

ABNAKI AWASOS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Abnaki Alumni Association

October 31st, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

Photo Contest

Camp has done a great job of documenting the past decade or so with photographs, however there seems to be gaps in the recorded history of camp.

On occasion, photos from former campers, staff, and counselors emerge that bring back memories, illicit awe, or are just cool to look at.

This winter, the Alumni Association is having a photo contest. So dust off those photo albums, dig through those shoe boxes under the bed, and call up mom to check her files.

We will have prizes for the top three entrants in the following categories:

- Most camp spirit
- Best costume
- Most unique

Please email your entries to AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com. Please also feel free to send in any other photos you may have sitting around as we always love to add to the collection.



The first entry to the photo contest is in the "most unique" category with Billy Givens-Hall.

This issue's riddle:

Four people are sitting around a campfire after a long day of recreation, when one man comments: "Do you realize that around this campfire, the four of us includes a mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle and a couple cousins?" If everyone is related by blood (with no unusual marriages) how is this possible? Email your answer to AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com. First correct answer wins a prize.

Upcoming Alumni Events:

- November 12th in Manchester, NH
- December 10th in Boston
- December 17th in Burlington, VT
- Check the Facebook group for more details on the events

Upcoming Alumni Events

The Alumni Association has planned three events for this coming fall and early winter. The first event will be a social gathering in Manchester, NH on November 12th at 3:00. The New Hampshire event will be held at Strange Brew Pub.

The second event will be held

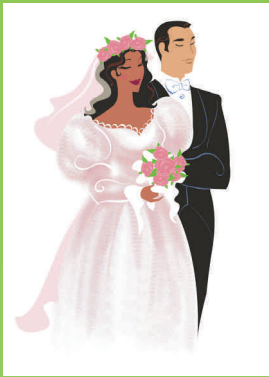
in Boston on December 10th at a location TBD.

The third event will be the annual Christmastime gathering in Burlington, VT on December 17th. The location and time is TBD.

All alumni are invited to these

events and are encouraged to bring friends, family, and anyone else they want. Please check the Facebook group for more detailed information or contact AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com

Alumni Announcements



- A big congrats to Property Manager Rhet Amos who was married to Hollie Bowshell (Who has worked at camp the past 2 summers) at camp in September. Although the ceremony fell during Hurricane Irene, they still had an amazing day. Congrats!
- Nidokenak Alumni Will Fisher and Lindsay Bloxham are now engaged to be married. They both met while working at camp for many summers. Fittingly, they will be holding the ceremony and reception at Camp Abnaki in September 2012. Congratulations!
- Odzihozo Alumni Brad Calabro was married to Shannon Williams on October 15th in Durham, NH. Brian Roy, who attended camp for many moons, served as a groomsman.
- Alumni Maureen Hill (Davison) and her husband Nathan are now working in Las Vegas for Boystown. They are foster parents for teenage girls in a residential setting. Maureen loves visitors so make sure to look her up when you venture to Las Vegas.
- Alumni Chris Gatti is engaged to Jen Quigley. Chris currently resides in Ossining, NY and runs Grace Lane Kennels. He wanted everyone to know that he will be spending extra time on his hair for his big day next year.
- Alumni Ethan Simmons has been freelancing as a professional photographer in the Manchester, NH area. Make sure to check his work at EthanSimmonsPhoto.com .
- Will Fisher has continued expanding his company "Bag Riders" in South Burlington, VT and now employs Alumni Kevin McGovern and Lindsay Bloxham. His company distributes custom air bag suspension kits. Check it out at www.BagRiders.com
- Nidokenak alumni Andrew Liptak married Meghan Charles in July. They plan to have a ceremony with friends and family in May 2012. We wish them infinite years of happiness!
- Alumni Greg Baker was married to alumni Rachel Carey in July. They had a super time and danced the night away.

Have an announcement? Had a baby? Gotten married? Started a new company? Won the lottery? Ran a marathon? Competed in a hot dog eating contest? We want to know. Please send announcements to AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com to be included in the spring newsletter.



Awesome YouTube Clip!

If you are looking to spend a few minutes on YouTube, we highly recommend you check out the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWNUOceKn3s>

The clip is made up of film taken at camp during the 1950's by an alumni and recently discovered and digitized by his son. It is some great footage and we hope to see more!



Alumni and Neighbors BBQ

The Annual Alumni and Neighbors BBQ was held on July 25. The weather was perfect and the food tasty and plentiful. The BBQ was a great chance for alumni to visit camp while it was in session and see the weekend program in full swing. Nostalgia was abundant as the alumni chatted and ate while 150 campers, 55 staff, and a few dogs all ran around camp with body paint. A special thanks to the following alumni for attending:

Andrew Liptak, Lindsay Bloxham, Will Fisher, Kevin McGovern, Brad Calabro, Zach Rivers, and Jakob Schenker.

We hope to see even more alumni next summer!

Maintenance Minute with Rhet Amos

Hello alumni and friends!

Well, where to begin with an update on facilities here at camp? It has been a long camping season this year. It started with the historic flood in the spring and as I write this I am finally beginning to pack camp up after our last group from the week before.

