

# Winter Camp XXVII News

Traditionally Unconventional

December 29, 2003

## Back in the Day Dawn of the Mahican Chapter by Ethan Rein

Back in the day, 1990 to be exact, Migisi Opawgan, then spelled Mi-Gi-Si O-Paw-Gan, had 10 chapters. One of those, Downriver, was 14 years into hosting Winter Camp. In 1991, Downriver joined with Sauk Trail and Huron chapters to form the Mahican Chapter. The joining of these two chapters with Downriver could have had an extreme effect on Winter Camp XV. Steve Donohue, the event's adviser, described the situation as 'Scary.'

Everyone in the new Mahican Chapter was invited to Winter Camp XV, the first Mahican Winter Camp. It was not until a few years later that a few guys from Huron and a couple from Sauk Trail showed up. Since 1991, Downriver and Sauk Trail districts combined into the current Three Rivers district.

After a few more years, youth from all over the chapter have been able to come together for Winter Camp. The cohesiveness of the youth has never been more present than this year at Winter Camp XXVII, with youth leader Zach Polifroni, kitchen guy Mike Hodnicki, and Lodge Pillar Rob Hartwig.

Overall, according to Winter Camp expert Steve Donohue, the change in Winter Camp from a Downriver to a

## Late-Breaking News WCU Awards First Degree Oakley Sighted With Incorrect Hat

In only its second year of operation, Winter Camp University awarded its first degree today. In a brief ceremony preceded by a tailgate lunch, Jeff Rand, Dean of the College of Winter Camping, presented Dave Oakley with the Associate of Winter Camping degree and its white-bordered Winter Camp patch. While he was valedictorian of WCU, Dave chose not to make a speech—but he did celebrate his accomplishment by tossing his (non-event-appropriate, amazingly enough) hat into the air.

Dave earned his degree by completing a list of eight requirements, including successfully passing the course Introduction to Winter Camping, which is taught at the WCU's Brookside campus.

## Alumni Return

Winter Camp XXVII was graced yesterday by visits from two former campers who fit a trip to D-A in and around their other holiday commitments. Gary Allen arrived early in the day and stayed through the Caveman Dinner. While he claimed not to remember much about having eaten this meal in his youth, the sights and sounds of spaghetti and chocolate pudding being eaten without utensils or language quickly jarred his memory. Gary attended Winter Camps III-VI as a youth and dropped in on both the Winter Camp XX and XXV Anniversary Banquets. It was at Winter Camp XXV that he dropped the bombshell that his amusing tale about a cousin in Hamtramck—for which he was remembered throughout his 14-year hiatus—was in fact fictional. Gary is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at Wayne State University.

An unexpected visitor later in the evening was Mike Osvath. Mike was one of the "Original Six" Winter Campers who launched this event in 1977, and his early ownership of a home computer tied Winter Camp and home computing together beginning the next year (see page 2). He was also an early player in the Winter Camp pizza market, founding Little Ozzie's Pizza and running it until Winter Camp XVII, when his first absence from Winter Camp led to a takeover launched from within. Mike joined in on a Blind Hike and stayed through the night, notching his first Winter Camp night since Winter Camp XXIII. Mike is currently employed in plant installations as an assembly line builder.

Other visitors are rumored to be planning their own trips to Winter Camp XXVII and may be arriving this evening.

## Today's Programming (All times WCST)

9:00 A.M.—**Outdoor Life Network**.....Pancake Breakfast  
10:17 A.M.—**HGTV**.....Service Project Part 1  
1:17 P.M.—**Country Music Television**.....Tailgate Lunch  
2:17 P.M.—**HGTV**.....Service Project Part 2  
5:17 P.M.—**TV Guide Channel**.....Free Time  
6:00 P.M.—**TBS**.....Dinner and a Movie  
8:00 P.M.—**Game Show Network**...Card & Game Tournament  
11:00 P.M.—**Food Network**.....Bollmano's Pizza  
12:00 M.—**All Channels**.....Off the Air

## Stumblin' About In The Dark

by Ethan Rein

On the evening of Day Two, one of Winter Camp's greatest events was held. Twice. This event is the Blind Hike. Blindfolded participants went on two hikes, dubbed A and B for typographical reasons.

