

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2018

The Mid-Summer Pine Needle is a collection of camper-created articles and artwork, which seeks to provide a glimpse into the creative, imaginative, and active lives campers lead at Pine Island.

PIC Goes to the World Cup by John Treadwell

It's a rare occasion when Pine Island campers get to watch T.V. But for two days in July a small group of campers got to go to Applebee's in Waterville to watch World Cup games.

Saturday, July 7th started as a normal day of camp waiting in the activity line when Sumner asked to talk to me. He told me that since I had listened faithfully to many World Cup games on the radio, I could go watch the semi final game between France and Belgium.

Our group consisted of all the French kids and a few other faithful World Cup followers. We also got to watch the finals on Sunday, July 15th, when France and Croatia played. All the French kids went crazy when France won the World Cup. France had only won once before in 1998. It was great to share this exciting victory with the French campers. We were greeted by the cheers of the whole camp when we returned to the island after Sunday's game.

*Special thanks to our guest editor,
Pine Islander Will Dana.*

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Edition CXVII



World Cup followers receive a warm welcome home.

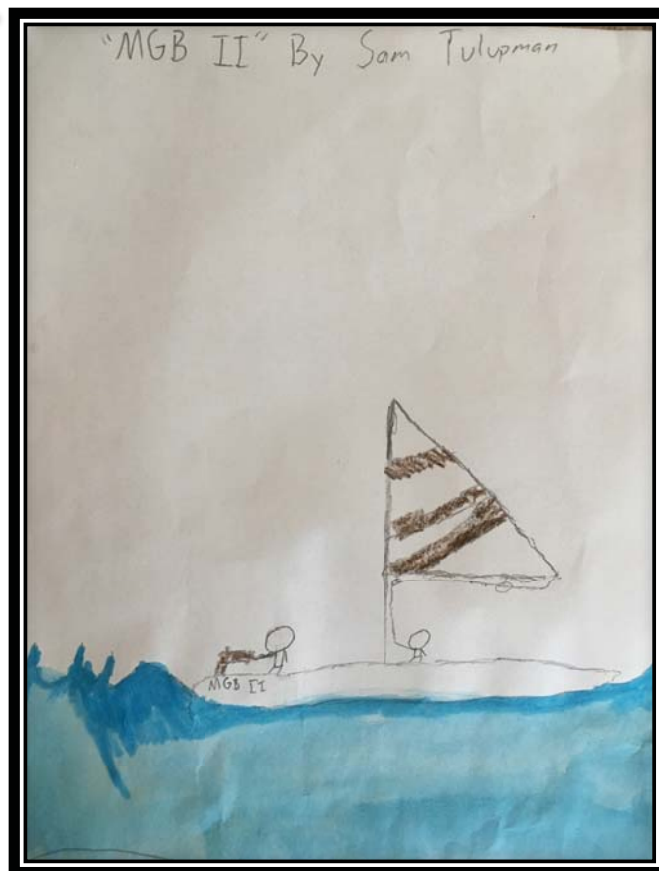


The Windy Day by Charles Schell

On July 6, 2018, it seemed to my fellow campers and me that we were going to have a normal day at Pine Island, but this was far from the truth. After breakfast I signed up for my daily activities and started cleaning up my cabin (the one and only Kopa Kababa) in the vain attempt of winning tent inspection. After rest hour I went down to the boathouse, where I found Dan Bristol, one of Pine Island's Assistant Directors and also on occasion the sailing instructor. Dan told me I could skipper a J-Y, which is one of Pine Island's sailboats, with a cabinmate of mine, Will Siebert.

As we rigged the J-Y and set out, I was a little uneasy about being able to keep it afloat. Eventually Dan came around in the cove boat to tell us that we should start heading to Oak Island. However, about five minutes later the wind increased steadily, and in big swells and 25-knot winds, the J-Y flipped. Will and I quickly got the boat back up. However, it went over again when a sudden gust caught us off guard and I

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Report on King Kababa by Caleb Choe (Want-to-be-Kabalogist)

Before Pine Island Camp was established in 1902, the island was inhabited by King Kababa. When we took over his land, he gave us some requirements as a camp. First, we shall honor him. Second, we have to be good-natured. Third, we must respect each other and live graciously.