So much has happened this year in the facilities department- too much to mention all in one article. So instead I figured I would focus on our fantastic volunteer help this year. Many of you may not be aware of how much work goes into keeping this place running while trying to improve things each year. Of course we are a non-profit so money is always tight and we all know that there never seems to be enough hours in a day.

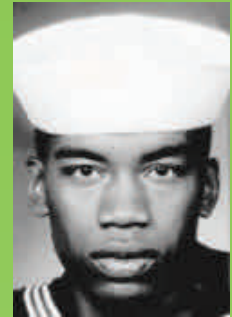
Before I started I was unaware of how valuable my volunteers would become. This year as I mentioned started off with camp being flooded. If it weren't for the help of a great group of IBM folks I would not have been able to get Mehkoa village clean and back to normal before the kids arrived. In the fall we were lucky enough to have another IBM volunteer group as well as a group from KPMG. Our biggest group came in September when a 100 people from Ben and Jerry's came up for a day of service.

It is hard to express how much help these groups are to camp, how much work they can do in a day and how much of a difference it makes to my department and to the experience that our guests have. Imagine how helpful it would be to have one person come to your home and do some yard work for you, or clean your house for a day. Well multiply that by 100 and then you get an idea of how much these wonderful folks do here at camp. They often do the work before or after everyone else has gone and they always do the jobs that no one else wants to do. They never get the recognition they deserve but without our volunteers I know that camp would not be as great as it is, so thank you to anyone and everyone that helped us out this year in the Maintenance department.

If you or your workplace is looking for a way to help camp, consider a day of service here at camp. We would love the help of a few people for a couple hours or 100 people for the whole day cause every little bit helps.

And as always, feel free to come visit me up at camp anytime!

In Memory of Casey Hammond



Casey Hammond, an Odzihozo and long time friend of camp, passed away on August 7th, 2011. Although Casey was only 27, he managed to live a full life. He served in both the US Navy and the Vermont National Guard. He will be remembered for his infectious smile and laugh, and his great sense of humor.



Top left: Rhet Amos knee deep in the flooded Mehkoa village during the spring.

Top right: A crane moving some of the cabins to prevent further flood damage

Bottom left: A group of IBM employees helping to build wood sheds for each village

Bottom right: A beautiful sunset over Lake Champlain

Camp Memories with Brian Roy

Thinking about camp memories is always something that makes me smile. To pinpoint a specific one is always difficult, but I will try...

An important part of any two-week session during my years at camp was always the camp dance. I remember as a camper and as a staff member the excitement and the preparation that preceded the two-hour ruckus occurring in the Longhouse. Campers primping and gelling their hair, pulling out their nicest (least wrinkly) shirt and dousing their bodies with Axe Body Spray or any other cologne. Counselors would pretend not to care but would do the same meticulous preparation as the campers in hopes of impressing the ladies. It didn't matter who was coming over, Camp Kiniya, Camp Hochelega or Brownledge all that mattered was that music would be rocking and that members of the opposite sex would be on camp grounds.

I specifically remember as a counselor passing out pens and pieces of paper to my campers and the thrill if any returned with phone digits. On the nights after the dance there was never a need for a cabin chat because the real or fabricated conquests of how many girls one danced with or how many numbers a camper got would clearly take priority over any words of wisdom. It was always wise to allow campers a late wakeup for mornings after the dances. Camp dances are where I learned the words to "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen and where I learned dance moves like the sprinkler and the shopping cart.

Love Always

Brian Roy



Brian Roy, circa 2003, keeping the water-front safe for all.

Get Involved!

The Alumni Association is always looking for more volunteers with tons of different projects. If you are interested in helping out with any of the following please contact us at AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com or through the "YMCA Camp Abnaki" Facebook group.

- We are always looking for help with this newsletter, The Awasos. If you have something you would like to include, want to write an article, want to help make it look better, have photos, etc. then we want to hear from you! The next issue will be published in April 2012 so please have submissions in by February.
- We are also looking for someone in the Burlington area who would like to help update, revise and add to our Alumni database. This could be a commitment of a few hours to a few months depending on what time you have.
- Our Facebook group only has 200 some members. This is currently our main mode of contact with Alumni. If you have friends or family that
- (cont.) attended camp, please make sure to invite them to the group. We hope to surpass 500 members in the next year.
- Are you good with using the internet and making web pages? We would like to revamp our Alumni website and also create a Camp Wiki page to document camp history, stories, and memories. Please contact us if you would like to help with either.
- Write to us! We get lonely and love to hear what other Alumni are up to. If you did something awesome, send us an email and a picture. If you dig up an old and embarrassing picture of you on ugly counselor night, send it our way. If you have an idea for something we should do as an Alumni Association, please do not hesitate to write.
- Have a Super Duper, Awesome, Snowy (if you want), winter. See you all in the spring.

Top O' the Morning Gov'na



Earlier in 2011, Camp Abnaki was the recipient of a "Vermont Centennial Nonprofit" award. The award is given to nonprofits in Vermont who have served the community for more than 100 years. Pictured above receiving the award, from left is Rhet Amos (Property Manager), Jim Condos (Secretary of State), Ray Jacoby (Long time volunteer), Peter Shumlin (Governor) and Brad Calabro (Alumni). Here's to another 100 years!