



Maine Summer Camps News

Real Kids. Real Camps. Real Maine!

Fall 2014

MSC Sponsors Rick Stryker Workshop - - October 22

Rick, a National camp expert, will present sessions on Principles of Leadership, Environmental Impacts of Daily Camp Operations, and Planning Facilities at Camp.

Meeting begins at 9 a.m.

9-10:30-

☐ **Principles of Leadership** – Things are managed, but people are led. Far from a difference in semantics, this fundamental truth provides the way to become both a better leader and manager. Come and add some tools to your “Leadership Toolbox,” that will equip you to become the leader that your organization deserves and needs.



Rick is a registered professional engineer with a passion for helping camps and conference centers overcome their regulatory impasses and improve program delivery by solving their facilities malfunctions and shortcomings. He has over 20 years of experience in planning, design, and construction administration for a wide range of site improvements. His column, “Building Principles,” has appeared in *Camping Magazine* and he has delivered dozens of seminars and short courses on critical infrastructure to camps and utility operators alike.

10:45-12:15-

☐ **Environmental Impacts of Camp** – Despite its name, even “leave no trace” leaves traces that people have been there. The idea though, is that we can and should leave behind for others the wonder and views that have touched and moved us. Spend an hour and learn about some the traces that we leave in building, operating, and maintaining camp, and what “stewardship” steps we can take to preserve the very best that we experience.

12:15-1:15 Lunch Provided by Key Bank

1:15-2:45-

☐ **Planning Facilities at Camp** – Nobody knows your camp – your programs, your campers, your staff, your history – better than you. So when it comes to planning camp, you should be driving the process toward your destination. At the same time, planning must happen within the site specific context. There are a number of fundamental components to planning a camp facility which are often overlooked from the outset which usually come back to haunt. Come and hear how to let the IDEA process help your organization account for all of the pieces, while keeping the planning process moving forward toward completion.

Location: Acadia Insurance

One Acadia Commons
250 County Road, Rt. 22
Westbrook, ME 04092

Fees for any and all sessions:

\$20 for 1st person
\$10 for each additional person from the same camp

Registration: www.maine camps.org or call 207-518-9557

MSC Fall Board Meeting and Fellowship at Migis Lodge Wednesday, September 17



9:00 AM - MSC Board of Directors Meeting

11:00 AM - MSC Camp Members and Business Members Open Meeting

12:30 - A Migis picnic featuring filet mignon, fish, hot dogs, Coney Island onions, homemade lemonade, blueberry or apple crisp, sundaes, and much more!

This is a perfect way to unwind and catch-up with camp friends.

Inside:

- Junior Maine Guide Highlights - pg. 3
- Halsey-Gulick Award - pg. 5
- “The Little Camp That Could” - pg. 6

President's Column



Andy Lilienthal

Now that camp is over, I hope you have had time to relax, refresh, and change the way your brain is functioning. Not that the way it was functioning needs changing. Rather, it is important to change your patterns. Changing patterns is a sign of strong mental health and important not only for us camp professionals but also for the people we work and live with because what we do causes deep impacts on so many.

Camp too benefits from the ability to switch gears. Like much in experiential education, our industry is predicated on the classic learning model of planning, doing, reflecting, and then beginning the cycle anew. There is so much build up in planning and so much energy expended in executing the summer program, when it is over do you take enough time to reflect, refine and put the summer in perspective allowing for changes to next year's version based on a concerted reckoning of what happened? If not, then how do you modify, improve and adapt to the changes swirling around us from so many directions?

Like camp, MSC is consistently moving forward adapting to fit the needs of members and our constituent groups. I think you will see in the next few months a significant change to the way our presence is felt online, and in other channels. We are improving the platform to deepen relationships with our business members while making sure that MSC remains the primary resource for the camp industry in Maine.

As always, we rely on your input to keep making this process happen and moving forward, so it will be great to hear from and see you at our various events sprinkled throughout the year.

With best regards for a successful, positive and edifying year ahead.

