

THE TOWANDA TIMES

OUR 86th YEAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP TOWANDA, HONESDALE PA



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New Years Issue Vol 86 No 2

"All we are saying is give peas a chance"

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CAMP NEVER LEAVES YOU

We say it all the time; By just being at camp, and throughout your total experience at camp, it really does teach you a lot. Some benefits aren't obvious right away, some you really don't realize until you are older and reflect back on all of those camp experiences, both positive and negative.

Elissa Altman, alumni 1972-82, author and columnist for The Huffington Post, wrote this article after the passing this August of Bobby Hellman, alumni 1970-79. As our unofficial camp historian, Bobby was an incredible source of camp history, nostalgia and probably the best Olympic aficionado camp has ever known. Bobby contributed on several occasions' ideas for Olympic teams, fakeouts and breakouts. The fireplace wall in The Field House with the Olympic plaques from 1923-1989 will be dedicated in his honor this summer. We thank Lissie for such heartfelt reflections.

The Ancient Childhoods of Our Youth

by Elissa Altman

When I first went away to camp in 1972, my mother, in typically hysterical fashion, came down with a raging case of stress-related shingles. A dyed-in-the-wool city girl, that's how my being at sleepaway camp affected her.

At nine years old, and away from home for the first time in my life, I, on the other hand, spent the entire eight weeks sobbing (most audibly during meals, where I'd face the table of the camp doctor, Stan Foray, who bore an uncanny resemblance to my late father; Dr Foray responded to my pathetic weeping one rainy afternoon by furiously marching across the clattering dining room, lifting my chair off the ground -- with me on it -- and turning it towards the opposite corner). But thirty-seven years ago, when I wasn't homesick that first summer in camp, I was watching.

I was far less interested in my own giggling bunkmates, and instead watched the older kids and the counselors, the people who had made this wooded chunk of eastern Pennsylvania their home for two months each summer, and whose lives, so far as I could tell, revolved around every July and August the way the earth revolves around the sun. Some of the old-timers -- mostly teachers who had the summer off -- had been there since the camp's inception in 1923, a few years after the First World War ended, and less than two decades before the Second began. In the cavernous gymnasium, I watched the older Olympic plaques -- those hand-wrought, colorfully inscribed wooden paeans to the adolescent ferocity of what in many camps is called Color War (mythically re-named here during the 1940s, when many former campers and counselors found themselves in the service) -- and

recognized a few of the 1930s-era campers' names: they were the grandparents of many of my counselors.

All those years ago (and unless I was on a playing field -- pabulum for a socially unpopular but enormously athletic child) I watched as the past and the present plaited together seamlessly, magically, and mysteriously; I watched, as the good ghosts of hundreds of ancient childhoods bore hushed witness to our young, privileged, rambunctious lives from the vantage point of cobwebbed rafters and dusty, torn bedsheet banners, of backstage social hall passageways scrawled with names long faded that can still conjure up, in the furthest reaches of this middle-aged camper's otherwise spotty memory, the way Olympics broke on a hot August night in 1972.

I often can't find my car keys or my reading glasses, and I sometimes forget when my estimated taxes are due; but I can close my eyes like Proust with a madeleine, and be in that spirit-laden social hall and tell you, exactly, how that night unfolded so very long ago, a year before the Vietnam War ended, when the world was just a little bit safer. Sleepaway camp as a distinctly American construct doesn't always have this effect on people: some attend once or twice and never think about it again. Some, like my mother, never go at all. Some are dropped off by parents eager for eight weeks of blissful independence, while junior spends two months experiencing a series of firsts that grow more, shall we say, delicate, as weaving macramé belts gives way to a decided interest in the odd and interesting creatures living over on Girls' Camp. But for some reason -- and for most who attended -- my camp was like Brigadoon; you got there, the past thickly enshrouded and informed the present and became indiscernible from it; you were safe no matter what your home life or your health was like, and while you were there, time virtually stood still, the way it did for Bobby Hellman.

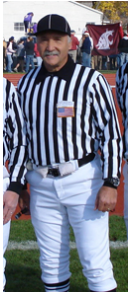
I never knew Bobby personally but I close my eyes and the years compress and I can see him vividly; several years older than I, Bobby's significant special needs rendered him older looking far earlier than they should have, for anyone. In a camp where athletic prowess was supremely prized and rewarded, and exigent social cliques were sometimes the norm rather than the exception (at least on Girls' Camp; maybe boys are different), Bobby's illness precluded much involvement in either. For him, it didn't seem to matter, although it certainly must have: while young people can indeed be cruel to each other, entirely unforgiving, and lacking in compassion, we at camp gave Bobby a very wide berth. Perhaps we were afraid; maybe, as children, we just didn't know what to say. So we said nothing; we just watched.

Article Continued on Page 2

What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!!!



