

## MONTE BALL'S 50 YEARS OF LOYALTY CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK Gracious Living Attained At The Explorers Club

The setting was perfect. Leaded windows, rich wood paneling, huge and ornate fireplaces, and an eight-foot tall stuffed polar bear. Any of the 125 Pine Islanders gathered on the evening of January 30, 2010 at New York City's fabled Explorers Club who had heard master storyteller Monte Ball spin the summer-long tale of the "Seven Keys" half expected the "100 leaders in the fields of arts and sciences" to show up at any moment. Or, to have the doors suddenly close and lock and to hear a voice announce a fiendishly clever clue that would produce the key to freedom. Fortunately, the biggest problem confronting the guests who had come from near and far to fete Monte Ball was having to leave the club by midnight.

Guests began arriving a little after 6 p.m. at the brick townhouse on East 70th Street, where they donned their nametags and headed upstairs to a warm and elegant library where cocktails were served and Monte Ball was working hard to connect with dozens of friends, some of whom had flown in from the west coast and the Carolinas. They had come to thank Monte for all he had done for them, or for their children, and all he had done for Pine Island Camp during his twenty years as counselor, director, and director emeritus. The room was packed and noisy as old friends reconnected and Pine Islanders ranging in age from 20 to 80 years old met and shared stories about Pine Island and about Monte Ball.

O.D. Charlie Birney rang the huge bell in the hallway around 7:15 and the crowd slowly made its way into the dining room and found their assigned seats. Surrounded by framed flags that had been to the top of Everest, to the North Pole, and to the moon, director Ben Swan introduced the first of three speakers for the evening, Barry Lindquist. Barry and his wife Gloria and daughter Sarah's generosity and their desire to make a gift to PIC to honor Monte's service to the camp, made possible the design and construction of two wooden sailboats that arrived at Pine Island in the spring of 2009. Barry came to the podium to thank Monte for the many great times the two of them had had in the Navy during the 1960s and at the Rink during the 14 summers that Barry and his family enjoyed visits to PIC while Monte was director. One of the two sailboats, the *Springfield*, was on hand, out on the Club's terrace, for inspection by anyone who cared to brave temperatures in the teens. Monte accepted a beautiful watercolor of the *Springfield* and the boats were officially "launched" at last.

As the dessert and coffee were being

served after an elegant meal, Director Ben Swan made his way to the podium for a brief and heartfelt official acknowledgement of the myriad contributions that Monte has made to Pine Island over the last fifty years. Ben's remarks focused on the motto that Monte brought to the Pine Island dining hall, "Gracious Living Is our Goal," and on the many important meanings of that motto that start with but go far beyond good table manners. Ben presented a large wooden plaque emblazoned with this motto, made and painted by Pine Islander Mike Monahan, that will hang in the PIC dining hall, and a miniature version of the same that would fit in Monte's luggage so that it could hang in Monte's home in Bali, where his great gifts of unselfishness and service to others are making gracious living, and all that it entails, part of life half way around the world.

Monte stood to a lengthy standing ovation and then took the podium to offer his thanks for the evening and the tribute that it represented. As always Monte minimized his own great gifts and focused on the efforts and successes of others. He specifically thanked Monroe Baldwin, Jr. for convincing him to come up from the University of Virginia to Pine Island in the first place, and Tim Nagler for his many years of service to Pine Island and for working so hard to get Monte to come to New York for the occasion. And finally Monte thanked Ben and Emily Swan for their contributions to Pine Island during the past twenty years, and especially for their being able through thick and thin to keep Pine Island the same magical and wonderful place that everyone in that room remembers and holds dear.

After a brief break, O.D. Charlie Birney announced campfire! No doubt the Explorers Club has witnessed many extraordinary events, but it is unlikely it had ever hosted a campfire. Charlie and two other musicians who had come up from Washington to take part started off with a rousing sing-along of "Charlie and the M.T.A." This set the tone, and the crowd was riveted as guests performed skits and songs, including a brilliant rewrite of the classic "Mountain Dew" by Tim Nagler and his sons, a new version of "If I Were Not a Pine Islander" and a virtuoso performance of "There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea" by fourth-generation Pine Islander Harry Swan. The campfire took an unexpected turn when the bartender delivered a birch bark sign to Monte Ball. Monte called immediately for Kababologists and Yalies Whit Fisher and Michael Robertson interpreted the sign, with Michael taking the brunt of Whit's officious attitude.



Monte enjoying the presentation with Gloria Lindquist



Monte Ball leads the Lion Hunt at campfire.

They called for Rhoads Miller, insulting him as well, and he was dispatched downstairs to see what might be there. He returned with Venus de Flylow the Flaming Go, resplendent in pink with feathers and flames on her wings, the gorgeous sacred animal believed lost in the Fire of '95. The crowd dutifully shouted the chant, "Fly high/Fly low/Fly by night/ Flaming Go!" three times and, facing north, bowed three times to the King.

The true highlight of the campfire was Monte's flawless and classic rendition of the "Lion Hunt," which transported everyone back to the sandy stage in the campfire circle on Pine Island on a summer evening in the past. Charlie and his bandmates wound down the evening with "The Sloop John B." and closed it out with "Abide With Me."

Nobody wanted the evening to end, but the patient staff of the Explorers Club finally kicked the revelers out a full hour after they were supposed to have gone. Rhoads and Ned Miller and Peter Baldwin engineered transporting the *Springfield* back down the fire escape and onto the Pine Island truck, and then it was time to call it a night. Some

who perhaps were trying to recapture old times in the Third Cabin repaired to Marty Hale's apartment a few blocks away and reportedly kept the party going for another few hours!

The celebration's organizers — Andrew Regier, Stuart Murray (who missed the whole thing, having become a father for the third time the day before — a boy!), Charlie Birney, Henry Clauson, David Williamson, and Tim Nagler — who worked hard on this event for over a year, could not possibly have imagined a better tribute or a better time. Pine Island thanks them for all their efforts and for the many Pine Islanders whose very generous monetary contributions made the whole thing possible. Akka Lakka!

### SAVE THE DATE!!

Come to Campfire In New York 2011! Plans are already afoot for a less formal, less expensive, more camper-friendly celebration in New York next January. The date is the Saturday of the weekend before the Super Bowl. Don't miss it! More songs, skits, stories, and who knows what else!



Monte Ball, Storyteller Supreme



Director Ben Swan presents plaque that will hang in PIC dining hall.



Board member David Williamson and Emeritus Board member Warren Eginton



Jim, Bill, Tim, Peter, and John Nagler (Tommy stuck at school)



Boat donor Barry Lindquist thanks Monte.



Monte catching up with Roe Baldwin, Jr. and Roe Baldwin III



USS Springfield on the second floor terrace of the Explorers Club



Frederica Claiborne and Tish Claiborne Biesemeyer singing at campfire



O.D. Charlie Birney (center) with former campers in his tent, Gene Brown (left) and Paul Smolinsky (right). Polar Bear (behind) was not in his tent.



Monte with Greenville alumni Allison Martin Mertens, Dana Strickland, John Quattlebaum, and Rawson Hubbell

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# TRIP REPORT: SENIOR WHITES 2009

by Kit Smith

As the crisp mountain wind ripped across the ridge, the nine starved, stalwart souls ascended the stairway into the heavens. Cam, the last boy in line, stopped for a moment and asked me to take his camera out of his pack so that I could take a picture. The rest of the group, too focused on their journey ahead to notice our break, continued on the winding pathway as it stretched up and up across the heads of the Presidentials toward Mount Washington's peak. I waited until a cloud passed and then snapped a photo of Pine Island's finest as they clambered over mud, pebbles, and boulders.

Senior Whites of the summer of 2009 put all of us to the test mentally and physically and, when it was all said and done, we had conquered almost fifty miles of Appalachian Trail and New Hampshire wilderness.

In the beginning, there was only one pre-tripper, but the trip called for two so then there was Jason Schachner. We called it the search for the hand of god and choose eight strong boys to accompany us. As we left our dear island, we gave her an Akka Lakka for the ages. During the ride, we were privileged to hear the thrilling tales of AT thru-hiker and local PIC legend Rob Moor. After parting with Rob at his drop point and saying our farewells, we tumbled out of the van and strapped up for an afternoon stroll at about 2:00 p.m.

During the first few miles of our brave and dangerous trek to our campsite, we had no idea of the trials that lay in store for us.

We would soon see our comrade Riley become weak as he fought through the first few days of hiking with bronchitis. He valiantly battled the cold rain on the steep ridges neighboring Mount

Garfield. We all saw the pain and frustration in his eyes as we realized that he wouldn't be able to hold the pace and that we would have to hike him out. That descent in the rains of July stole the wind from our sails. Even the frequent encounters with a party of girls from a nearby summer camp could not lift the boys' spirits. But with a motivational speech from Jason Fisher, who came to pick up Riley, and some warm air at full blast in the van, we limped into our campsite soaked and exhausted from the hike out, but determined to proceed. We were a day ahead of schedule.

The morning of the fourth day brought blue skies and smooth sailing and our crew set out to tackle the Webster cliffs, which were no match for our renewed optimism. Since we had a day to spare and the weather looked questionable, we delayed our summit of Mount Washington in favor of a quick day hike into the valley. It was then that I realized that we had reached our true potential. I could see it in Charles's eyes and Jack's smile as they paced us down into the valley at an impressive gait. I could hear it in Robby's voice and Otto's laugh as they led us back up to our campsite with power and patience. I can't recall if Cam or Ben broke a sweat that day. You'll have to ask them. Needless to say we were in peak condition. We were ready. Gab knew it too. We would go on to conquer the highest mountain in the Northeast. As we stood there at the summit and looked out across the valley, we remembered our brother Riley, and we rejoiced in our victory and our cake. The journey home was a happy return, and as we neared the sandy shores of Pine Island we belted out one more Akka Lakka. We had been to the heavens and endured.



