


2024 CWRG Reunion Time Capsule

(as recalled by Big Chief Paul Warshauer and Grand Sachem Mike Lurie – rev 20241010)

[Note: watch for “Easter Eggs” in this document! An Easter Egg is a hidden item. In this document, watch for [underlined blue links](#) to websites of interest. Click on them to go to the website if you want. There are a lot of photos in here! Hover over a picture, and if the mouse cursor changes to a hand icon:  click on the picture for a surprise!]

January 13th, 2024 – Paul Warshauer calls Mike Lurie on the occasion of Paul’s milestone 70th birthday!...“I will be traveling the world this year to celebrate” boasts Paul...he floats the idea of a summer reunion including a stop in the Wisconsin Dells...ride the Ducks, old tyme photos, fudge, but no Tommy Bartlett Water & Ski Show any more 😞 ...

March 2024 – Mike Lurie contacts Rabbi Hannah Wallick, Director at Camp Young Judaea, to discuss plans for a possible Saturday visit to camp in August...August 24th is decided upon and the reunion planning is underway!...

April 7th, 2024 – the first itinerary “subject to major or minor change, with or without notice” is drafted and sent out for review...“We’re starting in the Dells this year, boysssss!” ...

April 25th, 2024 – Mike Lurie receives a phone call from the 715 area code...“Hi, I found a Camp Waupaca sign as I was cleaning out a rental unit. I Googled Camp Waupaca and found you.”...plans are made for Waupaca native Chelsea Bobbe to hold on to this “mystery” artifact, and we will retrieve it when we’re all together in Waupaca in August!...

June 2024 – motel rooms booked in the Dells, and motel / hotel rooms are booked in Waupaca...the word is spread about the reunion via Facebook, our website, and email blasts...Rick Passman sends his regrets: “I just moved to Ecuador and cannot make the trip this year, sorry”...we will keep Rick in our thoughts when we go to all of his least favorite spots in Waupaca, like Chef Chu’s and Brainard’s Bridge...

July 4th, 2024 – the [official itinerary](#) is finalized...“so let it be written, so let it be done” declares Big Chief Warshauer...Lurie makes lots of website improvements, including adding the “countdown clock” at the top showing how much more time until the next get together in Waupaca!...

July 2024 – the website is getting a lot of attention and updates, and that means lots of discussions...we start a “band of brothers” page, documenting all the brothers who attended over the years...we will also add the father/son(s) connection eventually...lots of new material comes from interested and involved alumni, including Lew Klein who posts lots of photos...Mike Lurie harvests these pictures and updates the website...we also hear from Mike Hollobow, Harold Pine, Ken Robbins, Glenn Becker, Jon Juron, Gerald Lasin (an original 1951 camper – he sent his son Steve Lasin to camp 2 decades later!), Linda Fastow-Dosey, Larry Lifson, Jeff Korman, John Rosenberg, Lee Sloane, Paul Ringel, Wayne Towne, Joe Fewsmith, John Everman, Scott Rubin, Aram Adler, Scott Kruger and many more!...

August 2024 – lots of phone calls, emails, and texts to drum up interest amongst our vast alumni group to come join the fun in Waupaca later this month...Gregg Feinstein has been pestering us for DECADES to go to the Dells, but alas he is unable to join us...

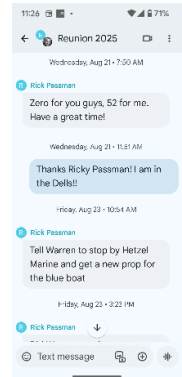
Friday August 2nd – sad news arrives via Dick Garb that his cousin and original Camp Waupaca CIT, Dave Weiner, has passed away...[obituaries written](#), communications sent...our condolences to the Garb and

Weiner families on the loss of this great man, writer of our beloved Camp Waupaca song, and original sponsor of the annual **Dave Weiner** sportsmanship award (later to become the Camper of the Year award)...



Friday August 9th – more sad news pours into the CWRG about the passing of camp nurse **Maxine Greenstein** (1979-1984)...condolences sent to **Danny** and **Josh** and **Dr. Bob**...we all “drink lots of water” in her memory...

Wednesday August 14th – as has been the case since the end of the 2023 reunion, **Mike Lurie**, **Paul Warshauer**, and **Rick Passman** share a text each Wednesday, counting down the number of weeks until the next get together in Waupaca...today we are down to ONE week!...daily countdowns start tomorrow...**Mike** & **Rick** place bets on whether or not **Warshauer** will show up, either on time or at all!...



