



December 1, 2010

Dear Three Mile Community,

There is much news to share with you this year, so I will get right to it!

- ~ *First things first:* Perhaps the best news is that Will and Joy, who provide such terrific leadership for the TMI staff and croo and such meticulous management of the operations of the Camp, will be returning next summer. Their hard work and conscientiousness ensures that we all have the best possible vacation experience and I am very grateful to them for their ongoing service.
- ~ *The next Committee Chair:* The fall committee meeting this year marked the beginning of my fourth and final year as Committee Chair. I am most happy to announce that Neil Burns has agreed to succeed me as chair in the fall of 2011. I couldn't be more pleased with this choice. Neil has been coming to 3 Mile since he was a boy, was on the croo in the 70's (when David and I were the managers!), has volunteered for the Camp in many different capacities, and is the father of croo alum, Maya Burns, and current croo member, Zac Burns. His connection to 3 Mile is deep and strong, and he has the skills, knowledge and energy to be a great Committee Chair!
- ~ *The rec hall:* We have selected an architect for the rec hall renovation project, and are excited about moving forward with our plan to repair and modify the current building, making it both more functional and more attractive. We expect to review the architect's plans, and hopefully approve a final design, at our winter meeting in February. The next step will be to procure the required approvals from the State of New Hampshire. While it's impossible to predict how long that will take, we are hopeful that we will be able to begin construction next fall and have the project completed before the 2012 season. We can hardly wait to get started!
- ~ *The Wish List:* This new idea, introduced last summer, was successful beyond our wildest expectations! We received 5 brand new kayaks with 9 paddles, a woodstove for the card room, a standing freezer, a day sailer, 23 new PFD's, a ping pong table, a piano, a new telescope and a number of Scrabble and Boggle games, along with a cash gift of \$2500 to be used for whichever remaining 2010 wish list item we need the most! Amazing! I feel profoundly grateful to the donors of these gifts, who embody the generous spirit that has supported Three Mile for over 100 years. Their gifts will be acknowledged at camp next summer.
- ~ *Off-season use of camp:* For several years, the Committee has been interested in creating off-season uses for the camp in order to provide more opportunities for people to experience Three Mile while also augmenting the camp's income. Up to this point, one might say we have "tip-toed" into this venture: our only significant, successful off-season activity has been yoga retreats, run by a Three Mile camper and serving about a dozen people each, which have taken place during the first 2 weeks of September for the past few seasons. This year, the Committee was presented with a new opportunity: a group of musicians applied to us to use Three Mile for a music camp for 75 adult/young adults for 5 days in June, before the summer season begins. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the request, reasoning that if the program is successful and ongoing, it will be a very beneficial addition to Three Mile's operations, providing us with a significant new source of income and, potentially, a significant new source of summer season campers.
- ~ *Further opportunities for off-season use:* We would like every Three Miler to be aware of the opportunity for groups to apply to use Three Mile's facilities off-season, either in June between "opening weekend" and "croo week" (generally, this means between the 1st and 3rd weekends of the

month) or in September, between the end of the summer season and “closing weekend,” which is the 4th weekend after Labor Day. (In the fall, the camp is only available during the week, since there are Fall Weekends taking place on all the intervening weekends.) Anyone who would like to learn more about off-season opportunities should contact me at committeechair@3mile.org.

- ~ *A request for campers who come in July: **July Three Milers, we need you!!*** -- we need you to invite your friends to join you at camp. Let me explain: Traditionally, Three Mile has attracted new campers by word of mouth and that has kept our cabins (and our coffers) full. Now, however, we find that we are oversubscribed in August (i.e. there is a waiting list and not everyone can get in) and undersubscribed in July, particularly during Week 1 and Week 4. This is hurting our bottom line and making it very difficult for us to avoid raising our rates. If we advertise, we are just as likely to attract new campers who want to come in August as want to come in July, which only makes it even more difficult for the August folks. So, we are calling on our stalwart July loyalists – *especially those who come Weeks 1 or 4* – to help us out in the way that has proved most successful throughout our history – think of people you know who would love Three Mile the way you do, and invite them to come with you. We are counting on you!
- ~ *Looking for a volunteer:* The Committee is looking for someone with experience in marketing and communications (see previous bullet), both “old” (paper) and “new” (electronic), who can help us with our communications strategy. If you’re interested, please contact me at committeechair@3mile.org.
- ~ *Membership number → membership rate:* Will and Joy have asked me to remind you that in order to receive the discounted AMC member rates, you need to include your membership number on your reservation form. Last summer, because the requirement was new, they devoted quite a bit of time to calling folks who hadn’t provided a number with their reservation. Next summer, they will not be able to do that. Therefore, campers who don’t have a membership number will be charged the higher non-member rate. Your number can be found on the mailing label of your AMC Outdoors magazine above your name and address. If you can’t find it, you can call the AMC membership department (800-372-1758) for help. Also, please note that family members must be “living under the same roof,” and/or children under the age of 21 to be included in a family membership.
- ~ *Share your photos!* I have always enjoyed leafing through the old photo albums in the card room. Those albums exist because folks have contributed their photos over the years. Now it’s easier than ever to do that because you can upload your pictures right onto the TMI website! Please share your treasured photographic records of Three Mile Island Camp by going to: http://3mile.org/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=14 and logging in with the user name "camper10" and the password "breezeway" (no quotes, no caps, no spaces).

It has been a singular honor for me to serve as Chair of the TMI Committee. I would like to express my thanks to every single camper, new and old, who loves Three Mile Island Camp and, through that simple act, has contributed to its continued existence. The best part of my job has been working with the extraordinary volunteers, especially my fellow committee members, who make everything work. You all are wonderful people!

Best wishes,

Nancy Grant
TMI Committee Chair