*Senior Whites atop Mt. Washington!*



*Cam Hart contemplates the road ahead.*

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## KABABALOGY 2009

by Harry Swan, K.D.

The summer of 2009 marked yet another season of good relations with King Kababa. As always, the King communicated with us via signs written on birch bark in blue ballpoint pen, which were interpreted for the rest of the camp by resident kababologists Harry Swan, Josh Treat, and Kit Smith. The signs showed that for the most part the King was pleased with us, especially our resilience and good spirits during the rainy first two weeks of the summer.

All the signs we received over the course of the summer contained a mysterious recurring symbol of an ant, and many suspected that the symbol was an indication of what the new sacred animal might be, but of course others expressed opposing and complex theories. This year the King again selected many of the youngest new campers to embark on a Sacred Journey to be guided by a series of signs from place to place on a day-long expedition. This year the Sa-

cred Journey took us up Mt. Philip, out to York's Crossing [the War Game site, ed.], and onto the Colby College playing fields. The eagle-eyed campers discovered many more signs along the way, all of which contained the ant symbol as well. It seemed very likely that if we did not disappoint the King, the new sacred animal would be some sort of ant.

Sure enough, henchmen arrived on the island on the last night of the summer, and at the sacred ceremony on the Honk lawn they revealed the new animals: Bell and Cose the Belliger Ants. Believed to be the offspring of Pheema the Phorma, Queen of the Ants, Bell and Cose are a pair of heavily armored ants, one blue and one gray, fighting each other with what appear to be miniature versions of War Game poles. It is believed that this is the first time we have received a gift of two animals actually engaged with each other. While the arrival of the ants in a fighting stance

could be somewhat disturbing — perhaps an indication of the violence permeating our culture even to the summit of Mt. Philip — there really could be no doubt that the main significance

of their arrival was that in spite of the many challenges presented by the 2009 season, the Pine Island community had once again upheld King Kababa's values and been duly rewarded.



*Bell and Cose, the Belliger Ants*

# EARLY SEASON WEATHER CHALLENGES STAFF AND CAMPERS

## Pine Island Wins Again

June 2009 proved to be the wettest in the history of Maine, making the mainland muddy and posing many challenges for the Pine Island community, which remained indomitable in spite of the weather. There were so many rainy days in June that it was impossible to find a day to put the tents up on dry platforms, and the docks very nearly disappeared beneath the surface of Great Pond as the dam in Belgrade Lakes couldn't move water quickly enough to keep the water level from rising. By the end of June some of the docks were actually under water and actual *mud* appeared in some places on the island — a first for a place whose soil is famously gravelly and quick to drain.

In spite of the damp weather there were only three periods of rainy day activities last summer. Much of the hard rain, and there was plenty of it, came at night, and when it rained during the day it usually didn't rain hard and the temperatures were mild, so boys and staff gamely just kept doing what they always do. Trips left and came home on time, and activities were not curtailed. In fact, the weather, though damp, was the best Pine Island has seen for sailing in years. So what if the wind blew from the east for a week? It blew at a steady 6-12 knots. When the weather is gorgeous at PIC the wind is often completely absent or blowing a gale from the north, so week after week with steady but not overwhelming winds was a big plus for the sailors. Tennis also managed far better during the damp weather than it has in the past. The extensive drainage project completed in the fall of 2008 on the "ball field" effectively channeled the water, which in years past has come down the hill right onto the courts, off into the woods. The project was undertaken primarily to reduce runoff into Great Pond, but a huge side benefit was keeping the water off the "finest courts in northern New England."

The five-day trip to Baxter State Park, for which one must make reservations in March, fell right at the end of weeks of rain, and as happened once before, the streams between South Branch Pond and Chimney Pond were swollen

to the point where crossing them was too dangerous. The trip did go out, however, entering the park from the other side and camping first at Beaver Brook and then at Roaring Brook for two days before going up to Chimney Pond. Neither Beaver Brook nor Roaring Brook is the most scenic or remote campsite, but even this departure from what was expected had unexpected benefits. Instead of the long and at times not very interesting two-day hike from South Branch Pond to Chimney, the trip leaders engineered a day hike to the summit of South Turner Mountain, not climbed by Pine Islanders in anyone's memory. They claimed the peak for King Kababa and then headed for Chimney Pond, where they were fortunate to have a good enough day to climb Katahdin and even managed to do the entire Knife's Edge trail. They returned to camp mud-died but unbowed and were proud of their accomplishments.

Just when we thought we would never see it again, the sun finally came out and the twenty-five or so new campers and staff saw for the first time the true colors of Great Pond — beautiful blue water and a bright green shoreline - not gray on gray. We celebrated the simple pleasure of opening the flaps and drying out, and medic Jay Steiner's daily exhortations to put on sunscreen suddenly made a lot more sense.

For anyone who was at Pine Island for the 2008 season and experienced the extreme stress of the War Game weather that year, the rain and dampness of the 2009 season was easily forgotten when the camp was treated to three perfect days on which to practice and play the War Game. It was clear, dry, cool, bugless and beautiful, and life was good in Norridgewock.

As is so often the case, the mild, dry, sunny weather continued for the rest of the month of August and into September, prompting veterans to yearn again to move the camp season out of June and further into August. No doubt if we did, we'd have the wettest August in Maine history. Better to concentrate on making the best of whatever comes along—no problem for Pine Islanders!



*The good life in the library on a rainy day*



*Yes, the Needle Point dock is beneath those chairs.*

## PINE ISLAND ALUMNI SOCIETY GROWS Era Captains Begin Work of Finding Lost Alumni

On a bitter cold Sunday morning the day after the hugely successful celebration of one of Pine Island's best-known alumni, Monte Ball, the PIC Board of Directors met behind soundproof, smoked glass doors beneath the lobby of the Chambers Hotel. Many weighty matters were discussed, but one of the most important presentations of the morning was the announcement of the leaders, known as Era Captains, of the burgeoning effort to locate and stay in touch with Pine Island's alumni who live from Ulaanbataar to Chicago, Sao Paulo, Paris, Auckland, and everywhere in between.

The project organizers are:

**Admiral & Delegation**  
Monroe Baldwin  
Monroe@mgbaldwin.com  
Ned Bishop  
nbis@conncoll.edu  
Whit Fisher  
half-whit@verizon.net

The Era Captains thus far are:

**Era Captains**  
2005–09: Josh Treat  
jtreat12@wooster.edu

2000–04: Jay Steiner  
jay.steiner@gmail.com  
1995–99: Chris Newlin  
christophernewlin@yahoo.com  
1990–94: Rob Gowen  
ragowen@yahoo.com  
1985–89: Andrew Goodale  
andrewgoodale@gmail.com  
1980–84: Vacant  
1975–79: Chris Leahy  
cbleahy@q.com  
1970–74: Ned Bishop  
nbis@conncoll.edu

**Women: All Eras**  
Laura Klivans  
Dana Strickland  
dstrick97@aol.com

**Greenville, SC: All Eras**  
Ben Wallace  
wallace1024@gmail.com

As always, the Pine Island Alumni Society needs more recruits to fill the gaps. Join today! Go to the Pine Island website: [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org) and click on "Join the Alumni Society."



*Evidence of wet weather outside Northampton*

# TO KATAHDIN: An Ex-Counselor Thru-Hikes the Appalachian Trail

by Robert Moor

In 1846, Henry David Thoreau set out on an expedition to climb Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in the state of Maine. At the time, the peak was still mostly unknown to American hikers; it lacked both trails and an approach road. Throughout his description of the climb, Thoreau calls the peak “Ktaadn,” the Indian word for “Highest Land” (and, I might add, an excellent name for a Pine Island-themed speed metal band, should Max Huber and Will Mason ever elect to form such a thing). After battling for two weeks through swamps and rivers and up a “giant’s stairway” of massive stone slabs, Thoreau eventually summited Katahdin. But, to his disappointment, the top of the mountain was socked in with thick white clouds, thus veiling one of Maine’s most stunning views from one of the country’s foremost scribblers of naturalist prose.

Thoreau’s anticlimax is one that many PIC alumni will find familiar. Countless campers over the years have felt the sting of Katahdin’s fickle weather patterns and the attendant knowledge that out there, somewhere just beyond that wall of blank nimbus, lies the visual pay-off for all their hard work. Not me, however. In all of my years at Pine Island — both as a camper and a counselor — never once did I climb the big K. My last year as a camper I was still too young for the trip, and later, when I became a counselor, I never signed up to lead it — not because I did not want to climb Katahdin, but because I had wanted to for so long.

See, my first trip at Pine Island, at the age of 10 — a punishing hike up Mt. Washington, with a borrowed external frame pack on my back and a pair of stiff leather meat grinders on my feet — was the first time I ever set foot on the Appalachian Trail. Despite the rain, the blisters, and the (then, tyrannical seeming) leadership style of our trip leader, Ben Mini, when I first grasped the fact that the trail I was standing on stretched 2,175 miles to Georgia, I knew, with a

rare tingle of destiny, that I wanted one day to hike the whole thing from south to north. And when I got to the end, I would prefer to see the top of Katahdin with fresh eyes. (Weather permitting, of course.)

Fourteen years later, in the spring of 2009, I suddenly found myself without a job and with a window of exactly six months before I was to begin graduate school, so I bought some gear, dehydrated some food, packed some boxes, sublet my apartment, and struck out for the trail.

