

January 31,
2022

Winter Camp News

"Traditionally Unconventional"—Postcamp Edition

*"On Guard
Since 1986"*

New WC Leadership Team Formed

by Steve Donohue

Winter Camp has a long tradition of self-appointed leadership. In the waning hours of Winter Camp XLV, youth and adults alike awaited the arrival of new leaders which had been foretold in numerous bits of camp lore.

During breakfast on Day Five, Michael Bristol declared himself the youth leader of Winter camp XLVI (2022). A few moments later, after some silent meditation outside the cabin, Matt Grimble agreed to be the adviser and greeted Michael with a handshake and the declaration "Let's run a Winter Camp."

Matt—Winter Camp's only 3-time youth leader—will be the most experienced adviser in history despite being the second youngest. Before the weekette ended, Connor Johnson had signed on to be the Activities Leader. Ethan Rein signed up to be the Participation Award Adviser before the calendar year ran out.

In the month since Winter Camp XLV, Jacob Ferns has completed the roster of youth officials by agreeing to be the kitchen leader.

Robot Maze

The Robot Maze was a new activity at Winter Camp XLV. It featured 8 battery-operated robots. Each robot had its own IP address and, after connecting to the rhombus network, campers were able to take control of them using their own devices. Laptops were easier, but other devices were used.

The original plan had been for campers to follow a taped line, grab a golf ball, and then take it to the other end of the line twice. The robots were programmed on a web interface which used a subset of BASIC with some additional commands unique to the robots.

It wasn't clear if anyone actually managed to move a golf ball, but campers definitely enjoyed pitting their logic and programming skills against the challenge of moving the robots and having them do something interesting. Chris Adams became very invested and wound up with balloons and thumb tacks on four robots for a gladiator battle.

You Might Be A Winter Camper If...

If something called "amalgamation" is a foodstuff...
If you've ever watched a soap bubble for 18 minutes...

Alimentary Endings

by Steve Donohue

The Great Pie Slam

For the 45th Anniversary Dinner, we made Pecan Pie Bars. Owing to a shortage of baking pans (they were used for other dishes), we made a few of them in pie plates and bread pans. Once we cooked them, it turned out they were stickier than expected. As part of the cleanup from dinner, it was decided that we should remove the bars from the pans.

In true Winter Camp fashion, it was decided that taking them out with a spatula was too easy. Instead, the pies were lifted up, then slammed upside down onto a cutting board. The goal was to bust them out of the pans with less mess. It sort of worked.

Steve Donohue and JJ Stephens were the primary pie slammers. Just as it seemed impossible, Steve managed to slam one hard enough to leave it hanging from the pan and a little spatula work released it. From there, the now confident slammers quickly removed all the pies in plates. The ones made in the bread pans proved more difficult, but eventually there was enough pie out to call the experiment a success and all the dishes could be washed.

The Continental Tease

On Thursday morning we had the Continental Breakfast. The team making breakfast took advantage of the oven's down time to cook bacon for a future meal. This resulted in the breakfast being renamed "The Continental Tease" as campers woke up to the smell of wonderful bacon and there wasn't any for breakfast.

20 Years of Jackpot Grits

The first time we served Jackpot Grits was back in 2002 at Winter Camp XXVI. The idea then was to have a meal that *could* have more dishes than the 162 Dish banquet, but that might be a little less expensive. The original plan called for each ingredient to be added on a coin toss and eight or more items would have given us 256 different possible dishes. This happened for the first 4 years, but starting at Winter Camp XXX in 2006, the Wheel of Breakfast appeared and was too much fun to ignore; it became the new standard randomizer. If you really enjoy grits, you should check out jackpotgrits.com, part of the WCFS Network.

Winter Camp XLVI

December 27-31, 2022

The second Winter Camp with 4 different Roman digits

Participants Participate: Four Participation Awards Presented

Congratulations to Gwen Pratt, Connor Johnson, Annabelle Beattie and Michael Bristol, all of whom earned the Participation Award during Winter Camp XLV. This brings the total number of award winners to 42 as that number closes in on the number of Winter Camps.

