

December 28,  
2014

# Winter Camp News

*"Traditionally Unconventional"*

*"On Guard  
Since 1986"*

## Old Men Ride Rand Rocket To Victory Again

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 XXXVIII was played under damp skies at the BC shower house field on Day One, with a new set of boundary lines outlining the court. After some rearrangement in an effort to balance the four squads, the April-June Birthdays team managed a narrow win.

The second game of 4-Way Volleyball is traditionally played by teams organized by Scout ranks. Winter Camp is typically well-supplied with Eagle Scouts with multiple palms, and so there was no need to attach palm-deficient Eagles to that team this year. At the other end of the advancement ladder, several recently-minted Life Scouts and one Eagle pitched in for the First Class and Star Scout team. The experienced Life Scouts and the Eagles with Palms were the last teams standing, but the Old Eagles team rode the Rand Rocket—a stunningly effective service technique developed by Winter Camp pioneer Jeff Rand, originally at Winter Camp XXXV—to a 10-15-15-15 victory in the day's final battle.

## Gastronomic Delights

Tonight's **Caveman Dinner** can be traced all the way back to Winter Camp II in 1978—before any youth, and several adults, were born. One of Winter Camp's most famous meal themes, this meal has been served 23 times since meal themes were introduced. It is best known for its minimalist approach to dining—as Winter Camp slips for an evening into caveman emulation mode, all trappings of modernity are discarded. Eating utensils? Gone—although in deference to minimal hygiene standards, serving utensils and drinking vessels are now employed. They weren't always. As the evening's menu includes spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and chocolate pudding, this does indeed present a challenge. Language? Nothing intelligible. Mike Osvath is known for his willingness to serve as a model caveman for the rest of the group, and numerous Arrowmen over the years have followed his lead in exhibiting primitive behavior.

At Winter Camp XXXII, the Caveman Dinner was served on Day Two in a cavelike Beaver Creek building, where the electricity and thus the heat had failed earlier that day.

### You Might Be A Winter Camper If...

...your camp has 12 linear feet of Jell-O molds.  
...your Pastafarian campers wear the headgear appropriate to their beliefs.  
...you know what a "cone foiler" is or have served as one.

## Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

9:00 AM	Scout's Own Fundraiser Breakfast
10:00 AM	Scout's Own HDA
10:47 AM	Service Project
1:17 PM	MREapalooza
2:17 PM	Continued Service
6:00 PM	Caveman Dinner
7:00 PM	Casino Construction
8:00 PM	Cavemen Vs. Casinos
9:00 PM	Candy Burger Campfire Snack
9:30 PM	Gamefest
11:00 PM	Gamer Snack
12:00 M	Quiet Hours

## Alimentary Endings

It turns out that, while desirable, tomato paste is not strictly necessary for a fine batch of sloppy joes, such as kicked off Winter Camp XXXVIII at the Hot Potato Lunch.

The Mexican Team Dinner was intended to be an all-hands participate cooking fiesta. Dave Oakley took charge and assembled his own team, including Gabe Church, Doug Wilson, and Joe Warren, and led them in the preparation of a fine Mexican bill of fare including chicken enchiladas, tacos, and chips and salsa.

## Notorious Cheats

Card counting, as depicted in the movie *21*, is not illegal—though casinos frown upon it and eject known counters. As private businesses, casinos may ban anyone they want, so long as they violate no laws—and card counters are not a protected class of persons. What *is* illegal at casinos throughout America is the use of computers to assist in counting cards in blackjack.

In the 1970's, computer enthusiasts experimented with numerous ways to count cards using a computer to analyze the numbers and transmit a recommended strategy to the player. These home-built primitive computers had to avert casino scrutiny, and employed such hidden devices as foot-operated switches (which proved very unreliable under casino conditions), fake digital watches, vibrating sensors, and LED's imbedded in eye-glass frames. None were particularly successful—many were not built to survive necessary rapid input as cards were dealt, and one model that used short-range radio to transmit information was discovered when it interfered with casino security systems.

The introduction of the iPhone in 2009 led to several card-counting apps, including some that could be operated with the screen turned off to avoid detection. These were also swiftly barred by casinos.