A brief, impressionistic synopsis: it was a very long walk over wooded and rocky mountains that were populated by wall-eyed hillbillies and hunters and boy scouts and vets and various homeless-looking types, as well as the rumored existence of at least two notorious scoundrels — an adulterous southern governor and a wife-slaying college professor — and later up north, yuppies and fly fishermen and wealthy day-hikers and high-minded young idealists who voluntarily lived off food stamps. We were hiking 22, 25, even 30 miles a day, so mostly we didn’t want to chat when we got to the campsite at night; I just wanted to cook dinner on my old coke-can stove, crawl into my hammock, and drift off to sleep. I quickly jettisoned all of the gear I didn’t absolutely need (including my sleeping pad, which turned out to be a mistake, as the nights stayed cold more or less throughout the summer). My beard grew long and nasty — long enough to chew on and nasty enough that I cringed whenever I caught myself doing it. Once, in a town along the trail, a little girl asked her friend in a whisper if I was homeless. Looking back, I can see why: I was wild haired and reeking, with sunken eyes and a shambling gait, standing on the side of the road thumbing rides. My boots had holes in the toes. Even my T-shirt had begun to dissolve from the months of friction and corrosive sweat;

my shoulder blades pushed against the threadbare fabric like nascent wings.

Though at first we thru-hikers were caught up in the excitement of every new state — North Carolina! Tennessee! Virginia! — by late May it began to rain, more or less continually, and this drove our spirits down. All through the drudgery of the Mid-Atlantic — through the flat stretches of Maryland, the rocks of Pennsylvania, the swamps and cliffs of New Jersey, the weekend crowds of New York, the ... state of Connecticut, and the mosquitoes of Massachusetts — I began, increasingly, to feel the pull of the northern peaks that I knew and loved.

My impatience brimmed over in Vermont, where for two straight weeks I never saw the sun. To top things off, I contracted a case of swine flu, which laid me up for five days. I watched the July 4th fireworks from a damp parking lot in Manchester Center. That night I stood on a scale and saw that I had lost another five pounds—weight I could hardly afford to lose—in less than ten days. For weeks afterwards I would continue to suffer fever chills throughout the night and wake up to find my sleeping bag soaked through with sweat.

But I pushed on, and eventually reached New Hampshire and Maine. Here began the greatest hits reel of Pine Island hikes: the Whites, the Bigelows, Sugarloaf, Mahoosuc Notch, Old Speck, Bald Pate, Chairback Gap. Although the rain did not let up — it was shaping up to be one of the rainiest summers on record — I didn’t really care, because the hiking was good and the end was in sight. When I got close enough to Belgrade, I caught a ride to Pine Island. Af-

ter three campfires, two ‘master classes’ in woodcraft, and one nap on the porch of Honk — not to mention about 18,000 delicious calories, thanks to a first-rate kitchen crew — I felt rested enough to return to the trail and finish up the last leg of my trip.

On August 16th, I emerged from the Hundred Mile Wilderness and camped at the base of Katahdin. The next morning I awoke early and scrambled up the rocky path, racing past the crowds of day-hikers like a shooting star composed of hair and synthetic fibers. Throughout the hike, I was filled with a vague dread that at the last moment the bright blue sky would suddenly cloud over and begin to rain, as it had so often in the preceding months. But when I reached the summit — where two high school friends, Chris Carolin and PIC alum Andy Spiel, were waiting for me with a bottle of cheap champagne — the great state of Maine opened up below me like a vast green and silver tapestry, with hardly a cloud to be seen.

I kissed the sign, dropped my pack, sat down, and turned my face to the sky. The hot sun baked the months of cold fog from my bones. Like that, my trip was over — after four months, 29 days, and six hours — and this was my just reward.

When I finally opened my eyes, the panorama was so startlingly clear, I wondered for a moment if I could see all the way to the place where this journey had first begun — not half a continent away, but 14 years back, in a spot just over those hills, a tiny speck forever visible in my mind’s eye: a small island in the middle of a Great Pond.

Akka Lakka!



Robert Moor at the summit of Katahdin

## WHITEHEAD LIGHT STATION FOR RENT

You can rent the entire Whitehead Light Station! Seven bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, all linens provided, transportation provided by a skipper who will live at the facility and be available for transportation ashore or excursions in the Light Station’s launch *Biscuit*. This is an amazing place for a

family reunion or a reunion of friends. For more photos and information go to [www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org).

Cost: \$3900–\$6900 depending on the season.

Contact us at 207-594-2402 or [benswan@pineisland.org](mailto:benswan@pineisland.org).



Plenty of room and plenty of view at the Whitehead Light Station

# PINE ISLAND'S WHITEHEAD LIGHT STATION'S FIRST SEASON GARNERS HIGH PRAISE

## 2010 Season Offers More Opportunities

After over twelve years of hard work made possible by over \$700,000 in donations and lots of volunteered time and expertise, the Whitehead Light Station, a gem of the Maine Coast owned by Pine Island Camp, opened its doors in 2009 and received the first WLS program participants. Over 40 people signed on to one of five opportunities to live at the Light Station between late June and early September of 2009. Every participant in every program came away from the experience thrilled with his or her experience at this amazing place.

"I feel blessed to have been able to stay at the Whitehead Light Station with people who have now become my friends. This is a very special place. Thank you for sharing it."

"This was extremely enjoyable. Everyone involved was spectacular."

"Gorgeous territory. Divine food. Cushy quarters. Thoughtful staff. Friendly and interesting classmates. Friendly and expert instructor."

"I would like to thank everyone here for one of the most enjoyable weeks I've ever had! It's been an incredible experience in a beautiful place with fantastic people. Thank you so very much!"

"This was the most amazing experience I've ever had! The staff is amazing. They could not have done anything better. I absolutely will remember this always."

"Daisy is a tremendously gifted, genuine woman with a great heart and passion to share her gifts."

The first program was an introduction to Whitehead for Pine Island parents. Several parents dropped their sons at Pine Island on June 25 and then went straight down to Whitehead, where skipper Abe Stimson picked them up and brought them to the Light Station. Anne Stires, director of the Pine Island Whitehead trips for campers and staff, greeted them with help from cook Shaina Kasper, babysitter Kelley Kasper, and son Eben Weislogel. The visitors, including a few children, spent two nights at the Light Station, ate fantastic food, and got an introduction to the island and to the activities that their sons engage in while at Whitehead. The weekend was capped off as usual with a lobster picnic on the rocks, and everyone left rested and impressed with the new facility. Pine Island will offer this weekend opportunity for Pine Island parents again this June.

Next, in early August came the first of what we expect will be many adult enrichment courses at the Light Station. Run by Pine Island parent Bob Cox, this first course was entitled *Mindfulness Stress Reduction*, described as "a rigorous and systematic training in mindfulness, a form of meditation from which thousands of people throughout the world have benefited and that can be practically integrated into everyday life to en-

able one to more easily manage stress, pain, illness and the challenges inherent in everyday life." For a week, five participants joined Bob, who is a minister, holds a Ph.D. in psychology and was originally trained in neurophysiology. Anne Stires was the gourmet chef, Kelley Kasper babysat Eben and did countless other chores, and Anne's husband Jon Weislogel served as the skipper, assistant cook, and dishwasher. All five participants were astounded at the quality and richness of the experience and have all vowed to return and to bring their friends to fill the course for 2010. Go to [www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org) to find out more about the course.

The third group to enjoy life at the Light Station was a group of adults and children who had bid on and won a five-day stay, complete with a skipper and cook, in a charity auction. Jon, Anne and Kelley were again on duty and got rave reviews from the auction winners.

Next there was a bit of a scramble to get ready for the *Cooking With Daisy* course. Special equipment and food had to be brought to the Light Station and the entire house needed cleaning and the linens needed washing. Jon, Anne, and Kelley slaved away with assistance from Pine Islanders Lindsay Clarke and Ben Swan to be sure everything was ready.

The instructor for this course was Daisy Martinez, mother of Pine Islanders Erik, Marc, and David Lombardo and noted chef and author. Daisy hosted the successful television show *Daisy Cooks!* on PBS and wrote an extremely successful (and useful!) cookbook, *Daisy Cooks: Latin Flavors That Will Rock Your World*. Daisy is now appearing on the Food Network in the second season of *Viva Daisy!* and getting ready to do a tour to promote her new cookbook entitled *Daisy: Morning, Noon, and Night: Bringing Your Family Together With Everyday Latin Dishes*.

Ten eager students arrived at Pine Island's landing at Emery's Wharf near the little town of Spruce Head and headed out into the fog with skipper Jon Weislogel. Daisy was on the island to greet them and the course started with a meal Daisy had cooked for her students. The next three days were full of hard work in the morning, a long and wonderful meal at lunchtime, rest and relaxation in the afternoon, and a light dinner in the evening. The ten students hailed from far and wide and for many heading out to an island in a lobster boat was an extreme adventure. Daisy's irrepressible charisma, energy, and love for her recipes and for life made the week a huge amount of fun, and when the sun came out the second day, everyone got to see where they had landed! Anne, Jon, and Kelley were again on hand, behind the scenes this time, to be sure everything went smoothly. Some of last summer's Daisy students have already signed on for the 2010 season. Go to [\[headlightstation.org\]\(http://headlightstation.org\) to find out more about the course.](http://www.white-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The final course of the 2009 WLS season brought a dozen students to Whitehead at the end of August to spend five days talking, tasting, brewing, and cooking with beer in the course entitled *The Art and Science of Beer: Brewing, History, and Enjoyment*. The instructor was Pine Islander Charlie Papazian, who is without question the most recognized name in both homebrewing and microbrewing. He is the founder of the American Homebrewers Association, the Great American Beer Festival, the author of best selling books including *The Complete Joy Of Homebrewing*, and founder of National Pie Day. Charlie brought with him 71 different kinds of ale, stout, lager, and mead to educate his students about their merits and in some cases oddities. A genuine nor'easter rolled in just after everyone arrived, and they were treated to some spectacular surf and the enormous pleasure of sitting by the woodstove in beery bliss while the storm raged outside. Charlie and his wife Sandra charmed everyone on board and both are looking forward to the new and improved 2010 *Art and Science of Beer* course. You can see a lot of great photos of the course at [www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org) and sign up for the course.