Saturday August 17th – **Mike Lurie** gets a Facebook Messenger note from **Scott Kruger** – he will be coming to Waupaca next weekend...wants to know if he and his husband can swim the lake...“Well . . .” answers **Mike**...

Tuesday August 20th – **Mike Lurie** loads up his car in Saint Michael Minnesota with EVERY Camp Waupaca item he owns and heads to Chicago to visit his mom, but he has an ulterior motive related to Camp Waupaca...**Paul Warshauer** chooses a lunch spot for tomorrow in the Dells...**Norm Rose** regrets that he cannot join us in the Dells, but will see us in Waupaca...

Wednesday August 21st – **Paul Warshauer** wakes up extra early in Sleepy Eye Minnesota, packs his Native American headdress into the trunk of his black Cadillac, and starts trekking through the countryside of southeastern Minnesota into Western Wisconsin to a rendezvous in the Wisconsin Dells...**Mike Lurie** departs early from his sister’s home in Northbrook Illinois and heads to a cemetery in Milwaukee to visit some dear friends...then **Mike** heads to a [VA cemetery in Milwaukee](#) to find one **Erwin “Erv” Kasian** (1970-1979)...**Bob Mowen** had contacted the VA back in 1997 and they provided information on Erv’s final resting place, all on our website here: <https://www.campwaupaca.com/Erv1.html>...**Brenda Wanty** had tried to find **Erv** decades



ago but was unable to locate the grave...**Mike** finds the cemetery, finds the section, but has trouble finding the grave as well...he picks up on the “pattern” and is ultimately able to locate **Erv’s** final resting place...he records the moment, says some nice words, then gets back on the road to head to the Dells to meet up with **Paul**...

1:00 PM – it is an incredibly beautiful day in the upper Midwest...**Skipper** and **Manny** have clearly set the tone for the next several days...**Paul** and **Mike** meet up at [The Brat House Grill](#) and grab a quick bite before the next event...the menu looks promising, but the result is barely palatable...despite this, the lads do recite “grace” as we did at camp: “Noon time has come, the board is spread. Thanks be to him who gives us bread. Praise God for bread...everyone who lives in Minnesota: For these and all thy blessings, oh Lord we thank thee”...next stop is a ride on the [Original Wisconsin Ducks](#), an Early Bird Trip favorite for many campers over many years...“I wonder if they will have the same ‘shtick’ as before”...at the ticket window, we were told there is a \$6 off coupon somewhere, but we came unprepared and had to pay full price...we queue up and get onto the duck named “Tulagi”...Logan is our 19 year old tour guide...“Is he a good guide?” **Mike** asks the attendant, and he is assured that Logan is the best...Logan provides lots of history and keeps us interested...Chicago Board of Trade statues...Fern Dell...into the Wisconsin river we go...Pulpit Rock and the baby grand piano...Hawk’s bill...crossing the sand bar...details of the 2008 storm that caused Lake Delton to breach the dam to the Wisconsin river and swept away 5 homes,



and emptied Lake Delton for the summer, ending the Tommy Bartlett Water & Ski Show for the season..."do you want to go in fast or slow?"...of course the consensus is fast!..."Look out the back of the duck – do you see that house there? It has absolutely nothing to do with this tour, but now you can tell all your friends that you've looked out the back end of a duck"...roller coaster hill...tight squeeze through Red Bird Gorge, with only 4 inches to spare..."4 inches is plenty" quips our driver Logan!...sniggers heard amongst the passengers...Logan pulls the duck over and give his spiel, kind of like a High Holy Days appeal for money to send him to college...he is a mechanical engineering (1) student at UW Madison...opens the floor to questions...**Mike** asks about the duck hospital and duck cemetery, and Logan plays dumb and says "I don't know what you're talking about"...we head back out on the trail and Logan immediately shows us the duck hospital and duck cemetery, playing **Mike** like a fiddle!...after the duck ride, **Paul** and **Mike** pose for a picture similar to one taken decades earlier, where the lads are shown saluting while standing in front of a duck...they are exhilarated as they make their way to the [Colonial Motel](#) to check in...