Maybe you know this, our very own "Z" is a NCAA football ref, he was recently featured on ESPN College Game Day when Williams College vs. Amherst College (see picture)...Jordan Hammer noticed on the Disney Channel, on a show called The Music in You, about a school in Texas putting on a production of High School Musical, there is a girl wearing a Towanda shirt, who is that?... so many people have emailed us about the YOUTUBE American Pie feature (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycgegp0KdE4>), we have added it to the LINKS WE LIKE section of our website... it is so LUNCH!...Honey Hani Cohen is going to Israel hoping to catch up with Little Lital Goldberg... Nicole Mann Novick's jewelry is featured this holiday season in The Garland Collection... Mike "Shiney" Sheinis is a year away from being Dr. Shiney, but hopes to return this summer one more time...Tim Sonic Betts is living in Spain... Stephanie Carter has been travelling, so far: Korea, Japan, Thailand, England, France, Italy and Spain...Dave King will be spending the holidays with Childs, Cheeks and Shelly Field in Mississippi...Ben Dubrow is planning on joining the Army ROTC in Madison, Wisconsin... Doug Thibault is a Senior Account Manager at the Royal Bank of Canada... Former GG Erica Vander Meer -Stott is an expectant mom...Jamie Sokol is finishing up her Masters in Public Health... ARIEL KUSHERMAN is abroad working on an internship... Marisa Wachtler is a social worker working in Philadelphia...Michael Hootie Tesser is at the University of Pennsylvania always running into Corey NJ Singer, Emily Niesenbaum, Dan Mozes, and Lloyd Danzig...Chelsea Roth is roommates with Rebecca Solomon at Michigan, and Spiz, Sydney Axelrod, and Jamie Leipzig just joined her sorority (Chi-O)...she also saw AJ & Norm Axelrod and Andy Wong at an OSU football game...SamO saw Hallie Fishman, Ben Abrams, Richie Allen and Matt Freedman... Rachel Albergo is off to see lots of Aussie's...Regards from Steve-O Berkman... Kayla Isaacs handed Rusty Primeau a glass of water at mile 19 in the NYC Marathon...Morissa Falk met up with Dirk Mulder, Lil' Penz, Alexa Phillips and Mark Edridge...Aimee Smith is a teaching assistant and one of her students is her very own GG of 2005, Michelle Theriault... Carol Cashall was at the wedding of Alyson Lamphear & Bear Yoder in September (see picture)...Louise Dally & Damien are expecting their first child (in Vancouver)!...Max Dixon will be in Sydney and Fiji next semester...Dan Mozes plans on working for Teach for America after he visits with Adam Shelly, Charlie Niesenbaum, Josh Sussman and Jason Levee...Kristin Yates is engaged!...Lucy Bliss is teaching and ran into Glen Sadler... Brad Nyquist sends his greetings from Australia...The Fabrizioos of Australia say HI Y'ALL!... Alyssa Eisler is working in NYC...Greetings from Jackie Tinsky Durning... Jon Barkan Celebrated his 10th year living in Atlanta and welcomed third child Benjamin... Peter and Laura Goldstein's mom has seen Lauren Weiner's daughter, Amanda and Amy Schwartzwald's son, Zachary, in her Beginning Years class... Jeannie Wasserman (1966 - 1974) says hi...Shannon Dykstra is a proud dad...Adam Berk gets together with old camp friends as often as possible... Meredith Allen teaches in New Brunswick, Canada and hopes to be back at camp in the future... Kristi Williams Works with troubled teens in Canada...Dr. Ken Austin ran into Dr. Gregg Broffman and Camp Mom Denise in Buffalo...Jerry "Garcia" Friedman at a Bob Weir concert (see photo)...Ethan Hutchins sends his regards from Charlotte, NC... Jasmine Riviere hopes to make it to Boca...Andrew Bocky Bockstein's boys are looking forward to joining camp in 2010 and 11...Name: Regina Zimmerman was last at camp in 1974, is now a mom and wants to hear from some old camp friends... Josie Byrne from 1991 would also like to hear from friends... Steven Kahn-Ringelheim got married ast summer, vacationed in Greece, Italy and Turkey...Nicole Young stopped in NYC to see Kraz and friends... Jacque Palmer is a real official member of the City of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Squads... Langdon "Dino" Quin says hi to his boys of 2005...Kayrena Rohrer-Betts is a mom and lives in Seattle... Christine "Kiki" Allain says hi to her now DORMGIRLS...Nimrod "Nimi" Eiloni of 2006 says write him or do the beaver dance... Sean Mckenna says he is still teaching in England and missing camp, especially his B-3!... Bill Stolbach lives in California and thinks often of camp often, way back when the Ettingers were here... Kevin Gobien of Nova Scotia (where else!) says hi to his old friends... Jacqui "Nutcase" Elliot is getting married...Lissie Altman tells us that Laura Zimmerman graduated from UNC MEDICAL SCHOOL!!!! With a PhD, this now makes her DR DR ZIMMERMAN!...Dorm 2006 had a reunion when Danielle Avedon, Jessica Shapiro, Bari Rosenberg, Stephanie Wertkin, Amanda Tarter, Shelby Bloom, Amanda Leibman, Morissa Falk, Keri Blumenfeld, Libby Cobb, Katie Rogers-Roman and Alexa Phillips got together (see picture)...A lot more news from our campers, parents, staff and alumni, but that is all that fits for now!



Cover Article Continued

But Bobby watched back, a quiet, deeply devoted, furtive chronicler of the eight weeks each year that, despite their trials and inherent difficulties, also clearly offered him a peaceful respite from the many challenges that he had been faced with as such a young man, and that he dealt with bravely, humbly, and without complaint. One of his campmates, now in his fifties, told me that Bobby could remember more about the former's life at camp than he himself could. As a watcher, I'm not surprised. That's what we do.

Over the years, since being back in touch with a few of my former counselors -- now very dear friends, and all far closer to me in age than I ever could have fathomed so long ago -- I've been gently accused of living in the past: detailed, minutiae-packed stories of camp are never far from my lips, and I often find myself humming camp songs while I'm cooking, or walking the dog, or driving, much to the head-shaking bemusement of my partner. In my mid-forties, I can't let go, no matter what I do.

So vibrantly clear are my memories of my past at camp that some of my friends have actually worried about my present. But as a writer, I can get away with it. Mostly. Sometimes, I'll find myself on my camp's alumni website, as I did recently. A January entry on the message board was from Bobby Hellman: If any one from Towanda has any old Olympic booklets with just the covers, judges, generals and camper captains plus group splits, please let me know. Maybe we could work something out. Please contact me. Thanks.
Group splits?

