



Birch Pond Beacon

November 2007

Happy Thanksgiving!

Casco, Maine

Netop attains accreditation

The Birch Pond Beacon has a new look! The accreditation logo in the upper right corner is the result of Netop having achieved accreditation status with the American Camp Association (ACA). Approximately 300 standards were reviewed by a team of ACA experts this summer covering all aspects of our operation – from program, health care, staff qualifications and training, emergency and safety procedures, facilities and more. Accreditation demonstrates Netop’s compliance with the highest standards in the industry. ACA works with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross and other youth-serving agencies to ensure that current practices reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards. Accreditation indicates our total commitment to health and safety and the highest quality experience for our campers.

Blazing new trails

At the far end of Birch Pond lies “Three Rocks” – a landmark that is just barely



visible from the beach. Last summer, staff members *David Daddio* and *Matt Taylor* blazed a new trail that hugs the shoreline from the beach all the way out to Three Rocks. It’s an outstanding hike with excellent hiding spots for the medicine stick. In addition, the old **Chapel Trail** and **Wagon Trail** were re-opened by Netop campers participating in a new ‘woodsman’ activity. These classic trails hadn’t seen foot traffic in approximately 20 years.

2007 Four Spokes Winners

Awards are given each summer to campers who most exemplify characteristics in the “four spokes” areas:

Mental – leadership, responsibility, creativity, resourcefulness

Social – friendships, empathy, communication, service

Physical – achievement, sportsmanship, fitness, skill development

Spiritual – inspirational, values, character, reflective, impact on others

Congratulations to the recipients of the Netop “four spokes” awards for 2007:

| | <u>Session I</u> | <u>Session II</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mental | Joey Zurzolo | Nate Morgan |
| Social | John Walker | Deion Desir |
| Physical | Ricky Hansen | Connor Kreston |
| Spiritual | Sam Gordon | Kaleem Jones |

A chance to just...chill

While Netop campers enjoy a full day of activities and a daily schedule that begins at 7:30 a.m. with flag-rising and exercises, they also love the free time and unscheduled parts of the day. It's during these "open times" when campers and staff get to hang out, play pong, shoot hoops, play tetherball, tell stories, play guitar, read and...just chill.



Campers enjoy hanging out in the tent area

Parents notice the growth and development at camp, as evidenced by this feedback from parents of a 13 year old camper this year:

"I want to thank you guys for giving him such a great summer experience. He really loves Netop and it was one of the best parenting decisions we've ever made. I just feel so "warm and fuzzy" when I'm there."

Saturday night campfires



Campfire at dusk provides the ultimate setting for songs, stories, skits, cheers and fun.

2008 camp season dates:

June 29 – July 19 (3 week session)
 July 20 – August 2 (2 week session)
 June 29 – August 2 (5 week session)

Who are these guys?




The handwriting at the top gives it away: it's the distinguished Netop Staff from 1969. Alumni challenge: who can name each person shown?


Volunteer Weekend 2008


Join us during the weekend of June 19-22 for another fabulous work weekend at Netop! All types of skills are needed. Lots of fun, food and friendship – and a great way to help Netop.

Email Steve if you are interested:
info@netopsummercamp.com

Alumni: Where are They Now?

 **Kurt Geisinger** ('66-'70) – Lincoln, NE; wife Janet; Director of Testing & Professor of Educational Psychology at U. Nebraska; Graduated Davidson College; Masters in Psychology U. Georgia; Ph.D. Penn State; Hobbies: golf, reading, traveling, swimming; Best Netop memories: great campers and staff. Loved waterfront and Birch Pond.

 **Sandy Pike** ('69-'74) – Belmont, MA; married, 2 daughters; Managing Director, Putnam Investments; lived in Japan and California for 20 years and often travels to Tokyo; Loved medicine stick and tribal competition at Netop; would still like to break the underwater breath-holding record.

 **Wayne Russell** ('74-'82) – Coral Gables, FL; wife Debra; 2 kids; Owner of Duffy's Tavern in Miami ("best burger in Miami"). Runs local Crime Watch; loves to fish; active in church; Best Netop memories: songs, friends and impacting kids' lives