

Old Men Ride Rand Rocket To Victory

3 to 7 to 5 to 9

Sounds kind of weird, 'cept it's Winter Camp time.

Traditional volleyball didn't quite fit,

So we formed two more teams and threw up one more net.

There's 4 teams on the court, and they're all there at once.

And the aim's not to score, or you'll sit out—you dunce.

Then you add in the fact that we play in the snow

And it's clear we've invented a game that will go

On the Winter Camp schedule again and again.

3 to 7 to 5 to 10.

—"4-Way Volleyball", from *It's A Winter Camp World*.

One of the unique features of Winter Camp is 4-Way Volleyball. Anyone can play traditional volleyball at a Scout camp; it takes the collective mania of Winter Campers to conceive and execute the idea of playing with four teams at once. The first game of Winter Camp XXXV was played under lightly falling snow at the BC shower house field on Day One. After some rearrangement in an effort to balance the four squads, the October-December Birthdays team managed a

narrow victory.

The second game of 4-Way Volleyball is traditionally played by teams organized by Scout ranks. Winter Camp this year is uncharacteristically short on Eagle Scouts with multiple palms, so two palm-deficient Eagles from before 1983 were assigned to the Eagles with Palms team. At the other end of the advancement ladder, several Life Scouts with fewer than 30 merit badges pitched in for the First Class and Star Scout team. Those two teams were the last ones standing, but the Old Eagles team rode the Rand Rocket—a stunningly effective service technique developed by Winter Camp pioneer Jeff Rand—to a 5-15-15-15 victory in the day's final battle.

Gastronomic Delights

The first full day of Winter Camp XXXV will kick off with the **Continental Breakfast** for early risers. This is the most commonly-served meal theme through the first 34 Winter Camps, and was inspired by Doug Wilson's observation in 1990 that he never woke up hungry at Winter Camp.

The **Irish Lunch** is a relative newcomer to the world of Winter Camp meal themes. Corned beef debuted as a dinner—the Irish Feast—at Winter Camp XXVI before reappearing the next year as a lunch.

The **Synchronized Supper** was first served at Winter Camp IX in 1985. Campers that year learned of Activities Director Matt Mittino's fondness for peas and carrots, as he frequently directed all eaters to aim their forks in that direction. Will this year's meal leader have a similar predilection? Time will tell.

The **Pac-Man Snack** made its first appearance at Winter Camp XXII on Tron Day, and it's somewhat surprising that it took so long to return. We shall travel back to the world of the classic 1980's video game—and this is why the shopping list for camp called for 200 feet of string.

Alimentary Endings

"It tastes better than it smells" was Winter Camp adviser Steve Donohue's assessment of the sloppy joes served at yesterday's **Blind Lunch**. Judging from the quantity of food consumed by campers—even though they couldn't see what they were eating—everyone pretty much agreed.

Winter Camp is trying a new kitchen experiment this weekette, with several meals to be prepared entirely by youth. The first such meal was the **Willy Wonka Meal**, and the team of Josh Cicotte, Joe Warren, and Mike Williams proved up to the task, cooking and serving a Mexican meal without the use of plates or silverware. The gauntlet has truly been thrown down for the other all-youth kitchen teams.

Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast available
10:00 AM	Emperor Race
12:00 N	Irish Lunch
1:00 PM	Codebreaking
2:00 PM	Snow Castle Building
4:00 PM	Clout Shooting
6:00 PM	Synchronized Supper
7:00 PM	Blind Hike
8:00 PM	Saving the Earth: Alien Invasion
9:00 PM	Video Night
11:00 PM	Pac-Man Snack
12:00 M	Lights out

Quotes O' The Day

Precamp Edition

"This could be the meal where competitive cooking finally works."—Steve Donohue, at the planning meeting, in reference to the proposed Pancake Contest

"We hear that every year." —Jeff Rand, in response to Steve.

Hear something funny? Say something funny?

Let the News know!