Deep in the throes of middle age, camp clearly remained, for Bobby, his safety net, his peaceful place, where time stood still. And so when he died this week at 49, emails flew, phone calls were made, and people who didn't actually know him, but who remembered him clearly, and who haven't spoken to each other in three decades, reached out across the stiff constraints of time, distance, and circumstance, to suddenly talk about this man for whom camp unmistakably was -- and remained -- life. If he -- and we -- had only known. "Maybe it's just that we're getting older," one of my friends said, at the fact that Bobby, unbeknownst to him, had, in the saddest of ways, brought us back together. And indeed, she's right: we are all getting older, and moving into the next phase of our lives. Bring people of a certain age together, and surely, the conversation will turn to aging parents and children going off to college; to hot flashes and AARP offers clogging up the mailbox in the most aggressive, annoying of ways; to the people we used to know, and who are suddenly gone.

Where our camp is concerned, though, bring us together and it's 1972 again; this is just our collective past plaiting seamlessly, magically, with our present, like Brigadoon. And Bobby, from the knotty walls of his beloved gymnasium, the scrawled-upon backstage passage in the social hall, and the hand-painted Olympic plaques dusty with the good ghosts of our ancient childhoods, will always be watching.

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!!!

DECEMBER: 2:Bari Sabety; 3:Kyle Flagg,Amir Jamal,Jenny Stern; 5:Jared Friedman,Adrienn Polyak; 6:Sarah Nichols; 7:Adam Brett,Leah Halpern,Alana Kantor; 8:Matthew Epstein,Jacob Gillon; 9:Danit Kargman,Rachel Luftig,Lizzie Shaffran,Kieran Page; 10:Julia Kessler,Dana Riback,Andy Apicella; 11:Brett Seiden,Lee Ann Goedman; 12:Jay Canarick,Lianne Canarick,Ari Goret; 13:Noah Paige,Zach Wilkoff; 14:Adam Overgaard; 15:Julia Gips,Alexa Weinberg; 16:Lauren Wiener; 17:Dylan Rudolph; 18:Jerry Friedman,Casey Garfinkel,Ian Kantor,Zach Henderson,Mike Thompson; 19:Adam Altmark,Marek Chacinski,Anna Rogacka,Jen Wattie; 20:Charlotte Kriftcher,Mark Bence Dunal; 21:Sage Berger,Gregory Brown,Lucas Feigenbaum,Eric Ledner,Samantha Tepper,Stephanie Gould,Daniel Williams; 22:Gillian Bloom,Noah Seligson; 23:Brittany Luntz,Elysa Zebersky,Don Everson; 24:Samantha Frankel; 25:Lindsey Kaplan,Nicole Meyer,Callie Pines,Tylar Trichon,Hallie Fishman; 27:Emma Boruchov,Jenna Dean; 28:Elly Meister,Sylvia Makowska,Andy Miller; 29:Dani Pines; 30:Scott Dorf,Jason Gold,Monika Krawczynska,Christine Roy,Rebecca Solomon; 31:Zach Chaikin,Linda Lowell,Tony Lyman

JANUARY: 1: Mitch Reiter; 2:J Sak; 3:Bridget Meyers,Jenna Sabety; 4:Hannah Seley,Samson Seley,Emma Ruth Anderson,Sean Trindall; 5:Brett Bolog,Mackenzie Weilheimer; 6:Brett Blee,Gianna Nemerow,Reed Wallach,Jerold Elliott; 7:Devon Brodsky,Jonny Garfinkel; 8:Rachel Gomez,Daron Jones,Alicia Stump; 9:Samantha Bosin; 11:Adam Schwartz; 12:Tom Neaverson; 13:Max Zimberg,Brenda Schweighofer; 14:Olivia Acker,Jessica Heimler, Casper Reiter; 15:Mitch's Mom, Jacob Gubner,Jayden Karr,Doug Cooper,Kathryn Voelkner; 16:Jackie Grossbard,Marc Philpott; 17:Jesse Kugler,Lauren Spierer,Dianna Gallagher,Alberto Martinez; 18:Maxwell Nemerow; 19:Rachel Hoffman; 20:Phoebe Dinner,Katya Samus; 21:Jordyn Lammon,Lauren Welger,Britta Pryall; 22:Nathan Heller,Ethan Schwartz; 24:Jessica LeMoine,Kayla Moersen,Jake Moersen,Angela Roy; 25:Carly Solomon; 26:Jody Albom; 27:Max Gold,Eve Goldstein,Evan Pomerantz,Erin Pomerantz,Andrew Seid,Lauren Seid,Alyson Wolpov,Jarrod Andrews,Marcos Mendez,Mario Zietsman; 29:Amanda Breit,Joshua Lafazan,Mollie Spiesman,Fowzi Suleman; 30:Jake Cohen,Eliza Davis,Ally Platte,Ben Sabin,Eva Krulova; 31:Jesse Shuman

FEBRUARY: 1:Caroline Lerche,Kevin Sacks; 2:Daniel Blank,Tori Kargman,Dana Krause,Maureen O'Neill; 3:Victoria Brazer,Siobhan McCormack; 4:Jordan Brett,Ethan Riback,Adam McCarthy; 5:Randi Morgenstern,Kathryn Henry,Ali Spiesman; 6:Victoria Stoyanova; 7:Jenna Marcus,Yaprak Ornek; 8:Samantha Levy,Jamie Warner; 9:Dan Hecht,Sari Postal,Amanda Charles; 10:Alivia Lang,Dan Money; 14:Alec Ryman,Nicole Seiden,Lisa Pelton; 15:Ozlem Cetin,Adam Wainwright; 16:Taylor Haber,Lenka Barinova,Ashley Hirschboeck; 17:Jason Marshall; 18:Sam Kaplan,AJ Solomon; 20:Lewis Bailey; 21:Daniel Brass,Tyler Furlong,Robin Adler-McCowen; 22:Melissa Welger,Cory McCarty,Ron Schaeffer; 23:Joey Goret,Paul Greenfield,Jacob Slater,Brahm Wieseneck; 24:Ava Goldstone,Sean Linney; 25:Ethan Kripke,Jordan Sharaf,Danielle Sheinman; 26:Cory Weintraub,Jamie Weintraub,Stacey Diehl,Adan Rodriguez; 27:Manny Unger; 28:Jonny Shaffran,Kyle Hosler



