



# The KICKER

Established 1910

Spring 2024



There will be plenty of tripping adventures in 2024!

## Lots in Store for the Summer of 2024!

*“Just fill your duffle bag with gear for Dunmore camping, Go pack your trunk and then you’re set!”*

In just a few weeks, campers across the country and the globe will be packing their duffles. And don’t forget to set your watches back an hour, because soon we’ll be living on Keewaydin time!

There is much to be excited about as we anticipate the summer of 2024, Keewaydin’s 115<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps most of all we will look forward to seeing old friends. The grove directors, for example, will all be familiar faces: Ben Jacoff and Carlos Spigel in Annwi; Cameron MacDonald and Tim Anderson in Waramaug; Bill Souser in Wiantinaug; and Owen Gutfreund in Moosalamoo. Other long-time veteran staff will be back too.

Red Dows will once again don his frog cap to lead exploration in and around the lagoon and all over the campus and the mountain. Mig Oppenheimer will make sure the Frolics keeps up its reputation as the finest theatrical production on the north end of Lake Dunmore on Friday nights. Jorge Toro will be back to make an appearance as “Cholula Man” and will, undoubtedly, organize another unforgettable Carnival. Steph Sack (a.k.a. “Water Woman”) will be omnipresent on Keewaydin’s docks teaching campers to swim and making sure the waterfront is run safely. And, of course, Laurie Hare will be helping campers make creative projects at Arts and Crafts.

Though continuity is something we count on, we also know that adding new members to our community makes camp all the better. We will have 82 new campers and 23 new staff. Of those new staff, 17 are former campers. Most of our new campers and staff come from the US, but we also have newcomers

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## The Purple Bandana



*The following is an essay written by Matthew Karrels, reflecting on his 2022 Verendrye trip.*

“Good God, what is that smell?” asked my mother as she rifled through my laundry bag. I’d just returned from my final year at camp, and was now reluctantly unpacking and filing away the past summer’s memories — letters I had received, my trusty crocs, a bucket hat — into various shelves and drawers. Discovering the source of the stench, she reached into the depths of my bag and procured what appeared to be a pelt made from purple roadkill — a bandana. Stained, frayed, irrevocably crumpled, the bandana proclaimed itself a candidate for the trash; however, I could never let that happen. No, this sweat-and-smoke-smelling rag was my encyclopedia of the past summer’s events.

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*Waboos Hare, circa 1954*

## 100 Years Ago, Waboos Arrived at Camp

*Pete Hare gave the following Sunday Circle talk during the summer of 2023.*

Just one week ago all of you arrived at camp. Most of you came by car, some by bus from New York City, and a few of you by plane. When Alfred Hare (a.k.a. Waboos), director of Keewaydin from 1946-2000, arrived at camp as an 8-year-old in 1923, he didn't come by any of those means of transportation. He came by train from Philadelphia to Brandon, VT and then by an open truck to Lake Dunmore! Back in those days, nearly all the campers came by train — from Pittsburg, York, PA, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Staff would be sent down from Vermont to be chaperones. An overnight train, the journey probably had the feel of the trip to Hogwarts in Harry Potter.

In 1923, there was no Annwi, Wiantinaug or Moosalamoo — just Waramaug. The “Waramaug

Wigwam of Keewaydin” was started in 1910 — an offshoot of Keewaydin on Lake Temagami in Ontario. In 1917, Wiantinaug was established, in part as a martial training program, as the country was readying to get involved in World War I. Moosalamoo was founded in 1924, and Annwi several years after that.

Young Alfred fell in love with camp that first summer. With his home life somewhat unsettled — his parents would soon divorce, something uncommon in those days — camp became a safe haven for him. In his first summer at camp, he was dubbed “Waboos” by the director, Major Gunn, who saw this blonde-white hair and knew immediately that Waboos (meaning “white rabbit” in Ojibwe) was the perfect nickname for the young Hare.

He went on trips — the big one was a nearly three-week adventure to Lake George and back, paddling off from the shores of Dunmore and traveling along the Leicester River, the Otter Creek and part of Lake Champlain before arriving at the stunning Lake George. But sports were his first love — especially baseball. In those days, baseball was king, campers and staff playing nearly every day. In 1932, he was awarded best athlete in Moosalamoo.

He joined the Waramaug staff in 1933, where he ran boxing and baseball, and, before long, started a theater program that eventually became the Friday Night Frolics, for which he wrote the song “Keewaydineesi.” His hero as a young staff was the camp director, Sid Negus. Sid was a larger-than-life character with a great sense of humor, a deep knowledge of the animal kingdom and the natural

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# Alumni Family Weekend

August 22-25



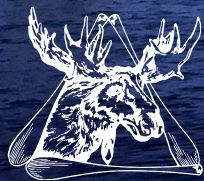
## Join Us on Lake Dunmore!