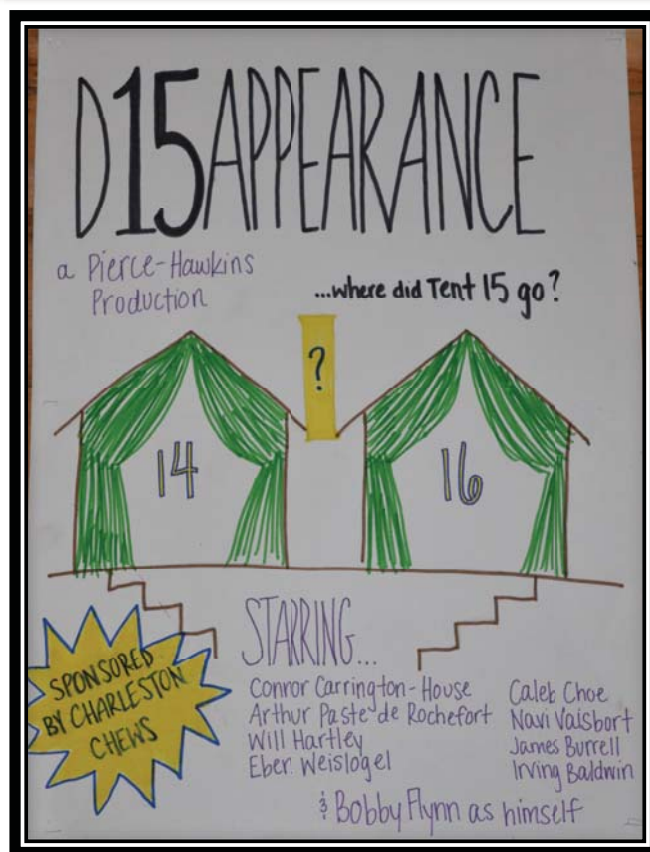
Every year starting in 1910, King Kababa has given us a sacred animal along with a chant, which we do during meals. Chants usually consist of a verse repeated three times, followed by "Woah, King Kababa!" three times while waving our hands in the direction of his home on Mount Philip, and finally silence. All the chants are known by the Kabalogists, Matt Miller and

and Noah Brodsky, as well as the K.I.T. (Kabalogist-in-Training), Corinne Alsop. All the sacred animals can be found on the island.

Sometimes, during campfire, the Kabalogists interrupt us to bring news about the sacred sign, a piece of birch bark marked with two capitol K's with a crown on top in blue ball point pen. There are also pictures on it that depict what King Kababa is pleased and displeased with regarding our actions here at camp. Some signs include how great the food is here and us not being silent during announcements. There has been a nice mixture of positive and negative comments. Therefore, we must keep him happy. That's all you need to know about King Kababa.

SNS Review: Disappearance by Sam Tulupman

The year started with a great SNS. Counselor Miles said, “Not only was this SNS filled with comedy, drama, and heartbreak, but it also accurately depicted the utter deliciousness of Charleston Chews (not sponsored).” This SNS was amazing and it told the untold story of the perch monster and the mystery of Tent 15, but I found that it was a bit over-saturated by the Charleston Chew joke. The story is that Tent 15 has disappeared (which it really has) and some boys decide to find out what has happened to it, so they take the Whaler to find Nico, who takes them to his secret underground anthropology lab. Eventually they find Bobby Flynn is under the former site of Tent 15, but then both Nico and Bobby eat a poisonous Charleston Chew. With their dying breaths they tell the campers to go to Rhoads for answers. They find Rhoads in his underground office and after they answer a series of riddles, the perch monster is defeated. So, in the end the heroes were victorious and we were all left wanting a Charleston Chew.



Counselors surprise Ben Swan on his birthday by dressing up like him. (Missing from photo: Will Corbett.)

Regatta Results by Charles Hale

Kayaking 12 & under: Hans Baurmeister
Kayaking 13 & up: Ryan Gilbert

Rowing 12 & under: Eben Weislogel
Rowing 13 & up: Will Siebert
Rowing double banked: Toby Bregar &
Ryan Gilbert

Canoeing 12 & under: Tanner Renick &
Chris Seymour

Canoeing 13 & up: Nick Newbold &
Andrés Palacios

Staff-Camper Canoe: Sumner Ford &
Charles Hale

War Canoe Time Trials

Aristocracy Boat 2: Caleb Choe, Dimitri
Clamageran, Melchior de Breteuil, Madron
Joyce, Jax Lou, Aiden McKee, Asher
Simoneau, Briley Ward



Water Skiing, Pine Island Camp Style.

Trip Report: West Branch by A.J. Powers

Day 1: We left early, all of us excited, but not thrilled about the 5-hour van ride. However, we still left the Island in high spirits screaming the "AKKA LAKKA!" When we arrived at our drop-off spot, our counselors, Jack and Garth, loaded the canoes in the water and off we went. We had an easy 2-mile paddle to our campsite on Lobster Lake. We then pitched the tents, cooked our delicious steak and potatoes dinner, and fell sound asleep.

Day 2: Again, we woke early knowing we had a long and tough day ahead of us. We began our 16-mile day by crossing Lobster Lake with its powerful headwind. When we made it to the mouth of the river we took a break and drifted with the current. Throughout the day the miles became shorter and shorter, until we reached our second campsite.