4:30 PM - back to downtown for fudge or maybe a new Camp Waupaca plaque to be made...we park behind the building and Paul walks into an open back door (**Mike** says "you go first") to get to the front, oblivious to the implications...**Mike** finds the plaque store, but it's a small kiosk and no one is there, so he calls the number



posted...**Paul** goes into a confection shop and chats up the Jamaican cashier – she is studying to be a mechanical engineer (2)...**Paul** finds a tattoo parlor downtown and gets "CWRG" (Camp Waupaca Reunion Group) "tattooed" on his arm in what looks to be military font...**Mike** spots a t-shirt shop with a clearance rack on the sidewalk: \$3.99 each or 3 for \$10...it is noteworthy only for the t-shirt shown...they head back through the store they came into and walk out the back door to the parking lot...back to the motel for naps and prepare for our special dinner ahead...



7:00 PM – [Ishnala Supper Club](#) is a legend for Camp Waupaca, as it was the destination for anyone who was part of the Early Bird "advance team": after exhausting hours of setting up the campsite for the Early Bird campers, **Wayne Towne** would treat the men (on **Manny's** dime) to a meal at Ishnala for drinks overlooking Mirror Lake, followed by a scrumptious dinner... the "facts" of this last statement are far from reality, but that's a story for another day...**Mike** was never fortunate to be part of the advance team, so this is a special night for him as he had heard many stories about Ishnala during his years at camp...the wait for a table is about 90 minutes, so the two friends of 51 years head to the bar for a cocktail and an appetizer...the bartender is a young man from Turkey, working in the Dells for the season to earn money to go back home to pursue his degree in Mechanical Engineering...wait! There's a pattern here – this is the 3rd person we've met in just 5 hours who is studying to be a mechanical engineer!...maybe all mechanical engineering students come to the Dells for the summer to earn more tuition bucks...**Paul** orders his usual gin & tonic, and **Mike** gets his usual Colorado Bulldog...the

shrimp appetizer is scrumptious...from across the bar, some guy blurts out to us “hey, you two clean up well” ...**Paul & Mike** scratch their heads and then realize it’s the guy from the Brat House where they had their lunch (which was horrible, if you recall)...we acknowledge him cordially, but that’s the end of that conversation...we get to talking to a barmaid and a barback...the barback is cousins with the bartender, and HE is ALSO studying to be a mechanical engineer! That makes 4!!!...the reservation puck starts vibrating, and we head to the hostess stand to get our table seating...after we recite the [Camp Waupaca Grace](#), the meal is good and the conversation is great...after dinner, **Mike** poses for a “Big Chief” photo outside the restaurant...



10:00 PM – back to the motel to plan our next day with the “official” itinerary...the motel person closes up the pool, and we question the legality of the sign that says “It is unlawful to be in the pool after 10 PM and can result in a \$250 fine” ...“Emes??” asks **Paul**...“not really” she smiles back at us...

Thursday August 22nd – the fellas dine at a breakfast joint picked out by **Mike Lurie**, [BJ’s Restaurant](#)...after reciting the Camp Waupaca grace prayer, we enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast served by beautiful recent local high school graduate Becca...she is not going to college, but will pursue her dreams of racecar driving and becoming an “elevator engineer”...“Not a mechanical engineer??” the 2 quip to her...“No, school was never my thing, but I am mechanically oriented” she replies...off to downtown to take old tyme photos at [Old Abe’s](#)...we park behind the building but the back door to Old Abe’s is locked...we finally find an open door – “You go first” advises **Mike** to **Paul**...we walk in and find out we are in a DIFFERENT old tyme photo shop, [Capone’s Old Time Picture Studio](#)...we immediately strike up a fun conversation with them and decide to do our business here...do we want to be gangsters? 1950’s diner? Classic Victorian? Hillbilly’s?!? They decide on old west saloon keeper (**Paul**) and grizzled gunslinger (**Mike**)... we get dressed up and the photo shoot begins...the old man working the camera cannot stop howling at how funny **Mike & Paul** are acting...photo shoot ends and the 3 best pictures are chosen for printing and framing...across the street for some fudge...another non-native cashier, so we have to ask: “Are you studying to be a mechanical engineer?” ...“No, an architectural engineer”...back to the photo studio to pick up our completed pictures and then head through the back of the store to the parking lot...back to the motel to check out and plan our afternoon activities in Waupaca...“**Paul**, you have a very low tire” admonishes



Lurie...“No it’s not, I’m parked on a curb” replies **Paul**...**Mike** isn’t sure and wants **Paul** to arrive in Waupaca safely, so he checks the tire pressure and, well, it’s right where it needs to be...“Still, I’m glad I checked” ...“Let’s meet in the lobby of Comfort Suites in Waupaca” orders **Warshauer**...

