



Camp Agawam

MAIN IDEA ALUMNI NEWS

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www.campagawam.org

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The Main Idea program is a unique and treasured part of the outreach program of the Agawam Council. The Main Idea at Camp Agawam was created to provide an exciting and unique camping program for boys between the ages of 9 and 14 from Maine who might otherwise never get the chance to attend camp. Every summer, Agawam welcomes over 100 deserving boys for a free week of camping in June. School principals, teachers, guidance counselors, clergy and directors of youth organizations in southern Maine refer boys who can benefit most from this week of growing and learning that a resident summer camping experience provides. In order to provide continuity, boys are invited back until age 14, as long as the camping relationship remains happy and positive.



“Chief” Garth Nelson enjoyed his 23rd Main Idea in 2007! Under his leadership the camper population has grown to over 100 boys.

The Main Idea at Camp Agawam was founded in 1971, and since its inception, the Main Idea has been operated by volunteers. The volunteers, including Agawam alumni, Main Idea Alumni, and current staff members,

Did you know that in 2005, Main Idea grew to include 14-year-olds? 104 campers, aged 9–14, attend The Main Idea at Camp Agawam every summer!

dedicate their time to giving the campers a fulfilling experience. The Main Idea tradition has continued since the retirement of the program's founders, Dave and Peg Mason, in 1985. The camp's alumni bought Agawam and founded the non-profit Agawam Council which remains dedicated to providing quality Maine camping experiences. Camp Agawam and the Main Idea have been featured in a number of newspapers, magazines and on television. The Main Idea is funded by donations from alumni, parents and friends of

Camp Agawam. Main Idea received national recognition from the American Camp Association in March 2005, as a recipient of the Eleanor P. Eells Award for Program Excellence.

Important Upcoming Events

6th Annual Alumni Work/Fun Days: 05/31/08 – 06/01/08
For more information: supercoach@campagawam.org

38th Main Idea Program: 06/14/08 – 06/20/08
For more information: chief@campagawam.org

Main Idea Alumni Picnic/Reunion: 06/16/08
For more information: supercoach@campagawam.org

12th Annual Golf Marathon for Maine Camperships – 08/14/08
For more information: supercoach@campagawam.org

Are you a Former Main Idea Camper or Volunteer?

Please let us know what you're up to!

In next year's issue of the Main Idea Alumni News we hope to include a section called “News of Alumni,” which will have short notes on what your fellow Main Idea alumni are up to!

If you'd like to submit your news please do so along with the years you were at Main Idea, to “SuperCoach” Mark Hogan at supercoach@campagawam.org or mail to him at Camp Agawam, 30 Fieldstone Lane, Hanover, MA 02339.



Smiles and Fun Summarize 37th Main Idea

By: "Mate" Taylor Gotfredson, Main Idea Counselor

The 37th Main Idea got off to a great start. As the staff and volunteers greeted the first early arrival, we knew it was going to be a great week at Agawam. Camp quickly filled with the noise and laughter of campers unpacking their sleeping bags and meeting their cabin mates. All rejoiced in the ability to get out of the hot and steamy Maine weather, and into Crescent Lake for a quick dip before dinner.

As the week began, campers participated in activities from sailing to riflery and everything in between. The Camp started to change colors after so many campers had begun to make colorful gimp necklaces in Arts and crafts. Boys were filled with energy as they tried each activity at Camp including huge games of Buzz-Ball, Cops and Robbers, and Pom-Pom Pullaway. The Battlewagon was in full force as Bill Glass and "Scout" Craig Pattengill helped campers raid the lake by catching over 50 fish.

As the days were winding down the boys would cool off during "walkthroughs" before heading to bed. But on two evenings the entire Camp enjoyed a Campfire! These Fires included challenges such as Two Fingered Pole Balancing, Cat on the Back Fence and a Songfest featuring "Brown 2002" singing the Copacabana. Oh, how the Campfire rang out with fun and excitement!

