

Winter Camp XXVII News

Traditionally Unconventional

December 30, 2003

Back in the Day Winter Camp: The Early Years by Rob Hartwig

"What to do?" I thought as I lay back in the warm comfort of Beaver Creek cabin. I could get up to get a candy bar...but did I even want a candy bar? "No," I decided, I really wasn't going to give up my nap for sweets this time. It would have to be something important, something worthwhile to me.

"Hey, Rob!" The words cut through my half-formed thoughts. "We should interview Steve Donohue for the Back in the Day article we're supposed to write."

Suddenly my brain kicked into full gear. Ethan was right. We should talk to Steve. So talk to him we did.

The following is a slightly inexact account of the interview that followed between Steve and me.

Steve: Hey Rob! What's up? How's it going?

Rob: It's going awesome! (Looks in Steve's direction) What is that?

S: Oh...that's the Winter Camp Survival Kit that Kristie gave me. It contains candy bars and other useful things. You want one?

R: Umm...sure. That would rock. (Slight time spent eating. During this time, Steve closes his eyes and feigns like he's sleeping.) So...tell me about Winter Camp of the past.

S: You mean like 1990-1991? Those were scary times.

R: I was actually thinking of a little further back. Could you tell me about the first couple of Winter Camps in a way that would show any differences that they might have had from the Winter Camp that we know today?

S: Sure. In the beginning, there was—quite logically—Winter Camp I. Not only was the event shorter, but it also had no themes, no meal plans/themes, no schedules, and no plan whatsoever.

R: How bizarre. So why did people come back to Winter Camp II?

S: I think that what kept Winter Camp together was the quality of the people.

R: I see. Another question: I heard that lots of people came to Winter Camp III. Can you explain this to me at all?

S: Once again, all I can say is that we had the right people at Winter Camp II. Heck, we even had Jeff Rand as the youth leader. It just doesn't get any better than that.

R: Sounds rather cool. I only have one other thing to ask. What two differences would you say are the greatest between Winter Camp today and Winter Camp then?

S: Well...the ages sure are different. Now there's a range of about 57 years in the participants. For the first couple of years,

Euchre Report

How many different games of euchre have been played so far at Winter Camp XXVII? How many at all Winter Camps combined? Have we started to repeat games?

Lots. Quite a few more.

No. Here's why: Elementary combinatorics tells us that there are 124,672,148,625,024 possible different ways to deal the 24 cards in a euchre deck. If everyone at Winter Camp were to be divided into groups of 4 and played one hand of euchre every second of Winter Camp, that would cover only 2,595,600 hands, or only about 1/500,000,000 of the possible hands.

The chances, then, are unlikely that games are being repeated.

Today's Programming (All times WCST)

9:00 A.M.— Travel Channel	Continental Breakfast
10:00 A.M.— CBS	The Amazing Race
10:30 A.M.— ESPN 2	Snow Soccer
11:30 A.M.— CBS	The Amazing Race #2
12:00 N.— BBC America	Irish Lunch
1:00 P.M.— HBO	Moviemaking
5:00 P.M.— TV Guide Channel	Free Time
6:00 P.M.— Spike	Hooters Dinner
7:30 P.M.— UPN	Buffy the Vampire Slayer
9:00 P.M.— NBC	Vegas!
11:00 P.M.— Food Network	Casino Snack
12:00 M.— All Channels	Off the Air

there was only a range of 8-9 years. We were a really tight-knit group. Also, I would say that it's harder to do new things now that we have such a great tradition base. Not saying that that's a bad thing, but it's a difference. Before, we always did new things, and now, it's very tempting to reuse some of the old ideas that worked.

R: I see. Thanks for your unique view into the past and present of Winter Camp. You rock Steve!

S: Thanks, Rob, but I knew that already.

Dinner and a Movie

Dinner and a Movie marked only the second time we've deliberately shown a movie during dinner. The last time was the TV Dinner at Winter Camp XIV. That time we watched Newton's Apple (an educational series) and had actual TV dinners. It was described by veteran camper Mark Bollman—> as "the antithesis of Winter Camp".

This time out the fare was a little better. We watched Pirates of the Caribbean and had authentic Caribbean style food. We started out with an authentic Caribbean spicy meatloaf, then added some curried potatoes and Rice and Peas. Even though it was called rice and peas, the dish had beans in it. Based on our Internet research it appears that most dishes with beans or peas are called rice and peas.

The dessert was a lovely molasses cake. The entire event will doubtless go down in history as the finest meatloaf ever served in Winter Camp (at least until we serve meatloaf again).

Gastronomic Delights

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** today.

The **Hooters Dinner** makes its third straight appearance on the Winter Camp schedule, with authentic foodstuffs on the menu and memorabilia in the cabin.

The **Casino Snack** will be easy on dishwashers, but might require more than one pass with the brooms. A pleasant evening of gaming and snacking awaits you.

Jackpot Grits kicks off Winter Camp's final day this year. What does the Wheel of Breakfast have in store for you?

A reprise of many fine Winter Camp XXVII foods will enliven the 25th **Conglomerate Lunch**. Reminisce about the great hits and misses of the Winter Camp kitchen as you stoke up on needed calories for the ride home.

Winter Camp Trivia

by Mark Bollman—>

From the December 29, 2003 issue:

1. What advantages were given to the Jock team during Rock and Jock Ultimate Frisbee?

—An extra step allowed after catching the Frisbee, and two extra "Mississippi's" to throw it.

2. Who served at master of ceremonies for Winter Camp Squares?

—Scott McHugh

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?

—22.

New questions: Today's topic: After The Apocalypse: The Movie.

1. Who played the murdered son whose death was to be avenged by the gang of thugs?

2. Who played his father?

3. What location substituted for the Wyckoff Dining Hall in the re-creation of the 162-Dish Banquet?

4. Who played the cheerleaders from ΩM at Michigan Tech?

Entertainment News

Principal photography has been completed on the movie version of After The Apocalypse, the unfinished collaborative novel about Winter Camp by Mark Bollman—> and Steve Donohue. The entire project was shot on site at D-A Scout Ranch, with Ricky Naida and Jeff Rand's skeleton script being brought to life under Naida's direction and the camerawork of John Howey.

Budget restrictions necessitated the deletion of the critical chapters set in Hawaii and Russia, but important Winter Camp scenes were staged on a set of sets carefully chosen for their lighting advantages and proximity to power sources. No animals or live trees were harmed in the making of this project. The action builds throughout the Raid/Naida film to an actual (if somewhat disturbing) conclusion—which is something that the Bollman—>/Donohue work is still lacking after over five years of work.

The picture will be released directly to DVD and is expected to appear in 2004.

After The Apocalypse: The Movie

What good might come from a massive nuclear war?

Who can knock over a tree, even in death?

What should you sing before a life-or-death battle?

Answers to these, and many more questions, will soon be available on the direct-to-DVD release of **ATA: The Movie**!!