

December 27,
2013

Winter Camp News

"Traditionally Unconventional"

*"On Guard
Since 1986"*

Winter Camp XXXVII News—Precamp Edition

Ease On Down The Road

The theme for Winter Camp XXXVII may well be "Through The Ages", but very recent developments in the runup to camp may have made "The Wiz" a more fitting choice. The December 21-22 ice storm that has cut electrical power to various parts of Michigan's Lower Peninsula took down many power lines at Winter Camp's traditional home of Beaver Creek subcamp at D-A Scout Ranch, and so the camp is closed until further notice. The Winter Camp leadership team got this news while enjoying the traditional Wendy's lunch following grocery shopping on Christmas Eve. Following a sequence of phone calls between campers and council camping officials, an alternate plan was soon devised, and so we are gathered at Silver Trails Scout Reservation, a little more than an hour away from Winter Camp's longtime home grounds.. In the words of Winter Camp pioneer Steve Donohue, "It's not a 'no power' issue [that makes a move necessary]; it's a 'someone could get electrocuted and die' issue.". In the interest of preserving members' lives as much as is possible, we stand poised for the first Winter Camp ever to be held outside D-A.

Nonetheless, Winter Camp endures. Members of the Mahican Chapter of Noquet Lodge, Order of the Arrow, will make their annual rendezvous with winter adventure by dominating the landscape at Silver Trails from December 27-31, 2013 (with the possibility of a return to Beaver Creek if the power issues there are resolved). Over 30 Winter Campers are expected to strain the capacities of this 300-acre camp as we move traditional events to a new setting. Youth leader TR Evangelista and adviser Gabe Church head a leadership team with over 100 previous Winter Camp experiences.

While the cost of Winter Camp has lagged behind inflation, the program continues to improve. Winter Camp is a culinary delight, and because many foods are prepared from scratch, an outstanding and sometimes unusual menu is prepared at budget prices. Lunches this year have been planned in line with a credo provided in 2009 by Steve Donohue: "Lunch should not take more time to prepare than it does to eat.". Winter Camp XXV was noted for the largest banquet in Arrow history, which served 162 different dishes. While that meal was a one-time experience (deservedly so), the menu and program for Winter Camp XXXVII promise their own memorable moments.

This year's theme is "Through The Ages", and will mimic the rise of civilization from its earliest hunter-gatherer stages as far toward the present as can be achieved in a single weekette. Winter Camp has been the home of deluxe camping for over a third of a century, and this year's theme just makes official what experienced campers have known since their first camp: Winter Camp's tradition of excess makes the year's last weekette well worth the wait.

Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

12:00 N	Gatherer Meal
1:00 PM	Tribal Inventory
2:00 PM	Mastodon Hunt
4:00 PM	Fire Building
6:00 PM	Caveman Dinner
7:00 PM	Free Time
8:00 PM	Blind Hike A & Baking
9:30 PM	Blind Hike B & Baking
11:30 PM	Bakery Snack
12:00 M	Quiet Hours

Weather Forecast

While it is surely the case that the weather has already affected Winter Camp XXXVII more than any previous Winter Camp, and possibly more than all past Winter Camps combined, the weekette is just beginning, and the weather in the future continues to be of interest. The National Weather Service projects a fairly clement December weekette to come, with daily high temperatures ranging from 12-38°F. Day Two is projected to be the warmest, while Days Four and Five will be chilly. The chance of snow peaks at 40% on Day Three, and overnight lows are predicted to drop below zero on Day Four. Winds topping out at 15 miles per hour are expected on Day One, which will be the windiest day of Winter Camp XXXVII.

The Winter Camp logo was introduced in 1990 at Winter Camp XIV. Unusual in its rhombus shape, the logo's first appearance was on the cover of *Origins*, a book detailing the history of many Winter Camp traditions, and the new three-ring binder for the *Winter Camp Manual*. It has since appeared on a wide variety of items, including T-shirts, patches, poker chips, and coffee mugs. Many of these logo items may be seen at camp in the Winter Camp museum and are available for purchase in the online Winter Camp store.



