



2005 Winter Newsletter

From TMI Committee Chair, Rick Tjader

Dear Three Mile Friends,

As I write this letter in early February, summer seems far away. In southern New England, we've had three major snowstorms so far this winter. But it's great cross country skiing and snowshoeing weather!

The "Ice-In" on the Big Lake was late this year. Warm rainy conditions in early January delayed the formation of ice across the Broads. But now the lake is frozen solid and the ice fishermen are out in force.

Only a few months ago, the Three Mile waterfront was busy from dawn to dusk. Early risers enjoyed a few moments of peace and tranquility on the dock before the reveille bugle. On clear mornings, the sun rises through the trees on HawksNest Island. The activity picks up before breakfast as croo members rearrange the deck chairs and put away life jackets and paddles that had somehow escaped overnight. Some sleepy eastside campers head up to breakfast with a short side-trip via the dock to catch some early morning rays. After breakfast, the sounds of ping-pong and children's voices are soon heard across the waterfront. Some campers begin to stake out their positions in the semi-circle of deck chairs with a favorite novel or two. A small group gathers near the Appy for the first ride back to the mainland for off-island day trip adventures.

The pace picks up mid-morning as the day gets warmer. The diving board and slide are used to jump-start the commute out to the raft. A few brave souls stand precariously on top of the "Wicked High" platform before jumping or diving into the lake. A small group of canoeists head out to Blueberry Island. At noon-time, the mail boat whistle is heard as the M/V Sophie C. plies her route from Bear Island to the Beaver Islands and then to the Three Mile Dock. After a brief pause for lunch, the dock again becomes the center of social life on the island. On especially warm days, the water is filled with swimmers, kayaks, an occasional deliberately swamped canoe and sailboats heading out to less sheltered waters.

Summer 2004:

Thanks to the leadership of Manager David Grace, Assistant Manager Joy Bloomfield and their hard working "croe", we had another successful summer season in 2004. After a slow start the first couple of weeks, the camp was full or nearly full Weeks 5 through 9. With only an occasional stretch of rain, the weather last summer was delightful...lots of sunshine and refreshing lake temperatures.

Several weeks enjoyed camper-led activities such as impromptu music jam sessions, water carnivals, "s'mores" on Hawks' Nest Island, ping pong competitions, and "Follies". Naturalist Jennifer Risley sponsored activities such as gypsy moth talks, "Find the Gnome!" contests, and junior naturalist tours. Visits from the NH Science Center, Loon Preservation Committee and AMC speakers continue to be popular.

Fall Weekends:

If you haven't yet experienced the special charm of the fall weekends, I highly recommend you give it a try this year. The first TMI "fall weekend" is the three days of Labor Day Weekend, followed by three additional weekends (Friday night through Sunday afternoon) later in September. The days are often warm and the evenings have a refreshing chill in the air. The lake is a LOT quieter than during the summer and by the end of September the leaves begin to turn colors. Reservations forms will be included in Registrar Sally Wilson's letter in a few weeks.

Volunteer!

Volunteers are a critical component of Three Mile Island Camp's ongoing success. Last year, Frank Woods and Stroker Rogovin again hosted the well-attended Opening and Closing weekends. In September, Stroker led a small group of talented individuals during the Volunteer Work Week. This year, they tackled several projects, including a complete re-build of the Breezeway sinks with new countertop and plumbing. If you'd like to join the fun, contact Frank or Stroker..... or check the Volunteer page of our website, www.3mile.org.

There are many other ways to volunteer at Three Mile besides participating in maintenance projects. Committee member Heidi Barker welcomes additional help:

AN INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER... TMI has a strong volunteer spirit. For years, volunteers have flocked to the island to open camp and close camp. TMI volunteers also serve as island caretakers during the off-season, work on large maintenance projects, and coordinate activities for all types of campers during the season. Today, we want to recognize this cadre of volunteers and expand it further by encouraging new skills and talents to emerge. We are seeking members of our TMI community who would like to share an area of interest during the summer.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy that may be of interest to other campers? Snorkeling, water colors, knitting, card games, children's activities...we are looking for interested leaders who would like to step up to the plate and share during their camp week. Possibly you love to "coordinate" as your expertise and have been dying to organize a water carnival, scavenger hunt, or other group activity during your summer week. We invite you to give it a try.

WEBMASTER NEEDED... The TMI Committee is also recruiting for a volunteer webmaster. We currently have a great website that needs to be re-designed and updated on a regular basis. Do you have an interest or know of someone who does? Training is available and this is a great way to contribute to the TMI community.

For more information about TMI: Volunteers at Work, please contact Heidi Barker at (603) 788-3761 or barker@together.net.

Yoga and Healthy Living Retreats

Are you looking for a new way of enjoying the island? Long-time camper Carol Faulkner is once again hosting a yoga retreat at the end of the summer season. Carol has also added a new "Healthy Living Retreat" in 2005:

Three Mile Island Yoga Retreat

August 29-September 2, 2005

This retreat will have 2 Iyengar style yoga classes, a pranyama (breathing) class, a discussion group on yoga philosophy and vegetarian meals each day. Some yoga experience is recommended.

Three Mile Island Healthy Living Retreat

September 5-September 9, 2005

This retreat included 1 Iyengar style yoga class, 1 meditation class, and a whole foods cooking class each day. One massage per person is also included.

For more information or to register, please contact Carol Faulkner at faulknerchild@comcast.net or at 617-492-5246

Planning for 2005:

The Three Mile Island Committee continually works to preserve and improve our special island experience. At the end of last summer, the Committee met to review the summer season and plan for future years. For the safety and comfort all of our campers and staff, we decided to ask that people no longer smoke at the waterfront. We appreciate your patience and cooperation with this revised policy.

As you may be aware, we're in the process of renovating the island's electrical system. Jack Trickey has been working very hard, (on a volunteer basis!), with the NH Electric Cooperative, the Town of Meredith, an electrical engineering firm and local contractors to secure permits and bids for the replacement of our outdated on-island distribution system. Some of the work may begin this spring. Based upon feedback from campers last summer, the Committee decided to retain electricity in the Retreat.

David and Joy are currently hiring for the 2005 summer season. They are interviewing candidates for the following open positions: cook, maintenance manager, environmental educator (naturalist) and croo. Feel free to refer any suitable candidates to David at manager@3mile.org or Joy at joybloom@comcast.net. You'll be hearing more from David, Joy and registrar Sally Wilson in the coming months.

In the meantime, I hope you and your families enjoy a safe and fun winter!

See you on the dock,

Rick Tjader
TMI Committee Chair
15 Eton Road
Barrington, RI 02806
email: ricktjader@3mile.org