◆ **SAVE THE DATE** ◆
Annual Maine Summer Camp Fair
Portland, Maine
March 15, 2015

Maine Summer Camps Board of Directors 2014-15

President: Andy Lilienthal, *Winnebago*
President Elect: Catriona Sangster, *Wawenock— Educ.Chair*
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Spencer C. Ordway, *Winona— JMG Chair*
Anne Randall
Jem Sollinger, *Laurel*
Robert Strauss, *Wigwam—Business Membership Chair*
Lisa Tripler, *Kamp Kohut*

Appointed & Ex-Officio Members

Business Representatives:
Jim Chalmers, *Chalmers Insurance*
Melissa Knutson, *Key Bank*
Counsel - Jack Erler
Executive Director - Ron Hall
MSC Historian - Henry Paul Johnson

Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA) Board of Directors 2014-2015

President: Peter Hirsch, *Androscoggin*
Vice President: Fritz Seving, *Fernwood*
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Secretary: Tracy St. Onge, *The Summer Camp*
Mary Ellen Deschenes, *Girl Scouts of Maine*
Stefan Jackson, *Winona*
Norm Thombs, *Mechuwana*

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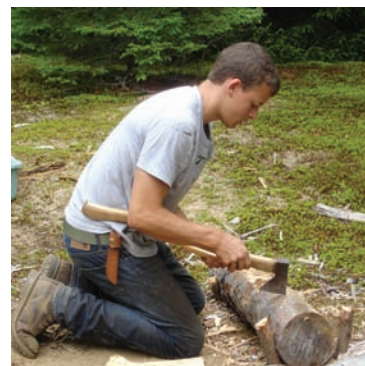
Junior Maine Guide Test Camp 2014

Participating Camps

Arcadia
Birch Rock
Bryant Pond
Kawanhee
O-AT-KA
Runoia
Winona
Wyonegonic

2014 Staff

Moose Curtis, Director
K Bolduc
Lynn Brainard
Katie Curtis
Ron Fournier
Ginny Geyer
Marie Keane
Molly Keane
Bruce McDonald
Lynn O'Donnell
Bill Southwick
Gard Thompson



*"Work hard-play hard
and don't forget to
have fun"*

(Advice from a JMG Encampment
attendee)

- 14 out of 18 second and third year candidates passed
- 21 out of 44 first year candidates passed
- Total: 35 out of 62 candidates passed, a 56.5% passing rate.

Highlights of Test Camp 2014

- This year's camp celebrated long time examiners Gard Thompson's 60th anniversary of becoming a Junior Maine Guide and Moose Curtis' 50th anniversary.
- Camp Winona donated use of a truck for the week for water runs
- A memorable heavy rain and thunderstorm blew through on Wednesday

Evening speakers:

- Bruce McDonald, Maine Guide, Rangeley History
- U.S. Border Patrol members
- Don and Stephanie Palmer, Rangeley Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum



JMG Staff: from left, Dan Kane, Lynn O'Donnell, Gard Thompson, Moose Curtis, Ginny Geyer, Marie Keane, Lindley Brainard and K Bolduc.

On Ground: Katie Curtis, Bill Southwick.



Gard Thompson-
JMG Tester

Dispatches

Summer 2014

2014 10th Annual MSC Spelling Bee

The Annual MSC/ Norway Savings Bank Spelling Bee, held in July in Portland, Maine can best be described as phenomenal. PHENOMENAL... P.H.E.N.O.M.E.N.A.L. – PHENOMENAL.

Registered spellers from eleven Maine Summer Camps totaled 135, our largest number of participants ever. Camp Wigwam staff, assisted by Katie Harrigan of CIEE, led the summer camp spellers through rounds of difficult words and champions were ultimately crowned as follows:

12 & up Team Champion – Hidden Valley Camp
12 & up Individual Champion – Ryan Karp, West End House
13 & older Team Champion – West End House
13 & older Individual Champion – Jacob Denning, West End House

Thanks once again to Jack Day and the Norway Savings Bank for their annual sponsorship of this marvelous event. More than \$1,200 was raised for Maine Summer Camps!