2:45 PM - **Paul** arrives just a few minutes after **Mike** does...**Paul** checks in at the [Comfort Suites](#), but **Mike** does not – he is staying at the economical alternative in town, the [EconoLodge](#) (formerly the Village Inn)...“You should stay here with the rest of us, **Lurie**” nudges **Paul Warshauer**...“Nah, I’m saving \$400 by staying at my place” boasts the now retired **Mike Lurie**...



3:00 PM - off to the [Clearwater Harbor](#) to meet up with “Uncle” **Warren Metzdorff** & his lovely wife Anna, and **Ben Zalay** & his wife Karen...lots of hugs and reminiscing...**Ben** asks about an “incident” involving him at camp, something about replacing his baby powder with BAB-O cleaning cleanser...evidently that stuff really burns!...the **Metzdorff’s** and **Zalay’s** depart from Clearwater Harbor



by boat, and **Errol Grisard**, a “one-year wonder” from 1972 joins in...**Paul** departs for a nap before dinner, while **Mike & Errol** catch up...**Errol** is good friends with **Rick Passman** and has been since 1972, and comes to our get togethers fairly regularly (except for 2023 with the excuse of his son getting married – sheesh, some people!)

5:00 PM – the lads finish their beverages and head to retrieve a mystery Camp Waupaca artifact recovered by a local Waupaca native while cleaning out a house in the area...**Mike & Errol** go to the [Kwik Trip at QQ and 54](#), the agreed upon meeting place, to meet with the woman...**Mike & Chelsea Bobbe** exchange text messages, only for **Mike** to realize they are at the WRONG Kwik Trip!...the boys race into town to the [RIGHT Kwik Trip](#) and meet Chelsea and make a video documenting the exchange of the item...it is a Camp Waupaca sign, probably from the 1970s, which will require extensive research to learn more about it...**Paul** notifies everyone to “meet in the lobby” at 6:45 PM for dinner...



7:00 PM – the reunion attendees present thus far arrive at Chef Chu’s, a Chinese restaurant in town at the site of the old Wind Mill supper club...“Too bad **Rick Passman** isn’t here” laments the group...our chatty waitress takes our orders and the Camp Waupaca reminiscing resumes...as we dine, we may have been a bit loud, as we get looks from the other diners...before we know it the place is empty, we must have scared them away! “Actually, it is closing time” says our waitress...“Why is there a \$3 credit card charge on my bill?” demands **Warshauer**...it’s the cost of doing business, the group decides...“Use a debit card instead – no fees for that” suggests **Lurie**...“Let’s meet in the lobby in the morning at 8:30 for breakfast” orders **Paul Warshauer**...**Mike** and **Paul** go to “run an errand” while the rest of the group departs for the Comfort Suites Par 4 Resort hotel...the two long-time friends run their “errand” - to the [DQ](#) in town!...they sit and share personal stories that had not been shared before while enjoying treats...“Day is done” as a busy Thursday comes to an end...



Friday August 23rd – **Mike Lurie** “crashes” the continental breakfast at the [Comfort Suites](#)...**Warren Metzdorff** and **Mike** get into a discussion about the current state of the public school system...as we finish breakfast, **Norm Rose** and wife Becky join the fun...“NORM!”...the Rose’s hand a stack of material to **Mike** for digitizing while in Waupaca...yes, **Mike** came prepared for that!...one of the items is the “photo book” from 1959, that year’s version of a yearbook, including a cabin photo not currently in our digital archives...“Let’s meet in the lobby at 10:15 for our next event”...



10:30 AM – everyone (except the Rose’s) head to [Fleet Farm](#)...**Warren** gets nuts...**Mike** looks for some hardware for a project he’s doing back home, with **Errol’s** help...check out from Fleet Farm and head to [Piggy Wiggly](#) to get lunch for later...“I need to stop at my car” implores **Mike Lurie**...“You don’t need to stop at your car, **Lurie**” bellows **Warshauer**...“Just drop me off, I will meet you at the historical society” huffs **Mike**...just like an old married couple...“How will we keep our lunches cold?” **Mike** asks...“You can put it in my cooler” offers **Warren** – he always comes prepared!...custom made sandwiches are prepared, side dishes weighed out, chips & drinks bought...