Introduce your family to all of the camp activities you know and love and show them your favorite places on the shores of Lake Dunmore.

A highlight this year will be a celebration of the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moosalamoo!** We hope to have many former Moos staff back to celebrate with plenty of stories and some presentations.

The entire weekend is family and kid friendly,  
so consider bringing everyone along.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



For details and to register  
[Keewaydin.org/Dunmore-Reunion](http://Keewaydin.org/Dunmore-Reunion)





## 100 Years Ago, Waboos Arrived at Camp

*continued from page 2*

world, and a bit of a mischievous streak. The staff adored him. Then in 1940, the breakup of the Keewaydin Camps Corporation led to John “Speedy” Rush taking over for Sid Negus, and in 1945, his heart broken when his son was killed in World War II, Speedy decided to sell the camp.

The stars were aligned when Abby Fenn, one of Waboos’s closest staff friends, met up with Waboos in July of 1945, while both were serving in Europe during World War II. Waboos was stationed in France, Abby in England, and the two had heard the rumor that Speedy was selling Keewaydin. Abby made a trip over to Paris and met Waboos. They stayed up most of the night discussing the fate of their beloved camp and talked themselves into making Speedy an offer. They later brought their plan

to Slim Curtis, another staff friend. Soon the three of them made their pitch to Speedy and he accepted.

The rest is history! Waboos went on to be the director from 1946-2000 — more than 3,000 campers recruited, approximately 1,200 staff hired, countless *Kickers* read, songs led, Algonquin and Verendrye trips greeted, old staff/new staff games played. But most important was his understanding of human nature, of finding the best in every person and bringing the best out of them. The result was a happy camp, a trusting camp, a place where people were the best versions of themselves, a place of fun and friendship, with a powerful sense of belonging.

A few nights ago, during the Friendship Fire Ceremony, we heard the Keeper of the Fire say the following words:

*“So feel that spark inside of you,  
and pledge to breathe upon it,  
Honor bound to see it burn  
forevermore.”*

*For Keewaydin is a fire,  
warming all who stand beside it  
extinguished if neglect  
should cool its core.*

*“It takes us all, committed to the flame  
And here we are, committed to the flame*

*“Each summer, we return,  
like the fires that burn before us*

*Lit again, within this circle,  
casting light into our life.*

*And as the warm wind  
settles on our shores,*

*We rejoice in our arriving, always  
striving to live by our ideals*

*And if we hold on to that spirit,  
we will never lose the light.*

*Because we hold on to that spirit,  
Keewaydin will burn bright.”*

If Waboos were able to see us all here now, his heart would surely be warmed by knowing that Keewaydin is still burning brightly with this group of campers and staff.



## Lots in Store for the Summer of 2024

*continued from page 1*

who hail from Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, England, France, and Venezuela.

*“Rivers and mountains, we never stall,  
Rangeley’s and Saranacs,  
we’ve done them all!”*

Of course, there will be plenty of tripping! We know where we’ll be going — Green River, Crawford’s Notch, Androscoggin, Verendrye, etc. — but the adventures we will have will all be new.

There will be two wilderness trips. Cam Nevin and Matt Joyall will

lead a trip to the Manicouagan River, while Jakob Adler will join veteran Alex Smith-Bove on the Sakami River.

One unique feature this summer will be the celebration of the Moosalamoo grove’s 100<sup>th</sup> summer! Plans are underway to honor this historic milestone.

There are so many familiar traditions we will look forward to — morning dips, the gong, songs after dinner, the store, boats out, Verendrye paddle-out and much, much more. But we also look forward to the new experiences: What new activities might we try? What trips will we go on?

What will the Hi-Jinks theme be? What new friends will we meet? What new challenges will we face? Each Keewaydin summer is different, an adventure waiting to unfold!

*“I found more than any boy  
could ever want  
on a camp upon a lake  
in ol’ Vermont.”*





## The Purple Bandana

*continued from page 1*

Six weeks prior, seated around the campfire on a buggy July night, I had been presented with the bandana. It's a tradition for the senior-most campers at Keewaydin to embark on a seventeen-day voyage in Quebec's Verendrye Park, a trip I had eagerly awaited for seven years.

This trip of exalted lore would supposedly "make of us men," and was Keewaydin's rite of passage. Circling the fire, my friends and I waited with anticipation to be called as the members of the four different trip crews were announced. At my name's calling, leaping up to embrace the friends who would be my fellow trippers, I was first presented with the bandana.

