



THE LION'S ROAR

Fall 2022



Save the Dates

November 29:
Giving Tuesday

March 4:
Green & Grey in Peabody, MA

Sept 1-4:
Friends Weekend 2023

Welcome from our new Board President, **CHRIS BOND**

Dear O-AT-KA Friends and Family,

It is with great energy and excitement that I step into the role as O-AT-KA's new board president. I know I have large shoes to fill after John Hall's term as the president. I am up for the challenge

and truly honored to be following his great leadership and stepping into all of our successes here at camp.

My journey at O-AT-KA began in the early 70's when I started as a camper in the middle unit. I spent over a decade as both a camper and counselor, and I have been blessed to share my O-AT-KA experience with my father as well as my three sons who all attended camp. I returned to camp with my wife Stephanie in 2018 and 2019 serving as the junior unit head. That experience was amazing and gave me some perspective on the challenges that face camp today. More



Outgoing Board President John Hall with Chris Bond

“I am thrilled to be taking on the role as president at such a pivotal and prosperous time in our camp’s history.”

recently, we have enjoyed serving as camp volunteers taking boys tubing on adventure days, doing airport runs and whatever else was needed. We are only a short boat ride across the lake on Frye Island so it has been easy, and fun, to stay engaged.

I am thrilled to be taking on the role as president at such a pivotal and prosperous time in our camp’s history. Camp recently completed a historic capital campaign that raised over 8 million dollars. Our most iconic buildings have been revitalized and we have built the foundation of an endowment that can ensure that deserving boys can experience the magic of O-AT-KA well into the future. We celebrated our success with a memorable weekend with over 100 alumni and donors here at camp in late August. It was so much fun and a perfect way to end another incredible season at camp.

I really look forward to serving O-AT-KA as the new board president and continuing the great work of keeping our camp and its mission (and future) very bright. Each of you plays a role in supporting camp, and I want to thank you for being here and being a part of our camp family. I look forward to meeting many of you and seeing you all on the shores of Sebago Lake!

Warmest Regards,
Chris

Celebrating a successful and historical **CAMP(aign)!**

Alumni, Donors, staff and friends of the O-AT-KA community came together at camp on Saturday, August 27 for a weekend to celebrate the success of the “Building Boys for the New Century” Campaign.

The historic \$8,000,000 campaign exceeded its goal in December of 2021 thanks to the wonderful spirit and generosity of the O-AT-KA community. Physical changes such as upgrades on the Great Hall, Commons, and Bungalow are all spectacular; and additions such as the Curtis Tong Tennis Center are beautiful representations of what we can do as a community. Funds have also boosted camp’s endowment and set the foundation to support deserving boys with scholarship aid for generations to come.

Following a wonderful celebration dinner prepared by former Head Chef and current Wedding chef, John Hicinbothem, the leadership heard from Executive Director Heather Plati, recognized outgoing President John Hall (and surprised him with board emeritus status), heard from Campaign co-chair David Carlson, and thanked Board member Mary Anderson for her design, execution and oversight of the Bungalow furnishings and interior. The night was capped off with dessert and a performance by local acapella group, “Northern Pitch” and a firework display over Sebago Lake.



Congratulations to our newest **O-AT-KA HEROES**

On Sunday, August 28, 2022, we inducted and celebrated four new heroes as we closed out our campaign celebration weekend at

O-AT-KA. The service and induction ceremony were held in St Andrew's Chapel followed by refreshments in the Bungalow. Thank you for your service to camp and congratulations to David Clark, Peter and Marsha Traill and John Hall.

David "Cooky" Clark came to camp in the 1960's and was a staff member from 1970-77. David picked up his nick name due to his interest

and job in the Commons. For many years Cooky has arrived at the beginning and close of camp to help open and close the property. He works independently and quietly to give back to camp and he and his wife Phyllis are generous contributors to the recent capital campaign. Both have included O-AT-KA in their estate plans.

