



Appalachian Mountain Club

Three Mile Island Camp

Hello Three Mile fans,

I saw Three Mile from a distance once in the middle of the winter. The island was so different, so small without the leaves, almost skeleton-like because I could see through the trees to white ice beyond. It did not seem possible that such a small place could have so many people attached to it and so much history. Amazing what hundreds of devoted visitors, volunteers, crew, and committee members plus some leaves and sun can do to bring life to a place. And soon they will again.

But snow covering the island does not slow its stewards' efforts and I wanted to share with you a recent laudable accomplishment of the Committee. In addition to supporting Joy and I managing the island, they make great strides towards retaining the island's balance between traditional simplicity and modern safety and stability. As manager, I am impressed and grateful for their outstanding work and have great confidence that Three Mile will continue to be the special kind of place it is in large part because of their concern and labor.

Though most of you enjoy avoiding the island's electrical service during your stay, it is naturally essential to our operations. Arranging such electrical work is usually difficult and is only more so on an island. In order to move us toward a safe and reliable power system, the Committee, with the invaluable help of Three Mile "lifer" Jack Trickey and off-season manager, Frank Woods, has organized a complete renovation of the island's electrical system including the aged underwater cable. The work on island will begin this spring and the cable will be completed in the fall thus preventing any interference with summer operations. The Committee concurs that the Retreat provides a unique service for the island and their creative problem solving has ensured that this new system will continue electrical service to the Retreat. Though the operation will leave some temporary but noticeable changes in the island's look, it will also provide reliable and safe power to the island for decades to come.

There will be other changes. The tennis court is scheduled to be repaired this coming fall, which will make its use more satisfying. In keeping with our aims of maintaining an enjoyable and natural environment for everyone, we will ask that campers who wish to smoke do so only at their cabins. We believe that this policy change is in keeping with the desires of the bulk of our visitors and is in step with both the current times and the island's culture of simply and wholesome living.



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After nearly 30 years of service, Bluebird Too will be retired this coming season. It outlasted its anticipated longevity as the Clydesdale of the lake and we are currently looking into a successor and hope to have one by mid-season. Having known and loved that boat since I was 7, I will organize a retirement party to send her on her way.

Joy and I are in the process of filling our staff and crew with a long list of excellent candidates. We will have a mix of veterans and new people and I am encouraged by the seriousness of purpose and desire to serve the campers and island that I have seen from them. Rica will return to the kitchen again this year and we are looking for a new cook. I encourage anyone interested in summer work or volunteering to email me at manager@3mile.org.

I am happy to report that Rica and Rachel are doing very well and I am confident that Rachel will entertain you this summer with her ever increasing repertoire of antics. In addition to walking like a drunken sailor and climbing anything she can, she has taken to dancing and singing along with James Brown. I hope to have her ready for square dancing by Week 1.

For those of you who are not familiar with Three Mile's programs after the summer season, I hope you will consider joining the yoga retreat or the fall weekends this year, both of which are wonderful restful opportunities in unparalleled surroundings. There is a peaceful atmosphere somewhat different than that of the summer and I recommend experiencing it.

Best wishes to you all and I hope see you when the days are longer.

Sincerely yours,

David