In the fire's shadow, the pristine royal purple bandana bedazzled with white swirls and stars seemed to be cut directly from the cosmos. In the following weeks, the bandana branded itself onto my being; an irremovable mark distinguishing me and my crew from all others. Preparing for our voyage, the "Royal Rangers" did everything together: meticulously pack food and clothes, study maps, eat meals, loiter in the Adirondack chairs of the "Corral," all

the while sporting our purple bandanas around our necks, foreheads, in pirate fashion, or babushka-style. And so, before even beginning our journey, the Royal Rangers had already formed an unbreakable unity and identity, and everyone in camp knew us by name. Throughout the seventeen days in the woods, my crew, looking like a horde of purple-bedecked Mardi Gras

is striped by light and dark lines, according to how it was folded: some parts sun-stained, others dark with grime and grit. A brown spot from a messy brownie bake, a tear from snagging a branch, a burn from a spray of embers, a stain from hard-worked sweat. My body has long lost the scratches, soreness, tan, and calluses that it acquired on the trip, but the bandana keeps them. At home

in D.C., it's hard to imagine the brutal conditions of life in the wilderness. Amidst showers, clean clothes, and cars, I forget the sensation of sinking chest-deep in muskeg, carrying a canoe on my shoulders, paddling twenty-five miles in the frigid rain, and desiring only a warm meal. But the purple bandana, proudly displayed on a shelf in my bedroom, transports me



*The Royal Ranger Verendrye Crew from 2022 - (L to R): Jack Hedges, Matt Karrels, Chris Sciarra, Caleb Blaustein, Rex Corkins, Edgar Perez; Back: Michael Deschenes*

goers, braved the Canadian woods and streams and portage trails and lakes and mosquitoes with our bandanas ever aiding us: shielding our faces from bugs and the sun, holding our hair, keeping smoke of our eyes, and catching sweat. The bandana had become more than a fashionable accessory: it had become equipment vital to my woodland existence.

Now, the bandana's marks carry the memories of the events of that trip. In zebra-like fashion, it

to that alien reality. I smell the spruce trees, hear my trip leader's walk-up call, "Good morning Royal Rangers!" and remember whispered conversations after dark in the warmth of sleeping bags inside tents. Though the Royal Rangers reside across America, from Los Angeles to Denver to New Jersey, the purple bandana is the chronicle of our arduous journey, and reminds me of the deep brotherhood I share with them—forged by our survival in sylvan bliss.



# THE KEEWAYDIN ANNUAL FUND

Help us carry on the tradition  
of adventure.



Please make your gift today at  
[Keewaydin.org /Give](https://Keewaydin.org/Give)







Mike Tessler brainstorming for Frolics with Waramaug campers

## 1923

The following song, music and lyrics, was written by Michael Tessler and the 2023 Waramaug Dramatics Ensemble, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Waboos Hare's first summer at Keewaydin.

In honor of that little kid from Philly who changed the lives of thousands

Back in 1923,  
100 years seems long to me  
So much has changed,  
so much remains  
But the best of us, it still remains

Just a little boy, who traveled oh so far  
He traveled north, in a railroad car  
His story started in a train's caboose  
Then Alfred Hare became Waboos

Now his name resounds  
On the campus grounds  
And though he may be gone  
He still lives on

### CHORUS

For Keewaydin is a fire  
that burns on without end  
All it takes is a commitment,  
all it needs is a friend

You've got to Help the Other Fellow  
When he's sad and feeling mellow  
Sometimes you need a friend  
To learn to be brave again  
I've got you, you've got me  
There comes a point when  
friends...become family

1945, Speedy Rush's son had died  
And on a foggy Paris street  
Two old friends would meet  
There they made a fateful choice  
As Waboos heard Abby's voice...

They said "Let's buy Keewaydin,  
the place we both were made in!"

The rest is history,  
now it's up to you and me

### CHORUS

2023, now that little boy is me  
Becoming the man I know  
I can be, who will one day  
paddle Verendrye  
On the New York bus  
or the LA plane, or heading north  
on the Philly train

Our story starts in  
different ways, but once we leave  
we'll never be the same

### CHORUS (x2)

# THE KEEWAYDIN STORE!

Check out apparel for  
all the members of the  
family: T-shirts, sweatshirts,  
sweatpants, flannels, jackets,  
hats – you name it!



Baseball Cap



T-shirt



Flannel Shirt

Visit our website at  
[keewaydin.org](http://keewaydin.org)  
and click on Camp Store!