As the 37th Main Idea wound down, the entire camp entered its final Campfire. There were many congratulations and awards given to the 14-year-olds and the excellent Main Idea camper body. Thanks were given to outstanding Main Idea volunteers as the Campfire ended. The boys awoke to a great surprise of the "Mission Impossible", which consisted of a huge counselor manhunt! As the bags were packed, and the shirts were signed, the boys lined up one last time for a delicious BBQ which was prepared for the parents and the campers. As the cars were leaving, the boys yelled out "I cannot wait 'til next year," waved "good-bye" to their cabin-mates and counselors, and the 37th Main Idea ended.

A special thank you to all our Main Idea Volunteers who took the time out of their busy schedules to help make the 37th Main Idea possible.

"Admiral" Eric Bergh

Bob Dow

Dave Bowman

"Coach" Bob Demont

"Guide" Christopher Drake

Ted Moran

Rick Griffiths

"Chips" Josh Grenier

"Scout" Bosco Li

"Bos'n" Bill Auerswald

"Bowman" Scott Malm

Tina Claypoole

"Commodore" Peter Simpson

"General" Keller Glass

"Major" Brent Locke

"Admiral" Stephanie Hogan

Bill Glass

"Scout" Craig Pattengill

Misha Rolfe

Brent Rolfe

"Mander" Jon Alpern

Matt Fitzsimmons

"Commissioner" Eduardo Cardenas

Sarah Glass

Dave Griffiths

Will Griffiths

Peter Murphy

Aric Walton

Jessica Walton



Camp Agawam Introduces “Yeoman” Erik Calhoun as its 5th Director



Former, Future, and Present Directors of Camp Agawam: From L to R: Dave Mason ('25-'41; '44-'85), “Yeoman” Erik Calhoun ('81-'84; '87-'91; '94; '98-'00; '02), “Chief” Garth Nelson ('85-'07). This picture was taken soon after “Yeoman” had met with the Agawam Council Board of Directors which, by a unanimous vote, offered him the position of Agawam’s 5th Camp Director.

“Yeoman” Erik Calhoun spent his first summer at Camp Agawam in 1981. He was a camper for 4 summers, then followed by 10 seasons as a staff member. Over that time he earned a reputation as one of the biggest (literally and figuratively) personalities at Agawam each summer he was there. He has been Lower Campus Unit Head for three summers, Middle Campus Unit Head for one summer, Trip Director for one summer, and most famously, Ranger Trail Head for six summers. He was also a Young Alumni Representative on the Agawam Council Board of Directors from 2001-2004.

Since “Yeoman” graduated from Eckerd College in 1992, he has been involved with children and education. He has spent time as a teacher, and as Associate Dean of Admissions, and earned his Masters of Arts and Teaching from Boston College. For the past 5 years “Yeoman” has been the Director of Admissions, Marketing & Financial Aid for Elgin Academy, a PS - 12 school in Illinois.

“Yeoman” is the son of Agawam alum “Bos’n” John Calhoun ('54-'55; '59-'62; '00), the nephew of “Bos’n” Eric Calhoun ('57-'62; '69-'70) and “Commodore” David Calhoun ('54-'55; '61-'62), and the cousin of “Chips” Rich Calhoun ('90-'94; '96; '99-'00). All together six Calhoun’s have attended, or worked, at Camp Agawam for a total of 43 years.

“Yeoman” and his wife Danielle, have a 2 year old son, Everett. “Yeoman” is an avid canoeist, kayaker, and bird watcher. He also really enjoys camping, reading, rooting for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and especially hanging out with Everett!