### Whitehead Light Station Ready for 2010 Season Featuring Courses and Rental Opportunities

Whitehead Light Station's beautiful lobster boat *Biscuit* is undergoing her winter maintenance, the floats for the docks will go in early this spring, and a volunteer crew will arrive in May to make the Light Station even more wonderful than it was last season. We have already installed a second woodstove in the other front sitting room, and we are planning a project to make the Whistle House a useful (if not yet as perfectly appointed as the Keeper's House) place to meet. Many other details will be seen to and the staff will be ready to welcome the Pine Island Parents' Introduction to Whitehead participants on June 25, any renters who sign on for a week between late June and mid October, and instructors and students for the three courses we will offer.

Mindfulness Stress Reduction: August 6-11, 2010

Cooking With Daisy: August 13-18, 2010

The Art and Science of Beer: August 20-25, 2010

Don't miss the opportunity to unplug and recharge at Whitehead Light Station this season!

[www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org)



Hangin' out with Daisy in front of the Keeper's House at Whitehead Light Station



Cooking with Daisy student, Aida, with the product of morning's instruction and work



Charlie and students enjoying brews and a snack outdoors

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## NEW MONTE BALL-CLASS SAILBOATS ARE IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

Two custom designed and built wooden sailboats took to the waters of Great Pond last June and were immediate favorites among the campers and staff, accomplishing exactly what director Ben Swan and designer David Stimson felt certain that they would. The two new boats provide the perfect transition for beginner to intermediate sailors from the Sloan catboats to the JY-15 racing boats, a transition that was very difficult and at times discouraging in the past.

The funding for the design and construction of the two new boats was provided entirely by Barry and Gloria Lindquist and their daughter Sarah in honor of their friendship with former Pine Island director Monte Ball and in recognition of his generosity and his years of hard work in the service of Pine Island Camp. When Barry called Ben Swan over two years ago to say he wanted to honor his family's friendship with Monte by donating a boat, Ben steered him toward the design-build project and two small boats instead of one larger one.

Ben and the sailing staff at Pine Island had for years yearned for a smaller, easier to handle sailboat along the lines of the venerable Sunfish to give budding sailors a boat they could handle safely and comfortably. Neither the Sloan catboats nor the JY-15s fit this bill. The *Sloan* and *Betsy* are ideal both for taking beginners out with an instructor and for expert sailors who want to skipper a classic, and the JYs are high performance hot rods popular with skilled sailors who want speed and responsiveness. Ben talked over the important criteria with David Stimson of Boothbay,

and the design for the Monte Ball-class Bezumarangs was born. David recently described the thinking that went into the design and materials:

"It should be as fun and easy to sail as a Sunfish, but with a more traditional look." That was the assignment given to me by Ben Swan for the new 13' Bezumarang class sailboats. To me, this meant a single sail, a lightweight (but rugged) hull, a flat run for planing ability on a reach, a self-bailing cockpit, and most of all, a well balanced rig with daggerboard and balanced rudder for super maneuverability. To keep the weight down, the boats were built with strip-planked cedar sides, 1/4" marine plywood bottom and decks, and framed with thin plywood bulkhead frames. The boats carry a fully-battened lug rig, with mast and spars of hollow spruce. The daggerboards are ballasted with 45 lbs of lead, and this makes them practically self-righting in a knockdown. So we have here some fun little boats that respond instantly to the helm, cannot turn turtle or be swamped, and have a good turn of speed. I sure wish I had one when I was a kid!

The boats were built by David's sons, veteran Pine Islander Abe "Dagger" Stimson and his brother Nathaniel, with close supervision by David himself.

The two Monte Ball-class Bezumarangs were named the *U.S.S. Springfield* and the *U.S.S. Rankin* after two of the ships in which Monte served during his six years in the Navy. The *Springfield* was the flagship of the Sixth Fleet and it was serving on her that Barry and Monte became friends and shared many



*Rankin and Springfield together at Boats Out*



*Roe Baldwin in a Monte Ball-Class Bezumarang*

adventures, the fodder for countless hilarious Monte Ball-class stories, some of which made their way to campfire at Pine Island. After Monte and Barry left the Navy, Monte became director of Pine Island, and during his tenure Barry and his family, along with another Navy friend and his family, would come to Great Pond and spend a week or so in the Rink. During this time Monte would visit them at the Rink as time allowed

and the friendship was cemented for life.

It was these mid-summer weeks in the Rink that prompted Barry and his family to honor their friendship with Monte by making a gift to Pine Island. The *Springfield* and the *Rankin* were formally dedicated January 30 at the party to celebrate Monte Ball's fifty years of loyal service to Pine Island held at the Explorers Club in New York City.

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## UNPLUG AND RECHARGE.... TAKE A COURSE AT WHITEHEAD LIGHT STATION!!

Spend six days at the Whitehead Light Station eating great food, getting plenty of sleep, and gazing out across the Atlantic, and you will leave the island renewed and ready for the year ahead. You owe it to yourself (and your spouse or a friend) to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Sign up today for one of the engaging, relaxed, and restorative courses Pine Island is offering this August/September at the stunning Whitehead Light Station.

The three wonderful courses that were so highly praised last season will be offered again: *Cooking with Daisy* with Food Network star and Pine Island parent Daisy Martinez; *Mindfulness Stress Reduction* with Pine Island parent Robert Cox; and *The Art and Science of Beer* with PIC alumnus and world-renowned expert on homebrewing and microbrewing Charlie Papazian.

The courses are small, so don't wait to reserve your opportunity to come to

Whitehead Light Station to live for six days in one of the most beautiful places in the world at the most beautiful time of year.

Find out more at [www.whitehead-lightstation.org](http://www.whitehead-lightstation.org) or call 207-594-2402.



*Students and instructor enjoying an evening class*

*Daisy and her students prepare to sit down in the Keeper's House dining room for a leisurely and delicious meal.*

PINE ISLAND CAMP 2009—ANOTHER GREAT SUMMER



*Austin Plaster*



*Henry Smith*



*Alex Miller*



*Summer Reading*



*Byron Gaspard*



*Charlie Krause, Ned Pressman and Simon Abranowicz hit the beach in the cove after 19 days on the Allagash.*



*Matthew Hawkins*



*Before 100%*



*Justin Gaspard about to attack Kit Smith on a rainy day*



*Gab Grenier and Aidan Fennessy*



*After 100%*



*Jack Larkin*



*Will "The Genius" Mason at Club Honk*



*Forrest Brown belts one out at Club Honk.*



*LTIPs Ben Schachner and Alex Toole tune up for campfire.*



*Ben Lawless*



*Otto Lyon lays down some hot jazz at Club Honk.*





Expedition Campers 2009: (back row) Thomas Cox, Ian Ford, Ben Kasper, Matt Clarke, Charlie Krause, Ned Pressman; (front row) Nicky Toole, Simon Abranowicz, Antoine Desjonqueres, Max McKendry, Ben Lawless (missing: Alex Miller)



Max "Shorty Magee" Huber at Club Honk



Sailing instructor Leila Malcom with LTIP Alex Toole in the cove boat with the brand new outboard given to Pine Island by alumnus Earl Smith



"And the crowd goes wild..." during "Tilt-a-Whirl"



Long shadows at 100%



Moss "The Boss" Robeson and Cole Gibson play at Club Honk.



Sam Wood shredding at Club Honk



Cam Hart



John Williamson plays at Club Honk.



Matt "Abrasion" Clarke at Club Honk



The triumphant return of the Oak Island trip



Thomas Dunne



Ben "Johnny Creditcard" Swan at Club Honk



Tucker Ward with Sumner Ford during Creeper Bemis

## AWARD WINNERS 2009



2009 award winners Cam Hart, Roe Baldwin IV, Riley Woodwell, and Aidan Fennessy with director Ben Swan

# GRAYS WIN 2009 WAR GAME 129-109



Gray X.O. Josh Treat attempts to jump Austin Plaster.



Nick Miller as Red Flag Scout



Noah Brodsky after two days of play



James Berger jumps himself... awaits the umpire's decision...and, having scored, heads for the nearest blue flag to become "alive" again.



Nick Matzelevich, Nicky Toole, and Roe Baldwin



Tucker Johnston looking ready for battle



Blue general Victor Dillard defending his gate with Joseph Malle and Felix Panhard



Gray general Will Mason communicates with another party as his party awaits further action.



Counselor Kit Smith in action for Bowdoin College



PIC alumnus Harry Ashforth was a standout as a senior for Bowdoin in 2009.

## PIC Lax Bros

Former Pine Island campers and staff are turning up on college lacrosse fields all over the place. Mat Degan played defence for Connecticut College in 2009. Thomas Hollingsworth just graduated from St. Lawrence University after tending goal during his tenure there. Cousin Jeb Hollingsworth had a successful career in goal for Denver University. Eve Whitehouse is in Paris and so will miss the 2010 Smith College lacrosse season after two excellent seasons. Former Hollingsworth neighbor Scott Mackenzie is a key midfielder for Princeton University's team, and Harry Ashforth and Kit Smith were teammates at Bowdoin College in 2009. Ashforth was a senior and Smith, who also plays hockey for Bowdoin, earned honorable mention All-American honors in 2009, his sophomore year. PIC Lax Bro's from days gone by include Freddie Chapman (Yale), Rip Swan (New England College), Chris Newlin (Delaware), Peter Mackenzie (St. Lawrence), and Jonathan Edwards (Trinity).