# Alumni News



Eddie Dobson

**Eddie Dobson '46** is living in San Luis Obispo, CA. His three daughters Kira, Tandy and Amber all live close by, as does his grandson and Wiantinaug camper, Jack Dobson. Pete Hare visited Eddie in March. They couldn't find a "fourth" for a game of Hearts (or a "third," for that matter), but they had a great time catching up! Eddie swore he would have "shot the moon" if they had played!



Sandy Hight

**Sandy Hight '52** had a great trip to Mongolia and the Eagle Festival followed by a successful moose hunt in Maine.



Hare and Almeda

**Pete '59 and Diane Hare '83** met up with **Juan Almeda '93** and his partner, Begona, in Madrid, Spain in April.



Brakeley and Chivers

**Sandy Chivers '54**, former manager of Ojibway Lodge, went to see **Sam Brakeley '02** present his new book, *Tramping Te Araroa*, in Hanover, NH in January. The book chronicles Sam's journey on the Long Pathway, the trail that runs the length of New Zealand's South Island.



Kirkpatrick and Oliver

**Peter '60 and Liz Oliver** met up with **Joanne and Bob '60 Kirkpatrick** in Delhi, India, where they spent a fortnight with ten other couples, all from the UK, touring north-central India. They traveled from snowy Shimla in the lesser Himalayas to Jaipur and then onto the "Palace on Wheels" for a rail journey that included six other cities in Rajasthan and ended in Agra with a visit to the Taj Mahal. They hadn't had so much excitement since their 1969 Lake George Trip!



Alders and Moritz

**Dan '74 and Jakob '12 Adler** traveled to Israel in February. Guess who they ran into in Tel Aviv? That's right, **Mike Moritz '06**! Mike has been living and working in Tel Aviv for the past two years. The three caught up over dinner.



LA event

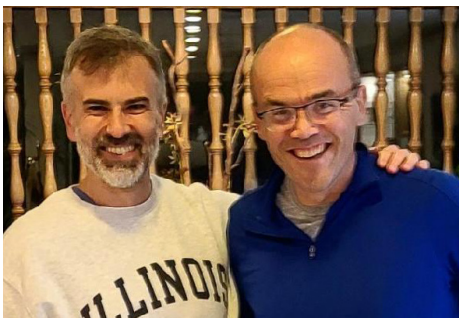
**Breck '79 and Georgia Eisner** hosted an alumni gathering in March at their home in Los Angeles. **Breck and Pete Hare** enjoyed catching up with former campers and staff **Mike Tessler '05, JC Chavez '03 and Israel Ramos '06**.



Angelo, Eisner, Diamond and Adler

The 1970s and 1980s were well represented at the alumni gathering at the Eisner home as well. **Jack Angelo '79, Breck Eisner '79, Jesse Diamond '80 and Dan Adler '74** enjoyed reminiscing about the "old days."





Melchor and McFerran

**Sam McFerran '85** traveled to Marbella, Spain in November, 2023 and was able to connect with **Pablo Melchor '89**. The two were campers together in the late 80s and early 90s.

**Oren Jay Sofer '88** has a new book out this Thanksgiving, *Your Heart Was Made for This: Contemplative Practices to Meet a World in Crisis with Courage, Integrity, and Love*, which explores how we can cultivate inner resources to live more meaningful lives and engage more effectively with the challenges of our times.

**Ron Cannell '89** traveled to Venezuela in the fall of 2023 to visit **Diana '22** and **Jorge Toro '71**. The Toros showed Ron some of the natural beauty of their country!



Cannell and Toro



McCurdy wedding

**Scott '89** and **Debbie McCurdy** were married in March in California. In attendance were **Nathan McCurdy '13**, **Caleb McCurdy '13**, **Will McCurdy '09** and his wife, **Julia**, **Chris Miller '96**, **Emily Miller '13**, **Heather Miller '05** and **Zach Miller '17**. Chris Miller was the officiant!

**Sam Stern '90** has announced his candidacy to become the next State Attorney for Palm Beach County, Florida.

**Matthew Greenfield '95, PT, DPT** has created an online therapeutic exercise program called The Prehab Program. It is meant to help decrease risk for injury and keep your body feeling good throughout the stresses of the day. [www.DrMattAcrobat.com/prehab](http://www.DrMattAcrobat.com/prehab)

**Bill Souser '96** traveled to Colombia this spring where he connected with **Niall Butchart '17**, **Sergio Acosta '19**, **Santi Zuluaga '18** and **Nico Echeverrey '22**.



Butchart, Acosta, Zuluaga, Souser, Echeverrey

**Cole Clark '04** has spent the off-season performing at venues in and around Phoenix, AZ. He looks forward to returning to camp this summer!



