



SPSS Fall Newsletter

Director's Report

Greetings everyone! I hope this finds you settled into a fall routine and in good spirits. As many of you know, it has been a spectacular fall in New England. It is only now cooling down after an extra month of light SW breezes and summer like warmth. In contrast, the SPSS grounds look very "winterized". The sail room is packed full of upended "optie's" and fly traps from the marsh. The barn, though still humming scores from "The Wiz" is quiet and lined with "Small Pointer" masts. The Sprague House is packed away in moth balls. The tennis court nets are off and stashed away and the water is turned off for the season. It's a strange site after months of summer fun and frolic, but the time off is good and helps us appreciate how lucky we are to have such a great camp, facility and community!

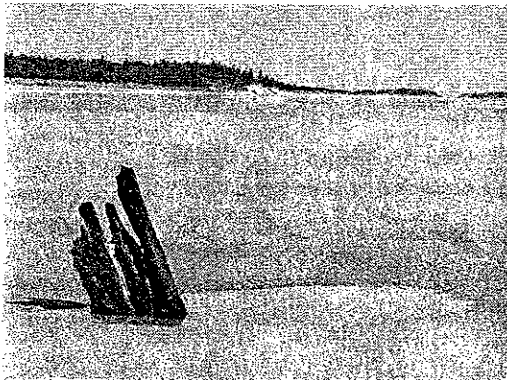
It has been another record breaking SPSS season attendance wise, up nearly 10% from last year! There are many ingredients that make SPSS a safe, fun and successful organization and to acknowledge them all would take volumes. However, year in and year out there are some staples without which SPSS wouldn't be what it is. Firstly, I am once again so proud of our Counselors and C.I.T.'s and would like to thank them for another terrific year of passion and dedication towards the children of Small Point! Secondly, thanks to the parents for their enthusiasm, patience and goodwill. Lastly, thanks to the community at large, for embracing SPSS and providing an environment which allows SPSS to thrive. Whether it is the visible donations of a Suburban or Whaler, the quiet cleaning of the green-room, or early morning mowing around the courts, each year members of the commu-



nity pitch in in different ways. Thank you all for your generosity!

I look forward to greeting you next spring with renewed energy and excitement for another SPSS season. In the meantime, feel free to contact me any time with questions, ideas or concerns. Until then stay warm and take care!

-Malcolm Coates



Many thanks for all of your generous gifts to the 2007 Annual Fund. The Summer School would not be able to thrive without them! For those of you still wishing to contribute this year, please send your gift to: Amy Coes, 7600 Pine Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. If your employer makes matching gifts, please do not hesitate to send me the paperwork and I will take care of the rest. Thank you for your continued support.

Small Point Summer School

November 2007

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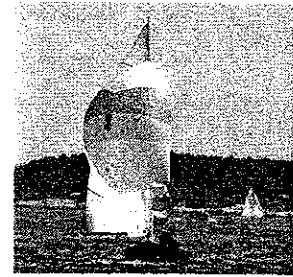
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Sailing Report

The sailing program enjoyed a great season, with attendance up 30%. We were blessed with a terrific staff of Malcolm Lewis, Crary Chandler, Simon Vickory, Lizzie Mitchell, Wes Lewis, and Will Owen. We also benefited from a huge CIT turnout, which bodes well for the future. Crary and Simon both attended and successfully completed the US Sailing Level I Certification prior to the start of camp. This achievement requires intensive training both on the water and in the classroom, and it provides an excellent base of knowledge for kids to lead a safe and fun sailing program. Congratulations to Crary and Simon! SPSS has sponsored four counselors to this training in the last few years (Malcolm Lewis and Kelly Pitts are the others). We will continue to improve the sailing program for a community that loves sailing! We are proud to announce that Tadpole finished 2nd Wednesday July Series with Simon Vickory skippering with an "all kid" crew!

Next year, we plan to improve the condition of the older boats and to add more Optimists and Lasers to the program. These boats continue to be the core of the program, along with the Tadpole. We have two 420s available for older, more experienced sailors, and we look forward to expanding the usage of these next year. Last year, we added a new 40 horse engine for the whaler, which was a much needed improvement. We are selling two of our Blue Jays, so please contact myself or Malcolm if you have an interest in buying one of these boats.