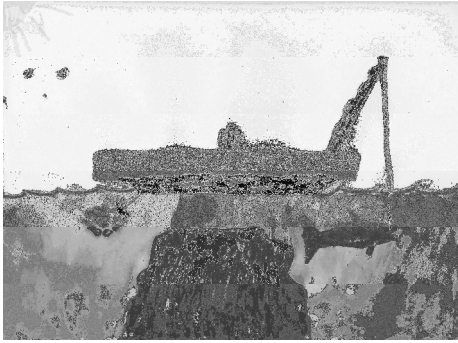
A Message From “Yeoman”

As I sit at my desk in the Elgin Academy Office of Admission it is difficult to fathom that in less than a year I will be back at Agawam. I think back to 1981 when I was a homesick first-year camper in Cargill. I think back to 1987 when I was a Junior Counselor and the thrill I felt when I first put on my staff shirt and walked into the Counselor Room. That same summer my ears and neck would turn red and I would mumble badly whenever I had to give an announcement at a meal. I also remember returning to Agawam as an “old” counselor in 1999 and how much I appreciated so many things about camp that I had previously taken for granted.

The summer of 2008 is another Agawam new beginning for me and at some point I am sure that I will reflect back and be amazed at how much I have grown since then. I am very much looking forward to having a summer to work closely with “Chief”. It will not only be an opportunity for me to be his shadow and to learn many of the details and nuances about what it is to be the Director of Agawam, it will also be an opportunity for me strengthen an already strong relationship. I am confident that he will remain a trusted resource for a very long time. I also very much look forward to acquainting myself with the new generation of Agawam campers, staff and families with whom I do not already have a relationship.

What is an exciting transition for me I am sure is also a transition that may cause some added interest for members of the Agawam family. My hope is to communicate to those people that I understand and embrace the responsibility of the stewardship of Camp Agawam. As I sit at my desk in the Admission Office at Elgin Academy it is all I can do to stop myself from humming “By the Blazing Council Fire’s Light” and to think about what feels just around the corner.

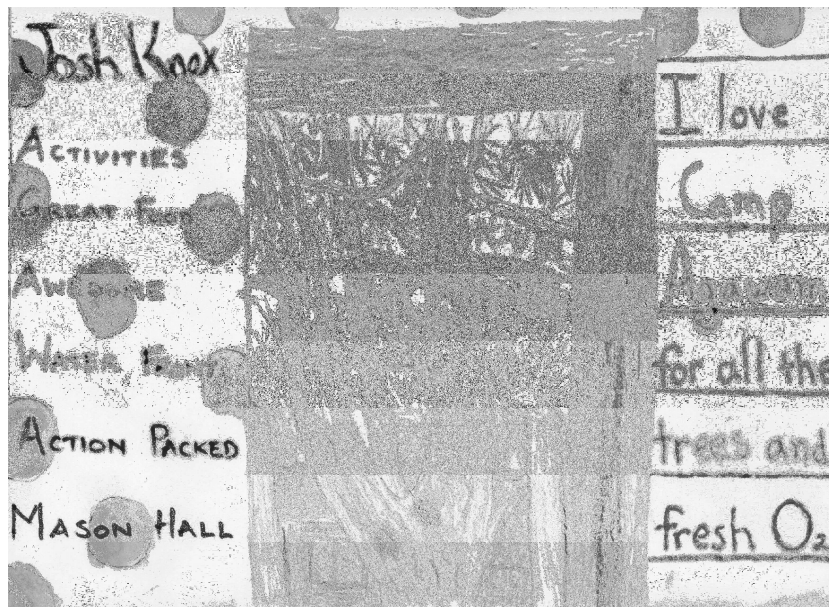
“When I look at the short list of former directors I cannot help but feel like a growing sapling in a grove of enormous white pines. The next director of Camp Agawam will take on an immense responsibility to steward something that has been great; I have respect for that reality, but I also embrace it.” - “Yeoman” Erik Calhoun