## Veteran Kitchen Crew Returns

Director Ben Swan was thrilled and relieved to receive contracts for the 2010 season from veteran head cook Amanda Pulver and from her band of sisters, that happy few. Two of the crew are literally her sisters, Cecily and Millie, and co-assistant cook Eve Whitehouse and crew members Carrie Turner and Krista Wi-berg are really part of the family too. So campers and staff can celebrate — great food is a lock for 2010 at Pine Island.

## Pine Island Websites Better Than Ever

As changes come fast and furious to the world of on-line promotion and communication, Pine Island Camp is working hard to stay current but not give way to blinking boxes and other gimmicks. You can visit three different Pine Island websites.

### [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org)

This is the main website for Pine Island Camp. You can now view Pine Island's promotional DVD right on the website, see dozens of photos and archived winter and summer Pine Needles, get basic information about the camp, read testimonials from recent campers' parents, and learn about opportunities to volunteer at Pine Island. Click on "Join the Pine Island Alumni Society" and you will go directly to the P.I.A.S. site, where you can register to be a member of Pine Island's own network. See page 4 for details.

### [www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org)

This is the main site for Pine Island's new project at the Whitehead Light Station. You can view the promotional DVD that describes the Light Station and the opportunities there and see photos of last summer's courses and of the years-long renovations of the Keeper's House. You can also read about the history of the Light Station, learn about volunteer opportunities, and sign up for a course!

# NEEDLENOTES FROM NEEDLENEWS, THE NEEDLENOSED NEWSHOUND

**Laura Klivans Williams** and Michael Williams welcomed their third child, Miles Jacob Williams, on December 12, 2009. **Ted Senior** and Reagan Dalvo welcomed their first child, McIntyre "Ty" Dalvo Senior, on September 3, 2009. **Chris** and Charlotte **Comer** welcomed a son, Benjamin Russell Comer on February 11, 2009. **Robert** and Kristen **Williams** welcomed their second child, a son Rhys Francis Williams, on April 8, 2009. **Derek** and Michel **Ohly** welcomed their second child, daughter Lillian Blair Ohly on September 2, 2009. **Joel Taplin** and **McKenzie Burus-Granger** welcomed their first child, daughter Gere "Gigi" Granger Taplin on November 22, 2009. **Suzanne Enck** Linder and Tom Linder welcomed their second son Bode Linder on February 13, 2009. **Sayra Chorey** and Jeremy Timm welcomed their second child, a daughter Charlotte Timm on August 8, 2009. Brother **Nathan Chorey** and his wife Lauren welcomed their first child, a son Jonathan Paul "J.P." Chorey on March 25, 2009. **Ben** and Sara **Patinkin** welcomed their first child Flynn Hugh Patinkin on January 23, 2009. Ben is working for the political consulting firm Grove Insight in Portland, OR. **Josh Patinkin** recently started his own jewelry business called Personalized Possessions, based in Chicago. **Max Patinkin** is working for the Justice Department in D.C and applying to law schools. **Ned Miller** and Jessica Collinge welcomed their first child, a daughter Imogen "Immy" May Miller on May 16, 2009. **Ben Mini** and **Braden Buhler** welcomed their first child, son Maclean "Mac" Haile Mini, on July 1, 2009. Ben and Braden live in Westbrook, ME and Ben teaches at the Waynflete School in Portland. Just before press time, **Stuart** and Becky **Murray** welcomed John Henry Murray, who arrived on January 29, 2010. John Henry joins big sister Mary Lee and big brother Arthur.

**Drew Skelton** and Kimberly Karpf were married in September 2009 in Southampton, NY. They met at Duke and live in New York City. Drew works at the Royal Bank of Canada. **Rob Boutwell** will graduate from the University of Virginia Law School in the spring and will work for a firm in New York. Brother **Charlie** graduates from Harvard, where he played rugby, in the spring and will be in Cape Town, South Africa for the Rugby World Cup. **Max Huber**, an Assistant Director at Pine Island last summer and a recent Harvard graduate, is in a rigorous, one-year learn-to-teach fellowship called MATCH Corps. The program has Max working at the MATCH Charter Middle School in Jamaica Plain near Boston. **Clem Wright**, also a recent Harvard grad, bunked for a while this fall on Max's couch and tried out the life of a street musician, performing a variety of songs including one he and **Harry Swan** wrote for Club Honk '08. Clem recently started work for Google in San Francisco.

**Frederic Malle**, founder of L'Editions

de Frederic Malle perfumes, opened a beautiful store at 898 Madison Avenue in New York. Sons **Paul** and **Lucien Malle** are at Bard College and the Eaglebrook School respectively. **Guillaume Malle** is also in New York and his sons **Joseph** and **Olivier** will return to Pine Island for the 2010 season. **Casey Alsop** graduated from the University of Oregon medical school in the spring of 2009 and is doing her residency in emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh hospital. **Jason Fischer** worked at Pine Island during the 2009 season and returned to Philadelphia for his second year of medical school at Penn. **Andy Spiel** is in his first year of medical school at the University of Illinois. **Jay "Storm Center" Steiner** will, sadly, not be able to return to Pine Island this coming summer to be our stellar medic again because he will be involved in clinical work as he works toward becoming a registered nurse. **Thuy Nguyen**, also a former Pine Island medic and long-time R.N., has settled in Greenville, SC after many years as a traveling nurse. **Hannah Nagle** is in nursing school at the University of Southern Maine. **Rob Moor** is working on a master's degree in journalism at NYU. Before starting grad school Rob successfully hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, taking a few days respite from the rain and rigors of the trail in July at PIC, where he regaled campers and staff with music and storytelling inspired by the unusual and sometimes bizarre life of a thru-hiker. **Conor Beliveau** is living and working on a dairy farm in Brooksville, ME. Brother **Devin Beliveau** is teaching history at Thornton Academy in Saco, ME, and in March 2009 coached a team of students in the Maine History Day Competition in Augusta, ME where he ran into **Emily Swan**, who was serving as a judge at the competition. Devin and his wife Debbie welcomed their first child, daughter Ciara Chyi Beliveau, in January.

**Niel** and **Ben Kasper** are living together in Tahoe, CA. Ben is taking an EMT course and working in a ski shop. Niel is between jobs and has gone out to British Columbia to photograph his professional skier buddies in exchange for lift tickets. Sister **Kelley Kasper** is taking a year off before college and is working as a teacher's aid at the Cloud Forest School in Monte Verde, Costa Rica. She will return to Pine Island this summer to work on the Whitehead Program staff. **Karl** and **Debbie Kasper** will head for Costa Rica this winter to visit Kelly. **Harry Swan** is enjoying life at Hamilton College where he sees Pine Islanders **Duncan Lowe**, **Steve Kemp**, and **Leila Malcom** often. He is still waiting to catch a glimpse of **Mikey Williams** after Mikey's returns to campus after a semester abroad. **Stephen Manker** and **Sam Wood** are both down the road at Hobart, and **David Kemp** is not far away in his first year at Bucknell. **Christian Schneider** has had several lead roles in Brunswick theater. Most recently he played Antipholus in Shake-

speare's *The Comedy of Errors* at Brunswick High School. He will continue to pursue his interest in theater and film next year at Wesleyan. Fellow '09 L.T.I.P. **Rippy Swan** will go to his boss's alma mater Tufts, **Nicky Isles** will join **Josh Treat** at the College of Wooster, **Zander Abranowicz** is headed for Cornell, and **Tommy Nagler** will be close to camp when he joins **Luke Siebert** at Colby. Down the road at Bowdoin, senior **Luke Mondello** helps administer the RA program and can be seen at center ice in Bowdoin's hockey arena with the Medibempsters singing the national anthem. Hockey fans freshman **Stephen Roth** and locals **Rippy Swan**, **Jack Faherty**, **Christian Schneider**, **Katie Swan**, and **Alex Toole** have watched performances from the stands, while junior **Kit Smith** has an unobstructed view from the red line wearing number two for the Polar Bears. **Nick Goodhue** will start at the San Francisco Art Institute next fall.

**Erik Lombardo** is helping to run the best restaurant in Philadelphia, brother **Marc** is working and acting, while brother **David** is in school at Brooklyn College. Mom **Daisy Martinez**, after tremendous success with her first cookbook *Daisy Cooks!* will be traveling the country to promote her new book *Morning, Noon, and Night With Daisy* while the second season of her Food Network show *Viva Daisy!* airs all over the world. Daisy is also preparing to teach another great course at Pine Island's Whitehead Light Station. **Cecily Pulver**, a junior at Cornell, spent the fall semester working at a game preserve in Kenya while co-worker and Smith College junior **Eve Whitehouse** is spending the entire school year in Paris at the Sorbonne. **Will Mason**, doing his Hermione Granger act at Oberlin College, will graduate with two degrees, a BA in Politics from the college and a second degree in Music Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory. Will is currently working with his trio Like Bells on their second CD with Exit Stencil Records in Cleveland. Like Bells recently had one of their songs played on NPR's "Weekend Edition" and performed as part of the CMJ Music Festival in New York City. Will will be an Assistant Director at Pine Island this summer along with **Doug Phillips**, who is completing his second and final year in the Peace Corps in Morocco, where he has been living in an extremely remote site, 18 kilometers from the only other volunteer in the area. Doug's brother **Scott Phillips** graduated with a degree in Social Work and is now working with youth in a low-income housing complex for the formerly homeless or those with mental illness. He continues to lifeguard at the Y.M.C.A. and became engaged at Christmas to his long-time girlfriend with whom he visited PIC two summers ago and who is even wilder about fishing than he is.

