

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2009

For the third summer in a row, we are happy to offer a mid-season Pine Needle. This year we asked campers to write about a part of Pine Island life that interested them. What follow are their creations.

A DAY AT PIC

by Olivier Malle

If you are wondering what your son does every day you are in the right place. He wakes up at 7:15 or 7:30 for a dip in the lake, he doesn't have to go but many people go. At 7:45 we have breakfast. Breakfast consists of cereal and a hot course.

After breakfast we sign up for activities. Everyone signs up for 2 activities; the activities are rowing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, riflery, archery, tennis, swimming, fly fishing, shop (where we make stuff with wood), and woodcraft (where we learn wilderness survival skills). Then we have tent cleanup.

After that, we have password. Password is when the counselor who is in charge that day tells a story with a point that everyone can relate to. Soon after we have first activity. 2 hours later, we have general swim, or g-swim, when campers can go swimming.

REPORT: CANOEING

by Clayton Maggos

"1, 2, 3, stroke. 1, 2, 3, stroke," said Will Webb who was teaching canoeing class. We were approaching the Third Island. Class was going great. We were about 30 feet away from the docks on the mainland. We went past about 3 docks and there was a girl fishing. When we passed her dock she



Enjoying the War Yacht on a beautiful day

At 12:30 we have lunch, then we have rest hour when campers read, write letters, and listen to music. Then we have second activity and g-swim again, followed by dinner.

At dinner, counselors announce who got a rank that day—the counselors who teach activities

try to come up with creative names for ranks.

After dinner, we have boats out when campers can sign out boats for 45 minutes. The last thing each day is campfire when campers and staff play music and games and sometimes there is a skit or 2.

went inside to tell two boys, "They're here! They're here!"

All three of them came out and one asked, "What Camp are you from?"

Will told them we were from Pine Island, and she said, "Oh."

Then they went inside. Will laughed.



THE EVOLUTION OF SATURDAY NIGHT SHOWS OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

by Jamaal DeGraffe

The evolution of Saturday Night Shows, or SNSs, over the past four summers has involved vast differences. From “Walk the Pine” to “The Range Connection,” styles in the art of the SNS have changed and have been taken much more seriously. For example, the artwork on the “front cover” or “poster art” has become a more serious and artistic thing involved in the SNS.

The show can be judged by the cover art just like common media such as books or movies. Recent shows have also shown variety in terms of musical acts.

For those of you readers who don’t know what an SNS is exactly: it’s the live show that we have every Saturday night. Each camper gets two pieces of candy of his choice and goes to the show.

Over the years there have been many different SNSs such as musicals, originals, or spoofs. Recently, there have been fewer and fewer musicals as more of the spoof-like SNSs took over.

This has been a quick analysis of the progressive evolution of SNSs throughout the summers from 2006 to 2009.



Club Honk: The Ultimate Saturday Night Show

2009’s SATURDAY NIGHT SHOWS

by Khalil DeGraffe

This season there have been two Saturday Night Shows. The titles of these shows were French Toast and The Range Connection.

French Toast was a Christian, Rippy, and Will Webb production. In it, Victor Dillard, the Tent 1 counselor and skipper, gets sick of all the July 4th hype. He decides to

ruin the 4th of July by sinking our rafts, throwing out our pizza, and making us all celebrate the 14th of July which is Bastille Day. One of Victor’s campers overhears him talking about his plans. The camper tells his tentmates about the plans. The four kids eventually foil Victor’s plans and they celebrate the

4th of July like they always do on Pine Island.

The Range Connection (which was a Swan and Treat production) was about the LTIPs smuggling candy and selling it to the campers. Ben Rausch, to end this scheme, kills Christian Schneider—the main dealer.

Those are all the SNSs this season, but there are more to come.

FLY FISHING

by Phil Gaspard

Fishing with Sumner Ford is a way to get outside, cast some line out, and have a great time during activity periods. Fly fishing is a way to relax and at the same time it is exhilarating.

Fly fishing is different from fishing with a spinning rod because instead of just casting out line fly fishing includes haul casting, roll casting, and fore casting, and many other things. Fly fishing is active and relaxing at the same time.

Fly fishing also includes tying flies which are the equivalent to lures in regular fishing. There are many different types of flies that you can tie. Tying a wooly bugger is one of the requirements needed to have your angler which is the third rank out of four in fishing.

Sometimes there is the option to go fishing during one of the general swims or boats out which is a great opportunity to go and fly fish. If you're lucky sometimes you can catch a fish like my brother Byron who caught a 14-inch small-mouth bass while trolling. On a calm day with no wind fishing is my favorite activity. Even when the fish aren't jumping or biting it is still fun to go out and enjoy the nice weather on a sunny day. There is just something about fishing class that makes me want to get ranks and keep coming back every day.



A Rainy Day

PIC WEATHER 2009

by Willie Upbin

The unpredictable weather on the island has been stopping us from living our normal lives in Pine Island. Some days are just about the opposite of a sunny summer day kayaking or canoeing around, instead we stay inside the boathouse tying knots because of the rain.

But despite the weather Pine

Islanders have persevered through the weather and are still having a great summer. We have been sending out trips and getting ranks in activities. We have done so well with the weather that King Kababa gave us a sacred sign that we have done very well with the weather.

Even though some of the weather has been bad we have had good days on the island. So overall PIC always wins!



Sailing in this Summer's New Class of Boat

THE WHITEHEAD EXPERIENCE

by Tucker Ward and James Berger

At Whitehead we did a lot of things. We played the Whitehead Game, which is a complex game. The game happens over the whole island between two teams. It was epic. People ran all over the island with rings trying to score in designated scoring zones. On our trip, team Port won 1,157 to 1. It was an awesome experience.

Another great thing about Whitehead is all of the really big rocks on the shore. We took daily rock walks over car-sized boulders exploring Whitehead's coastline.

Nupeltucker was another game we played at Whitehead. It is similar to volleyball. Where you throw a ball over a tarp. The difficult part is that you can't see what the other team is doing on the other side of the tarp. If you try to catch the ball and it bounces off of you, then you are out. It is an exciting game.

Even at Whitehead, camp-

ers observe the morning ritual of 100% dip. The difference at Whitehead is that it takes place in the freezing Maine salt water. It is much less inviting than the clear waters of Great Pond, but just about everyone did it anyway.

At dinner the last night, we were served lobster (or hot dogs for non-lobster-lovers), the lobster was very tasty and we followed it up with s'mores.

One day we went to the lighthouse and up a long winding stairwell and into the light room. We had a breathtaking 360° view looking out over the ocean.

Even though Whitehead isn't a normal PIC hiking trip we still ended our 4 days there with a store stop on the way back which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. Anne, the kitchen crew, and all the staff at Whitehead did a great job taking care of us and showing us the scenery. We can't wait to go back.

TRIPS

by Robert Young

Pine Island sends out over 50 trips each year. Whether it be hiking or canoeing, or something else, wilderness life is what you make it. Pine Islanders get to see things few people will ever see in their lives. For example, on Senior Katahdin, a moose and her baby decided to show up at our campsite. In fact, it was less than 10 feet from us at one point. Not to mention our climb on the knife's edge was a lot of fun. On Flag Big Flag in 2007, our view from the top of Bigelow over Flagstaff Lake was stunning. On Carter Moriah in 2008, the day was sunny and clear and from the top of Mt. Height we could see for miles.

But in order to get to these places you have to push yourself and refuse to give up. However, it's during those times, when it might be raining, that you realize that this is what you signed up for and you have to be tougher than the weather, or the mountain, or sometimes both. In the end, though, it's always worth it because you know that you accomplished what you set out to do.