NJ REUNION RECAP



The November NJ Reunion at Space Odyssey in Englewood was another great success! Big crowd, loads of smiling faces, lots to do, highlights to watch, souvenirs to take home and food to eat! The essence of camp was in the air, many sleepovers, get-togethers or just plain reacquainting; or perhaps the giant Nathaniel or Stephanie's video introduction, the uncooked pizza or your skill at the arcade games. Whatever your delight, it was great to see everyone at our annual get together. For those that could not make it, you should have received your FNF Hilite DVD in the mail by now. The following people signed in legibly...

Julie Eichner, Rachel and Emily Hoffman, Tylar Trichon, Ally & Adam Friedman, Mini-Muffin Rosenthal, Noah Platte, Tori Kargman, Blair & Reed Blee, Aaron, Danit & Tori Kargman, Eric Frank, Alexa, Danielle & Brittany Gault, Linda, Adam, Josh & Jeffrey Lowell, Scott Dorf, Charlotte & Hannah Kriftcher, Ryan Singer, Sami & Jessie List, Brittany & Kimi Rose, Lindsay Altman, Dana & Ethan Riback, Susan, Cody & Zach Hecht, Jayde & Avi Grossman, Erica Levy, Alex & Jason Marshall, Andrew Parnes, Harrison Goldstein, Ben Lebowitz, Jordan Krawitz, David Stillman, Jay, Lianne & Marc Canarick, Bethany & Dan Hecht, Jake & Sydney Levy, Jackie Harris, Erica Wiener, Adam Albert, Andrew Newman, Melissa Ilgner, Bari, Hunter & Samantha Sabety, Jenna Sabety, Joanna Weiser, Lauren & Jonathan Wiener, Ben & Olivia Sackler, Tyler Furlong, Suzy Meadow, Elyse Leff, Sydney Sachs, Spencer Rosen, Alex Herbst, Samantha & Alanna Ross, Matt Perel, Brother Bear, Russnow, Tyler & Brett Bolog, Jonathan "NJ" & Alyssa Heller, Jillian Jaffe, Gideon Abramowitz, Harris Fein, Lexi Werner, Laura, Amanda, Andrew & Ryan Goldwasser, Ethan Schwartz, Jayden Karr, Tyler Fein, Blake Axelrod, Jillian, Cory & Jamie Weintraub, Max & Nicole Meyer, Lauren Capelli, Lauren & Matt Tancer, Casey Garfinkel, Carly Leipzig, Jordan & Adam Sharaf, James & Emma Dolgin, Kayla Schorr, Dan & Eric Ledner, Dan Blank, Spiz, Ali & Mollie Spiesman, Julianne Rucker, Amy Henson, Meryl & Ryan Goldberg, Jesse Mautner, Griffin Unger, Sami Marcus, Jamie Hammer, Aaron & Stephanie Fishbein, Dana Friedman, Nicole Kremin, Sami Rosenberg, Emma Trokel, Aly & Jason Wolpov, Eric Roth, Jacey & Spencer Mossack, Julia Bernstein, Carly Werner, Joey Levine, Jody, Jordan & Zach Albom, Hannah Paige(!), Mitch, Brandon & Jared Reiter, Max Sussman, Paul Greenfield, Emily & Brian Josephson, Jason Unger, Jill Gittleman, Lizzy Parnes, Brandi, Jen & Lance Steiner, Sam Davidovich, Lucy & Phoebe Aaron, Lauren Davis, Grace & Evan Lang, Dylan Rudolph, Danielle Sheinman, Marti Rosenberger, Jodi Rapchik, Andrew Resnick, Sam & Austin Slater, Jared & Sara Friedman, Jake Cohen, Reed Wallach, Robin Adler-McCowen, Dusty Fox, Greg Schwartz, Leah Jaffe, Logan Kornfeld, Marisa, Jared & Sari Postal, Ashley Haber, Neil Brazer, Sydney Wolin, Josh & Margo Fleishman, Aliza & Ben Sabin, Jake Wieseneck, Nicki Gold, Jacob Laudenschick, Bob & Matt Miller, Carly Schwartz, Jared Ostern, Jacob Gillon, Jerry Friedman, Rachel Brenner, Samantha Denberg, Kyle Flagg, Adam Belizzone, Adam Lammon, Gabby & Robert Kayton, Sammy Tepper, Gari Hochman, Ali Sussman, Alex Levy, Samantha & Spencer Kirsch, Emma & Max Boruchov, William Bernstein, Zachary & Jenna Marcus, Jordyn Salm, Courtney Ferszt, Joey Herman, Jaclyn Roher, Bari Yorke, Carly Lapidus, Harrison Kugler, Jonathan, Devon & Alex Margulies, Bryan Babat, Adam Silverman, David Berliner, Charles Greenwald, Jacey Nacarella, Stefanie Lugassy, Corey Fein, Ari, Jessie-Rose & Joey Goret, Jules & Jordy Moskowitz, Jessica & Rachel Heimler, Jeremy Steppe, Nate Fishman, Dan Blank, Ben Berke, Matt Stern, Greg Brown, Jamie Warner, Shelby Feigenbaum, Brandon Jonas, Emily Herbst, Jared Gaynes, Jake & Randi Morgenstern, Sydney Agona, Brett Spivack, Max Gold, Brandon Rosenblum, Jonathan "NY" Heller, Shelby & Alex Merberg, Rachel & Matt Labarre, Alec Ryman, Sarah Gomez, Doug & Darren Schweibel, Matt Pomerantz, Olivia Cohen, Chelsea Shemesh, Zoe, Maddy & Ethan Denenberg, Sydney Steiner, Samantha Gellert, Jordyn Lammon, Kevin Flannery, Jackie Steiner, Rachel Sheinman, Hannah Lyons, Lauren Cohen, Blake Danzig, Lauren Welger, Ashley, Caroline & Steven Lerche, Amanda Altman, Nikki Goldberg, Jack Schwartz, Michael Buzin, Brett "NJ" Singer, Charlie & Shelby Wytzner, Mickey Fried, Alexa, Heather & Cali Lehr, Mackenzie Weilheimer, Jamie Etkind, Ariel, Shelby & Lindsay Rokito, Jessica & Rachel Luftig, Lexi & Jeremy Steinman, Carly & Chloe Glenn, Gaby & Peri Margolies, Jamie Gutkin, Annie Rishty, Jonah & Zac Gelfand, Jacqueline Maier, Melissa Peskin, Alyssa Delott, Josh & Jake Miller, Samantha Levy, Sandy Miller, Jacob & Sydney Gubner, Jasmine Sunshine Bensky, Dana Krause, Ilana & Gianna Nemerow, Rusty Primeau, Zach & Sammi Brown, Leah Halpern, Jackie Frank, Griffin Lanel, Shaun Spielberger, Stephanie Fox, Ben Silver, Zach London, Ethan & Sydney Meister, Emily Hantverk, Sage Berger, Ashley Brennan, Ashley Walsky, Jack, Jonah & Jesse Grossman, Mikey Austin, Alexa Birnbaum, Jake Neff, Brian Klasner, J Sak and Paul Ward...Next stop, the Boca Beach Party! **(Photos Pages 5&6)**