Regarding programming, we are planning a special week of intensive sailing this summer with racing, fun and games on the water. Dates and details will be announced in our next newsletter and on our website. Our program is somewhat modest in terms of equipment, instruction and funding compared to the large number of sailing programs now that offer fleets of gleaming new boats, coaches and travel



budgets for regattas. These programs may be better for kids with serious ambitions (or kids with parents that have serious ambitions!). The SPSS program is clearly more relaxed, and I have come to realize more and more, with good reason. The average young age and inexperience of the kids in the program combined with highly sporadic attendance for most kids often makes significant skill development more challenging. Our mission has been to develop a program which reflects the realities of "Small Point life" and yet offers competent instruction that will allow kids to develop a love for sailing and to advance to a reasonable level of competency in a safe and fun manner. As always, I welcome your thoughts. -Wade Edwards

Tennis Report

Although the snow has yet to fly, we're already looking forward to another fun SPSS tennis season. Next June we're hoping to have a pro run a teaching clinic for the counselors, but we'd also like help

from the tennis "professionals" among us! There are so many strong players in the community, and we would love for you to share your talents with the next generation. Please consider offering even a half

an hour of your time sometime this summer. It will support the counselors, and inspire the Summer School campers to know we have amazing resources right in Small Point! -Sarah Hoffman

Drama Report

In August of this year, Hannah Schraeter and the 12-16 year olds put on "The Wiz," the musical version of "The Wizard of Oz." Elizabeth Vaughan worked with the actors on the music. The time is always short. Hannah's assistant director from recent years wasn't available this year. We didn't have an accompanist for the actual performances until the 11th hour. Despite these glitches, actors, direc-

tor, and backstage crew did a stellar job. The costumes, scenery/sets and props produced by parents, actors, and associated friends were stunning. What a great show! SPSS magic plus a lot of sweat and elbow grease made it happen once again.

We will be planning a suitably wonderful show to celebrate the 50th anniversary of SPSS, this summer. 11-16 year

olds will be welcome to try out, probably on July 30-31. Presumably performances will again be on Fri and Sat of the third weekend in August, 8/22 and 8/23. Next summer's director(s) are as yet to be determined, but will likely include one or more seasoned troopers such as Stacy Coates and/or Debba Curtis.

-Elizabeth St. John

Tech Report

Very soon, new functionality will be available on the SPSS website, www.smallpointsummerschool.com. Starting with the Summer 2008 session, we will have the capacity to accept tuition payments via major credit card in a secure, online environment. Donations can be

made online as well! A calendar interface with activity schedules will be added to facilitate summer planning. The calendar will be updated on an ongoing basis.

In addition, we will implement an email notification system that can be util-

ized for important announcements during school hours, administrative updates, and scheduling changes. You will be invited to join our email list directly from the website. More enhancements are planned, so stay tuned... -Bill Harnett

President's Column

What do I think of when I reminisce about Summer School? I remember traveling in the back of a truck over Morse's Mountain with my friend Elizabeth St. John. I remember my feelings of terror when Hoover Sutton coaxed me onto the apron of the stage on opening night of "Guys and Dolls" in my street sweeper costume where I stopped, looked at the audience, lit my make-believe stogie, and swept my way off. I remember learning about the differences between cumulus and cirrus clouds in the science lab with my counselor, Bobby Vaughan. I remember swimming in the salt water pool, exploring porcupine quills in Brown's cave, throwing stones to feed the troll, winning my first (and last) tennis tournament (it must be in the genes!), swimming in the frigid surf with a gaggle of friends on Big Beach, being a member of the Turtles team, making sand candles, sailing (badly) a pram in Back Bay, and eating a sticky s'more filled at a camp-out where the tide almost got us!

Next summer is the 50th year of the Small Point Summer School. Thanks to Junie Mellon and Sydney Smith, foun-

ders and benefactors, and thanks to hundreds of campers, counselors, directors, trustees, volunteers, and donors, the Summer School has evolved into a thriving summer "experience" for a multitude of generations. Life-long friendships are formed and favorite memories are nurtured. I am very excited and honored to be joining the Board of Trustees for the Small Point Summer School as it marks this important occasion and I hopeful that ALL of you—young and old, near and far, past supporters or new acquaintances—will join with us next summer, in some capacity, to share your favorite memories of your Summer School experiences.

Our current board members are busy planning. For example, we will be discussing sea kayaking, rock climbing, overnight hiking, and/or sailing regattas for the 10-14 year old crowd. We are exploring opportunities to enhance sailing and tennis instruction by offering counselors opportunities to develop teaching skills in their areas of expertise. We are planning a 50 year celebration that is sure to knock the mosquitoes off the littlest camper and the most genteel elder.