Day 3: We woke up later this day due to the downpour that greeted us. We had a quick breakfast of granola, packed up camp, and left. We started off with some fun rapids which then calmed down to a normal river. We reached our campsite, all tired and wet. However, we changed into warm clothes and had a great dinner and a delicious dessert of brownies.

Day 4: We woke up semi-late, excited to say we had almost completed the 35-mile trip. We had a hearty breakfast of oatmeal and left to do our last four miles. When we pulled up to shore at our pick-up, the van wasn't there. We didn't think much of it at first, and decided to play some games and take some casts. After a while we decided to use the satellite phone to call camp. We found out that our driver had gotten a flat tire on the rough wilderness road. When the van finally arrived it was close to dinnertime. We arrived back at Pine Island around mid-night and were greeted by Dan. But...we still screamed the "AKKA LAKKA"!

Dear Ben Swan,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note giving some props to your group of 15-year-olds and their 2 leaders who are on the Long Trail right now. I was just out for a 3-day trek with my father-in-law and happened to be at the same shelters and the same route as them for 2 nights. The two trip leaders were super cool and very competent. They were great with the kids and it was evident that the boys respected and admired them. The boys were so respectful and had amazing trail and shelter etiquette and were very comfortable having conversations with their fellow trail and shelter mates. I am a high school teacher and would happily have any of those kids in my class.

Kudos to your camp and your staff. It was very clear how important the camp is in their lives.

*Keep up the good work,
Dusty S. of Colchester, VT*



The Windy Day *continued from pg. 2*

was left in the water while Will was in the boat trying to get the sails down. Dan quickly picked me up in the cove boat and we watched as Will wrestled with the formidable sails. Dan finally got us close enough to the J-Y to grab hold of it and help Will get the sails down. Eventually we got the sails down, everybody in the cove boat, and the J-Y connected to the cove boat when the J-Y flipped again. We then realized that there was nothing we could do but go back to Pine Island and hope for the best.

After taking me and Will ashore, Dan set out with two LTIP's and succeeded in pulling the J-Y to a neighbor's property on the mainland. They agreed to let us keep the J-Y there overnight.

This was just one of the many challenges caused by the wind that day. After coming back from the J-Y adventure, I quickly went over to check on Tent 12, which is the southernmost tent on Pine Island and thus the most exposed and

windiest tent. Unsurprisingly, Tent 12 was on the verge of flying away, right into the lake. After getting Rhoads and other counselors to help, we managed to collapse the tent and batten it down with bungee cords.

Even with all the events happening on Pine Island, there were still more issues happening abroad. On FlagBigFlag, a canoeing/hiking trip that canoes on Flagstaff Lake and hikes Mount Bigelow, the wind was causing problems as well. On their last day of the trip, the campers and counselors on FlagBigFlag were having so much trouble paddling the War Yacht up Flagstaff Lake to their pickup point that they had to moor it in a safe place on the shore of the lake and hike up to a different pick-up point, where they were met by their driver, who brought them back to Pine Island. We were relieved when the next day turned out just breezy. Dan was able to retrieve the beached J-Y, the War Yacht was retrieved, and life went back to normal at PIC.



Pine Islanders entertaining themselves at Whitehead with a T.V. they found washed up on the shore.

Hot Water at PIC??

By Charles Hale and Matthew Hawkins

The 2018 PIC season started with a splash with the arrival of a brand new hot-water hand washing station next to the South Perch. The hand washing station replaces the previous incarnations: a handwashing “jetty” and a hand sanitizer dispenser. However, the camp was seeking a more effective way to stop the spread of germs. “We don’t want bugs to spread,” says Ben Swan, and thus, the new station was designed.

The hot water comes from the infirmary, being piped through tubing with holes allowing the water to pour out into a basin. Many campers, such as Cristóbal, linger at the station because the warm water is comfortable and the soap is better than hand sanitizer. Some, however, such as a few of the LTIP’s, feel that it detracts from the rustic feeling of Pine Island.

Though feelings may be divided, one thing for sure is Pine Island hands have never been cleaner!



Exploring a tide pool on Whitehead Island.



Ukulele lessons during rest hour.

Interview with Ben Swan by roving reporter Luke Beatie

Q: Do you like being director?

A: Yes

Q: Is it a hard job?

A: Yes

Q: What is your favorite part?

A: Seeing boys and counselors develop

Q: How long have you been at PIC?

A: 40 years

Q: What is your favorite part about camp?

A: Campfire

James
Burrell

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STICKFIGUREADVENTURES



Make sure to read Stick Figure Adventures 2#, coming in the Summer of 2019!