Noon – everyone heads to the [Waupaca Historical Society](#) (not to be confused with the Waupaca Humane Society, which **Mike** called it last year!), and **Norm & Becky Rose** rejoin the group... we discuss long term curation of all of our physical artifacts – papers, photos, plaques, etc. – with director Tracy Behrendt, and we receive some direction...we also ask curator Tracey Behrendt about the status of digitizing “The Waupaca County Post” newspapers...she says they did finally relinquish the master books and they are now in the possession of the historical society!...the assembled group immediately starts looking through various years looking for anything related to Camp Waupaca...“Look at these prices” offers Becky Rose...**Paul** takes the summer 1951 book and looks for the article which could be seen in the old Rec Hall...“I found it!” **Paul** exclaims excitedly...“We have this on the website already” **Mike** reminds **Paul**...“But do you have this part from another page?” asks **Paul**...“Yes, yes we do” declares **Mike**...“But do you have this section on a different page?” asks **Paul**...a frustrated **Mike Lurie** says “YES! Don’t you remember us going to the Waupaca County Post offices 2 decades ago, and the staff finding that particular book in an attic, and then copying the article for us??”...“I

don't remember" declares the pre-senile **Warshauer**...the group heads over to [Brainard's Bridge Park](#) along the Waupaca river for a picnic lunch...it's a shame that **Rick Passman** cannot be with us this year to enjoy this event...it is quiet and serene, and we hear lots of stories from new member **Norm Rose**...he also regales us with his athletic prowess, as he still plays competitive sports well into his 70s, even though he looks to be in his 50s... "Let's meet in the lobby at 2:45 to go to Clearwater Harbor" orders Big Chief **Paul Warshauer**...



2:45 PM – everyone meets in the lobby – except **Paul Warshauer**!..."I need a nap" he says wearily...everyone else goes to the [Clearwater Harbor](#)...a white haired man approaches the group – it's **Brian Hale**, a one-year-wonder staff member who taught golf, and was co-counselors with **Mike Lurie** in cabin 9 in 1979!...these two had 45 years of catching up on their personal lives...he asks about 2 staff members that **Mike Euer** brought with him from Missouri: **Roger Foster** and **Joe Moran**...**Mike** shares a story about **Joe Moran** that left the group speechless...**Brian** ran into **Joe Moran** at a restaurant in St. Louis, and he tells another unbelievable story about Joe...**Mike** cranks up the video on his camera and interviews **Brian**...then **Brian** puts a request



to other staff from 1979: "I will come to the 75th reunion of camp in 2026 if **John Schmitt**, **Jeff Pierce**, **Gordy Adams**, **Mark Squires**, **Rick Poole**, **Tony Edmonds**, **Rob Gerowitz** and others come as well" – sounds like a challenge!!...wait – I thought **Paul & Mike** were done with reunions..."Meet in the lobby at 6:45 to go to dinner at Wheelhouse" says **Paul** before dozing off...



7:00 PM – the group arrives at [Wheelhouse](#) to find there is a 45 minute wait...discussions take place about what to do: do we wait?...do we leave???...**Mike Lurie** calls [Simpsons Restaurant](#), a long time supper club in downtown Waupaca and makes a reservation for 7:30 for 7 people..."How do we get to Simpson's from here?" ask a few folks..."Go back to County QQ, turn right, then turn left on to Hwy 22 which will take you right into downtown" a confidant **Mike Lurie** explains...dear in the headlights look coming from the **Warshauer** and **Metzdorff** teams!..."It'll take you right into downtown" **Mike** implores..."We'll go back there way we came" exclaim **Paul Warshauer** and **Warren Metzdorff**..."take the long way" mumbles **Mike**...The **Rose's** arrive at Simpson's first, followed shortly thereafter by **Mike**, as these folks know a good shortcut when they see one!...**Warren** and **Paul** and **Errol Grisard** arrive 15 minutes later...the group orders their usual..."What's good here?" asks Becky Rose...a scrumptious meal is enjoyed by a content group, as they anticipate a Saturday at Camp Waupaca..."Let's go to DQ for dessert" says **Paul**..."There's a Culvers in town, let's go there instead" suggests **Warren**...off to [Culvers](#) to enjoy Concrete Mixers and other frozen custard treats..."Help me out by putting your tables and chairs back the way you found them" suggests a member of the staff...**Mike** takes offense and suggests he will mention this to the manager, as the enjoyment of our treats has been intruded upon by a Nosey Nelly..."OK men (and women): meet in the lobby at 10:45 tomorrow morning to go to camp!" orders **Paul Warshauer**, asserting his Big Chiefness...after a busy day and lots of fresh air, everyone return to their hotels / motels to slumber and think about the day ahead...



