

The Camp Waupaca 2006 Reunion Time Capsule

(compiled by Paul Warshauer & edited by Mike Lurie)

JULY 4, 2005: Paul “Froggy” Warshauer finds a picture of himself atop a horse, recreating the role of Paul Revere on the 4th of July at Camp Waupaca for boys, sometime in the 1970s...the picture is forwarded to all Camp Waupaca alumni via email with a challenge to identify the mystery rider...“That’s Craig Fuller” says someone assuredly...this email sparks hopes for a reunion in 2006...

AUGUST 2005: Warren Metzдорff, Rick Passman, and Mike Lurie sip cold beers at the Harbor Bar with Ed Lubejko and wife Sue, and wondered where Froggy was... “Next year” Passman said, “we will be back in force”...True to his word, in the fall of 2005, Paul and Mike began negotiating with Daniel Schnitzer the new camp director at Young Judaea in Evanston, IL for use of our old Camp Waupaca for the summer of 2006...contracts went back and forth, CYJ board members were contacted, minimums started at \$13K to rent...we said we are not an agency...negotiations continued, insurance battles ensued...

...Paul Ringel starts sending e-mails when he hears that a reunion might occur... Many say we can’t do it without some sort of organization...The Camp Waupaca Reunion Group is formed as an Illinois not-for-profit...board members Larry Lifson, Rick Passman, Larry Gordon, Mike Lurie, and Paul Warshauer all take on honorary titles...Michael Chavin wonders what a “Sekhem” is...he uses the Yiddish pronunciation of the Native American term “Sachem” and we all laugh...“It’s Sachem, as in a chief of an Indian Tribe.”...he likes the Yiddish pronunciation better...e-mails and calls go to Bob Mowen...we do everything to try and get him to attend...Maybe next year....

JUNE 2006: response to the reunion is very low...calls to Camp Young Judaea (CYJ) director Daniel Schnitzer to outline our problem...he goes to bat for us and gets us a bargain basement minimum contract...phone calls and postcards to our members to garner interest go out to all members...like a “Kol Nidre” or “Yizkor” appeal, we ask for donations from ALL members to ensure our reunion WILL go on as planned...

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2006: At 6:02 pm, a jet plane from ORD touches down at the Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay, Wisconsin...Rick Passman from Reno, Nevada meets Paul Warshauer at the airport and the reunion has officially begun!...they call Mike Lurie in Minneapolis by cellular phone to officially declare the reunion started...they drive Highway 54 back to the Grand Seasons Hotel, have some barley pops, then off to JR Sportsman Bar...

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006: The boys have breakfast at the King’s Table in King and Warren Metzдорff calls...he is irritated that they didn’t wait for him...it was nearly 10:45 AM!...Warshauer uses an old Mike Euer line, “Boys...ya gotta check with me first”...At 11:10 AM, we pick up

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"Wonderful **Warren**" and at 11:20 we drive through the gates of Camp Waupaca on Stratton Lake Road...

...we tour the new "Rec Hall." – Fantastic!!...We stake out territory in the infirmary and in Barney Town...We meet CYJ Director Daniel Schnitzer and CYJ maintenance man Greg...**Mike Lurie** shows up at noon and now paperwork is completed, checks exchange hands and we are official...We then begin "the rounds": The Harbor Bar, Weasels, Fleet Farm, Cass Liquors, and the Millhouse at Fox Fire Golf Course...We see the good widow **Kramer** (Waupaca area printer Darrold Kramer's wife) and eventually end up at the Indian Room at Simpson's Restaurant...we all notice that all of the Indian pictures are gone...the stories and bragging rights continue...who has been to more "post camp" reunions...as the drinking increases, so do the stories...we end up at a night spot for some "dancing..."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2006: **Mike Lurie** gets up early and jogs half way around Little Lake Stratton... the rest of us nurse our own hangovers...8:30 AM breakfast at King's Table again and at 10:00 AM we have our program meeting with Daniel Schnitzer, CYJ Director...it is short meeting as the Waupaca boyz will do all of our own programming..."Do we have grates and wood for the Boil Water Boil event?"..."Yes"..."Hula Hoops? Water skis? Bows and arrows?"...Wait...as Daniel and **Paul** open the archery shed, a large yellow jacket nest is discovered...No one did archery this year... so Greg quietly kills the nest and by the next day no one knows about the nest!...Was it former Camp Waupaca staff member, **Tim Matayas**, during a "Counselor Hunt" in the 1980s who got stung and his face blew up like a balloon?...The new count for this reunion is 47 adults, 16 kids and 3 infants...