**Nate Parton** is becoming an accomplished jazz guitarist and has played in several clubs in the San Francisco area

and at the Jazz School in Berkeley. *Vanity Fair* international correspondent, author, and pilot **Bill Langewiesche** has written about the "Miracle on the Hudson" episode and is working on a book about it for Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

**Marcus Rhineland** reconnected with Pine Island on a visit to camp this summer. He is a freelance photographer based in Portland, ME. **Barry**, **Gloria** and **Sarah Lindquist** stopped by for lunch and had a chance to take a close look at the beautiful Monte Ball-class Bezumarang sailboats that were designed and built with their generous donation. **Lise Aubry** visited Pine Island with friends **John** and **Koko Harris** this July. Although she had not visited PIC in several years, Lise knows the place well, having worked as a babysitter for **Ben Swan** and siblings and other staff children in the 1950s and 60s and as a director with **Cyndi Farquhar** of a day camp on the mainland for several years during that period. Many Pine Islanders will remember Lise from their trips to Whitehead Island, where she cooked for Pine Island campers and staff in the 50s and 60s and was in residence with **Tats** and **Jun Swan** for many summers in the 70s, 80s, 90s and beyond. Also visiting were long-time Assistant Director and ex-skipper **Chris Newlin**, his wife **Meg** and children **Maple** and **Eider**. Pine Islanders were delighted to see them, though the weather was less welcoming.

**Margaret Yang** is living with **Phoebe Sanborn** in New York City. Margaret is working at a post-production studio that works mostly in commercials. Phoebe is working at a graphic design studio as the office manager. **Andy Krauss** graduated from Union College with double degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Philosophy. Andy's years as a camper at Pine Island instilled a love of boats, which he is now pursuing on a 12-month Watson Fellowship. Andy has chosen to spend his time in the South Pacific learning about building and racing outrigger canoes.



Ben Comer @ 3 months

# PINE ISLAND ALWAYS WINS: A REAL WORLD TRIUMPH

by Andy Spiel

“Where is everybody?” you ask yourself as you try to find your way back to camp through darkening woods holding a trowel and a disintegrating roll of TP. You’re feeling like you are lost in the middle of nowhere. Of course, any camper who has had a competent woodcraft instructor at Pine Island is armed with as many tricks for surviving in the woods as there are Bezumarangs floating around Honk Hall. But what if this forest is inhabited by nagging mothers and empty bank accounts instead of summer rains and burbling brooks? This was my conundrum—adult life—and it was scarier and more surreal than an Andrew Irvine campfire.

I’m sure everybody knows that feeling you get when you’re pretty sure you’re making a bad decision, like deciding to leap from the boat dock at Whitehead. Your stomach drops and every muscle in your body tenses before you hit the splintering cold water of the Atlantic. But you doggy paddle back to the ladder

with a frozen smile on your face because what you just did can only be done by a select few, and you will never forget the experience, and you get bragging rights for life.

Well, recent observations have led me to believe that this sort of bad feeling comes up in your early twenties many more times than you might like. Sometimes it might really be a bad decision — just ask my mom about my tattoos — but other times it turns out that you’ve made the right choice.

During my junior year of college I had that feeling. I had switched majors from business to pre-med and had a lot of catching up to do. My advisor, my classmates, and my professors all told me the same thing, “The summer of your junior year is the most important of all your summers. Med schools want to see your commitment to research.” The pressure to take one of these research jobs was intense. But, against all advice, I returned to be a woodcraft

counselor at Pine Island. I couldn’t stand the thought of decomposing in a dimly lit lab somewhere. The only research I ended up doing that summer was seeing how much extra weight you can slip into a 14-year-old’s pack before he starts complaining.

Fast-forward two years. I’d graduated, spent time tooling around Europe, and was living at home. I’d taken the MCAT, and let’s just say my score wouldn’t have qualified me to work as an assistant LTIP, much less become a med student. I was lost and needed help. When I went to ask my old college professors for advice, they were nowhere to be found. But, Pine Island director Ben Swan was, and Pine Island board member and emergency room physician Whit Fisher was too. Thanks to them, I spent the next year in a Manhattan ER, working 12-hour shifts, interacting with patients and doctors, and dodging flying vomit. I re-took the MCAT and, largely because of the experience made possible by my

Pine Island connections, I am at the University of Illinois med school, still dodging vomit, and getting good at it.

You all know what we say at the end of the War Game, but I guess I never realized the full meaning of “Pine Island always wins.” Yes, it means that we’re all still friends after three full days of mind games and physical torment, but there is more to it than that. It means we are still a family after a giant feud.

As a woodcraft instructor myself, I was able to add another survival tool to my repertoire without even knowing it. When you think you’re lost, and alone, watching the woods get darker and bigger, you have a caring and helpful relative who knows these woods, who will come around and help get you back on the trail. I hope someday Ben or Whit will call me to introduce me to a young person who needs a little help.

Akka Lakka! Andy Spiel

## IN MEMORIAM

**Connie Nagle, 56.** It is with great sadness and a sense of disbelief that I report the death of former Pine Island Camp nurse Connie Nagle, on November 3, 2009, of injuries suffered in a bicycle accident. Connie was our neighbor here on Page Street in Brunswick, a warm and generous friend, and Pine Island’s nurse in 1990 and 1991. Connie is survived by her husband Jeff, her daughter Hannah (PIC babysitter 2002), her son Eric (camper 1990–95), her nephew Abe Tucker (counselor 2000–01) and her niece Ruth Tucker (kitchen crew 2000, assistant cook 2001), among others.

To say merely that Connie was Pine Island’s nurse is simply not accurate. In 1990 Emily and I were new to running the camp and new parents at the same time. While Connie Nagle was only two years older than I, Emily and I were both immensely comforted by her presence because it felt to us that there was a grownup on the island. She inspired confidence in both of us with her expertise, but also with her calmness and her ability to find humor in situations that caused us alarm, both in managing the camp community and in our hesitant first steps as parents. Connie embodied all the qualities that Pine Islanders hold most dear and that are enumerated each year in the citation of the Loyalty Award: honesty, good humor, independence coupled with a concern for others, responsibility, cooperation, and a generous spirit. Connie was a skilled nurse, with degrees from Cornell School of Nursing in New York City and the University of Pennsylvania, and was a confident, expert medical presence on the

island. She was also a Pine Islander who preferred skinny-dipping and found life in the primitive First Cabin an adventure rather than an inconvenience.

The Brunswick *Times Record* wrote of Connie, “She brought light, love and happiness wherever she went. Devoted to her family and numerous pets, deeply committed to the health of her patients, passionate about local and world affairs, her boundless energy inspired those around her. Her contagious and often zany sense of humor, combined with her natural warmth quickly endeared her to those who met her. A dedicated professional, highly regarded by patients and colleagues, she was a strong and caring force.”

Emily and I have now been parents and directors for twenty years, and we both feel so fortunate to have had Connie Nagle present at the beginning to send us on our way, as she did for so many people during her rich life, effortlessly and with great joy.

Akka Lakka, Connie. — Ben Swan, January 2010.

**Frank Whitehouse, Sr., 95.** Dr. Frank Whitehouse, one of Pine Island’s oldest living alumni, died at his home in Lynchburg, Virginia on January 10, 2009. He is survived by his sons, Pine Islanders Frank Whitehouse, Jr., Robert Whitehouse, and Tom Whitehouse; and third-generation Pine Islanders and grandchildren Eve, Benjamin, and Alex Whitehouse, and David Greene. Dr. Whitehouse was a camper at Pine Island during the summers of 1928–30, what was undoubtedly the heyday of Dr.

Eugene Swan’s directorship. Dr. Whitehouse cruised on the fabled *Cygnus*, had the celebrated late John Gardner as a shop counselor, and played the War Game in Mercer, the first place it was ever played. Dr. Whitehouse’s life was a remarkable one. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia, interned at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and Charity Hospital in New Orleans. As a Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in 1942, he volunteered for the Army Medical Corps, where he served from 1942–46 as a Major and eventually as the Chief of Medicine at the 13th General Hospital in Osaka, Japan. He practiced medicine in Lynchburg from 1947 to 1991 and was known as a brilliant diagnostician to colleagues and generations of Lynchburg families who relied on him as their family doctor. He was a crack shot and breeder and trainer of beagles that won pack trial trophies up and down the east coast. He was married to the late Elizabeth Watts for

60 years, and with her, his children and his grandchildren, spent many happy months at their summer home on Ocean Point, in Boothbay, Maine. Akka Lakka, Dr. Whitehouse.

**Waldo Beck, 95.** Waldo Beck, father of Pine Island carpenter Richard Beck and grandfather of Pine Islander Henry Beck, died at home on July 20, 2009. During his long life, Mr. Beck was a resident of Mercer, Norridgewock, and Waterville and spent summers with his large family at their camp on Great Pond. During the winter after the Fire of 1995, Mr. Beck, at the age of 81, built at no cost to Pine Island all the tables and benches for the new Pine Island dining hall. The tables and benches are beautiful and made to last, and they are a daily reminder of his devotion to hard work and service to the community for which he was known throughout his life. Akka Lakka, Mr. Beck.



Connie Nagle with her daughter Hannah, her son Eric (behind her) and Harry Swan (in the backpack) during the summer of 1990

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## CAMPERS WRITE 2009

### Trips

by Robert Young

Pine Island sends out over 50 trips each year. Whether it be hiking or canoeing or something else, life in the wilderness is whatever 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, they were less than 10 feet from us at one point. Not to mention that 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. And 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. 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.

### 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 hauling, roll casting, fore casting, and many other things. Fly-fishing is active and relaxing at the same time. The activity 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 pass 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 smallmouth bass while trolling. On a calm day with no wind fishing is



Sumner Ford teaching Mekel Tarbet how to cast a fly

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.

### The Weather at PIC 2009

by Willie Upbin

The unpredictable weather this summer has sometimes stopped us from living our normal lives at Pine Island. It is just about the opposite of a typical sunny summer day kayaking or canoeing around. Instead we are staying 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 dealt so well with the weather that King Kababa gave us a sacred sign praising us for how well we are doing. Even though most of the weather has been bad, we have had good days on the island too. So overall PIC always wins!