Camps with trip day on Wednesday will be pleased to know that the 2015 MSC Spelling Bee is tentatively planned for Thursday, July 16th!

Many thanks to Bob Strauss from Camp Wigwam for all his hard work organizing the Spelling Bee.



New Marketing Efforts for 2014-15 Recruiting Season

After a year of meetings and research, Maine Summer Camps will be launching its new marketing initiative this fall. Over the past few years we have found that more and more families are accessing our directory online. Part of this increase in activity is being driven by our new “camp-matching tool”, which allows families to customize their search to find the ideal Maine Summer Camp for their child. This year we will only be printing directories for MSC members, business members, and guidance counselors, social service agencies, and libraries that are located in Maine. In addition we will print 10,000 rack cards that will be distributed throughout the state and mailed worldwide. The primary goal of the cards is to direct families to the MSC website.

As a part of this new marketing initiative we are working with two Maine companies to help maximize our online exposure. Starting in September, Dream Local Digital (www.dreamlocal.com) is managing Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest for us. KDK Agency (www.kdkcg.com) is helping us design our rack card and managing our monthly blog postings.

We are also in the process of creating a new section on our website just for parents that will be called Parent Resources. This section will have helpful articles for parents ranging from what to pack for camp to homesickness issues. Our new blog will also be found here. Hopefully, the biggest draw to this section will be “*Making the Most Out of Your Visit to Maine*” or “*Maine is not Just For Kids*”. This will include our new class of business members that provide an array of services to visitors. Here you will find listings and hot links to Maine restaurants, tours, accommodations, attractions, even Maine Magazines. The MSC Office welcomes any help in finding new Parent Resource business members.

NEWS FROM

american
CAMP
association

Peg Smith, Executive Director



In March 2014, the Maine Division of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (ME-FMCSA) contacted the Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA) because ME-FMCSA believed that camps in Maine were not complying with FMCSA interstate commerce law.

MCYA reached out to ACA, Inc. and other state camp associations across the country. Nowhere else in the country has the state-based or regional FMCSA authority interpreted youth camps as engaging in “for compensation” business; and in a number of specific situations, the state FMCSA authority has said that youth camps are “private carriers” and, thus, not subject to registering as an Operating Authority.

In May of this year, ACA, Inc. initiated conversations with its law firm, Ice Miller. ACA, Inc. has worked with MYCA and ACA, New England over the past several months. In June ACA, Inc. secured Ice Miller Strategies LLC (IMS) to represent ACA, Inc.’s interests in Washington, D.C. Our legal counsel in D.C. are very well versed on FMCSA. One Ice Miller attorney wrote SAFTEA-LU and another wrote MAP-21. They have agreed to work on the following:

- To develop a strategy that will address, through either DOT administrative action or through a change in law, the FMCSA current interpretation of 49 USC Sec. 13501 et seq, which provides the legislative authority for the regulations set forth under 49 CFR Sec. 365 and Sec. 387.
- To develop materials that can be used on the Hill and with ACA members that describe the problems as they relate to ACA, and why the code needs to be altered.

Dispatches

Summer 2014

ACA News Cont.

- To work with the Maine Congressional delegation, the delegations of other affected states, and committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate to build legislative support for a change in regulation or law.
- To coordinate with other affected groups similar to ACA who may also wish to alter RMCSA policy in this matter.

Issue: Under the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA's) current interpretation, a camp operator providing transportation as an ancillary service to operating the camp may be subject to liability under the FMCSA's commercial regulations as though it were a for-hire, commercial motor coach operator, just like Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc. or Trailways, Inc.

As a separate and distinct matter, camp operators are required under 49 CFT Part 390 to comply with FMCSA safety regulations when operating a 9-to-15-person passenger van. The camp community supports and complies with all applicable FMCSA SAFETY requirements.