ONLY AT TOWANDA

Here it is, the long awaited updated press release of THE RULES OF GHOST! For those campers, staff and alumni that have witnessed the unheralded display of excitement, intensity, drama and skill-less defying threshold of participation in this activity, you may know exhale! For parents who don't get it, friends from other camps who don't care and new campers about to embark on the addiction of thrill--- Ghost is only at Camp Towanda. Sure, there have been attempts to bring Ghost to one's hometown or school...but it ain't ghost unless it sanctioned by the grand master or played on Towanda soil.... It's got to be camp to be ghost! Well, anyway..... We are happy to announce that the rules have been officially updated for the 2008 season (the last printing was way back in the 20th century with two very confusing t-shirts).

Printed in this issue for early preparation of the summer is the latest MOST OF GHOST, as best as they can be explained! Coming soon will be a pocket sized edition to match up with the upcoming all new Venzie pocketed T-shirt. The t-shirt will have a pocket to carry rule updates (as anyone knows the rules change at any moment!)

It is so much fun it's scary!

- 1. Object of the Game:** One team must make the other team all "Ghosts". A Ghost is a player who has been hit by the ball without saving it. (See saving below)
- 2. Playing Field:** Two equal sized boxes marked on the official Ghost court. Official size is 30x30, but if it is Slanted Ghost (on a hill) then dimensions can vary, especially if the boundaries are marked by t-shirts or towels (white only).
- 3. Teams:** Two (2) teams with equal number of players. If unbalanced then both teams must agree upon who can have "double lives".
- 4. The Game:** Lower Camp: 2 out of 3 games. Upper Camp: 3 out of 5 games. Staff: 3 out of 5 games. Senior Staff: 1 game, if they can make it! No games can start after the 5-minute warning bugle call. A. of course, if it is very hot (or cold) the Head Judge can change the number of games required. B. Mud Ghost: when it is raining heavy, at the discretion of the Head Judge the game may be played barefoot (maybe, just maybe). C. 2-Ball Ghost: very confusing and basically you would be on your own at this point.
- 5. The Coaches:** Coaches must stand (no reclining) in any one of the four coaching boxes only. Failure to do so will result in loss of possession of the ball. However, a coach may move from one coaching box to another at any time (if they don't get caught out of the box). A team may have up to 8 coaches.
- 6. Spectators:** The unique aspect of Ghost is that the ball is always in play and goes by the lay of the land. Therefore, spectators must assume the international signal position of a "tree" when approached by the Ghost ball. No exceptions permitted. This includes those that may be on the track, playing soccer, basketball, volleyball, driving by on a Gem car or any other unforeseen interaction. A. The tree position is assumed by immediately swinging both arms over one's head, smacking the hands together to form a treetop point and shouting "TREE". B. Arms may not be lowered until the ball is no longer touching said spectator. C. It is important to realize that if a spectator is situated by the center line that goes on forever and diverts the direction of the ball, then it is the Head Ghost Judge's discretion as to change possession or not.
- 7. The Game:** (not be confused with The Game of #4 above.)
 - A. The Start:** 1. The start of the first game in a series is a jump ball accompanied with a whistle and the yelling of "boo". 1a. At this time, and until everyone is reset, the center dividing line does not count, that is, one can't get out on a jump ball. 2. At the start of subsequent games, possession reverts to the winning disadvantaged team of the previous game. 3. The rubber match of a series is decided by all players starting with at least one foot on the back line and then racing toward the center line to grab the ball. Try not to trample each other.
 - B. The Rules:** 1. Once possession has been decided, the teams commence throwing the ball back at the opposing team in hopes of hitting one of their players. 2. A Ghost is a player who has been hit by the ball without saving it. 2A. We say saving because no one is ever truly out of the game. Pre 3. No player may retain possession for more than five (5) seconds. 3. The ball must be fired at the opposing team after three passes. Post 3. Individual possession changes when a teammate touches the ball or it is fired. More of 3. If a ball should rapidly bounce between 2 or more people, then each bounce is considered a pass. 4. When the ball travels very far away from the official Ghost field, individual possession shall not have been deemed started until the ball retriever passes any existing roadway, track, or dirt road. 4b. See rule F-5. 5. Time will stop if the ball should get tangled in a cabin's plumbing system or wedged under a golf cart or actually become in play as part of a nearby soccer game. (The retrieving team will be responsible for returning a clean ball). 6. Throwing the ball in the air does not constitute a change in personal possession if it is not touched by a teammate in time (5 seconds). 7. By the way, a second can be counted as "One Camp Towanda, Two Camp Towanda, etc). 8. Whistles by the judges signify change of possession, someone becoming a Ghost and possibly other indications. 8a. A whistle does not have to be blown to signify someone becoming a Ghost (the success of this game depends on the honor system...c'mon, you know if you were hit!).
 - C. Hitting an Opponent:** 1. If the ball touches the ground before hitting a player on the opposite side, the player is considered safe. 2. If the ball does not touch the ground before hitting a player on the opposite team and that player (or players, see further explanation), or his/her teammate(s) allow the ball to touch the ground, then all those player(s) become Ghosts. 3. If the ball hits a player and ricochets to another teammate and then hits the ground, then both players are out.
