



View looking southeast (toward boat docks) from the nature trail.

Mattatuck Messenger No.25 Winter 2012-13

Camp Mattatuck Volunteers
PO Box 257
Plymouth, CT 06782-0257

Road Complete!

After two years of collecting funds, and committing all our unallocated resources, our camp road is paved! Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Hugh Hayward and Jon Andrew for leading the effort!



3rd Annual Dinner A Success!

Ninety-one guests enjoyed delicious food presented in 'stations' at the Rotary Dining Lodge on October 13th. Head Chef Brian Turner, Dinner Chairman Joe Ascencao and their team made every effort to make everyone comfortable and happy. We enjoyed hearing from Camp Director Chris Moon, keynote speaker Ray Andro, scholarship presenter Jean Horan, and Mattatuck Volunteers Chairman Rob Mendela. A silent auction and raffle raised over \$1200 in additional funds for camp. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to those near and far who couldn't make it but sent generous donations!



Camp Takedown

This year's takedown was a little less hectic than 2011, when Hurricane Irene forced Camp Director Chris Moon and a handful of Volunteers to go into "express mode". A fine crew of Volunteers carefully packed away the remaining tents and program areas. A big Thank You to everyone who participated on Saturday, August 25th!

Canoe Restoration Slow

Restoring the three wood and canvas canoes has been a slow endeavor. All three are stripped of canvas. A list of needed materials was generated. Old varnish is stripped from the inside.(a very slow process). Next we did a little more cleaning, then started replacing the planking and the internal bow and stern stems. Once the planking and stems are complete, we will begin installing the internal "ribs" that provide the strength of the canoe. Many are cracked. This involves cutting, shaping, then warping the ribs into the curved shape. Once this is done, a new canvas skin is attached, numerous coats of paint are applied, then new gunwales are shaped and attached. Finally, a coating of polyurethane is applied to the inside of the boat. The team needs an energy burst. If you would like to join the 5-man team currently working on this project, please contact Fran Barton at fbartonjfamily@snet.net.



The Cardboard Box

Chris Moon compares playing on gym mats on the water to a young child playing with a cardboard box. It's a simple toy that only requires some energy and imagination. These mats have been extremely popular with the Scouts for a few years now.

"The Blob" Strikes Camp Mattatuck!

The Blob is a huge balloon of air that floats on the water. A special tower was constructed so when a person is seated at one end of the Blob, a second person can jump from the tower, land on the Blob, and send the first person flying. It should be a popular activity for years to come!



What's Next?

At the January 6th Mattatuck Volunteers meeting Vice Chairman David Goodwin gave a presentation on our next possible project...the restoration of the Rotary Dining Lodge interior. This will be a large, multi-step project. You can help with funding and labor...stay tuned.

Unicycle Man

By Joe LeClair

It must have been a comical sight...two 65-inch young men, walking as fast as they could up the hill past Tuttle Lodge. CJ, taking small steps, lightening fast, head perfectly still, arms at his side, like a man riding a unicycle; and me, long strides, arms swinging, shoulders bobbing ape-like, desperately trying to keep pace.

We had just finished giving morning instruction at the boat area, and had an hour before lunch. Our goal was to get to the archery range (then located where Gesner Cabin now stands) as quickly as possible so we could shoot a full round before the range closed.

Had it been up to me, I probably would be relaxing before lunch, but not CJ. This clever bundle of energy always had something to do, and it usually was something active, or challenging, or both. After our round of archery, we would hustle off to lunch, play volleyball, teach our two-o'clock and three-o'clock canoeing classes, and supervise the four-o'clock boating. The evening meal would be followed by another boating session or by a water polo game. This robust schedule wasn't enough for CJ. The late hours were often spent working on an antique car, building something to improve the camp, or getting into some sort of mischief. Time was not something to be wasted.

Nearly 40 years later, CJ is Camp Director. While he's a bit more serious about his role in life, his energy level is still ridiculously high. With his own business to run in addition to the camp, time is even more valuable to him now than before. CJ does not just squeeze time out of the day, he wrings it out like a wet rag in his powerful gymnast's hands, then tosses it aside while hungrily looking for the next one.

CJ works in all weather, whenever he has a spare moment. He has the confidence to make bold steps without hesitation, and as a result our 72-year-old camp has undergone a radical facelift in the past few years. All the good things you remember about camp remain. Now there are just more good things.

Note: CJ Moon was recognized in 2011 for 40 years on Camp Staff, including 10 as Director. In 2012 he received the prestigious Silver Antelope Award, highest award presented by a region in Scouting, second highest award nationally behind the Silver Buffalo.

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