

Pemigewassett Newsletter

Summer 2008 Number One

WELCOME TO PEMI'S SECOND CENTURY! At the first staff meeting of the season last night, we confessed to the real excitement that marks our standing on the shores of Lower Baker Pond and kicking off a second hundred years – just as Edgar and Edwin Fauver and Dudley Reed did a decade of decades back. As 70-odd members of the staff rose either to introduce themselves to each other or to bring old friends up to speed on what they had been doing over the winter, the sight of nonagenarian, long-time directors and owners Al and Bertha Fauver and Tom and Betsy Reed sitting there in eager anticipation of another Pemi season was a potent reminder of the exemplary standards, traditions, hard work, and devotion that have brought us to where we are. Each of them addressed the attentive crowd, and each of them found a way to remind this year's staff of the special opportunities each new season brings to contribute to the happiness, accomplishment, and personal development not only of the soon-to-arrive campers but also of each other. The inspirational energy was palpable, and not a few in the room considered themselves lucky to get their marching orders from as august and time-proven a crew as they.

As we sit here shortly before lunch on a gloriously sunny day, the sound of our music co-head Ian Axness flexing his digits on the piano is competing with the ring of a sledge hammer on metal pipes as Ken Moore and his crew put in the docks. Enough staff members have been here for enough days that camp is looking almost ready for the arrival of the boys. The tennis courts have already seen their first play, the residential tents went up this morning, and the soccer goals have their nets back on after a long and snowy winter. The week between now and the 28th will involve putting the finishing touches on the physical plant and, even more importantly, taking the staff through a time-tested series of meetings on counseling skills, health and safety, and communal responsibility.

Our custom is to devote the bulk of this first newsletter to an introduction of the cabin counselors. They are the ones who tend most immediately to the happiness and welfare of your sons, so we thought you'd like to get a sense of who

they are. As usual, we're delighted to welcome back a high percentage of Pemi veterans – former campers and staff alike.

Junior One – *Phil Yates*, from Manhattan, in his 9th summer at Pemi; a student at Carleton College and instructor in soccer, track, and archery.

Junior Two -- *Carl Gibbons*, native of Lancaster, England, avid Liverpool fan, student at the University of Cumbria with a specialty in primary education, teaching archery and soccer, and in his first summer at Pemi.

Junior Three – *Peter Siegenthaler*, from Millbrook, NY, back with us for a second year; attending Roger Williams University and working this summer with nature, kayaking, and archery.

Junior Four – *Cai Parry-Jones*, hails from Penarth in South Glamorgan and is a student at Bristol University; Cai will be involved in the swimming program and will lend his mellifluous Welsh voice to the music program; in his first season at Pemi.

Junior Five – *Will Edwards (Division Head)*, Phil Yates' fellow Manhattanite, returns for his 10th season at Pemi; wintering at Lehigh University, Will will (Will shall?) be teaching and coaching basketball, soccer, and archery.

Junior Six – *Dan Cornell*, comes to us all the way from Enfield, New Hampshire; attends the University of New Hampshire and joins neighbor Will in basketball, archery, and soccer.

Junior Tent – *Mike Benham*, Grafton, New Hampshire, anchoring the upper end of the Junior division in his fifth year at Pemi; Mike is pursuing a music degree at The Collective in New York and will instruct and perform on a variety of instruments as well as teach rugby.

Lower One – *Pete Smith*, from Andover, MA, a sophomore at Syracuse University, back for his fifth

year as well; teaching and coaching lacrosse, water polo, and guitar – being Pemi’s re-incarnation of Robbie Robertson and The Band.

Lower Two – Alex Barnes, also in line for his five-year bowl after four years as a camper, native of Glastonbury CT and entering his sophomore year at Skidmore; instructor in soccer, tennis, and baseball.

Lower Three – Tyler Dewdney, Meriden New Hampshire, next in line as a fifth-year veteran, truly “wintering” at Bates College in Maine, teaching and coaching soccer, baseball, and basketball.

Lower Four – Jeff Miller (Division Head), raised west of Central Park and back for his 11th season with us! Jeff attends Washington University in St. Louis and, when not on the tennis courts, teaches soccer and basketball.

Hill Tent – Tyler Dulmage, from Woodstock Vermont, attending Curry College, in his first summer with us as co-head of sailing and, to maintain the aquatic bent, also instructing in waterskiing and fishing.

Lower Five – Kyle Avery, Tyler’s fellow Vermonter from West Dover, another first-year staffer and a student at St. Lawrence University; Kyle will be teaching and coaching soccer, baseball, and basketball.