 - D. Saving:** 1. A ball is deemed saved if it ricochets off of a person and is caught by a team member, even if that teammate is a Ghost in proper position. 1a. Proper position means on the outside of the other teams box. 1b. If a player is attempting to get in Ghost position and is totally airborne and at least 50% of his body is over the centerline, then they are deemed in Ghost position. 2. Everyone is safe except for the person throwing the ball, who becomes a Ghost. 3. A ball can be caught or saved by anyone on the same team, even if that person is a Ghost. Didn't we just say that? 4. Any player who steps on any line at any time automatically becomes a Ghost and that team loses possession of the ball, or if that person is already a Ghost, loses possession of the ball for their team. 4A. It should be noted that the touching of a line can happen if you are involved in play or not, whether your follow through carries you on or over a line, even if it is by a shoelace or by long hair...anything! 5. See rule 9. 6. If a player is made a Ghost as a result of an illegal throw, i.e. touching the line, that person is safe and gains possession of the ball. 7. If and when you become a Ghost, you may not intentionally interfere with the control of the ball and you must immediately leave your box going around the court to the opposite side to take up Ghost residence. More O'7: The natural inclination to grab the ball once you are out may not be deemed as intentionally touching the ball after one is out. This call is made by the Head Judge. Too bad we don't have video replay. 8. No cutting through your opponent's box is allowed. 9. See rule 5. 10.1. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of the ball. 10.2. If you become a Ghost and your team maintains possession of the ball, they are unable to get anyone out until you have taken legal Ghost position. 10.3 Be wary of the five second rule that could effect your team's possession. 11. Ghosts may climb fences, be hoisted and or supported by teammates to retrieve a ball that is on the other team's side, but they may not touch the other side whatsoever. . 11A. Subsection 1. Failure to follow this rule will result in loss of possession of the ball. 12. This brings us to the FLOATING GHOST (FG) rule... as long as an appendage is touching the red of the tennis court, the tennis court fence or solely the Ghost Tower (see Ghost Tower), the Floating Ghost can obtain possession of the ball. 12a. Once the "FG" has obtained control of the ball, the opposing team may not touch him or the ball (except if they are on the Ghost Tower). The defensive Ghost can only shield, not touch. 12a. If the "FG" leaves the "FG" area then they are subject to normal Ghost rules. 12b. A team can have as many Floating Ghosts as they wish. 12c. The Floating Ghost has 10 seconds to pass the ball once they have obtained possession. LUCKY 13: If a player throws the ball at a player on the other team and it bounces off of that player back into the arms of the person who threw it, the person it bounced off becomes a Ghost.

E. Aiming: 1. The ball may not be intentionally aimed at a person above the chest. 2. If a person is hit above the chest by an intentional throw, the person throwing the ball becomes a Ghost and possession changes. 2a. Or the Head Judge may call for a do-over or change of possession only (aka: a warning). Important rule E3. A player who ducks and gets zonked in the head should think twice before doing this maneuver again! Normal rule E3. If a player is hit in the head and is unable to give the "I'm okay" signal (see Signals below), play automatically stops and everyone freezes. 4. Firing the ball hard is not permitted in coed games. 5. Each team must provide "back-up" spectators to stop the ball until there are Ghosts that can retrieve the ball. These can be kids pulled from the infirmary, lazy staff or spectators. Be clear, that they are just stopping the ball, not passing. 6. When there are no Ghosts outside of your box, any number of in-play players may chase after the ball. Note that the number of passes, and possession time are still counted. The team is unable to get anyone out until everyone is legally back in the box (see airborne above). 7. Be wary of your throwing angles; it is all about the angles. That is, if you throw the ball, who can get it, your teammate or the other team? 7a. Once in awhile one should shout "Angles!"



F. Signals: 1. A thumbs up sign is deemed an "I'm okay" signal. 1A. No movement after you have been zonked constitute a "Stop play" signal! 2. International Tree signal (see above). 3. Standing on one leg (see Tuesday rule below). 4. Head Judge on walkie-talkie, day dreaming or otherwise distracted might be considered as an official timeout... depends on many factors. 5. Actually, see rule I-5a below.

G. The Center Line: 1. When the ball travels outside the two boxes, the center dotted line is judged to travel indefinitely. 2. If a spectator or fan blatantly and/or grossly affects the judge's interpretation of what path the ball may have taken, and who would have gained control without the interference, then possession will be based upon the decision of the judge. Obvious Rule 3. If the ball bounces off of a tree, rock, fence, or rolls askew off of hill, golf cart, or whatever, then that is the path it takes. 4. Team players, coaches, spectators, and members of the media are all considered trees and must act accordingly when they are about to be hit by the ball. (See above descriptions) 5. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the ball. 6. when the ball passes the girl's basketball court "line" (aka "FREE ZONE") it is anyone's ball. Tackling is not permitted, but grabbing "only the ball" is. The number of passes that occur in the FREE ZONE does not count against the number of passes needed. However, the pass from the person with possession to their teammate beyond the FREE ZONE is a pass. The FREE ZONE ends where the bunk line road and track begin and if there is volleyball game in progress on the beach courts.