ACA, Inc.'s Request: FMCSA's application of its commercial regulations to camps is inappropriate, and camp operators ask that Congress address this matter with FMCSA directly or through legislation.

Current Status:

1. IMS has communicated with key individuals, including Senator Susan Collin's office, sharing a background paper summarizing the issue at hand. Senator Collins is a Maine Republican and a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations — Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.
2. Senator Collins has requested a briefing from FMCSA. This will be an important meeting and will advise our eventual strategy.

What Can You Do?

1. Share potential impact to your camp should such interpretations apply.
 - a. Cost
 - b. Impact on campers
 - c. Threat to business directly, indirectly
 - d. Impact on ancillary businesses

For More Information: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/, www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/motorcoach-laws

ACA Inc. will continue to work closely with MYCA and ACA New England. Please continue to forward questions and concerns to Ron Hall (camps@mainecamps.org), Bette Bussel (bette@acanewengland.org), or Susan Yoder (syoder@acacamps.org).

Greg Shute Honored with Halsey Gulick Award



From left to right: Garth Altenburg and Greg Shute of Chewonki and Andy Lilienthal of Winnebago. Garth presented MSC's highest honor, the Halsey Gulick Award, to Greg at the June MSC Annual Meeting

For the past 30 years Greg Shute has provided powerful camp wilderness trip experiences to the children of Maine's summer youth camps through his direct trip leading at Chewonki, as well as through his role as an educator of and advocate for countless wilderness trip programs in his beloved Maine Woods.

From his roots growing up in Belfast, to his numerous adventures in the woods and on the waters, Greg has seen it all in the Maine outdoors. It's hard to find a river, mountain or island in Maine that Greg Shute hasn't personally visited, but what is

even more impressive is to think of all the miles safely traveled by Chewonki wilderness trips under Greg's watch through the years.

Greg began his career at Chewonki in 1984 serving as waterfront director and a senior cabin counselor. From there he joined the Environmental Education staff leading the Thoreau Wilderness Expedition and the Mistissini expedition, a canoe trip 300 miles north of Quebec City.

In 1991 Greg became Chewonki's first Wilderness Trip Director which then evolved into his current role as Director of Outdoor Programs. Through his leadership, Greg has pioneered new wilderness trips for teens while providing wilderness experiences for tens of thousands of campers and students at Chewonki. Greg also serves on countless boards and committees throughout Maine related to wilderness travel, education, wildlife, camping, conservation and tourism.

In 2011 Greg played a vital role on behalf of Maine Summer Camps in working with the state to revise the Maine Trip Leader permitting system for camps, working with the state so that the interests of the camps were understood and incorporated. Greg's lasting legacy is that we, as a group of camps, will be able to provide transformative wilderness camping experiences in the Maine outdoors to the next generations of Maine campers.

For full citation of Greg's Award, please visit <http://mainecamps.org/files/2010/04/Greg-Shute-2014-Halsey-Gulick-Award.pdf>

Camp Capella - "THE LITTLE CAMP THAT COULD"



This is the story about the little camp that could.

As the story goes, a group of kids and camp counselors were sitting around the campfire one night gazing at the stars when one of the kids asked what the name of a certain star was. "It's the star CaPella," the counselor answered, "And the group of smaller stars around it is called, 'the kids.'" The name stuck, and "Camp CaPella" was born.

For some 45 years the camp was a program of the United Cerebral Palsy of Maine, and like many other camps in Maine, they would dust off the cobwebs and clean out the critters each spring, open camp for children with physical and developmental disabilities for seven weeks, and then lock the doors and go home for the winter. There was never a focus on the camp becoming a self sustaining operation, so it was mostly money out---and nothing in. In 1995 UCP made the strategic business plan to close the camp for good. There it sat, this beautiful place on Phillips Lake in Dedham, empty with just a lot of memories for all the kids and counselors who had once been such an important part of the camp.