## 38th Parallel Wargame Report

In addition to reflecting our camp's number in the Ocean's 38 theme, Winter Camp XXXVIII also paid respect to the number 38 in the 38th Parallel Wargames held on Day One. At the demilitarized zone along the 38th parallel of latitude on the Korean peninsula, armies from North and South Korea are said to compete to see who can build the highest flagpole and so boost their colors above their opponents'. The Winter Camp version of this activity saw two teams compete to construct the highest flagpole at their respective sites: the North team at Cow Camp and the South team at Highland.

The North team took an unusual minimalist interpretation of "flagpole" by eschewing the pole totally and hanging their flag between several ropes strung between two trees. Brian Maghran proved most adept at climbing trees as he engineered the flag's rise from a perch over 20 feet above the ground. The international panel of judges ruled that the lack of a pole rendered the North ineligible to win the contest.

To the South, Keith King led his team in constructing a traditionally-lashed pole measuring approximately 23' 6" high. The Highlanders were awarded bonus point for installing a rope and carabiner so that their flag could be raised and lowered.

## In The Darkness, Through The Forest

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 in 1915, each Winter Camper who joins a Blind Hike participates with fellows who collectively connect all the way back to Winter Camp I. This year's first Blind Hike ventured out with the Jack Lord waterfront as the goal. Early on their quest, hikers determined that walking in a single line with two hands on shoulders was not the most effective way to travel blindfolded. Once that bond was broken, the entire crew found themselves in the woods far less frequently, though the individual hikers often strayed. The destination was reached without much difficulty, and there were few accusations of cheating this year.

The second, more ambitious hike took off on the return of the first, intending to reach the bridge over the Flint River, northeast of Arrowhead cabin. Following a chance encounter with a motorist looking for Winter Camp, the hikers reached their goal.

## Winter Camp Trivia

### Yesterday's answers:

1. Steve Donohue proposed a new rule forbidding the suggestion of which meal at the planning meeting?

—*"Luncheon"*

2. Who tried to convert 4-Way Volleyball into a hike disguised as an activity (HDA) by combining it with Cross-Country Golf?

—*Ethan Rein*

3. Which one of Steve and Kristie Donohue's pets attended the planning meeting: Mickey, Mortoise, Roadkill,

or Sammy?

—*Sammy*

4. Where was the September pre-planning meeting held?

*Beaver Creek cabin @ D-A*

### Today's questions:

1. Who was shushed by Jeff Rand on the Winter Camp XXXVIII setup day?
2. Who donated Winter Camp's new dinner bell to camp?
3. How tall was the South team's flagpole determined to be at the 38th Parallel Wargames?

## Back In The Day

(Reprinted in part from *Encyclopedia WinterCampica*, 18th edition, © 2015.)

One of the more unusual listings under "Traditions" in the Winter Camp *Manual* is "No hamburgers on menu". They were served at Winter Camp I to its 6 participants, but have intentionally not made an actual appearance at camp since. A trend which seems to have arisen accidentally in the early years of Winter Camp, it was during revision of the *Manual* for Winter Camp IX that this omission was noticed and attention first paid to its successful continuation. A narrow escape had occurred at Winter Camp VI, when the planned Weenie Roast included burgers along with hot dogs. However, the hamburgers were not actually prepared or served.

For the sake of tradition and for logistical reasons—it would be challenging, and perhaps a fire hazard, to cook up 30 or more burgers on the BC cabin stove—we may never serve another hamburger at Winter Camp. However, candy burgers—which is Ethan Rein's very apt description of s'mores—will be on the bill of fare tonight.

### Quotes O' The Day

"S'mores are kind of like a candy burger. That's how I think of it."

—*Ethan Rein, at the WC XXXVIII planning meeting. His words have been preserved for posterity in the name of tonight's first snack.*

"When the cooks can't stir, you want the last serving of Kool-Aid"

—*Steve Donohue, following the Mexican Team Dinner.*

## Your Article Here

Arrowmen working on the Winter Camp Participation Award are reminded that one requirement is to write an article for the Winter Camp News. Articles may be written about any Winter Camp event or meal (scheduled or unscheduled). You should clear your topic with Publisher Mark Bollman→ and submit your completed article directly to him.