

July 29, 2007



Birch Pond Beacon

News from Casco, Maine

“Happy campers”

The phrase “happy camper” is often used to describe someone who is either in a state of happiness or, when used to the contrary, is quite unhappy about something; i.e. “*he’s not a happy camper*”. Having observed the boys at Netop during our first session and now the second, I have a new appreciation for the phrase “happy camper”. Over fifty campers have come to Netop this summer from different places and backgrounds. Some have been to camp before; others have not. If you had the opportunity to be at a Saturday night campfire, watch the tribal games, observe the waterfront during the afternoon ‘free swim’ period or sit at the table during any meal, you would quickly see how the positive meaning of “happy camper” comes to life at Netop. It is a privilege to experience first-hand the smiles and laughter that are so contagious here.

Wilderness trips in high gear



Seniors enjoyed spectacular views at Acadia National Park on a trip during session one.

With David “Mountain Man” Daddio at the helm, Netop’s trip program has been quite

active. Younger campers from session two just climbed Mt. Moosilauke. Other trips this summer include: Acadia, Tumbledown Mountain, Mt. Washington, Saco River and senior beach trip to Old Orchard.



Campers ascend Mt. Moosilauke (4,802 feet)

Special events are popular

Throughout both sessions at Netop, many special events have taken center stage.



Campers get ready for the Casco Days carnival, followed by Netop’s Carnival Night on July 29.

A sampling of other special Netop events:

- Portland Sea Dogs game
- Movie night under the stars
- Backwards Day (including spaghetti and meatballs for breakfast!)
- Name That Tune game
- Tent skit night with comedian and Netop alum Craig Baldo
- The ever-popular Flour Bombs
- Netop Spelling Bee
- Klondike Day
- Ma Hess chocolate chip cookie day
- Nukem, fishing derby, flag football
- Tribal meets and the medicine stick
- Saturday campfires and Netop Sundaes!



Inter-camp sports remain strong

Netop campers have enjoyed a full slate of friendly competition with local camps this summer. Games against Micah, Agawam, Wigwam, Kohut and O-AT-KA in baseball, kickball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and dodgeball have provided a great range of playing opportunities for all ages and skills.



12 and under soccer team tackles Kohut 5-0.

Morning activities focus on skills

Each morning, counselors lead three instructional activity periods. It is great to see campers try new things, while also working to improve existing skills.



Campers listen to instructor Chris Girouard at the archery range



Guitar class kicks it up out in tent row



Sailing class gets underway with a gentle breeze on Birch Pond