How could this happen?
Such an important resource
for families with children
with disabilities just sitting
here falling apart. What



Would it take for this place to be "re-born?" Many thought nothing less than a miracle would save it, but a group of community folks thought that it was worth fighting for. They set out to raise enough money to hire a director, and with an agreement from UCP to let them use the camp grounds to get something started, Camp CaPella re-opened for seven weeks of day camp in 2008. To many it was a surprise to have as many campers as the camp had that first year, not at capacity but darn good. AND the bills all got paid!

It was in February of 2007 that the new Director, Dana Mosher received an unexpected phone call. "Dana," the caller said. "I don't believe we have ever met but my name is Doris Buffett. You probably know my brother, Warren." (Got Dana's attention immediately). She went on.

"I was reading in the Bangor Daily News about your camp and I'd like to know more about it." By 2009, after the camp obtained its IRS tax exempt status, Dana got another call. "Dana, This is Doris.....I'll be there in 20 minutes." And so "the little camp that could" received an unexpected boost, a hand up.

It was an interest-free, payment-free mortgage so we could buy all of the camp property from UCP of Maine, along with a matching grant of \$65,000 that we would have to match in a few months. That money would all need to be spent on ONLY capital improvement projects to fix up the property that the Sunshine Lady Foundation had made possible for us to purchase. All we had to do was run the camp successfully for 5 years, and Doris would forgive the mortgage and the camp would be all ours, free and clear. Yup, all we had to do was to raise \$200,000 every year, fix up the camp property, build new programs, get new boats, docks, find a way to build a weekly overnight camp program, and pay all the bills without incurring any debt. The Community had to prove that this camp was worth keeping before The Foundation would turn it over to us.

Today Camp CaPella operates a day camp, a weekly overnight camp, and new this year, testing out an Adventure Travel camp for our teen campers. We have new pontoon boats, new docks, a newly renovated bunk house, and the grounds look simply amazing. We bring the camp experience to children with disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Spin Bifida, brain injuries, Down Syndrome, autistic campers, ---kids, teens, and adults with disabilities many can't even pronounce....disabilities that would keep them away from just about all other camp opportunities. They come here. Last summer they came from 11 different counties in Maine, at least four different states and this year even a camper from Beijing, China. We have paid all our bills without debt, and.....Doris Buffett has told us she will be attending our November Volunteer Service award banquet to officially forgive the mortgage. The camp will be all ours, debt free. The Little Camp That Could, The little camp that it would take a miracle to save.... Is alive and well!



THE CAMP HISTORY CORNER BY Henry Johnson, Historian

“Camp Powhatan Alumni Reunite”



On June 28, 2014, a reunion was held at the site of Seeds of Peace (formally the site of Camp Powhatan for Boys) on Pleasant Lake in Otfield, Maine for the Alumni of Camp Powhatan. Over forty-five (45) former campers and staff of Camp Powhatan attended the reunion. The Alumni of Camp Powhatan were most grateful for the warm welcome which Seeds of Peace provided to them.

Camp Powhatan operated nearly continuously in business from the period of 1921 through 1995.

The camp was founded by Ira Bloom (The Chief). His son, Joel W. Bloom, followed the Chief as the Director of Camp Powhatan until its closure in 1995. Alumni came dressed for the occasion in their classic Red and

Gray colors and had the opportunity to participate in such sports as softball, basketball, tennis, and swimming.

Camp Powhatan represents one of the many fine past and present camps which have dotted the shores of Pleasant Lake. These camps have included: Arcadia, Songo, Mendota, Tall Timbers, Truda, Burunonia, Lanark, Samoset II, and Hoop Camp.

Members are urged to provide any information he or she may have relating to the history of these camps and any other Maine Summer Camps to Historian, Henry Johnson at the following e-mail address: hp-johnsonlaw@gmail.com.



Maine Summer Camps Offers in-Season Staff Training

We were thrilled to have Dr. Christopher Thurber return for his 11th year to offer a training workshop for all Maine Summer Camps, held at Camp Wawenock on July 8th! Ninety staff from twelve different Maine Camps took advantage of this amazing opportunity. This year, Chris focused on positive psychology in his session, “Plug In to the Positive: Why Mindset Matters for Youth Leaders.”