"Fishing with Bill Glass"
By: Alex Damon



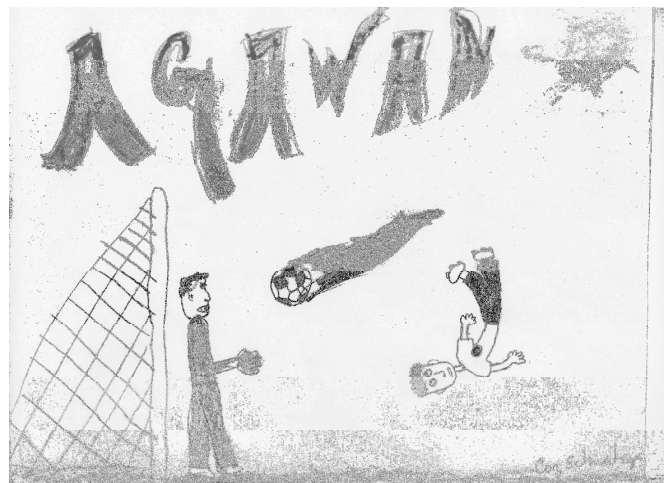
"Windsurfing"
By: Colin Bridge-Koenigsberg



ARTWORK FROM 2007 MAIN IDEA CAMPERS



"Buzzball!"
By: Don Freeman





This year at Main Idea, campers caught a record number of fish!



Among many other activities, Main Idea campers enjoyed sailing on Crescent Lake (left), challenging themselves on the high ropes course (above), and paddling near 3rd pool on a hot day (below).



11th Golf Marathon Funds Maine Camperships!

For the 11th year, a group of dedicated Agawam alums and friends gathered at Val Halla Golf Club in Cumberland, ME to participate in the Camp Agawam 100 Hole Golf Marathon. **17 golfers and 36 volunteers combined to make the day a success by raising \$53,000, exceeding their \$50,000 goal!** That money will fund 6 camperships for Maine boys to attend Camp Agawam's 7-week session next summer.

The day began with breakfast in the club house, a talk about the importance of the day's cause, and then a 7:00am shotgun start. The golfers played the back nine of Val Halla, which is slightly thinner than the front, but was a welcome change and also seemed to play faster. The weather was sunny, making for plenty of thirsty golfers, but thanks to the 36 volunteers life was made as easy as possible for the golfers! Every golfer, all of vary degrees of skill, was able to finish 100 holes. A few golfers exceeded the 100 hole mark by leaps and bounds, including "Striker" Zach Rioux who played a tournament high 154 holes! He was closely followed by Will Griffiths, 150, "Cox'n" Simon Gerson and Aric Walton at 128, and "Capt" Pete Caesar at 127 holes (a personal best!).

After a quick shower and a much deserved cold beverage, the group headed over to "Coach" Bob Demont's house where his wife Priscilla hosted all golfers and volunteers for a post-marathon dinner. "Ranger" Jim Carroll, who chaired the marathon again this year, then tallied the funds raised and announced to a tired, but satisfied group, that they had not only reached their goal, but surpassed it. Prizes were then handed out for closest to the pin, top individual fund raiser, and top fund raising team. All golfers and volunteers received shirts and visors for their efforts.

We'd love to have you join us next year for the 12th annual Agawam Golf Marathon on August 14th, 2008! For more information please contact "SuperCoach" Mark Hogan at 207-774-0630 or supercoach@campagawam.org.

Thanks to our Volunteers!

"Bowman" Scott Malm
"SuperCoach" Mark Hogan
Dave Griffiths
"Ensign" Allison O'Leary
"Corp" Steve O'Leary
Misha Rolfe
"Corp" Geoff Slovenski
"Chips" Holly Carriere
"Nurse" Janice Bowers
"Lt" BJ Grondin
"Trapper" Dan Cluchey
Caroline Wilson

Jack Woodcock
Judy Gardner
"FM" Jake Shechtman
Kyle Morrison
Jess Walton
"Guide" Peter Claypoole
"Mate" Taylor Gotfredson
"Bos'n" John Calhoun
Kathy Winde
Tyler Winde
Travis Winde
David Wilson

Ethan Winde
Lisa Hall
Tim Jablonski
Peter Wilson Sr.
Gail Wilson
Mary Beth Carroll
Jay Carroll
Karen Wilson
Peter Wilson
Nick Bearce
Kayte Demont
Priscilla Demont



Thanks to our Golfers!