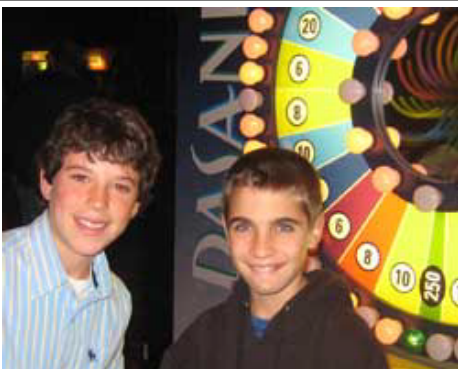
H. Time-Outs: 1. Each team is allowed two 60 second time-outs per game. 2. There is a total of 6-15 second shoelace tying timeouts, 4 velcro time outs permitted per match. The team that uses them has taken that advantage. 3. Television time-outs will not be included in these totals. 4. The judge may call emergency time-outs at his/her discretion. 5. Teams must take mandatory water and sunscreen breaks in-between each game. 5A. The sunscreen part of this rule is not in effect during night play. 6. Rule H3 is a fake rule we think. 7. If play progresses at too high a speed, the judge has the prerogative to call an automatic "slow-down" to process all that has transpired or review a theoretical videotape replay. 7. The decision of the head judge is final (even if he is incorrect) unless he changes it within 100 seconds of the call. 8. If one calls an illegal time out, then that person cannot move a muscle for 5 seconds.

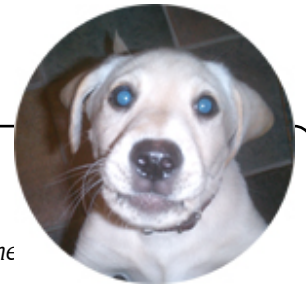
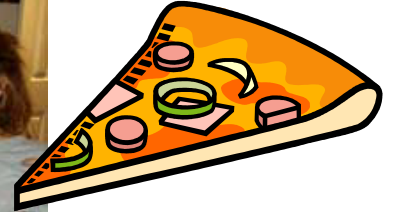
I. Special Rules: 1. Younger children will utilize the special two-thirds line in their box as their out of bounds. 2. A second ball may be used upon the mutual consent of both teams as long as there are at least 16 players on a team. 3. During official Tournament or Olympic play, Seniors, Club, Dorm and other groups may, upon consent of all parties, incorporate "yanking" as their strategy. 3a. Yanking ceases when there are just 2 players left in a box. 4. There shall be no play during the airing of American Pie. 5. Freeze, Stop and Sit: 3 short whistle blasts signals an injury has taken place. Failure to comply results in an automatic Ghost forfeiture. 5a. Forget about rule B-4b. 6. Tuesday Rule: This very popular strategy allows a player to be standing on one leg prior to being hit (this technique can only be used once per game per player) and not be called out. 6a. Abuse of this rule can result in the head judge deciding that it is kind of ridiculous. 7. Casper Rule: Since the dog was named in honor of the game, his interference is acceptable as if he were a tree. However, if Casper should puncture more than 2 balls in any one day; he must be sent to The Mansion.

J. Special, Special Rules: A. The decision of the judge is final! B. Ghost games are not subject to protests. C. If one yells at the Head Judge, that person will not have canteen for 1/2 hour. D. Flashlights are permitted during night games. E. Clapping in silent Ghost games may need to be cancelled if it seems to be disturbing the Debs.

K. Special, Special, Special Rules and Considerations: 1. Due to the very nature of the game, Ghost rules are subject to judge interpretation, adaptable circumstances, and necessity, as well as advancement and enhancement. 2. Any decision (or protest interpretation if they were allowed) by the Head Judge, GrandMaster (see Camp Director!) becomes binding. 3. Teams that exhibit overwhelming spirit will be called up to the flagpole. 4. Watch your "angles" when throwing (see E7 and E7a). 5. The "diamond" set up is recommended if you can understand it. anyone?? 6. Becoming a Ghost on purpose is not a wise decision. 7. When asked at any point in your life, how do you feel, from now on you will probably say "like a Ghost" no matter what career path you take. 8. K7 is similar to getting hungry when you hear American Pie. K-9: Dog slobber on the ball is just part of the game (good time to pat a teammate on the back). Did you catch that this was rule number K-9!!! 10. It is a good idea for someone to be wearing the Ghost shirt at a game. 11. The convenient pocket on the official Ghost t-shirt is for rule changes, updates and game day announcements. 11a. This isn't to say that the Grandmaster can't change, add or self-interpret a rule at his whim. 12. It is not permitted to use the word "dodgeball" when playing or spectating a Ghost game. 12a. One must use the word "avoidance" instead of "dodge" during the game as well; as in "...way to implement avoidance when the ball was coming at you...".

8. More Stuff: A. The number of judges certainly determines the quality of the game. Ideal number of judges is 6 (one in each corner, one at the centerline and one in the tower). However, since that is a lot, the game is what it is. B. The rules of Ghost are certainly open to one's interpretation; the main idea is that all participants have fun and play fair. C. Please see the Head Judge Grandmaster for any and all rule interpretation. D. Franchises of Ghost are available (see the Grandmaster). E. The Ghostbuster logo was used without permission (what Ghostbuster logo?). F. Enjoy the game! ©2008 Camp Towanda, Inc.





