

THE AGALOG

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RAYMOND, MAINE
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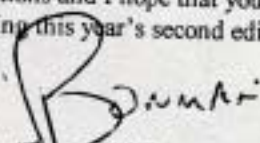
As I reflect on the Agawam season now wrapping up, I am pleased to report that our traditions are holding up well! Each summer our camp is made up of returning campers and staff, and "neophytes" in both of these areas as well. The returning folks do so much to help us carry out our important traditions, and also do a great job of teaching our rookies about our traditions and the importance of each camp member's role in carrying out and preserving these traditions for the future.

It's only 9:00am but already we have experienced a number of traditions – Morning Dip, Flag Raising, and one of our newer traditions, our morning thought for the day. Right now campers are back in cabins cleaning up – vying for the coveted cabin clean-up "Shin-saw-way" Plaque. As we move through our day we will hear bugle calls, play unique camp games, write letters home on Sunday and Wednesday, swim in General Swims, and earn awards like the Range Partner or Sharpshooter that have been a part of Agawam for many generations. We will also see our 15-year-olds working on their Woodcrafter Awards – a new tradition that helps our oldest campers grow and practice their leadership skills. At lunch we still sing grace, and at dinner, bow our heads in prayer. At the sound of "Taps" as campers drift off to sleep, OD Lanterns will be lit and campus OD fires will be started, indicating the end of another Agawam day.

Saturday nights have brought us entertaining Council Fires, Sunday Mornings we have heard fine Vespers messages from "Chief", "Cruiser" Greenberg, "Cox'n" Gerson, "Coach" Spence, "Colonel" Korngold, "Mode" Peters, and this coming Sunday we will hear from Spence Pollack, our Camper Council President. We will once again overeat at the Camper Banquet, sing traditional camp songs, and everyone still always enjoys DAIRYMAIDS!

New traditions include the Ag-Wam Splitting Ceremony at the start of camp, our 15-year-old Tribute ceremonies, an expanded trip program, our wonderful slide show (Thanks, "Swampy"!), 2003's increased number of Ags v. Wams competitions, Music Night, the Challenge Course, and Staff inter-camp competitions.

The new has mixed well with the old and we will continue to cherish our traditions while looking to add to our program in new and exciting ways. The Agalog is one of our valued traditions and I hope that you enjoy keeping up with the 2003 summer season by reading this year's second edition!


"Bowman" Scott Malm

