

April 2007



Birch Pond Beacon

News from Casco, Maine

Alumni launch “friends” fund

When people consider the important things in life, *friendships* usually rank high on the list. Friendships formed at camp often have a strong bond that lasts a long time. In that spirit, a group of Netop alumni have recently launched the **Netop Friends Fund**. The fund is being set up with the sole purpose of helping families gain the valuable benefits of the Netop experience through financial support. The announcement, signed by nine alumni spanning all eras of Netop’s history, stated: *“Our shared sense of what Netop meant to each of us and its ongoing mission for new generations calls us to help broaden the opportunity for kids to share in this wonderful experience.”* The group hopes that annual donations will make it possible to send several campers each year. Details can be found at www.netopsummercamp.com. All contributors will be recognized on a new plaque in the Lodge at Netop.

Philly campers get together



A fun March event. 1st row: Matt Duncan, Kyle Purvis, Chet Asher, Michael & Robert Zurzolo; 2nd row: Matt Taylor, Tyler Gehlhaus, Tim Chwal, Sam Silbiger, Ben & John Walker, Peter Brown, Joey Zurzolo

Archery scores big



Archery is a fast growing and popular sport. It is often cited by campers as a favorite activity. Above, Martin Worgan and Chet Asher receive instruction as they take aim at the target. We look forward to having more time this year at the archery range.

Introducing...the 2007 staff!

In this Beacon, we start with the returning counselors (new staff introduced in next edition). What an impressive group of talented, caring and dedicated role models.

David Daddio – Graduating U. of Maryland with B.S., Environmental Science & Policy. Led “Rethink College Park” city planning efforts. Long-time Eagle Scout. Looks forward to leading Netop’s trips program and teaching tennis, sailing and camping skills.

Scott Dittmore – Will attend Canisius College in Buffalo, NY next fall on ROTC scholarship. Had strong swimming season at school and visited China on spring break. Looking forward to being outdoors in Maine and teaching swimming and lacrosse.

Chris Girouard – Finalizing college plans for next year; likely will be at U. of Maine and major in Political Science. Competing in track at school. Looking forward to lots of laughter at camp and teaching baseball, basketball and archery.

Andrew Hallowell – Enjoyed freshman year at U. of Maryland. Possible major in Government & Politics. Active with boxing club at Maryland. Looking forward to inter-camp competition and teaching guitar, soccer, fly fishing and basketball.

Tim Hallowell – Entering senior year at U. of Wisconsin with dual major in International Studies & Economics. Spent entire junior year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Will teach soccer, guitar, tennis, basketball (and a little Spanish!)



A familiar site: counselors hang out with campers in tent

Geoff Hester – “G” will attend college in Michigan next fall and plans to major in business. Participated in DECA (marketing education) business competition. Can’t wait to be with Netop friends and teach baseball, crafts, kayak and archery.

Silas Leavitt – “Firelord” will be a senior at Hebron Academy in Maine next fall. He hiked the Grand Canyon in March. Active with fencing and writing his novel. Looks forward to seeing everyone at camp and teaching photography, drama and canoe.

Colby Morgan – Attending Tabor Academy in Marion, MA in the fall. Active with ice hockey and baseball. Looking forward to creating more great memories at Netop and teaching baseball, drama and swimming.

More staff intros in next Beacon!

Anyone for a game of pong?




Campers and staff alike enjoy their free time at Netop. Note Scott Dittimore’s excitement over his brilliantly placed shot against Rich Altieri!


Join the crew & have fun, June 22-24!


Planned or hopeful so far: Wayne Mehrer, Bob Brown, Karl Block, Glenn Salo, Pete Keely, Russ Haden, Doug Gawthrop, Mark Lamberton, Scott Doyle, Andy Hester, Geoff Ward, Skip Truscott, Bill Mebane, Doug Chubb, Chris Van Leer, Fred Coons, Bob Phinney, Doug Kingsley, Roger Hayden, Bob Ferguson, Jeff Asher, ??

Confirm your plans with Steve as soon as possible.

Alumni: Where are They Now?

 **Jerry Barr** ('61-'69) – Allentown, PA; 3 daughters; corporate defense attorney; Dickinson College and Law, also Masters from Villanova. Hobbies: skiing, golf and running. Best Netop memories: tribal meets and canoe trips. Still reads Bible daily, a goal he set as a camper.

 **Jay Gallo** ('73-'77) – Brookline, MA; wife Mimi, two sons (ages 7 & 6); U.S. Naval Academy graduate in '82; Insurance consultant for Fair Isaac. Great Netop memories include the Hogan tent, Sunday morning swims in Birch Pond and senior beach trips to Old Orchard & Higgins

 **Craig Carson** ('79-'87) – Raleigh, NC; wife Laurie, 2 kids: Elizabeth (age 3), CJ (age 1); Rutgers B.S. '92, Duke Ph.D. in Biotechnology; BioTech engineer; fondest Netop memories: Wellesley vs. World soccer matches, Kelpor Day, Blob games