11:50 AM: **Neal "Buzz" Malashock** is the FIRST camper to arrive! Great to see him...he tells us stories about **Louie** and **Mike Burns** and a new story about a BB gun and **Mike Euer's** windshield!...he also mentions that his memories of camp center around "property destruction."...We all share a lunch of grilled kosher hot dogs and baked beans courtesy of **Mike Lurie** via the Kosher market in Minneapolis...

...**Herb Beller**, **Barry Shanoff**, and **Peter Friend** show up and everyone goes down to the waterfront for raft time, skiing and schmoozing...slowly the camp fills with campers and staff from the past...**Herb** is the first camper to water-ski...

...People wander to the new Rec Hall where there are displays of many camp yearbooks, shirts, photos, hats, etc...some folks sit for hours poring over the memorabilia...

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...**Jeff Korman** shows up with great hats, sweatshirts, and tee shirts all printed with the "Camp Waupaca Reunion, 2006" logo!...Adam Wax and Jake Gordon lower the flag at the flagpole ceremony where we meet everyone who has arrived...naturally without a bugler we all sing the "To the Colors" song...

...**Harlan Rips** is named "Camper of the Day" as he accomplished something he never did at camp: He swam to the raft all by himself!...

...We have a nice dinner of challah, chicken...**Steve Shyman** swims the first of three lakera over the weekend...**Dan Lyon** rows the boat and takes incredible videos all weekend...We have a great choose-up softball game...Jake Gordon is "Player of the Game" for his amazing fielding and batting...**Barry Shanoff** hits a nice ball but hurts his *tuchas* on the way to first base...**Warshauer** up to bat gets a double..."Did you see my double?" **Warshauer** boasts to **Lurie** as the teams change sides...**Lurie** comes to bat and laces a triple down the third base line..."Did you see my triple??" **Lurie** exclaims to **Warshauer**...we all feel a little older and sorer later...After dinner the "AK's" have their own tailgate party!...Home was never like this!...The **Kettler's** take a nice canoe ride through both lakes...and folks just wander through the camp remembering...Some folks see their names still written on cabin walls...We lose the **Wax** family halfway through the softball game due to illness, but they will be back soon...**Steve Goldberg** arrives and tells us that his happiest days on earth were spent at camp...many of us agree...

...We have a campfire at the horseshoe where **Buzz Malashock** finally tells the definitive **Wayne Towne** and **Al Greene** riflery story... a starter pistol is involved and the famous refrain "You're off the range for the rest of the year!" ... "Does that mean I am off of the rifle team, too?"**Wayne** is quoted as stroking his chin and uttering the now infamous lament, "YEEEEPPPPP"...

...We sing "Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake to the hills to the sky, all is well, safely rest, God is nigh..." **Dan Lyon** reminds us that the phrase that followed that song was, "Taps in ten minutes!" ... Great memories...Many stay to make s'mores or smoke cigars and have a beer or two...

...Cabin 9 is filled with **Laff's**, Cabin 8 is filled with **Hollobow's**...**Steve Shyman** takes a CIT Cabin...Many sleep in "rooms" at the hotels locally...back packs, lumpy beds at camp...it is all good...

...in the middle of the night the **Garfinkle** clan arrives...we meet them at the flagpole...no **Saunders Brothers** or **Rick Poole**...where are they?...

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...Many campers, staff and families go into town to visit the local watering holes...it is all good as lights out on the first full day of reunion 2006...

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006: Lots of folks up early...**Lurie** and **Warshauer** go on a donut, Danish and bagel run... Koshers? Nope so we eat on the picnic table at the flagpole...**Todd Laff** and his "family" make us all laugh...7:15 AM **George Lamm** arrives...he drove half the night from McHenry to get to camp...glad to have you back...

...Charlie Garfinkle and Sam Johnson (**Todd Laff's** "ward") raise the flag...

...**Karamath Khan** and his family arrive at 9:30 AM and again the camp fills up with visitors...**Warshauer** is the first on the waterfront to tube...**Warren** wonders if there is a vest large enough for him...

