

December 28,
2013

Winter Camp News

"Traditionally Unconventional"

*"On Guard
Since 1986"*

Rabbit Season? Duck Season? Mastodon Season!

Following an entirely satisfying Gatherer Lunch to kick off Winter Camp XXXVII, campers took to the woods in search of more challenging fare on a mastodon hunt. Winter Camp's finest spears, last seen at camp in the Ancient Weapons Storage facility used at Winter Camp XIX, were put to the test as two teams, defined by birth month (January-June and July-December), set out to track their wounded quarry and so enhance their dinner. The stakes were high: to succeed in this quest meant meat would be on the menu for the Caveman Dinner. Failure would render the meal a vegetarian affair.

The pachyderm was soon cornered behind Kane cabin, the three-room home of Winter Camp XXXVII, and campers took turns throwing their spears at this target. Alan Wilson delivered the first kill shot, striking a blow for the late birthday team. At the other end of the projectile spectrum, Timmy Kasprzak succeeded only in clunking himself in the head while attempting to spear the mastodon.

Gastronomic Delights

Today kicks off with the optional **Continental Breakfast**. This low-impact morning meal dates back to Winter Camp X and was more fully embraced beginning at Winter Camp XIV. This is the only meal theme ever presented more than once at any one Winter Camp, and is #1 on the list of Winter Camp meal themes.

Some Sort of Stew will be served at lunch. This meal theme is making its first Winter Camp appearance—yes, we still have new ideas after over a third of a century.

Winter Camp's most enduring ethnic meal ("Caveman" is not an ethnicity), the **Mexican Meal** has been a Winter Camp favorite since it was first served at Winter Camp X. This meal has been served as both lunch and dinner, and was renamed the Mestizo Meal when it was joined with the Native American theme at Winter Camp XX.

Several recent Winter Camps have been enhanced with fine homemade sausage donated to camp by D-A ranger Dave Morosky. We will be trying our hand at making our own sausage tonight, and the best of the results will be served at the **Sausage Snack**, which is also making its Winter Camp debut.

You Might Be A Winter Camper If...

You've ever tried to build a fire without matches and then used said fire to burn 15 pounds of magnesium.

You've seen a "fire piston" used.

You've used a hand-cranked bellows on a fire.

Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
10:00 AM	Cross-Country Golf
12:00 N	Some Sort Of Stew Lunch
1:00 PM	4-Way Volleyball
2:00 PM	Thou Art A Bowyer
6:00 PM	Mexican Meal
7:00 PM	Clout Shoot
9:00 PM	Sausage Making
11:00 PM	Sausage Snack
12:00 M	Quiet Hours

Alimentary Endings

Winter Camp XXXVII began with the **Gatherer Lunch**, which made its Winter Camp debut. The shopping list for this new meal included "Exotic fruit", which turned out to be papaya, carambola, horned melon, and "Buddha's hand". The last of these was immediately cited as a favorite fruit by several campers at the introduction session; it may be wondered how many of them knew it existed before lunch. The Winter Camp shopping crew baffled and amused the checkout clerk at Meijer's in Taylor, who was consecutively quoted as saying "Y'all are bringing up a bunch of stuff I've never seen before!" and "This one's [Buddha's hand again] not exotic, it's just kinda creepy!"

To these exotic fruits were added Waldorf salad, tortilla chips, assorted nuts, and water—all the sort of foodstuffs that a very primitive hunter-gatherer tribe might eat. As the weekette elapses, we hope and expect that more intricate meals will be served as mankind's sophistication increases.



Winter Camp XXXVII participants join in the tradition of the first-night baking marathon. (Photo by Kristie Donohue)

Know Your Fellows!

The first activity of Winter Camp XXXVII was a tribal inventory, in which campers were challenged to compute the largest number based on unknown input variables that were evaluated by surveying the 29 tribal members present immediately after lunch. The results of this survey, and thus a guide to the folks you'll be spending the weekette with, were these:

- 27 have been in a parade.
- 27 have been to a foreign country.
- 26 have a collection of some sort.
- 23 have played a tabletop RPG.
- 22 have a Facebook page.
- 19 have 1 or fewer siblings.
- 18 attended a Migisi Opawgan, Chippewa, or Noquet Ordeal in 2011.
- 18 have a pet dog.
- 17 can play a musical instrument.
- 17 think they're better at math than English.
- 16 have a pet cat.
- 15 are current or former chapter officers.
- 15 have been one of the principals in a ceremony.
- 15 have received Brotherhood since 2001.
- 14 have seen the movie *Thor*.
- 14 were once a Tiger Cub.
- 13 have performed a unit election.
- 12 have earned a varsity letter.
- 11 have attended 5 or more Winter Camps.
- 10 have 2 or more siblings.
- 10 think they're better at English than math.
- 7 are current or former lodge officers.
- 7 consider themselves to be patch traders.
- 7 have served as Winter Camp youth leader.
- 6 are Eagle Scouts with no palms.
- 5 have seen *Star Wars: A New Hope* in a theater.
- 4 have earned the Winter Camp Participation Award.
- 4 have four or more Eagle palms.
- 4 have purchased Frostys during Winter Camp grocery shopping.
- 3 attended Winter Camp I (Steve Donohue, Jeff Rand, and Doug Wilson).



Team 3 took top numerical honors with a total of 2418; team,2 was runner-up with 1892, and Team 1 took the bronze medal with 1782. The maximum finite value would have been 2646, meaning that Team 3 hit 91.3% of the best possible number.

Winter Camp Trivia

Yesterday's answers:

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

—Ethan Rein

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

—Steve Donohue

3. Who was late to the Winter Camp

XXXVII grocery shopping trip because he was frozen out of his car?

—Keith King

Today's questions:

1. How many current or former lodge officers were present during Tribal Inventory?

2. What type of vehicle furnished the magnesium that was burned during Fire-building?

3. How many steps are there between Kane cabin and the Rotary Lodge?

Back In The Day

(Reprinted from *Encyclopedia WinterCampica*, 17th edition, © 2014.)

An unscheduled event enlivened Day Four of Winter Camp XXV. Following Raze The Village and Oatley Ring Fighting, Paul Kupser was driving around Lockwood Lake pulling a trailer laden with Viking event equipment. For reasons which remain unknown, the trailer broke loose from its hitch and slid into the lake. Paul called to the Beaver Creek building on a short-range radio, but received only an "April Fool's to you too!" response, from Steve Donohue.

Two crews of campers soon converged on the accident site, however, and were able to retrieve the trailer and its contents intact. Paul came under some fire in the various Winter Camp XXV newspapers for not attaching the trailer's safety chains, but was ultimately exonerated in the Winter Camp *News* by Doug Wilson, who asserted that "If he'd had the chains on, he probably would have done a lot of damage to his vehicle."

About Silver Trails

Kane cabin, home to Winter Camp XXXVII, was originally an in-ground swimming pool. When the summer camp program at Silver Trails was discontinued, the pool fell into disuse and spent three years sitting idle and housing an interesting array of biological specimens.

When the pool was disassembled and Kane cabin built over it, the bathroom and shower facilities built for the swimming pool were repurposed to serve the new three-unit cabin. The small campmaster's cabin to the back of Kane originally served as the pump and filtration building for the pool.

Quote O' The Day

"When *don't* you go to the doctor after Winter Camp?"

—Kristie Donohue, to Steve Donohue.