"Slugger" SJ Baxter
"Capt" Pete Caesar
"Ranger" Jim Carroll
"Inspector" Mike Colt
Doug Cummings
"Coach" Bob Demont
"Lt" Bob Fryer
"Colonel" Matt Gardner
"Cox'n" Simon Gerson
Will Griffiths

"Admiral" Stephanie Hogan*
"Mander" Karen Malm
"Sarge" Byron Miller
"Guide" Si Rioux
"Striker" Zach Rioux
"Striker" Brian Slovenski
Aric Walton
"Admiral" Peter Wilson, Jr.
Bold = have participated in all 11 golf marathons!!
* = sponsored driver!



Thanks to our Sponsors!

Amerasport, Inc. - Golfer's Shirts
Sysco Corp. - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner for golfers & volunteers
Coca-Cola Bottling Company - Water and Poweraid
Hannaford - Energy bars and snacks
National Distributors - Snapple
Pepsi Bottling Group - Water and gatorade
Shaws - Granola bars
Standard Baking Co. - 5 dozen cookies
Walmart - Golf balls and tees
Whitney Corporate Promotions - Volunteer T-shirts
Poland Spring Water Corp. - Water
Fenway Sports Group - 4 Red Sox Tickets
The Oatey Company - Golfer prizes, umbrellas, golf shirts, and golf pullovers
Old Port Wine Merchants - Gift basket
Val Halla Golf Course - 2 free rounds of golf
The Good Life Market - \$25 gift certificate
The Racquet and Fitness Center - 3 months of fitness
Pralines - 25 goody bags

How Can You Contribute To Agawam?

Support for Agawam can come in many different forms, from sending in a check to volunteering your time and expertise. It takes contributions of all kinds, from all of us, to ensure Camp remains the place we all hold so dear. Alumni, parents, and former campers have spent time at the Alumni Work Weekend, The Main Idea, volunteered for the Golf Marathon, provided professional expertise in order to assist Agawam in areas of need, and contributed funds to help drive our camperships and annual appeal. All of these contributions are equally important and valued. Please think about how you can support Agawam this year.

Mission of Agawam Council

Agawam Council is an organization that provides a group living experience for young people through its programs: Camp Agawam and Main Idea at Camp Agawam. The nurturing, safe environment and facilities permit a wide variety of sports and learning activities. The ultimate goal is to promote personal growth, character, development of optimum potential and responsibility, leadership skills, enhancement of self-esteem, and awareness of community, beauty, truth, fortitude, and love for everyone involved with the organization.

Wish List

There are always dreams and wishes that an organization has but can't always procure, if any of our friends or alumni have a source or suggestion that might help us get one of our wishes please let us know. Currently our wish list includes:

Gator style maintenance/all terrain vehicle
Hydraulic Wood Splitter
Small tractor with bucket/backhoe (John Deere) with mowing deck
Small dump truck (1 – 2 ton)
Maintenance tools, drills, skill saw, radial arm saw, table saw, bits, hammers, screw drivers
Ratchet sets
Big lawnmower, 15 foot cut
Committee boat for sailing regatta
Wood chipper
Floor jack
Hydraulic jacks
Fiberglass ladders – 6ft, 8ft, 10ft

Please contact “Chief” Garth Nelson with any questions or comments regarding the wish list at chief@campagawam.org or telephone him at 781-826-5913.

Place
Stamp
Here

Camp Agawam
30 Fieldstone Lane
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Camp Agawam

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If this Agawam family member is no longer at this address please notify us: chief@campagawam.org

----- PLEASE FILL ME OUT AND SEND ME BACK TO AGAWAM!!!! -----

Main Idea Alumni News Information:

Name: _____

Dates at Main Idea: _____

Any Address Changes? _____

WE WANT TO EXPAND THE INVOLVEMENT OF MAIN IDEA ALUMNI WITH AGAWAM. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP AND WE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU:

_____ Main Idea Volunteer

_____ Alumni Work Weekend

_____ 12th Annual Golf Marathon

_____ Agawam Council Board Member