Casper's Top 7

(as in dog years)

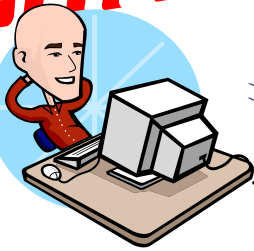
Casper, the camp dog, entering his 3rd year at camp, misses all the campers during the winter. Here is his list of...

Things to do while at camp...

7. chase rabbits and birds (but I don't know what to do when I catch them)
6. puncture ghost balls (see my rule!) You know, I am named after the game.
5. kiss up to chef jonesy so he actually throws me a bone
4. chase a deer, don't really catch a bear and hey, was that a chicken??
3. bark at mansion mary
2. wonder what's with the goats in the pen??
1. carry on the comfort to campers that Taxi did.



CHAT ROOMS

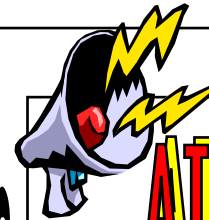


Wednesday January 16, 2008
**New Campers,
 Returning Campers
 & Staff**

To Sign In The Camp Chat Room:

Instructions & chat times are located in the password protected area of our website. Go to THE OFFICE or STAFF EXPERIENCE section, click on FORMS & MAILINGS... or just drop us an email for a copy of the instructions at desk@camptowanda.com.

CAMP WILL BE CORREAT IN 2008



ATTENTION!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

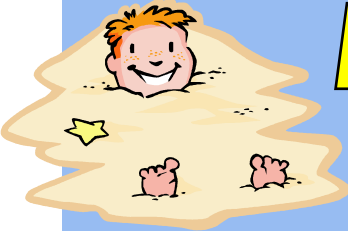
- THE BIG APPLE EXPRESS!! We have added a NYC bus pick up location this year!!
- LOGO! If you send us garments, we'll have them embroidered (no charge) for you. Send to the winter office by January 15, 2008. Be sure your name is on each garment.
- ALUMNI REUNION: June 13-14, 2009 Save the date!!
- THE SURVEY SAYS: Coming soon via email.... Food & Beverage Survey!
- YOU ARE WATCHING FNF: Make a Friday Nite Flix video commercial and send it to us for use this summer in our opening episode. 6 second maximum time.
- STAFF CONTRACTS: Contracts will start going out in late January, if you have not contacted us, you best do so today!
- PARENTAL UNITS: If you have a question, concern or comment, call or write Mitch... I am up!

REUNION INFORMATION

NEW CAMPER GROUP "SCOOP"



- For all new for 2008 campers and their parents
- Sunday Jan. 6, 2008- 1:00pm Sharp to 3pm
- At the Fort Lee Hilton.
- This is a RSVP event!



LET'S GET TOGETHER!!!

BOCA BEACH PARTY!

Wednesday December. 26, 2007
11:30 AM to 3:00 P.M.

This is our 3r year at: South Beach Park, Boca Raton, Florida.

(This is not in South Beach, it is in Boca!)

Check out the live web cam:

<http://evsboca.netfirms.com/default.htm>

Everyone's welcome to join the fun: campers (old & new), staff, parents, alumni, friends, prospective campers and their families. If you're heading south for the holidays, we'd love to see you!!

Bring lunch, drink, lotion, camera & towel! Rain or Shine, we will be there.

DIRECTIONS: SOUTH BEACH PARK is located at the intersection of A-1-A and PALMETTO PARK ROAD.(This is just a mile or so south of Spanish River Park, our old reunion spot). To find us on the beach, walk down the stairs and we will be just to the left.

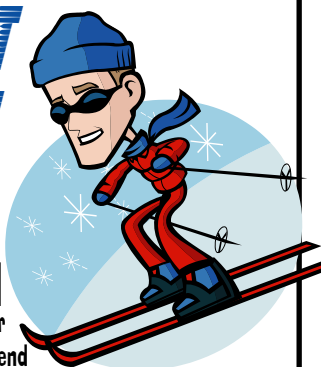
PARKING: In case the main lot is filled, there is additional parking just to the north of the main entrance.

LUNCH: Please bring a complete picnic lunch (there is a pizza place across the street).

Be prepared for the sun, fun, volleyball and hanging on the beach with new and old friends!

MEET & SKI, AT ELK MOUNTAIN

Sunday Jan. 13, 2008
at Elk Mountain, Scranton, Pennsylvania
Please note that this is NOT Martin Luther King Weekend! Call the summer office (570-253-3266) that weekend in advance, so we can be sure to meet, ski and take a picture with you! Meet at Noon outside the main lodge by the big ski map. Get your photo taken for the Towanda Times! Call the camp office to rsvp!



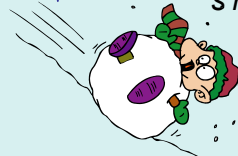
Click here for website



SENIORS 2008 WINTER SLEEPOVERS

(at The Mansion!!!)

Girls Weekend - Saturday January 26, 2008
Boys Weekend - Saturday February 2, 2008



Snow, sledding, toboggan, ice fishing, s'mores and campfire in the middle of frozen Sunset Lake, sleeping in sleeping bags in front of the Mansion Fireplace.
This is a RSVP event!

Winter Address
4 York Court
New City, NY 10956-4418



Happy New Year, 2008!

CLIP & SAVE

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

Florida Beach Party	December 26, 2007
New Camper Group Scoop	January 6, 2008
Meet & Ski At Elk Mtn	January 13, 2008
CHAT ROOMS	January 16, 2008
Senior Girls Sleepover	January 26, 2008
Senior Boys Sleepover	February 2, 2008
Flying Camper Arrival	June 27, 2008
First Day Of Camp	June 28, 2008
Visiting Day & Sibling Sleepover	July 26, 2008
Breakout	Forgate oh-Eight!
Last Day of Camp	August 15, 2008
Labor Day Family Weekend	Aug 29 -Sept 1, 2008