Cooky lived in Falmouth, Maine for many years and served on the town planning board. Currently living in Delray Beach, Florida, he is also deeply involved in his alma mater, Connecticut College, where he has served as the president of his class, Maine Chapter president, reunion committee chair and a member of the alumni board for 25+ years.

Marsha Traill served on the board of directors for many years. Her expertise as a lawyer has served camp well. She assisted with property issues that included Outer Island and the Brunell property and, most recently, was a part of a team of lawyers who helped camp successfully readjust our tax payment with the Town of Sebago. Marsha and her late husband **Peter Traill**, grandson of the camp's founder E.J. Dennen, have been steadfast supporters of camp and

their devotion to O-AT-KA over the decades has been an inspiration to all who know and love them.

Since 1906, in every period of the life of O-AT-KA, there have been leaders whose contributions have been life-saving. **John Hall** is in this category. As a camper in the 1950's, John returned to an active role as the board treasurer over twenty years ago. He advanced to president and currently completed his term of service in July 2022. There were many lean years of camp when the line of credit was exhausted. John has administered a transformation to the present time when the large debt that the camp had carried is nearly paid off and O-AT-KA completed its largest capital campaign of \$8 million. John has constantly looked to the future to identify key issues, tackle them and lift the O-AT-KA community to a level and hopeful place.



Summer **HIGHLIGHTS**





Candelight Password by **KING GEORGE MILLER**

When was the last time that you thought about something good about home... while at home? I know that's a weird question for everybody. Consider this. Do you think about the pleasures of your home when you are AT home? Your video games, your family, your friends, your favorite foods, your bed. When do you stop and think about it? You don't think about these things when you are at home. When I'm at home I think about how annoying my sister can be. I think about how my dogs bother me all the time; from the time I wake up to the time I go to sleep. I think about the times that my Dad makes me go to the store to get some nonsense item.

When away, I appreciate the time my mother puts into my family's meals. I think about the good times that I have with my dogs, and I think about the conversations I have with my family.

I remember when I was a camper looking at the negative parts of my summer while at camp. But when I step away after every summer, I always appreciate all the great memories that I have at camp during the summer. Jasper Bennett has said that, "a great thing about camp is it is like a book" and I have made myself a book of camp and my story.

Chapter 1: 2010

The two things I remember are Artem from Russia telling me to go sweep the Commons. And my one line in the camp play was, "I'm George Miller and I'm running for President!"

Chapter 2: 2011

This summer was filled with rage against the one and only Sam Kumler over Magic the Gathering. Sam, I won at least one of those games; whether you like it or not.

Chapter 3: 2012

The summer it rained more than it was sunny and everybody got bit by

mosquitos. And my CIT was the only other person in the entirety of camp from my hometown.

Chapter 4: 2013:

"Just another summer" as everybody would put it. Minus this being the first time I slept on the platform at Green Ridge. I had been to Green Ridge, seven times before and had yet to sleep on the platform.

Chapter 5: 2014

FIVE Years! Already? Well, I'll just keep dancing to K Pop with the one and only Zeno Marquis.

Chapter 6: 2015

My experience with a certain rock inside my ear. I look back at that trip and how bad it was. But stepping away from that summer, I now see it was the most major hike I had completed and gave me my core group of friends including Brendan "The Cheetah" Strey.

Chapter 7: 2016

When I took the trip to Richardson Lakes and my canoe-mate's paddle broke. I was so tired after that day. I look back on that trip and realize that it was the first time Gavin Shaub and I had deep conversations.



Chapter 8: 2017

The summer I amazed the “one and only” Cole Macleod with my ability to sing all of Tom Jones’ “It’s Not Unusual.”

Chapter 9: 2018

Multiple instances of nonsense in Warwick. Whether it was the dancing to “Fool on the Hill” by the Beatles and the ridiculous recorder solo, screaming “Victor” at the top of our lungs, or our legendary trip to Coos Canyon and Tumbledown where I hiked a mountain on no sleep. I was knighted by my former counselor, Will French, and gained a greater appreciation for this place.

Chapter 10: 2019

My first year on staff and I was Head of Pottery, and the Jester of the King’s court. I created friendships with people I had been at camp with before but had never really interacted with.