...**Warren Metzdorff** dreams about Hetzel Marine, boat propellers...and old man Colden, the plumber...

...**Paul Warshauer** dreams about conducting an original Murder Mystery starring **Todd Laff**, **Ralph Saunders**, and **Scott Rubin** in the replacement rec hall...

...**Errol Grisard** dreams about **Rick Passman**, and thinks about a visit to the Old Beach, and all the beer they would drink if **Rick** was in attendance...

...Mike Lurie dreams about Cabin 7 in 1970, with counsellors **Bob Mowen** and **Howard Resnick**, junior counsellor **Paul "Porky" Steinfeld**, and fellow campers **David Lewis**, **Steve Ornoff**, **Craig Clotiaux**, and **Scott Kruger**, the latter who is expected to be in Waupaca tomorrow...

Saturday August 24th – "Good morning, men! It's another beautiful sunshiny day at Camp Waupaca!"...you can almost hear **Manny Desnet** bellow those words on this gorgeous day today, as we prepare to go to camp!...Mike Lurie's phone buzzes at 9:42 AM – it is **David Kerstein** who is driving up to camp with fellow camper **Steve Fishman**...the lads are now in-laws!..."We will be early and we don't want to go into camp too soon, so where should we go when we arrive?"..."Go to the Comfort Suites and meet **Paul Warshauer** in the lobby" instructs **Lurie**...**Paul Warshauer** is excited to go to camp and leaves the hotel at



10:20 instead of waiting for **Kerstein & Fishman**!...Mike runs into **Warren** at the [Subway](#) next to the EconoLodge, where both are getting their lunches to be eaten at camp!...lunches are bought as we start to head to camp...**Paul** arrives first, followed by **Mike** – we are the only 2 people there, and it is so serene...the weather is perfect 71 degrees with a gentle breeze we sit at the horseshoe...Mike needs to go to the restroom in the rec hall, he realizes the doors are locked...Mike calls a CYJ staff member to inquire, but they are unable to unlock the building at this time..."You can use the restrooms in any of the cabins, they are all open" (remember this for later)...**Paul** and **Mike** call kitchen girl and good friend **Lori Huntoon** to tell her they miss her and wish she was there..."My cousin will be there later with her boyfriend **John Everman**"...

10:57 AM – **Warren Metzдорff** calls **Mike** and asks if **Paul** is with him..."Yes, yes he is" replies **Mike**..."Well, we were supposed to meet him in the lobby at 10:45 to all go to camp together!" bristles **Warren**...OOOPS!..."We're at camp, come on over" offers **Mike**...**Paul** provides the following rebuttal: "I was told that the **Kerstein** party would be at the hotel at 10:15 in the lobby, and they were a no-show, so I left at 10:20 to go about my business and buy lunch and to get to camp first..."...others start to trickle into camp and park by the horseshoe...order of arrival: **Paul Warshauer**, **Mike Lurie**, **Wayne Towne & family**, **David Kerstein & Steve Fishman**, **Norm & Becky Rose**, **Warren & Anna Metzдорff**, **Errol Grisard**, **Scott Kruger & Scott Vermillion**, **Ben Zalay & family**, **Scott Rubin & son Alex**, **Aram Adler**, and **John Everman & Lee Ann Hudziak**...that makes a total of 15 alumni along with 8 guests, a record attendance for a non-rental reunion!!...lots of hugs and introductions..."Let's meet at the horseshoe for lunch at about noontime" orders



Big Chief **Paul Warshauer**...the group scatters to explore camp and recall memories of time as campers and/or staff...areas visited include: dining hall, cabins, "**Barnie Town**", named after **Manny's** silent partners **Bernie Cohen** and **Arnie Gassel**, CIT village ("Where's the fence?" someone inquires..."There was a fence around the Village?" asks another...Mike explains the history, something about **Manny's** daughters being so close in proximity to the horny teenagers), lake shore, old basketball court...**Norm Rose** checks the old hoops court where the old go-kart track was (and still is!)...he ends up on the new basketball court on the tennis courts with glass backboards to shoot some baskets...Mike Lurie discovers some of the original Camp Waupaca bunk beds in **Manny's** unit!...



