

The Camp
Shohola

Argus

First Month Edition



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The Shohola “S” Winners

The Shohola “S” is given to those campers who, in the estimation of the Camp Shohola staff, demonstrate achievement, friendliness, helpfulness, responsibility and

leadership. The Argus would like to congratulate the following campers for receiving this prestigious award.

Lyle Ciardi, Cabin 3

Wyatt Cotter, Cabin 3

Armand Latreille, Cabin 5

Bert Van Der Hoof, Cabin 14

A Message From the Executive Director:

To the few who may have read this message in 2005, please forgive me for using “leftover messages”. I wanted to share these thoughts last year, but the printing process at the end of the month got quite hectic, and so the message was accidentally omitted from the banquet edition of the Argus 2005. It may have appeared in the online version, and so some of you may have seen it. Again, to you I apologize.

Grandparents have always told me that being a grandparent is one of the most enjoyable jobs they’ve ever had in life. They get to pick up the kids, do a lot of playing around, eat all the ice cream they want, go to the movies or to the swimming pool, and then send the kids back to their parents when they begin to get cranky for lack of an afternoon nap. The parents have to do all of the hard work. Our business is a lot like being grandparents, or at least it is from the perspective of a director. We get to pick up the kids in June after the hard work is done for the school year, play around for weeks at a time, eat a little ice cream, go to the movies or for a dip in the lake, read campfire stories before bed, and then send the kids back to their parents when they get a little cranky for lack of television

or video games. How could we be so fortunate? It's the best deal in town. To be sure, the cabin counselors do some of the hard work that parents normally do. They do a little conflict resolution, teach some table manners, work on some character issues, clean up the messes etc. But the benefits so far outweigh the tough stuff that it's a joke. Children are such a blessing. They are so spontaneous, so creative, so full of the joy of living. They help us old folks remember our own childlikeness. They keep us young at heart. They help us remember how to have "good clean fun". The 1st month of 2006 has been so much fun for me. And once again, I have many images in my mind of moments that I will never forget. These moments could not have happened without the countless hours of preparation by my wife Holly, Adrian, Ali, Sam, and the top quality staff of 2006. But at the same time, these moments cannot be created or scheduled, they just happen. They happen when 150 boys at a time get thrown together into a big mixing pot called summer camp and they get stirred in with fun, games, songs, laughter and tears. I wish that all the parents could see some of these moments. They are the stuff that Shohola is made of; and they keep us coming back for more. Now that the summer is already half over, I reluctantly accept that we must give the boys back to their parents soon. Thank you parents for letting us have them once again. Thank you, camp Shohola staff for doing such a wonderful job. Thank you boys of Shohola for showing us such a good time!!! We will miss you very much! And of course, we'll see you next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Barger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Duncan Barger
(The luckiest camp director on Earth)

Argus Dedication

This year, the Argus Dedication is to Dave Booth, a camper and counselor at Camp Shohola for over a decade. Sadly, Dave passed away last winter in a car crash. While Dave is sorely missed by everyone that knew him in the Camp Shohola family, his legacy and legend still live on. During his summers here, Dave touched the hearts and minds of hundreds of campers as well as the counselors that he worked with. He was constantly active at camp, running all camp events, classes, and raising camp spirit, and yet he was never too busy to stop and talk with a camper or tell a story with some friends.

Last summer at camp during his own free time, Dave built and hung two huge swings on the hill just so the kids could have a little extra fun during their free time. Dave never seemed to be sad. He dearly loved everyone and everything about camp. Even when Dave was outside of camp, his thoughts were always on ways to improve both camp and his own abilities as a counselor. To watch Dave work with the kids was something truly special. Every camper thought of Dave as one of their best friends at camp, yet they all respected him more than any other counselor.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Dave all miss him very much, yet we all know that he is constantly with us and keeping an eye on everything. In Dave's memory, we have built a large garden next to the lower office. The garden is very fitting because it is easily spotted and is the first thing people see as they drive up to camp as well as the last thing they see. For many of us, it was the same thing with Dave, to see him sitting there with a smile and nod as you passed by.

Dave Booth may be gone but his spirit and all that he did for his friends will never be forgotten. For as long as there are campers at Shohola, Dave will still be here with us too. At the end of year campfire, we have a tradition of tying a piece of

string around our wrists. On this string, we all make a promise to one day return to camp. Most of us will be adding a new promise to that string and that is to never forget the legend but more importantly the man, Dave Booth.