Chapter 11: 2020

COVID. No camp. I worked at an ice cream store and Five Guys while dreaming of the times I had at O-AT-KA. I gained a very big appreciation for this place by not being here.

Chapter 12: 2021

Coming into this summer I had no



expectations for what the summer was going to look like. I was Head of Pottery again and I was elected Chaplain in what felt like a dream. This summer strengthened bonds with many people I consider friends for life and created others with new staff members like Jay, DJ, Emmett, Eli, El Gato Gordo, Colin; and even though he tried to overthrow me...Kahil.

Chapter 13: 2022

I achieved the pinnacle for many counselors at Camp O-AT-KA. Head of multiple crafts in different areas, Head of the Goff Center, most senior counselor in my unit, and of course being King. I appreciate everything

about this place. Whether it’s the lake, the trees, or the wide spaces of the fields.

Whenever I leave camp, I always experience Phantom-Bugle-Syndrome. It’s not really a diagnosable condition, but I know I have had it before and will have it as I go to Savannah.

When you leave Camp, you will look at all the good times you had and see that you have beautiful memories of your time with your friends. Fill your chapters with your summers at camp. It will be fond memories because when you are not here, you won’t remember how cold the lake might have been, how annoying your cabinmates were, how tough a craft was, or how bad the weather was. You’ll remember the times you loved the lake, the times your cabin was amazing; whether it was its cleanliness or its win during O-AT-KA day; when you finally understood a concept in a craft, or the one day where the humidity and due point weren’t over 80.

As the summer closes, write your chapter for this summer and bookmark it for next summer.

**The password for this summer is:
Fill your chapters**



Staff Spotlight

SAM KUMLER

1. Name and current role at camp, what crafts are you involved with?

My name is Sam Kumler and I am a cabin counselor, Head of Basketball, Head of Archery, and an instructor in Sailing and Soccer.

2. How many years at camp and what positions have you held? Were you ever a camper?

I've collectively been at camp for 8 years. Five as a camper and three as a staff member. I've been

a cabin Counselor in both the Senior and Junior unit.

3. How did you first become involved with camp, any family or friend connections?

My grandfather was a counselor and then my dad and uncle were both counselors. They were both eventually a King In the Order of Sir Galahad. The first time I remember visiting camp was in 2006.

4. What were your first years at camp like (even if you started as a staff member)? In your personal experience, how has camp changed over time, and how has it remained the same?

I loved exploring camp and it felt like home because of all the family friends that also happened to be at camp. When I arrived the first people I met were strangers but then throughout time they became family as well.

I've seen the craft offerings have expanded throughout my years at camp, making it possible to explore different varieties of interests. There still remains the level of comfort by being

constantly surrounded with friendly people.

5. What is your job and/or where do you go to school? What does your life outside of camp look like?

I am currently a sophomore at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. I am a double major in Economics and Molecular Biology & Biochemistry. I play on club teams for soccer, basketball, and ultimate frisbee; as well as being part of the Wesleyan Student Assembly.

6. What are your hobbies and interests (other than camp)?

I like cliff jumping, playing cards, listening to music, playing the piano, and anything that can keep me active.

7. Favorite activities/events at camp?

I have always liked council ring, camper counselor (camp wide hide and seek), and watching the theater productions that are organized and performed by campers and staff members.

8. Favorite meal at camp?

My favorite meal at camp is BLT's and any pasta dish that is served.

9. What are you most looking forward to about returning to camp next summer or in the future?

I am most looking forward to seeing familiar faces and continuing to watch everyone grow up. I also will continue to contribute to the beloved rock garden.

10. What team are you on and who will win in 2023 - Green or Grey?

I'm on the Green team and am betting on a win next summer!

Sam was interviewed by Collin MacLeod, Communication Intern for O-AT-KA. Collin is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine and has been coming to O-AT-KA since 2018. During the summer, Collin is a cabin counselor in the senior unit and Head of Racing Sailing.

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boys summer camp



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