Cole Clark

**Julian Danzinger '04** married **Sarah DeLozier** on January 15, 2022. He works in Investment Banking at Wells Fargo in the Technology, Media and Telecom area in New York City

**Michael Tessler '05** bumped into **Jack Angelo '79** at a fundraiser for a congressional candidate. Nothing better than a taste of camp, so far from Dunmore, in the height of the off-season.



Tessler and Angelo



**Nathan McCurdy '07** spent the 2023 fall semester in Paris, France, where he studied economics and accounting, but also took courses in architecture, the history of France, and French. He was also able to travel throughout Europe, including to Madrid, Brussels, and Monaco.



*Thomas Zottos*

**Thomas Zottos '12** is finishing his commercial pilot's license and is running his own air charter service business.



*Andrew Cochran*

**Andrew Cochran '15**, a freshman at The University of Vermont, is currently playing as a professional on the disc golf circuit. In October, he won the Vermont State Disc Golf Championship, held at Smuggler's Notch, by 1 stroke over a fellow

UVMer. When not playing in tournaments, he can be found at the local disc golf courses with fellow Keewaydineesi **Angus Barstow '11** who introduced him to disc golf.

**David Melchor '16** is studying Mechanical Engineering. He wishes he could be canoeing more often!



*Reed Sikowitz*

**Reed Sikowitz '16** was elected Captain of the undefeated Gold Medal Winning Maccabi USA Boy's Under 16 basketball team. His team was undefeated and won the Gold Medal at the international championships held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in January.



*Finn Ahrens*

**Finn Ahrens '16** played lacrosse for the Netherlands during the 2023 World Lacrosse Championships in San Diego. He was able to connect with a multitude of athletes from around the world and share the love of the game: a truly unforgettable and rewarding experience.



*Mirman, Romero and Ahrens*

This past summer, **Finn Ahrens '16**, **Gabriel Mirman '12**, and **Elias Romero '14** backpacked around Europe, spending a majority of their time in the Swiss Alps hiking and taking in the amazing views. They also were able to visit Italy as well as France where Gabe and Elias were able to practice their French.

**The Connell Family (John '19, Rebecca P'19, Jack '89, and Emma '21)** moved from Boston to Vermont this past summer. They will be moving into a brand new house in Richmond overlooking Camel's Hump in Spring 2024 and are enjoying life in the Green Mountains and glad to be closer to beautiful Lake Dunmore.



*Mike Sanderson*

**Mike Sanderson '22** studied abroad in Tanzania during January with a trip through Elon University. As a



part of the month abroad, his class climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Mike brought a piece of camp along to the summit!



*Charlie Goldberg*

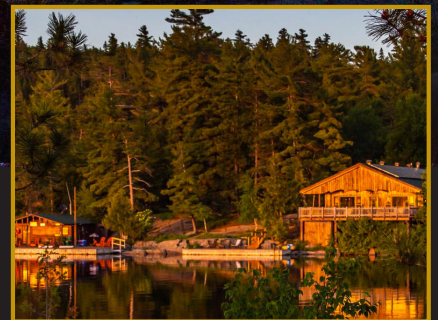
**Charlie Goldberg '23** is spending a gap year doing many interesting things, including hiking in India! Here he is in the Kumaon region of India.

Current staff **Yesid Rodriguez '23** spent much of this off-season leading expeditions throughout South America, from the volcanos of Colombia to high mountains Peru, and, finally, in the Patagonia! All of these were spectacular, though he says he can't wait to be back at camp this summer and climb majestic Mt. Moosalamoo!



*Yesid Rodriguez*

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# Keewaydin Foundation 2024 Calendar

May 31 - June 2	John Watson Work Weekend in Vermont
June 21 - August 12	131 <sup>st</sup> Season for Keewaydin Temagami
June 21 - 25	Ojibway Family Lodge Work Party
June 23 - August 17	115 <sup>th</sup> Season for Keewaydin Dunmore
June 23 - August 17	26 <sup>th</sup> Season for Songadeewin on Lake Dunmore
June 28 - August 26	101 <sup>st</sup> Season for Ojibway Family Lodge
July 11- 14	Alumni Family Weekend on Lake Temagami
July 17 - 20	Midseason at Keewaydin Temagami
July 20 - 21	Midseason at Keewaydin Dunmore and Songadeewin
July 27 - 28	Board of Trustees Meeting on Lake Dunmore
August 4	Islander Potluck Dinner at Ojibway Family Lodge
August 10	Paddle-In at Keewaydin Temagami
August 22 - 25	Alumni Family Weekend on Lake Dunmore
September 2 - October 11	KEEC Fall Season
October 21	Board of Trustees Meeting and Alumni Reception, NYC

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