Thanks to Gwen and Annabelle, 100% of female scouts who've spent more than one night at Winter Camp have earned the award. Looks like the boys might have some work to do.

Planning—Not Just For December Anymore

A pivotal moment in Winter Camp history occurred in December 1980, when a group of Arrowmen ironing out some of the final details for Winter Camp IV began talking about ideas that there wasn't time enough to implement before camp. These ideas were set aside for possible use at Winter Camp V, and so for the first time, planning for one Winter Camp had begun before the start of the previous Winter Camp.

In the ensuing years, the boundaries between Winter Camps have grown blurrier, with event planning and discussion of new ideas and improvements to old ideas slowly growing to take over much of the other 72 weekettes of the Earth year. Since the end of Winter Camp XLV, a number of online meetings have already been held to get a head start on making the most successful chapter event in the Order of the Arrow even better than it's been. (Among other things, the menu database has been enhanced to improve kitchen operations and menu planning. For one thing, we expect to have far fewer leftover apples at Winter Camp XLVI.) Stay tuned to the wintercamp.com Web site for continued information as Winter Camp XLVI continues to take shape.

Where are my Eggggs!?

Muppet fans and egg aficionados were surely disappointed this year to learn that although Eggggs in Space! appeared on the schedule, we didn't actually have it at camp. One of the disconnects as Winter Camp has become ever more computerized is that the script that creates the schedule and the one that creates the menu are different. Somewhere along the line, the Eggggs from the schedule became a second Continental Breakfast.

Winter Camp's cyber-operations team thinks that this happened when an attempt was made to remove Tang from Eggggs in Space!. After seeing the issue, we checked the shopping list against the food on hand, found out that we had shopped for the Continental Breakfast, and decided to go for it.

While this proves Winter Camp's ability to respond with elan to changing circumstances, plans are in place to keep this from becoming necessary again.

What's The Last Line?

Every Winter Camp is commemorated in verse in the Epic Limerick Cycle, begun in 1994 by Mark Bollman—>, Steve Donohue, and Jeff Rand. Mark—> has kept the cycle up to date with a new limerick for each year, and Steve has contributed 3 additional limericks. The full cycle, with annotations, may be seen in *Encyclopedia WinterCampica*.

This year's limerick is missing only the final line:

*While the omicron variant soared,
45 ventured back to Jack Lord.
There were robots at play;
24 graced each day.
?????????*

(Line 4 refers to the small robot action figures that were scattered about the cabin during camp. Perhaps you have one.)

Help us out: Send your proposed 9-syllable final line to Mark—>, at redshoes@wintercamp.com, for consideration.

Back In The Day

Tales Of History and Imagination

An enduring tradition of the Winter Camp grocery shopping trip each Christmas Eve is the purchase of a round for Frostys for the crew following lunch at Wendy's. For many years, these were purchased by the oldest shopper present and retrieved by the youngest. The shoppers for Winter Camp XXII were surprised when a tray of Frostys was delivered to their table with the comment that they were "from an anonymous donor". Considerable speculation as to the desserts' source ensued, centering on Ron Donohue, Steve Donohue, John Howey, and Dave Milon.

The mysterious Frostys appeared again before Winter Camp XXIII, and eventually Occasional Visitor, an anonymous visitor to the Winter Camp Web site, took credit for sending them. For Winter Camp XXIV, OV's true identity was revealed, and while Kristie Matz provided the Frostys for the group, the anonymity was lost and a 2-year tradition ended. A new tradition kicked in the next year when Kristie sprung for a second round under her own name, which she did several times before the cost of the Frostys reverted to the oldest shopper.

Kristie has since joined the Winter Camp family, marrying Steve Donohue on 24 March 2001, joining the Order of the Arrow in 2011, and officially attending her first Winter Camp later that same year at Winter Camp XXXV.



There are fewer than 66 weekettes remaining before Winter Camp XLVI.