So, we hope you will be frequently checking our website and staying tuned! Please feel free to contact Kelly Adams, Amy Coes, Clay Ijams, Martie Janeway (assistant chair), Elisabeth Motley, and Kip Weese (treasurer) if you have fundraising questions. Liza Chandler heads up the winter address book, Peg Daly oversees buildings and grounds, Bill Harnett is our techno guy responsible for monitoring our website (see tech article!), Leslie Owen is editor of our newsletter and Abbie Rowley is our esteemed secretary. Wade Edwards captains our sailing decisions, Sarah Hoffman is our tennis pro, and Elizabeth St. John advises us on drama.

So, whatever your connection with the Summer School, reminisce and celebrate by joining us for a fairy walk, volunteering your arts and crafts talents, attending a play, picking up that tennis racquet, or watching your youngest relatives play "pirate" in our sail boats near Goose Rock. Stay tuned and we look forward to seeing you during our 50th summer!

-Lynne Mitchell

Building and Grounds Report

So another year has flown by, and it's fall again. I wish you all could be here to see the trees at their peak of color with the leaves just beginning to cover the ground. It's so beautiful. The wild turkeys are back around in large numbers, and the fish are pretty much gone, and Owen and I brace ourselves for winter and any storms it may bring. Hopefully our SPSS buildings and grounds will be spared the likes of last year's wind and rain...fingers crossed.

During 2007 the SPSS board discussed many maintenance issues and possible improvements around the Summer School, and decided it is finally time to do something about the bathroom areas under-



neath the barn. Do I hear your applause? YES: clean em up and spruce them up with some new paint and fixtures. This work is scheduled to be finished by the start of next season, made possible once

again by your generous contributions. Do you hear my applause? You bet! Also this spring, we have hired a crew to do some repairs and replace rotten boards and old doors around Sprague Hall and to put new shingles around its outside entrance.

And lastly in '07, the board has been discussing our increasing number of little explorers, artists, nature enthusiasts, and their need for more space and improvements to the facilities. We have some great ideas circulating, and hope to make some decisions at our next meeting. Quite possibly we will get some things done this spring as well. I will update you in the next newsletter. Have a great fall and holidays to follow. -Peg Daly

Fun-Raiser a Success!

The Summer School hosted a Fun-Raiser on August 4 this year. We called it the Gems of Small Point, since it featured 3 homes, all with lovely and unique views of SP. There were 60 or so attendees, who zipped off from the Summer School around 6pm in various carpools to one of three homes. One location was at Nathaniel St. John's family home, Neph, with its lovely white rocks view from a wrap around deck; the second was Jane and Craig Williams' new home, with

all its modern features and wonderful outdoor fireplace; and for the third, Clint and Jackie Ostrander opened their beautiful home, Alliquippa, with its unique harbor view. Once we arrived at the 3 locations, we all enjoyed wine, beer and delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Small Point Club.

Although the Summer School had not intended it to be a fundraiser, we did make money for school and only with

the generous contributions of Nathaniel, Jane and Craig and Clint and Jackie. We were so excited to have a fun evening out with a new twist.

-Clay Ijams

Also: Thank you to Chad and Lisa Koski for helping donate a suburban and to Jenny and Helen Russell for the donation of the whaler.

Sails on the Beach: Fundraiser

Peggy Daly is extending the SPSS "sails on the beach" fundraiser through the winter season. Enlarged (letter size) color photos are available, and can be sent to winter addresses at a cost of \$25.00 per copy. You may order from the numbered collection included in this newsletter and send a check made payable to SPSS to Peg Daly, 24 Wilds Rock Drive, Phippsburg, Maine, 04562. To contact Peg directly you may also call 207-389-1473 or email peacockdaly@gmail.com.

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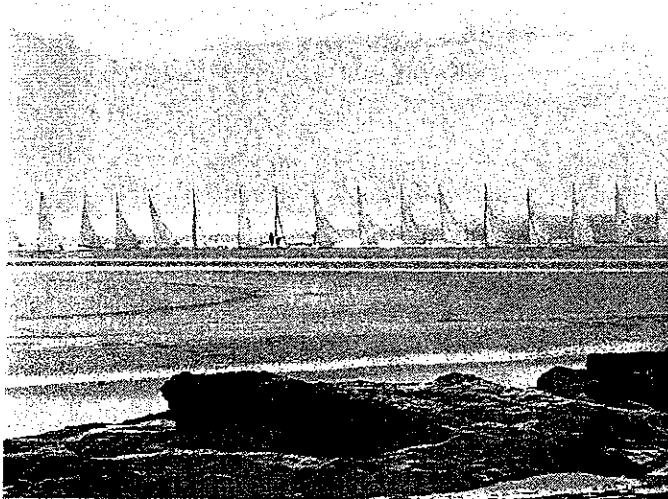
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