



Birch Pond Beacon

February 2008

Casco, Maine

Netop rocks!

Building on the popularity of acoustic guitar lessons at Netop, we're excited to introduce our new activity for 2008: **rock band**. Plans are underway to convert Netop's "Taj Mahal" building into a rock studio, complete with electric guitars, drum set and keyboard. Rock band will be an instructional activity for both experienced rockers and beginners. We anticipate some great performances on the Netop stage that will surely make for a memorable summer!



John Kapples, Corey Hales & Robert Zurzolo show their style on the Netop stage

Key dates in 2008

1st session (3 weeks) – June 29 – July 19
2nd session (2 weeks) – July 20 – Aug 2
Full season (5 weeks) – June 29 – Aug 2

Volunteer Weekend: Join us June 19-22 to help set up camp. Lend a hand and enjoy Netop. Contact Steve to confirm your plans or get more information.

Ready for baseball?

Wild turkeys were captured in what appears to be semi-organized activity on the Netop baseball diamond. In just about four months, Netop campers will be taking the field to play nearby Camp Agawam and other rivals!



Editor's note: This photo was taken before 100+ inches of snow fell at Netop this winter!

Counselors set to return!

Right now, we are hopeful that every counselor at Netop this summer will be a returning staff member from last year! That goal speaks volumes about the commitment and satisfaction that is felt by our staff, but also indicates the level of teamwork, camaraderie and enjoyment at Netop. Most importantly, it means that campers benefit from a seasoned group of counselors that know how to create a safe, meaningful and fun experience. Counselors really do make the difference between a "good" camp and a "great" camp. We will proudly introduce our counselors in the next Birch Pond Beacon!

Flour Bombs!!

Whenever Mike Griffin, Program Director, announces “flour bombs” as the next all-camp activity, he gets a predictable and wild response of cheers from campers and staff. As the consensus favorite, this activity involves incredible strategy, teamwork, bravery, speed and skill – not to mention a healthy dose of silliness. Here’s how it works:

Step 1: Making the flour bombs



Matt Taylor, Kevin Slider, Brad Peirce and others show how to add the right amount of flour to a paper napkin which is bunched and tied to create a perfect “bomb”.

Step 2: Game on!

With hundreds of flour bombs, two teams face off on the soccer field for a game of “capture-the-flag”. Standard rules apply with the exception that being struck by a flour bomb while in enemy territory lands you in jail. The action is fast and furious – and the air thick with “smoke” – while each team tries to advance the flag across midfield.

Step 3: The aftermath



Players proudly display the after-effects of an intense flour bomb game. After the adrenaline has settled down and the remains of scattered flour bombs have been picked up on the field, everyone descends to Birch Pond for a refreshing dip and welcome clean-up.

Blast from the Past

From the historic archives of the Birch Pond Beacon, here is a reprint from the December 1974 edition, titled ***Do You Remember?***, recalling Netop memories of that summer:

Nip trips...counting 75 shooting stars on gold panning trip...raccoon raids...Matt Caras learning to whistle...“Spider”...Care packages...Ed Anderson’s snappy poems...big victories by soccer, track and archery teams...special minibike trips...the real tornado...“Peaches”...Yogi’s campfires (the C-N-C-A)...Pizza league basketball...the end of the Apache dynasty...“Murtle”...the cherry bomb tree...recovery of the Hermit’s rowboat...“QB”...white glove inspections...Netop Sundaes...gizmo and medicine sticks...“Hissssssssss”...Netop Firsts!

More excerpts from past Beacons will be shared in future editions. If you have an old Beacon, we would love to have a copy!

Netop Nuggets – News & More



3-on-3 basketball tournament –

Netop has been invited to a new 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Camp Micah, scheduled for July 17. There will be both a 12 and under and 15 and under division. Fight on for Netop! Many other inter-camp games will be scheduled this summer.



New archery range –

Plans are being made to relocate archery to a cleared area in the woods behind the tennis courts. Alumni will remember this as the old spot!



Goal letters sent to campers –

Last month, campers received letters from Netop counselors reminding them of the goals they set at camp in each of the “four spokes” areas: social, physical, mental and spiritual.



New brochure –

Netop has a new brochure that was designed by graphics expert and Netop alumnus, Chris Webster. Feel free to request one in the mail.