How We Got Here

Winter Camp appears annually in the year's final weekette as the result of a year-long planning process that includes meetings in October and November. In 2011, the so-called "pre-planning" meeting was held outdoors on a pleasant fall Sunday in Allen Park, as the general outlines for what would become Winter Camp XXXV, such as the theme and the rough outline of events, were set. This was the time where "Defenders of the Earth" was selected as the theme for this year. Preliminary assignments for the four "save the Earth" challenges were made at this meeting.

On the day after Thanksgiving, a slightly larger crew gathered, again in Allen Park, to check on the progress made to date and decide on the final details of camp. Good and bad ideas are discussed and fairly voted upon. At this meeting, the five youth members in attendance held 20 votes among them, while the seven adults only had 14 votes altogether. All of the events and meal themes for camp were settled at this meeting. It follows, therefore, that if you're not happy with the events and meal themes selected for this year, you should take your complaints to the youth members who held the real power at the November meeting.

Know Your Fellows!

Of the 28 or so people in attendance on Day One of Winter Camp XXXV:

22 have been in a parade	9 have seen the movie <i>Thor</i>
22 have some kind of collection	9 have earned Brotherhood since 2001
21 have been to a foreign country	9 have attended 5 or more Winter Camps
20 have a Facebook page	8 say they're better at English than math
19 say they're better at math than English	8 have earned a varsity letter
17 have 1 or fewer siblings	8 are self-described patch traders
16 have played a tabletop role-playing game	7 have 2 or more siblings
16 were Tiger Cubs	6 are Eagle Scouts with no palms
16 attended a Great Lakes Council Ordeal in 2011	5 have served as Winter Camp youth leader
15 are current or former chapter officers	5 are current or former lodge officers
14 have performed a unit election	4 saw <i>Star Wars: A New Hope</i> in a theater
14 have a pet dog	3 have purchased Frostys during shopping for Winter Camp
14 have been one of the four ceremonial principals	3 attended Winter Camp I
13 can play a musical instrument	3 have 4 or more Eagle palms
10 have a pet cat	3 have earned the Winter Camp Participation Award

Winter Camp Trivia

From the December 27, 2011 edition:

- How far ahead are clocks moved to implement Winter Camp Savings Time?
—77 minutes
- What is the only event that has been held at every Winter Camp?
—Blind Hike
- Which subatomic particle is the basis of the Universal Measurement System?
—Electron

Back In The Day

In 1997, through the efforts of Steve Donohue, Winter Camp established a presence on the (then-novel) World-Wide Web. One of the risks that you take in posting things on the Internet, of course, is that people outside your immediate sphere might take notice of what you're doing. With the addition of an open posting area known as "The Wall", anyone with access to the Internet could comment on Winter Camp's curious ways.

Notable anonymous commentators on The Wall included Big Bro, whose sharply critical assessments of Winter Camp and its affairs were posted in one-syllable words (except for one notable occasion when he signed off a post with the five-syllable behemoth "Disappointedly") and Casual Observer, whose spelling was so unusual that it was frequently difficult to figure out what he was trying to say—and even after sorting through the tangled letters, his thoughts were usually not worth the effort expended.

And then there was Occasional Visitor, or OV for short. We didn't know much about this intruder, except that he or she claimed not only to have no connection to Winter Camp, but also never to have been to Detroit. This anonymous observer took an unusual interest in Winter Camp, and made it a hobby of sorts to seek out Winter Campers' homes and contact them anonymously via email (ovisitor@hotmail.com). In 1998, while shopping for Winter Camp XXII, the crew was surprised to find that their traditional Frostys had been purchased and paid for by "an anonymous donor", who later turned out to be OV.

- Which cabin was home to Winter Camp I?

—Clearwater

- What is the two-word Winter Camp motto?

—Traditionally Unconventional

Today's questions:

- Who had an unnatural obsession with bacon at the Winter Camp XXXV planning meeting?
- Which Winter Camper is known for having the right hat for every occasion?
- At which Winter Camp did the Museum of Winter Camp History debut?