According to the *Winter Camp Manual*, hike A was intended for beginners, or lazy or infirm Winter Campers. This crew was charged to hike from Beaver Creek to Shady Oaks cabin.

Hike B, for the experts, traced a path from Beaver Creek to the Martin Administration Building. This long and very blind hike marked Winter Camp Pioneer Jeff Rand's first visit to the Martin Building, which opened in 2000.

As has become traditional, the Blind Hikes were accompanied by baking. Following Hike B, campers enjoyed the Bakery Snack. Featured during the snack was a slide show—third in what appears to be surfacing as a new Winter Camp tradition—put on by Mr. Draper of his summer travels with fellow Winter Campers Roger Horn and Jeff Rand.

## Gastronomic Delights

In order to get ready for the arduous service ahead of us today, we enjoyed a hearty **Pancake Breakfast**. Remember?

Lunch during our day of toil was the new **Tailgate Lunch**. An unexpected development during the meal was Dave Milon's apparently unintentional invention of pepper-meint sugar cookies, which were well-received and may lead to a revision of the Winter Camp Recipe Guide.

Tonight will be a rare occurrence where we actually encourage you to sit in front of the TV and eat. *Dinner and a Movie* migrates over to Winter Camp tonight with the **Pirates of the Caribbean Cuisine** dinner. You'll be enjoying everybody's favorite TV dinner, meatloaf and potatoes. It should be clear what the movie will be—or should it?

**Bollmano's Pizza** celebrates the 10th anniversary of its takeover of the Little Ozzie's Pizza business at Winter Camp this evening in and around the Card and Game Tournament. As is the custom at Bollmano's, Winter Camp rookies get first crack at the ovens for their hand-made pizzas.

The **Continental Breakfast** debuted at Winter Camp X and has been a recurrent meal theme since Winter Camp XV. While it has been served more often than any other meal theme due to its unusual ability to be served more than once at an individual camp, its lone Winter Camp XXVII appearance is tomorrow.

Few Winter Camp meal themes have made the leap from dinners to lunches, but it'll once again be time for the wearin' of the green as last year's Irish Feast resurfaces this year as the **Irish Lunch** tomorrow.

## Back in the Day Rat-a-tat-tat!

by Steve Donohue

Winter Camp had its first computer before Sam Stocker was even qualified to be a tert. In 1978, Mike Osvath's TRS-80 was on the scene at Winter Camp printing rosters, coordinating the Murder Game, and attracting a group of zealous Arrowmen known as the rat-a-tat-tatters.

Twenty-five years ago Mike's computer was a rarity. Although two other Winter Campers had TRS-80s, the rest had rarely used a computer before and certainly had not at home. In today's world of 24-7 high-speed Internet access, it's probably hard to imagine a time when 75% of the people attending Winter Camp had never touched (or possibly even seen) a computer.

This lack of familiarity and the excitement of being able to play computer games led to more than a few disagreements about whose turn it was to play and just who had played the most. A distinct group of campers was born: the rat-a-tat-tatters. The group is named after the sound of the keys being pressed because in those days there was no such thing as a mouse or a joystick (the TRS-80 later had a joystick, but never a mouse). Doing anything on the computer meant typing, even if it was just clicking the arrows to play a game.

The rat-a-tat-tatters were famous for rushing to the machine between activities and for staying up way too late playing with them. Although most of them are no longer Winter Campers, Lou Pezet was once a rat-a-tat-tatter. Many of the others attended quite a few camps including Mike Lowry, Doug Seman (who was once youth leader of camp) and Brad Eakin.

Rat-a-tat-tatting reached its peak at Winter Camp XI when there were 11 computers set up in the "Computer Palace" at Clearwater Cabin.

## Winter Camp Trivia

by Mark Bollman—>

*From the December 27, 2003 issue:*

1. Tom Ray, adviser to Winter Camp XXII.
2. Ethan Rein
3. Lockwood Lake
4. 3—the Picnic Lunch at Winter Camp XVI and the Anniversary Banquet at Winter Camps XX and XXV.

*Today's questions:*

1. What advantages were given to the Jock team during Rock and Jock Ultimate Frisbee?
2. Who served at master of ceremonies for Winter Camp Squares?
3. Today (December 29, 2003) marks the 25th anniversary of the first Caveman Dinner. How many times has this classic meal been served at Winter Camp?