...**Mike** and **Greg Berke** and their family hit the beach and sand castles rise from the shores of sand bottomed, crystal clear, spring fed, muck raked, glacier formed Lake Stratton... a man with a pony tail claims to be a camper...Welcome **Scott Levine** and his lovely wife Jeanette...he is the "youngest camper" at this reunion as he attended last in 1987... The **Levine's** are also from McHenry...hey isn't **George Lamm** from McHenry as well?...it takes a reunion to discover people who live in your own backyard!...

...**Jeff Levine** and **Rob Eszak** arrive and want to stay in the CIT Village...they remember all sorts of counselor stories...

...**Wayne Towne** comes sauntering down the path to the waterfront and is trapped by well-wishers for an hour on the same path...he tells many stories especially about the Eagle River trip and saving former camper, **Michael Gordon**, without his glasses...We are allowed as a group to drink beer at camp...as long as it is in a cup...we can also smoke in designated areas...what a concept!...Many look over their shoulder to see if **Skipper, Loretta, Joe, Mae, Manny** or **Lill** are looking...

...Lunch is cold cuts...**Ricky Garfinkle** wonders where his salt pill is?...he recalls **Rosemary Clotiaux, Maxine Greenstein**, and other nurses telling campers to drink lots of water...

...At lunch, **Larry Gordon** and **Mike Hollobow** bump into each other and "The War is Heating up!" ...Blue Team Chief **Mike Hollobow** picks **Todd Laff** as his Little Chief, and White Team **Larry Gordon** picks **Steve Shyman**...

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...The camp meets at the horseshoe to divide teams...families are kept together and kids, wives, campers and staff stare at the Super-Duper Relay list...

...The **Ringel's (Mark and Paul)**, along with **Harlan Rips, Herb Beller, and Barry Shanoff**, take up positions on the raft and bask in the sunshine...they watch with amusement as some of the Blue and White teams practice strange water events...

...Tennis players go and practice the "David Wax Patience is a Virtue" Event... The Little Beaver and Canoe Obstacle course...

...The relay began around 3:10 PM with **Mike Hollobow** and **Jeff Korman** preparing to throw three baskets..."Hey **Hollobow**, let's make them consecutive" says **Korman**, raising the bar...both men have trouble getting the 3rd consecutive basket...**Mike Hollobow** gets it first, now **Korman** has to eat crow and try hard to get the White Team started...the race was neck and neck with hysterical antics with **Stu Sorkin** and **Rick Garfinkle** in one canoe in the obstacle course with the **Levine** couple in the other...nails were pounded quickly by Jake Gordon and **Joel Kettler**...as the excitement built, the lead went back and forth...2nd to last event is horseshoes, with **Mike Lurie** against **Warren Metzdorff**...**Mike** apparently gets his ringer first, only to be honest and declare that it's not...**Warren** really does get the first ringer, and the Blue team is the first to start the fire for "Boil Water Boil...**Lurie** takes his time, encouraged by kind words from members of both teams...**Todd Laff** has the right "tush movement" to fan his fire and give it air...the White team finished the relay in 38:50 minutes and Blue shortly after that at 43:45...everyone went down to the beach for a G-Swim...lots of fun for all involved...

...Flag lowering...a dinner of hamburgers grilled over charcoal...lots of singing with **Joel Kettler** at the mighty 86 (two bad keys on the piano)...the Mess Hall reverberated with the singing of Waupaca, Titanic, Green Canoe...**Wayne Towne** and the officials did a "Relay Wrap-Up on video" and the film should be available online soon...

...Another choose-up softball game with amazing plays...Player of the Game to **Warshauer** who, after bunting, ran with his bat down the first-base line menacing the opposing pitcher (**W. Metzdorff**)...as the ball was tossed to first base, **Warshauer** still wielding the bat, prevented the ball from being caught by hitting the ball again out of fair territory-- naturally he was...safe!...**Larry Lifson, Karamath Khan, George Lamm**, many kids and several spouses played...great fun with a final score of 8-6...