Chris spent an afternoon discussing and facilitating activities which helped camp staff shift their thinking on how to bond with campers, manage their behavior and tap their potential. Chris was well received by the staff and their reviews were overwhelmingly positive. “It was awesome to hang out with staff from other Maine camps. Turns out we share the same challenges and love of youngsters. Dr. Thurber shared loads of practical tools that I know will make my job easier...and I liked his sense of humor and was glad he reminded us that we are professional youth leaders.”

Many thanks to Dr. Christopher Thurber for his time and his passion in providing these educational opportunities to Maine Summer Camp Staff.

Welcome

New Business Members

FASTSIGNS: Contact: Bud Elliot, 413 Western Ave., South Portland, ME 04106. Email: 262@fastsigns.com. 207.773.5499.

PORTLAND PIRATES: Contact: Stephen Torrisi, VP Ticket Sales, 215 Commercial St., Portland, ME 04101 Email: storrisi@portlandpirates.com, 207.747.2837 x 507. *Family fun and entertainment through professional minor league hockey.*

PORTLAND SEA DOGS: Contact: Courtney Rague, Ticket Sales, 271 Park Ave., Portland, ME 04102. Email: crague@seadogs.com, 207.874.9300. *Group outing opportunities and picnic outings including all-you-can-eat food.*

PROTECT PEST SERVICES: Contact: Ron Keeler, 111 Daggett Dr., Raymond, ME 04071. Email: ronald.keeler@yahoo.com. 207.321.9733. *General pest control services.*

RETURNING-MAGIC FALLS RAFTING: Contact: Donna Neddeau, PO Box 9, West Forks, ME 04217. Email: adventures@magicfalls.com. 800.207.2738. *Safety conscious rafting trips on the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. Outdoor climbing wall.*

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**September 17, 2014: MSC Fall Board Meeting and Fellowship,
Migis Lodge, South Casco, Maine**

Welcome

New Camp Member

Apogee Outdoor Adventures

Contact: Kevin Cashman and Chad Olcott, Directors, 136 Main St. #5, Brunswick, ME, 04011. Email: directors@apogeeadventures.com. 207.725.7025

Training Opportunity-Wilderness First Aid-October 24-25

with **Jon Tierney from Mountain Guides Climbing School and Wilderness Medical Associates**
FMI and Registration: Mahoosuc Guide Service and Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge, Newry, ME. (207) 824-2073
www.mahoosuc.com and www.mahoosucmountainlodge.com

Calendar of Events

Save the Date!

September 17, 2014, Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MSC Fall Board Meeting and Fellowship. Migis Lodge, South Casco, ME

October 22, 2014, Wednesday
Rick Stryker workshop. Acadia Insurance, Westbrook, ME

January 13, 2015, Tuesday
Winter Board Meeting and Fellowship. Business Member Networking Event. CIEE, Portland, ME

February 3-6, 2015, Tuesday to Friday
ACA National Conference, New Orleans, LA

March 15, 2015, Sunday
Annual MSC Camp Fair, East End School, Portland, ME

March 26-28, 2015, Thursday to Saturday
New England ACA Conference, Manchester, NH

March 28, 2015, Saturday
MSC and MYCA Semi-Annual Membership Meeting at ACA/NE Conference, Manchester, NH

June 12, 2015, Friday
MSC/MYCA Annual Meetings, Location TBA



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A large image showing a young girl with braided hair, wearing a blue and green shirt, climbing a set of aluminum stairs that lead into a lake. The stairs have a curved aluminum handrail. The water is dark blue and rippling.

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"If you would have told my 12-year-old self that my favorite place in the world would be in the woods with no electricity, phones, television, cable, video games, etc., I would have said you are nuts."

Jim Goodfellow
Chicago, Illinois
Camp Winona for Boys 1990–1994
Down East Magazine, February 2014

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