



November 2017

Dear Three Milers,

Just as our memories from last summer are fading, it's time to think about plans for next year. I'm wondering about which week we will go, which cabin we'll request, who we'll see, and I'm daydreaming about fudgy oat squares, the water temp, and the peace that comes with unplugging. A lot of our experience is comfortably predictable but there are some changes underway. I encourage you to read through all the materials in this mailing so that you are aware.

Probably the biggest change is that Will Holmes has decided that 2018 will be his last summer as Manager. I know that the decision was not easy for Will or his family and he told me that the hardest part is facing the reality that he won't see everyone every year. I know Will will share his thoughts with you going forward. For now, I want to extend our thanks to Will for his decade-plus leadership. Our community has benefitted tremendously from his dedication and hard work and we appreciate the long runway he is giving us to find a new family for Oak Knoll. That said, I have no doubt that we'll see Will as a camper for many years to come. The Committee is putting together a search team for the new manager, and the team welcomes suggestions and expressions of interest at any time (committeechair@3mile.org).

As most of you know, we didn't have the wicked high last summer. I am happy to report that the summer will go down as "that one summer that we didn't have wicked high". It will be back for the summer of 2018 and beyond. The missing "structure", as the insurance company called it, was due to a recommendation from our insurance company and the AMC in the wake of a safety audit of the island. In order to preserve the wicked high, the slide, and the diving board, we will add a lifeguard(s) to the waterfront starting on 2018. We are working on how we will staff and design the coverage, but I am certain that a lifeguard will only add to the safety of the entire community. As always, children will continue to be the responsibility of parents or designated adults at all times. Anyone who thought they successfully avoided their maiden jump from wicked high for all time will need to summon up their courage for next summer.

During closing weekend, the Committee decided to make some change to the calendar options. Specifically, you will notice that the Summer Starter (SS) options have been discontinued. As a reminder, SS was a half week discounted option during either the first or second half of week 1. While the SS option has been quite popular, we have opted for the more popular Kids Stay Free option for week 1. Please see the enclosed materials for more information. If we have excess capacity during week 1, we will offer a SS 2 (second half of week 1) option, so stay tuned for that possibility in the late spring.

After a trial last summer, we will no longer provide kerosene lanterns for the cabins. There are many solar powered lights and battery operated lanterns available to light up your cabin. Sounds like a great holiday gift for the person who has everything. There are several solar lights available on the island for borrowing if needed.

In our world of ever-changing technology, the Committee talked about drones this fall and have decided that their use will be banned. Undoubtedly, drones can greatly enhance our enjoyment of nature – think about a bird’s eye view of an eagle’s nest – but they present issues around privacy, are noisy, and they conflict with our technology policy.

And finally, we have some big changes to our facilities in the form of a new cabin and a new composting bathroom. The Yellow Birch Tent is now Yellow Birch 2. The new cabin was built entirely with volunteer labor and is identical in every way to all the other cabins on the island. Our Maintenance sub-committee chair, Paul Robertson, was the project manager for the cabin and his team of volunteers erected the structure during Stroker Rogovin’s 25th (yes 25th!) volunteer work week. As far as we know, the last time a cabin was built was in the 1930’s so this is quite an event.

The AMC Construction Crew has been busy building and installing a new composting toilet (aka Clivus) on the site of the former Palace. As a reminder, the little-used Palace was located behind the Main House. The new facility will be ready for our enjoyment next summer.

While that is about it for the changes, I want to briefly report out about last summer. For the first time in many years, we were chock full. Sally Hopkins and the management team worked their magic to accommodate almost everyone who was looking for a spot. The full capacity is vital to our capital projects (new clivus, new cabin, new stalls in the Newcastle, new sunfish, a new convection oven for the kitchen and much more), not to mention our usual operating expenses. We welcomed Peggy Mellow as the Assistant Manager and Colin Bradley as the Island Educator and are grateful for their new ideas and hard work. And as always, the dedication and excellence of the kitchen staff, the crew, and Will Holmes added greatly to our experience.

In closing, be sure to send in your materials during the lottery window. Best wishes for a wonderful winter. See you on the dock!

Gillian King
Committee Chair

As most of you know, we welcomed Peggy Mellow as the new Assistant Manager