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...A short break and we had another campfire at the horseshoe...meanwhile **Barry Shanoff, Al Sorkin, Harlan Rips, Herb Beller** and **Peter Friend** went to the old Casino and showed off their dancing skills to adoring young women...back at camp, **Wayne Towne** told the story of Chief Waupaca...sad but he concluded with the famous lines, "We are cold and we are hungry and we need new braves"...he was joined by Brave **Larry Lifson** holding a brown paper shopping bag filled with "Eagle Feathers"... (someone asked if it was an Indian Craft bag...) Brave **Larry** mentioned that the braves need new members to form a *Minyan*!...slowly the stories came back to us and **Mike Lurie** and **Paul Warshauer** were made braves, 35 years after the last official Braves ceremony at Camp Waupaca, to help the two other braves...meanwhile during the ceremony, a fire was slowly being started but wood being wet, no men of the Waupaca tribe could start the fire...it took a brave woman, Mrs. Levine, to start it!...

...The Papposes were read aloud and all given "eagle feathers." Andrew Berke, Samantha Hollobow, Sydney Gordon, Jake Gordon, Rachel Gordon, Joe Garfinkle, Charlie Garfinkle, Kazeem Khan, Kamal Khan, Kallin Khan, Kaela Khan, Sam Johnson, with Benjy and Adam Wax in absentia...the Braves created ONE pledge: **Rob Eszak** who promised and "pledged" to help us find long lost alumni...then the addition of Braves: **Larry Gordon, Karamath Khan, Mike Hollobow, and Todd Laff**...

...Amazing night...some of the campers went to the Harbor Bar for more merriment and mingling... it was a wonderful way to end Day TWO of the Camp Waupaca reunion...

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006: very early in the AM, **George Lamm** said his goodbyes and headed back to McHenry to nurse a sore back...**Robert Eszak** and Sam Johnson raised the flag...stoutly souls made it to the flagpole and we then dined on scrambled eggs, toast, potatoes, Coco Puffs, juices, coffee, etc...**Joel Kettler** played "Rise and Shine..." and all of us shook our booty and jumped up and down with the lyrics...

...Outside after breakfast, many goodbyes begin and video tape of all the stories begin to be assembled...**Warshauer** told the story once again about the last year at Camp Waupaca and the **Dennis Bravick** story...**Steve Shyman** did yet another laker...

...Last licks at water skiing and tubing...folks begin to pack up and head back to the city and other destinations...we have a small lunch of leftovers...we thank the cook...some of us take care packages away FROM camp of cold cuts...**Joel Kettler** plays the camp song some others for the last time...he promises to record them and put them on 8-track tapes for all of us...look for a good version of ALL

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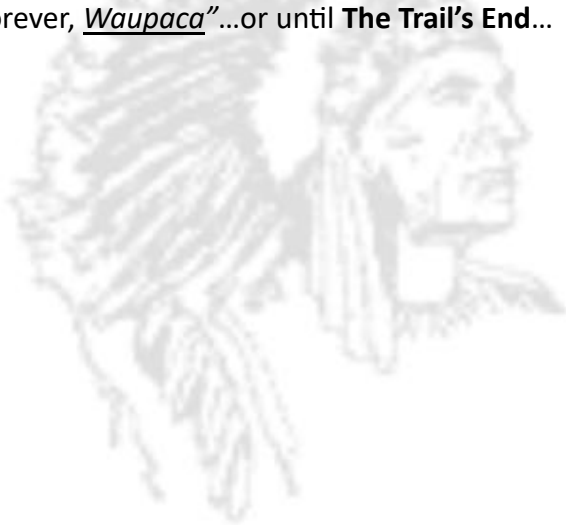
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of the camp songs on the CampWaupaca.com website soon under music...by 1:00 PM the camp is pretty empty and **Mike, Paul** and CYJ Director Daniel Schnitzer pose for a picture...

...**Rick Passman** says the reunion is not over so he and **Paul Warshauer** stay at a local hotel (separate rooms) for another night and once again go to the Harbor Bar on Sunday night...loud birthday party in progress...

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006: By Monday, we are packed and off to Green Bay Airport...many great stories and laughs told en-route...**Rick** gets on a plane headed for Reno, his home...I guess that is the end of the reunion...but the memories are now forever in our heads...the long bus trips to and from camp, making friends, learning something new at camp, having fun... these are some of the happiest memories of our lives... we will meet again on the shores of Lake Stratton, at other reunions..."Forever and forever, Waupaca" ...or until **The Trail's End**...



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