Noon – precisely at noon, **Scott Vermillion** (**Scott Kruger's** husband) rings the old bell (yes, OUR CW bell!) near the site of the old office...everyone assembles at the horseshoe to dine on various types of lunch food brought individually...before we eat, we recite the [Camp Waupaca Grace](#): "Noon time has come, the board is spread. Thanks be to Him who gives us bread. Praise God for blessings, oh Lord we thank thee..."...**Errol Grisard** offers fresh of visiting and conversations during lunch...everyone cleans up



bread...For these and all thy watermelon to everyone...lots their areas after lunch and



dispose of their trash in the nearby trash can (**remember this for later**)...and preparations are underway for our annual council meeting...Big chief **Warshauer** dons the ceremonial Indian headdress that has been handed down from **Skipper Kuklin** to **Manny Desnet** to **Paul** (well, not really, but it sounded nostalgic, didn't it?? Actually, this headdress was made by **Steve Stoltz** while he was involved with "[Indian Guides](#)")...the annual meeting called to order at 1:17 to the largest gathering ever at a non-rental get together at camp...there are 15 alumni and 8 guests to watch the show...after explaining the "ground rules", EVERYONE has something to

say, completely disregarding the rules!!...first order of business is to elect a slate of council members to a 5-year term, and then to assign officers...**Scott Rubin** is duly re-elected and assigned as the new scribe...**Scott** takes detailed meeting minutes, the best ever recorded!...next order of business is the 2024 [Hall of Fame](#)...we select 2 members each year, marking dedicated service to Camp Waupaca...previous HOF members were



selected by category: 2020 – camp directors, 2021: program directors, 2022: generalists...in 2023: the category method ended...2024 HOF suggestions are made: someone mentions cooks - **Anne Towne** (mother of **Wayne Towne**) and **Andrea Wanty**...**John Everman** nominates the ENTIRE **Wanty** family, as most of the family helped at camp from the mid-1970s through

to the end of camp in 1988...a motion is made, seconded, and passed unanimously for the entire **Wanty** clan to receive one of the 2024 HOF slots...**Mike Lurie** makes a motion to recognize **Ron Lavine** for 19 years as

counselor and program director...after a brief discussion, a motion is made, seconded, and passed unanimously for program director **Ron Lavine** to receive the 2nd 2024 HOF slot...the meeting is adjourned at 2:17...**Steve Fishman** shows me his cell phone, and he has **Marc Margolies** on video call...**Marc** is 3rd generation trucking company, hauling camp gear from homes to camp, and then back after the summer...his family did the trucking for Camp Waupaca!...then **Steve** hands me the phone, where he now has **Phil Barish** on video call!!...after these phone calls, **Steve** says he wants to discuss something in private...he has letters of a rather



"personal" nature from the mid 1970s from a kitchen girl...**Steve** is curious about this girl, so **Mike** agrees to



get in contact with someone who may know...**Mike** reminds everyone he has leftover merch from previous reunions that he wants to sell...several purchases are made...**Anna Metzдорff**, **Becky Rose**, & **Errol Grisard** walk to far fields...**Anna** climbs 12 ft up the rock wall!...**Paul Warshauer** & **Norm Rose** discuss locations of the original archery

& riflery ranges...**Aram Adler** is convinced the old rugby fields have been replaced by forests – they have not...**Mike Lurie** and **Scott Kruger** go inside cabin 7 to reminisce about their summer together (**Mike's** first) in 1970, and a video is made...**John**



Everman declares that the best water in camp came from the "bubbler" outside cabin 7 ("Bubbler" was the name of a water fountain supplier located in Milwaukee)...**Mike** reminds everyone that the separate wells that were scattered around camp were replaced by one main well...both **Scotts** decide to NOT swim in Lake Stratton after all...someone asked about the "new Horseshoe" out past the rugby fields...

3:30 PM – as the end of our stay at camp approaches, **Mike** & **Paul** revel in amazement at the success of this gathering...they consider all the life time friendships that were started just by going to summer camp – for some, only one year was needed...folks start saying their good-byes..."Let's keep in touch"... "Hope to see you again soon"...and everyone starts to slowly depart...before he knows it, **Mike Lurie** is the last person left at camp...the silence is eerie, as he is used to the sound of cabin doors closing, campers playing, water splashing, motor boats circling the lake...he pauses for a moment to remember all the wonderful years he spent at camp, and all the great friends he has from the experience...and as he has done on EVERY visit to camp for over 20 years, along with **Rick Passman** (who was not able to be with us this year), **Mike** put on his hiking boots, went down to the Old Beach using the path behind **Manny's** house, and walked what used to be the Old Beach Trail back to the current beach...the "High winds" of 1983 left a lot of downed trees on the path, making the path challenging to navigate...**Mike** winds his way carefully to the head of the trail on the current beach and hopes he will be able to make this same trek next summer with **Rick**...