Winter Camp Participation Award—Don't Miss Out!

The **Winter Camp Participation Award** is the most prestigious award that can be earned by a youth member of Noquet Lodge. Now is the time for you to earn this gold-bordered Winter Camp patch! Here are the requirements:

1. While attending Winter Camp, do each of the following:

- Participate in baking a loaf of bread or similar baked good.
- Help set up or coordinate an event.
- Provide four (4) hours of service to camp.
- Climb D-A's highest peak.
- Participate in the Blind Hike.
- Set a personal goal to achieve during camp and achieve it.

2. While attending Winter Camp, do at least two of the following:

- Participate in a project aimed at improving Winter Camp.
- Write an article or short story for the *Winter Camp News*.
- Sleep outdoors safely during Winter Camp.
- Hold a leadership position. This

includes serving as youth leader or any other office designated by the leader.

3. Do at least two of the following:

- Pass the Winter Camp Basic History Test (available from Mark Bollman—>).
- Surf the Winter Camp Universe and participate in one or more discussion areas.
- Define the following terms: *CHR*, *Jiffy*, *Kitchamajig*, *El Mediodia*, *Quiet Hours*, *Rand Stew*, *Weekette*, *Winter Camp Savings Time*.

In earning the Winter Camp Participation Award, you will join an elite crew of 25 Arrowmen who have earned this award in previous years. Your gold-bordered patch will be presented to you at a ceremony that ensures that the patch will not be touched by the hands of an adult Arrowman. No adult worthy of the name would touch a Participation Award, unless it is the one that he earned as a youth.

For assistance in completing these requirements or to have your work certified, talk to adviser Ethan Rein, who has agreed to advise Arrowmen working on the Award this year.

Back In The Day

Tales Of History and Imagination

(Reprinted in part from *Encyclopedia WinterCampica*, 17th edition, © 2014, Winter Camp Future Society Press)

Tonight brings two opportunities to participate in the Blind Hike. The only activity to be held at every Winter Camp, this was also the first Winter Camp event. Its destinations have ranged throughout D-A--Old Baldy was a frequent destination in the early days, while more recent years have seen a variety of treks as the hike has visited both of D-A's other subcamps. Tonight, we will surely travel to a completely new destination, of course.

In much the same way that each Arrowman can trace receiving the admonition from Allowat Sakima back through previous ceremonialists all the way back to the first Ordeal ceremony, each Winter Camper who joins a Blind Hike will participate with fellows who collectively connect all the way back to Winter Camp I.

Two Blind Hikes have been held most years since Winter Camp XXII as campers alternate between the hike and the marathon baking session on the first or second night. These are often tagged the "easy" hike and the "challenging" hike.

While Winter Camp historical records on destinations of the Blind Hikes over the years are regrettably incomplete, current records show that the Beaver Creek Skills Center (when it existed) was the top destination in Beaver Creek subcamp. Little Prairie has been the #1 target in Jack Lord, and Old Baldy is our most common choice in Trout Lake.

Winter Camp Trivia

From the December 31, 2012 edition:

1. Who carved an 8-hole flute from bamboo as part of Chinese Percussion?

—Ben Green

2. Who gave an impromptu guitar recital at Winter Camp XXXVI?

—Joe Warren

3. Who concluded, after a year spent exploring social media as part of his 2012 hobby, that most social media is "a waste of time"?

—Doug Wilson

4. Whose car near-accident closed out the "Weekette In Review" slide show put together by Keith King and shown on the last night of Winter Camp

XXXVI?

—Dave Oakley

5. Who was the first grandfather/grandson pair to attend Winter Camp together?

—Mike Gambel and Timmy Kasprzak

Today's questions (Planning edition):

1. Who was assigned the task of picking up Timmy Kasprzak in Grosse Ile and driving him to the Winter Camp XXXVII planning meeting?

2. Whose car (not his own) did he use to do this?

3. Who was late to the Winter Camp XXXVII grocery shopping trip because he was frozen out of his car?

The *Winter Camp News* plans to publish daily issues during Winter Camp XXXVII. Come back to read full accounts of Winter Camp adventures, past and present.