appears on your face like sunshine
SPLASH!
you're underwater



Editor's note: we asked Tommy what inspired him to write this poem. Here is his response:

"Whitehead is a great experience, always running around, playing a game, constant fun. There was great food, a wonderful environment and in the night, even the birds have something to say to me. I love the pleasure of jumping into the water in the morning to wake yourself up. That's why I chose this place to write about."

KING KABABA: AN INTRODUCTION

by Danny Lewis

Here at camp we believe in a myth about a King we call King Kababa. King Kababa used to live here but, when a person named Clarence Colby came and asked him if he could make a camp here, King Kababa said yes, but under one condition. They had to be nice to each other and follow King Kababa and make him the King of Pine Island Camp. So King Kababa moved to Mt. Philip and lives there now. Every year he sends us a sacred animal. If he doesn't give us one then we were very bad that year.



We worship King Kababa because he was the one who let us stay here. Each animal we get every year has a chant. One is: Durr Dopp Dopp, Durr Dopp Dopp, Durr Dopp Dopp, Durr.

There are also henchmen. Henchmen are the servants of King Kababa. They deliver messages that the King wrote for us on birch bark.

One of King Kababa's henchmen awards the sacred animal Darting Donald the Dashing, Devastating, Daredevil Dragonfly. Illustration by Danny Lewis

TENTS

by Tommy Mottur

What it's like living in a tent: living in a tent is fun because when I'm in one I feel good; like I'm a part of nature itself. When it rains I see and hear the rain, but I am dry. When it is sunny I see the beauty but I am cool. To not be affected by the environment but be a part of it is an advantage of a tent. That is why tents. Are. AWESOME!



LUCIEN'S PERSPECTIVE:

TRIPS

by Lucien Malle

Going into a trip is great because the first day is pretty hard because you're just not really in the mood but once you arrive to the campsite you're just relaxing in your sleeping bag without doing anything and playing cards. Then you have dinner and you go to sleep and wake up early take a quick breakfast, you climb up the mountain and once you're up on the summit you see everything you hiked and you're very proud of yourself. You eat lunch and hike down the mountain go to sleep. The third day you hike a little more and a van takes you to a store stop which is cool because you eat pizza and once you go back to camp you sing the AKALAKA song which is one of the camp's songs and then you just go take a soap swim and your trip is done.