Lower Six – Aaron Bartells-Swindells, from Merseyside in England, matriculant at the University of Edinburgh and instructing in basketball, soccer, and swimming, in his first year at Pemi.

Lower Seven – Ted McChesney, denizen of Richmond, VA, and third-year person at Mr. Jefferson’s University, returning to Lower Baker for the eighth time and teaching soccer, basketball, and swimming.

Upper One – Malcolm Leeman, from Armagh, Northern Ireland, graduate of Queens University, Belfast, and most recently journalist for *The Independent*; Malcolm’s inaugural Pemi season as instructor in nature and coach of soccer.

Upper Two – Ben Jonson, native of Dallas Texas – not the Elizabethan playwright but rather a rising junior at Colgate University; bringing his on-court varsity experience at Colgate to the basketball program at Pemi for his first year.

Upper Three -- Chris Bryant (Division Head), from memorably named Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire, England, graduate of the University of Manchester and returning for his third summer, teaching and coaching tennis and soccer.

Upper Four – Jack Stratton, calls Cleveland Heights, Ohio, home, but he’s junior at the University of Michigan; this is Jack’s sixth summer; teaching tennis, baseball, and a dizzying array of musical instruments; co-editor of *Bean Soup*.

Senior One – Christopher Tamm, from Saratoga Springs, NY, junior at St. Lawrence University and veteran mainstay of the tennis, soccer, and baseball programs; Critter’s ninth season at Pemi.

Senior Two -- Jameson Fauver (Division Head), Harwinton CT and junior at Colgate University, where he plays varsity soccer, in his eleventh summer on the official rolls and looking at a busy summer on the soccer pitch, baseball diamond, and tennis courts.

Senior Three – Fred Seddon, another Central New Yorker, strangely fleeing the Island for Greater Boston and Tufts University, in his ninth summer at Pemi, teaching waterskiing, soccer, and music.

Lake Tent – Sam Seymour, from Winchester MA, returns for his fifth year at Pemi; a sophomore at Vassar and instructor in soccer and lacrosse.

Even a quick skim through these columns reveals what we think is a very healthy and productive blend of veterans and new folks. While we love the tried and true, in program and in staff, we know the benefits of embracing novelty as well, and the process of all of us learning from each other over the next seven days will play a major role in getting the season off to a vibrant start. All we'll then need is your sons next Saturday, a hearty meal of pizza and "Rockets," and our next century will be well begun.

In the hopes this reaches many of you before the departure of your campers, here are a few reminders about opening day.

🍏 If you are driving, please make every effort *not* to arrive *before* 2PM. We have made plans to use every minute of staff time until then, and early arrivals sadly disrupt them. As Rob memorably used to say, "If you come early, we'll smile, but we won't mean it."

🍏 If you are driving, you will be directed to your son's cabin, where you'll have the chance to meet and speak with his counselor and then to unload your son's belongings. Completing these tasks provides the perfect opportunity to say goodbye. We would appreciate it if you would allow the counselor to help your son unpack and make the bed. This is a perfect transition activity.

🍏 Once you've said goodbye, we hope you will head to the Lodge (new location!!!) where a reception awaits. We'll have coffee, soft drinks, and snacks available, and we, together with a number of veteran staff, look forward to chatting with you there.

🍏 In advance, we would appreciate your close supervision of the packing process, and know that you will be equally happy with our plans to carefully monitor the unpacking at this end. We remain fretful about contraband candy and gum and, keeping the health and safety of everyone in camp uppermost in our minds, we know that joint vigilance is the best way to ensure this.

🍏 We will be happy to notify the parents of boys who have flown to camp when they have arrived here safely. Please be sure that we have the best number – or e-mail address – for this purpose.

AN IMPORTANT CORRECTION: Finally please let us take this opportunity to correct a clerical error. For all of you with sons attending for the full seven-week season, the **first visiting week-end** will be Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20th of July (not the 18th and 19th, as previously indicated.) Our apologies for the mistake. We hope that we haven't upset any unalterable plans.

With that, we'll say farewell until the 28th at least. We hope to see many of you on opening day, and many others on visiting days. Please feel free to contact us at any point via phone (603-764-5833) or e-mail ([Tom@](mailto:Tom@camppemi.com) or Jon@camppemi.com.) We look forward to being in touch with you and to spending the coming weeks with your boys. Thanks to all of you for your continued trust in Pemi.

-- Tom Reed, Jr. and Jon Fauver, *Directors*