5:15 PM – the group meets in the lobby to go to the Wheelhouse – again – for dinner...**Scott Kruger** arrives early and puts in a reservation for 9...parking is tight – again...**Mike Lurie** spots a space close to the door and Paul Warshauer navigates his Caddy into it, but not before lightly scraping someone's side-view mirror!...it's another 30 minute



wait, so we sit on a bench outside to await our table...the first available accommodation is outside on 2 picnic benches, not the most comfortable arrangement for all the old bones!...lasagna with extra meat sauce is ordered by **Mike & Paul**...**Warren & Anna** get a pizza, and so do the **Roses**...**Errol** gets a sandwich, and so do **Scott K & Scott V**...the groups decides on Dairy Queen for dessert...but first we say our good-byes to **Warren & Anna Metzдорff**...“Let's meet in the lobby at 8:45 tomorrow for breakfast” orders **Paul Warshauer**...everyone goes back to their sleeping accommodations, but **Mike & Errol** head to the Par 4 Bistro for some evening cocktails...a Nascar event is on the TV, and they witness several crashes right before the end of the race...



Sunday August 25th – the group actually does all meet in the lobby at 8:45 to head to breakfast!!...“I think this is the first time all week that this actually worked” chuckles **Paul Warshauer**...the remaining reunion attendees head to breakfast at [Waupaca Woods Restaurant](#): **Mike Lurie, Paul Warshauer, Errol Grisard, and Norm & Becky Rose**...**Mike** orders the cinnamon roll for the entire group...it is massive and only costs \$4.50 – such a deal!...before leaving the Waupaca Woods Mall, **Mike** asks the group to make a short, silly video, something about “Let's all meet in the lobby...”...everyone goes back to Comfort Suites...**Norm & Becky Rose** depart, having had a memorable, fun first time Camp Waupaca style weekend...**Paul & Mike** work on the outline for this Time Capsule in the hotel lobby...**Errol Grisard** packs up, then heads off for home in Minnesota...the weather is overcast for the first time this week...exhaustion has gotten the better of the odd couple, so it is time for naps...“Meet in the lobby at EconoLodge at 6 PM for dinner” says **Paul**...

6:00 PM – the lads break with tradition: instead of a hearty supper club type meal, they opt for a fast food meal at [Burger King](#)!...the boys pose for a photo wearing BK crowns...as they leave the restaurant with BK crowns in their hands, not on their heads, a woman waiting for food to be delivered to her car orders us back into the restaurant and to come back out wearing the crowns and walk like royalty!...these Waupaca people are funny!!...**Paul and Mike** head to the “seedy underbelly” of Waupaca – **Paul** makes a quick video, primarily for Rick Passman...another day comes to a close...



Monday August 26th – breakfast is downtown at [Little Fat Gretchen's](#), a staple of Main Street for 13 years now...lots of personal discussion over steel cut oatmeal with raisins and brown sugar...“Do you have almond milk?” asks **Lurie**...after breakfast, the boys make a “Reunion wrap-up” video at a table outside on Main Street:



History of the “wrap-up”; the old men of camp: **Wayne Towne** is 86, **Warren Metzдорff** is 98, **Bob Mowen** is 80-something; 15 alumni this year; possible Diamond Jubilee 75th anniversary reunion at camp in 2026; Dells; Clearwater Harbor; Chef Chu's; **Brian Hale**; get together at camp on Saturday; lunch at horseshoe; council meeting; **Scott Kruger & Mike Lurie** in cabin 7 in 1970; no **Rick Passman** this year (Chef Chu's, Brainard's Bridge – his least favorite places); **Lurie** walks the Old Beach Trail; Wheelhouse; Simpsons; outline for time capsule; Burger King (with crowns) instead of fancy meal;

...the two Camp Waupaca fanatics, and friends for over 51 years, embrace on Main Street, grateful for a successful week of fun and frolic...“Well done” they exclaim to each other...neither are quick to leave, as they don't want this experience to end...but they did their work, planned the events, made the arrangements so that everyone would feel welcome, and were very pleased with the outcome...knowing that so many people had such a memorable and meaningful time this weekend made all the work worthwhile...maybe there WILL be a gala 75th anniversary reunion at camp in 2026 after all...