### Saturday Night Show Review — *French Toast*

by Khalil DeGraffe

The first SNS of the 2009 camp season was called *French Toast*. *French Toast* was a Christian Schneider, Rippy Swan, and Will Webb production. In the story Frenchman Victor Dillard, the Tent 1 counselor and skipper, gets sick of all the July 4th hype and celebration. 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, the French national holiday. One of Victor's campers overhears him talking about his plans. The camper tells his tentmates, and the four kids eventually foil Victor's plans and they celebrate the 4th of July like they always do on Pine Island.

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## PINE ISLAND'S ARCHIVES BECOMING A MAJOR ASSET

Thanks to the professional and creative work done by Pine Island archivist Cheryl Boulet, great progress was made during 2009 in the effort to digitize photographs and slides from the Pine Island Camp Archives. Most of the archival images dating from 1902 to 1989 have now been scanned to digital files, captioned, and uploaded to an online digital photo archive. Traditional leather-bound albums have also been created for the camp library from the scanned photographs and slides. The digitizing and online posting of the camp's archival photos, as well as the creation of printed albums, provide Pine Islanders with access to an extensive collection of images of the camp's long and rich history while allowing for the preservation of the original materials.

Several decades' worth of original photographs and documents were added to the permanent Pine Island Camp Collection in the Special Collections Department of the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine during the last year. *Pine Needles*, letters, photographs, Farewell Feed addresses, and business records of the camp are carefully protected in archival-quality sleeves and boxes and stored in a climate-controlled setting at the University for long-term preservation. Jun

Swan, director of the camp from 1947-1968, brought the first batch of PIC materials to the University in the 1970s for safekeeping. At that time, and for many years since then, one had to travel to Orono to enjoy access to the camp's archival collection. Now, as a result of the digitization project, many of those materials are available online. Nearly three thousand photographs documenting the history of Pine Island Camp and the Whitehead Light Station are currently available for viewing at the camp's digital photo archive:

[www.archives.smugmug.com](http://www.archives.smugmug.com).

Digital photos from the 2006-2009 camp seasons can be found on the online site, in addition to the digitized images from 1902-1989. Photos from 1990 to 2005 are still in the process of being digitized and will be added to the digital archive throughout 2010. If you have one or more digital images that you would like to have considered for inclusion in the archive, please send them to our archivist, Cheryl Boulet. You may email your image files as attachments to [cherylboulet@gmail.com](mailto:cherylboulet@gmail.com), or send your image files on a CD or DVD to: Cheryl Boulet, 56 Old County Road, Brooklin, ME 04616. Whenever possible, please include caption details such as name(s), location, date, and event.

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## THE FOOD ORDER IN REVERSE

### Pine Island Helps the Local Community at Each Season's End

by Emily Swan

Anyone who has spent any time at Pine Island has doubtless experienced the arrival of The Food Order. With food deliveries coming three days a week and produce even more often, almost any day can find the skipper and his LTIP minions hauling huge quantities of food from the Mainland to the island. Because there are always people on hand to help unload the boat and carry everything to the kitchen, many have been a part of this provisioning process that would do an army quartermaster proud.

As the camp season begins to wind down in August, our Kitchen Crew do all they can to use up the food supplies, but inevitably considerable quantities remain. The staff safely packs away all non-perishables, but for the rest, it's Food Order in reverse, with boatloads of food heading back to the Mainland for the annual food convoy to the Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. At such a small community food bank,

large food donations are rare, and the directors of the food pantry have told us many times how much they appreciate Pine Island's contribution to local people in need. On this year's thank you note, the director wrote, "We look forward to your yearly donation. Many of your items are things we don't normally carry, so our clients are really excited when we get your donation."

A small amount of food is left on the island to see us through the Sloan Critchfield Memorial Boat Maintenance Weekend in September. After that, absolutely everything must go, and the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program in Brunswick is the recipient of our last leftovers. Like all food banks, the Belgrade and Brunswick food pantries have been seeing ever greater numbers of clients since the recession began, and Pine Island is glad to be able to do what it can to meet that need.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

by Henry Clauson

For many of us, the summer Pine Island Camp experience has passed — for some by just a season, but for most by years. I often think of Pine Island as the summer months approach and, like you, try to stay connected to the Camp's happenings in an effort to rekindle those memories of more youthful days. As a non-profit organization, Pine Island relies heavily on the fiscal generosity of alumni and friends, and receives many inquiries about how to help the camp in other ways. Pine Island has long relied on volunteers to perform critical tasks most organizations would hire outsiders to complete.

Today there are more opportunities to volunteer at Pine Island than ever before, both on Great Pond and on Whitehead Island. I encourage you to consider one or many of these opportunities to give back to Pine Island. In our technology-driven, multitasking world, making the effort to return to Pine Island as a volunteer is a worthwhile experience you won't forget! These opportunities vary in season, length, and activity, with Pine Island always providing the organization, accommodation, gourmet food — and most importantly, the ability for you to reconnect with other Pine Islanders and the physical places of so many great memories.

## The "Early Bird" Spring Volunteer Weekend — Pine Island June 11–13, 2010

Besides eating good food and enjoying each other's company and life on the island, the Spring Crew will put up tents, move beds and mattresses, launch many of the boats, sweep out buildings, build docks and move brush. Getting this work done before the staff arrive has proven extremely helpful to Pine Island Camp because it frees up time during Staff Week for more comprehensive staff training. Volunteers sleep on the island, eat in the dining hall, and have the opportunity to take some of the most bracing 100% dips of the summer!

*The beginning of the tractor shed to staff quarters project at Whitehead Light Station*



*The tractor shed to staff quarters project nearing completion*

## Spring Lightkeepers — Whitehead Light Station 2010 dates to be determined (2–3 days)

In late May and/or early June you are invited to help prepare the Whitehead Light Station for the season. We will open up the newly renovated Keeper's House, clean the rooms, wash salt off the windows, mow the grass, touch up paint, and make sure the boats are shipshape. Experiencing the late spring at this incredibly beautiful place is an experience you will treasure. Spring Lightkeepers will stay in the Keeper's House and enjoy great meals in the Keeper's House dining room.

## War Game Umpires — Pine Island August 4–6, 2010

Pine Island has played the War Game every year since 1912, and every year the game has been umpired by volunteers. The umpires are integral participants in assuring the continuation of a unique tradition at a unique institution. Jun Swan once pointed out that the War Game has been attempted elsewhere without success. It works at Pine Island because the spirit of the Game is the same as the spirit of PIC. The success of the War Game each summer depends on these quick-thinking, observant, impartial umpires. No instant replays. The work, like that of a police officer, involves long periods of boredom punctuated by brief periods of extreme stress, but anyone who has done it will tell you it's great fun. Besides hanging out at the Rink in the evening and taking dips in Great Pond, perhaps the best thing about being an umpire is that you are, in a small way, again directly involved in the greatest game ever invented. If you have the right stuff, you will be invited to take a gate on yourself. At this time Pine Island is in need of additional umpires for the coming summer and for the future. Most umpires arrive the evening of practice day, this summer on August

4. The game will be played on August 5 and 6.

## The Annual Sloan Critchfield Boat Maintenance Workshop — Pine Island September 17–19, 2010

In 2004–5, Pine Island received many generous gifts to design and build two lovely wooden catboats in memory of Pine Islander Sloan Critchfield. Because the response was so generous, donations in Sloan's memory have also enabled us to create a permanent fund, the income from which pays the expenses of an annual fall boat maintenance weekend at Pine Island. The Sloan Critchfield Boat Maintenance Workshop gives us the time we need to take care of our boats, extending the life of the fleet by decades, and gives Pine Island alumni and friends the opportunity to experience Great

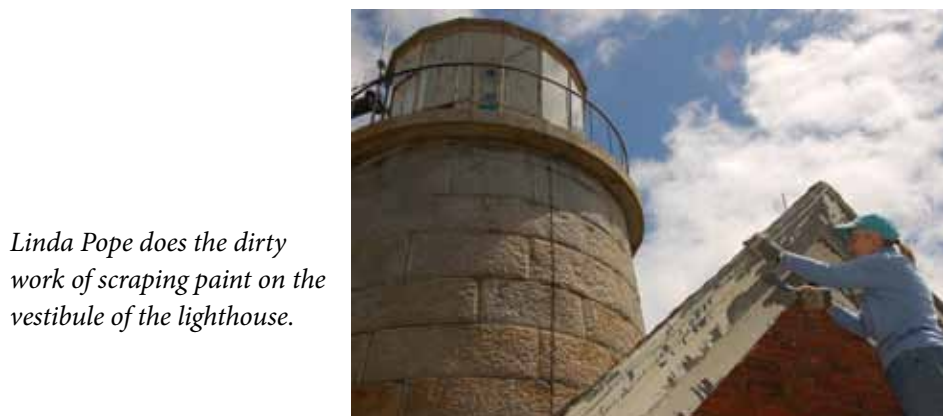
Pond and Pine Island in September. We sand and paint boats and make minor repairs as needed under the guidance of a wooden boat expert.

We hope many of you will join us for these great weekends! If you are able to join us for all or any part of the weekend, or have any questions or comments, please send an email to me ([henryclauson@pineisland.org](mailto:henryclauson@pineisland.org)) and/or to Ben Swan ([benswan@pineisland.org](mailto:benswan@pineisland.org)), or call Ben at 207-729-7714. You can also find out more information by going to [www.pineisland.org/volunteer](http://www.pineisland.org/volunteer) or [www.whiteheadlightstation.org/volunteer](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org/volunteer).

