



October 19, 2006

Dear Three Mile Friends,

It's an especially colorful fall in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Apparently warm days followed by cool, but not freezing, nights causes brighter colors than usual. I don't pretend to understand all the science involved.

Our special island camp has been put to bed for the season. On the last weekend of September, over sixty volunteers stored boats, cleaned the kitchen, closed cabins and shuttered the Main House and Rec Hall. A few hardy souls even took a quick dip in the chilly lake! Andrea was on hand to make sure that everyone was well-fed, Three Mile style.

Changes in Reservations Procedures:

We have some big news to share. But first some background. Three Mile Island Camp, as part of the Appalachian Mountain Club, is a non-profit organization. The camp's continued strong financial health is dependent upon high camper enrollment. A full, or nearly full, camp takes pressure off future rate increases and allows money to be set aside for capital improvement projects. In recent years, the early weeks of the summer and some of the fall weekends have had empty cabins. Therefore, in an effort to increase camper enrollment, we are increasing our marketing efforts and trying to improve the convenience of the annual reservations process.

We've also heard feedback that families would like to finalize their plans for the summer earlier in the year. As a result, the traditional April 1 deadline for submitting reservation requests has been moved to **February 1**. In addition, **reservation requests postmarked any time between November 1 and February 1 will receive equal consideration**. The lottery system has not changed, only the new dates for sending reservations anytime from November 1 through February 1.

The registrar using a lottery system will try to accommodate one of your three choices in the order you listed on the application. If she is unable to do so, she will contact you directly to seek alternative dates. You will receive confirmation for the 2007 season by mid-February.

Starting in late February, remaining openings for the fall and summer will be publicized via mailings and the websites, www.outdoors.org, and www.3mile.org.

Other News:

- Electricity: In 2006, the final step of the electrical system renovation project was completed. Under the direction of volunteer project manager Jack Trickey, the contractor replaced the submarine power cable from Pine Island. The unsightly old power shed and transformer near the Main Path has been removed. Aside from a little clean-up and minor landscaping, the project is done. Thank you, Jack!

- Parking: Our efforts to secure a long-term parking solution are still underway. But in 2007, we'll be parking and departing the mainland at our usual location, Shep Brown's Landing.
- Appy: If you visited the island this summer, you may have noticed a quieter Appy. The Appy's engine was replaced last spring with a new, quieter, lower emissions model. This fall, the interior decking, seats and railings are being repaired and re-stained.
- Tennis Court: The tennis court surface and fencing underwent some much needed repairs at the beginning of the summer. Years of weather exposure and Lakes Region winters' freeze-thaw cycles had left the old surface pretty bumpy.
- Yoga & Art Weeks: This fall, long time camper Carol Faulkner hosted two yoga retreats in late August and early September. In addition, a popular artists' program was held late in September. Members of our Programs Committee are evaluating other ideas for mid-week fall programs next year.
- Opening Weekend: Opening weekend next spring is June 8-10. Join other volunteers to open the buildings, put the boats in the water and perhaps re-roof a cabin or two. We'll also undoubtedly have some time for dip in the lake or a paddle around the island. Contact Off-Season Manager Frank Woods at frank.woods@valley.net if you'd like to help out.

An Escape from Modern Society

Three Mile Island Camp offers us a rare opportunity to escape from the trappings of modern society for a while. Simple rustic camping, family-style meal service and low-impact recreational opportunities provide a chance to socialize and unwind from the hectic pace of the world around us. Our camp's policy is that cell phones, Ipods, laptops, gameboys and other electronics are strongly discouraged. If you must bring electronics to the island, they should be restricted to quiet use within the cabin.

That's all for now. Please help us spread the word on the changes to the reservations process. Your best chance to get the week of your choice is to send in your application by February 1.

See you on the dock!

Rick

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A.M.C. Three Mile Island Camp

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