*Henry Clauson is the Pine Island Camp Volunteer Coordinator (itself a volunteer position) and a former camper, counselor, assistant director, and Whitehead director. He works as an environmental consultant / geologist and lives in Maine with his wife and two children.*



*Andrew and Tina Goodale and Elyse Pope return from trail clearing at Whitehead Light Station.*



*Linda Pope does the dirty work of scraping paint on the vestibule of the lighthouse.*



*Sam Hoyt and Clem Wright work on spars in Honk during the Sloan Weekend.*



*Some of the volunteers who worked at the Whitehead Light Station in the spring of 2009*

# ALL HANDS ON DECK:

## James and Linda Eklund Are Volunteers Extraordinaire

Shelter Island is a small island between Orient and Montauk, the two points of land that form the eastern tip of Long Island. It is a small, largely seasonal community whose population swells from a few thousand to many thousands in the summer months. At the very heart of the Shelter Island community there is a three-foot tall, much played with, slightly ragged stuffed animal, a huge dog, surrounded by a dozen or so stuffed and worn companions. These toys sit at the center of the busy office of the Chequit Inn, which itself is the dominant feature of the island's only town. The huge stuffed dog and its companions have been a feature of the office at the Chequit ever since Pine Islander James Eklund and Linda Eklund bought the failing inn and inherited 11 pages of violations cited by the health inspector. The toys are there in the middle of the office so that James and Linda, along with an accountant and other employees can get some work done, because children are welcome, always. The first time this writer visited the Chequit, he had to step over the expandable gates that were at both entrances to the office to keep the kids from crawling out onto the porch or down the hall into the dining room.

Allowing toddlers and babies free range in the office of a business that operates two inns, three restaurants, two bars and a residential construction company may seem a bit unusual, perhaps even foolish, but to anyone who knows James and Linda Eklund, it comes as no surprise. Warm, generous, resourceful, flexible — and professional — they give credence to the term the “hospitality business,” a business so often distinguished for offering just the opposite. And Pine Island Camp has been the fortunate recipient of James and Linda's generosity, experience, energy and optimism for over ten years, beginning in 2006 when James, a Pine Islander alum and father of Pine Islanders Jonathan and Andy, responded to director Ben Swan's request for volunteer help building the new North Perch. James, an experienced contractor, came with tools and an optimistic drive to get things done. The perch was completed in a few days.

Ever since, whenever there was work to be done, Ben was on the phone first to James Eklund, and James was always somehow able to leave his myriad responsibilities on Shelter Island for a few days, make the long drive to Maine (2 ferries and a lot of highway) to help out. It became clear quickly that the reason James was able to come to Maine to help was that Linda was willing, as her contribution to the effort, to tend to the many irons in the many fires back on Shelter Island. Fortunately for Pine Island, after a few years Linda started joining James on his trips to Maine.

James and Linda Eklund met on Shelter Island when they were toddlers themselves, children of Long Islanders who summered on Shelter Island.

Their first date was during the summer when Linda was fifteen. Her mother came along. In 1972, after James finished college, they moved together to live on Shelter Island year round. That first summer they ran an antique store out of their house in the middle of town, and eventually that morphed into a wine and cheese store and restaurant. In 1979 a woman came in looking for a job and said she'd been working at the Ram's Head Inn on another part of the island but that it was closing and was for sale. Linda wrote the owner and ten days later James and Linda owned their first inn.

The Ram's Head was built as an inn in 1929, just at the end of Shelter Island's heyday when there were several inns on the island and guests arrived by steamer from New York City. While it was structurally sound, no work had been done to the Ram's Head since the 1940s. In the 50s and 60s its restaurant was well known, but it closed and the space had become a disco. Glad to see someone with the gumption to revive the place as a high-end inn, the health department gave James and Linda three years to bring it up to code, allowing them to take guests and run a restaurant right away. They lost money the first year, and the second year, and in 1981, their third year, they made a profit of \$327.00. James was managing the Shelter Island Yacht Club to help make ends meet. In the winter of 1982 an article appeared in *New York Magazine* praising the quality of the Ram's Head and in particular its restaurant.

The night after the magazine hit the stands, the Ram's Head phone rang (in James and Linda's bedroom) at 2:30 in the morning. It was a man in Manhattan who wanted to make a reservation. Linda asked politely why the fellow felt he needed to call in the middle of the night, and he said he wanted to be sure to get a reservation because he figured it would be booked up quickly when more people read the article. Linda said, “What article?” It was a bit of a mad rush for the next several years. James began a residential construction business with another islander, the Eklunds were caring for three children of their own, racing their sailboat, helping to run the Yacht Club, and in fact the town, and helping out with numerous civic and charity endeavors.

The Ram's Head stayed full for years, and in 1995 James and Linda bought the Chequit and spent the next several years bringing the white clapboard building with green trim in the center of town up to their standards. Soon the Chequit was also making a profit. It has not always been smooth sailing (is running any inn ever smooth sailing?). In 2001, just before the season started, the well-known chef at the Ram's Head (his pastry chef is now the pastry chef at the White House) quit, and the reputation of the restaurant suffered. It took until 2007 to recover, an indication of the fickle nature of the business. The Ram's

Head Inn is once again booked up early, has a well-reviewed restaurant, and is a popular venue for weddings, conferences, and other private functions year round.

During the past several years, as it has embarked on the ambitious Whitehead Light Station project, Pine Island Camp has been the beneficiary of the deep well of wisdom that James and Linda have earned over the past thirty years. James and Linda came to the project as volunteers with the ideal range of experience in everything from navigation in the fog to where to buy sheets and comforters in quantity at a good price. And it has not merely been their experience that has been so valuable, but also the energy and cheerful flexibility that made them such successful innkeepers.

James has been a valuable, imaginative, and professional voice and foreman for much of the renovation work at the Whitehead Light Station. And while the Light Station is not an inn, the week-long programs Pine Island is running there share many of the same needs, problems, and solutions. James and Linda have been active members of the Pine Island Whitehead Committee for several years, and they have made the long trip to the Light Station many, many times, often bringing willing workers with them, to supervise and work on countless renovation projects. They have scraped, painted, built, and cleaned for hundreds of hours. They have located and transported donated equipment and brought mirrors, furniture, and even light fixtures from their own collections to the Keeper's House. James restored to showroom condition the 1968 Boston Whaler that now sits on the rails in the boathouse at the Light Station. Linda supervised the purchase of all the curtains, sheets, blankets, pillows, comforters, and towels now used in the Keeper's House, so that par-

ticipants in the programs are all living comfortably and free of allergies! James and Linda's vast knowledge of commercial kitchens has been invaluable, as have their decades of experience with food preparation and storage, planning, communication, and housekeeping, and their years of daily interaction with guests, chefs, and suppliers. A short conversation with them will quickly reveal that there is almost nothing that we could encounter along the way that they have not already seen, at least once. In short, James and Linda's generosity has allowed us to avoid reinventing a very complex wheel.

Over the past three years James and Linda have attended numerous Whitehead Light Station Committee meetings and have been instrumental in developing the programs, figuring out the logistics, and simply making sure the facility was ready to receive its first guests in June of 2009. The Eklunds' involvement in continued renovations, repairs, logistics, and programming continues. Currently they are giving their time and that of some of their employees to help PIC spread the word about this remarkable facility and the opportunities it provides.

On the porch just outside the Chequit office there is a cardboard box standing on end. In it there is a mirror and in front of it there is a pan of dried corn kernels. Over it is stretched some netting. It is the home of a gregarious Guinea fowl that showed up one day. James and Linda made it feel at home. The mirror is so it doesn't get lonely (it's the only one left of a flock that was abandoned on the island), the corn is food, and the netting is to keep it safe from the hawk that nearly did it in a few weeks ago. One wonders how that bird knew that he would be so welcome at the Inn. Instinct, I guess.

Many thanks and Akka Lakka, James and Linda Eklund!



James and Linda Eklund on the porch of the Chequit Inn, Shelter Island, NY

# “TOPSIDE” BOATHOUSE APARTMENT FOR RENT NEAR WHITEHEAD

Pine Island Camp is offering for rent a charming two-bedroom apartment with a deck that hangs right out over the water. The late Rip Swan, a master builder from Vermont, Pine Islander, and brother of Jun Swan, built Topside as his personal vacation project over a period of years in the 1960s. The apartment is small but complete, with a kitchen/dining/sitting area with a propane “wood-stove,” a full bathroom, two bedrooms (one with twin beds, one with a queen), and a large deck. The building is perched on the edge of Emery’s Wharf, a granite pier built to handle freight traffic for the old quarry that sits on the property. Pine Island’s new ramp and float are available for launching kayaks or for tying up other boats. Great birding on the flats at low tide. Activity by lobstermen next door is fun to watch. Available early June–end of September.

Cost: \$650 per week  
Contact: Ben Swan at 207-729-7714 or benswan@pineisland.org.



The deck at Topside early morning



Living/Dining/Kitchen area looking out on the deck at Topside



Master bedroom at Topside

# “THE RINK” IS FOR RENT!

Enjoy Great Pond at its best. Rent the Rink! For the second summer, the Rink, an off-the-grid cottage that sleeps a dozen or more people, is for rent by the week from June through September. The recently completely renovated Rink is full of the charm of the old “camps,” offering fantastic swimming, boats for your use, and a big screened porch from which to watch the famous Great Pond sunsets. Solar panels provide power for LED lighting, and other minimal power needs. The cook stove, hot water heater, and refrigerator are propane powered. There is a Franklin stove and plenty of firewood for cool mornings or rainy days.

Cost: \$1400 per week  
Contact: Ben Swan at 207-729-7714 or at benswan@pineisland.org.



Downstairs in the Rink



The Rink's Screened Porch



Master bedroom, the Rink



The Rink



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