



# TOHKOMEUPOG

summer camp for boys



ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
WINTER '18/'19

EST. 1932

## .....2018 Camp Tohkomeupog Recap.....

The 2018 summer was another fantastic one in the Valley, our 87th year of bringing outdoor adventure, friendship and opportunity. We had great weather, and we were fortunate to have 100% returning staff. The American Camp Association visits Tohkomeupog every three years, and we were due in 2018. I'm happy to report that the visit went extremely well, and the result is that we're now reaccredited for the new five year cycle.

We had another excellent group of staff, with everyone having been here for multiple summers. All of our directors were veterans, as well. Don Barton returned as Assistant Camp Director, John Sexton at the Waterfront, Jason Cicero in the Bear Clan, Stevo Harding in the Deer Clan, Jon Quade in the Panther Clan, and Dan Bowers in the Wolf Clan. John Petersen returned to the Riflery Center, Tim Folsom was back overseeing Tennis, and Sean Petersen ran Archery. Helen Crowell and Bob Burton returned as RN's in the infirmary, helping to keep everyone healthy. Dawn Petersen was back in the office and store, but she's best known for her photo taking (thousands of them!) and her postings of them for families to see all the exciting action at camp. Last, but certainly not least, Lisa Bowers returned to help out in the kitchen and store as well.

There were many highlights in the 2018 including a new totem pole that John Petersen spent countless hours crafting. Various mountain, river, mountain biking, and climbing trips provided amazing experiences for campers and staff alike. A return to Whales' Tale Waterpark and another trip to Portland, Maine to take in a Sea Dogs game were popular outings, as well.

Summer 2018 was another incredible season, and we're busy preparing for 2019! Plans are in place to rebuild Cabin Doublehead in the Deer Clan. We also plan on adding another totem pole to the lineup area. We hope to see everyone return to the 2019 Alumni Weekend; it will be held over Labor Day Weekend (August 30 - September 2, 2019).

Kestay,  
Andrew Mahoney, *Tohkomeupog Director*



*Above: All-Camp Trip Day on top of Mt. Moosilau  
Below: John Petersen and the group of Tohko boys in front of the Totem Pole that John created in front of flag pole!*



### WOOLEGAN!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE NEW RANGER PROGRAM:

JOHNATHAN MATSKO, AAARON RITENOUR, AND IVAN ARESO-YEBRA

See [WWW.TOJKO.COM](http://WWW.TOJKO.COM) for information about Camp and the Alumni Association.



## •• *Tohkomeupog Abroad: Surviving Disaster with Camp Skills* ••

By Louis Gatrot

I was at school when I first heard about Hurricane Irma. On the 4th of September, the government of Antigua had issued a “Hurricane Warning” for the islands of Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Nevis. This made us worry less since we weren’t mentioned. However, over the next few days though, school had to shut down the day before it hit, and we felt the air pressure change and the attitude of the people around us also changed. That’s when we realized Irma was going to hit our island.

When we arrived home after school, my family and I started to prepare the house for what was going to be the strongest storm on record to exist in the open Atlantic region. We set tables against each of our shutters so they wouldn’t collapse into our house and destroy the insides. After our preparations, I looked outside my window and started to see trees bend, the wind started picking up, and the car alarms started sounding. I went under my covers and quickly fell asleep.



*A picture of the damage after Hurrican Irma in Antigua.*

I woke up to the sound of my mother’s knocking on my wooden door with only five hours of sleep feeling extremely grumpy. That feeling quickly left when I opened my door to go in our living room where my family was. I felt a huge gust of salty tasting wind as I ran to my family. We were all nervously pacing around the room when we decided to find refuge in my siblings’ bedroom. We were all sitting down for a while until we heard shutters breaking. We knew we had to act quickly because the wind which blew at 185 miles per hour would enter our house and destroy everything. We placed my sibling’s bunk bed in front of our door, adding closet and two desks for more protection. We all had to push against the door because that wasn’t enough to stop the force of the wind. Every now and then a powerful gust of wind would slightly push our door and let air enter and escape rapidly. This change in air pressure hurt our eardrums. We stayed in a hold position for three hours. I took a 30 min power nap in between due to my high stress levels. After awakening, I held the door for another hour. We felt the wind decreasing rapidly and realized we were in the eye of the storm. We took this opportunity to observe the damage and were horrified upon stepping outside. Gates were brought down, rooves were torn apart, cars were destroyed, and it seemed as if a bomb just landed in our Pelican neighborhood. Once the eye had passed, the backside of the hurricane came upon us and we all quickly took refuge in the room for another 3 hours. After the hurricane passed, we slowly started our cleanup.

The reconstruction part of the journey was probably the hardest. Not physically but mentally, seeing all the destroyed material and losses. Every day we worked for countless hours cleaning broken glass, leaves, zinc, and almost every household object imaginable. Each family member had a job for our survival. However, my three years at Tohkomeupog before Hurricane Irma helped us during the reconstruction period with my wilderness skills. I cut down numerous trees with an axe, started daily cooking fires with my brother, Gaston and countless other necessities. Knowing I was returning to Tohkomeupog after the Hurricane gave me a place to escape to. The thought of being in a beautiful and natural setting, untouched by mother nature’s rage gave me a sense of peace and hope.

### WOOLEGAN!

#### *Congratulations to the C.I.T. Class of 2019:*

BRIAN ENGLE, DAVID LABOMBARD, CHARLIE LONDON, RYAN MCGLAUGHLIN,  
PJ MCMANUS, EVAN MOREFIELD, GRAYSON NOYES, JACK SHAMBAUGH





## ... Valley Design: How Camp Influenced My Architecture ...

By Noah Medlinsky



*Designed by myself, a pavilion that's design influence was rooted in a curated natural reservation located in upstate New York, using the structure and shapes of flowers to create an overall aesthetic*

I spent the good part of every summer in the Valley from age 9 to 22. That is 26 months of my life that were spent exploring not only the beauty that surrounds the area around camp, but also what the amazing White Mountains behold as well. With that much time at Tohko every summer, I had ample opportunities to take on any trip I wanted, most of which were hiking. This resulted in my accomplishment of hiking all the 48 Four-Thousand Footers in New Hampshire, in addition to hiking some of them more than once. At face value, these trips provide amazing experiences that push your mental fortitude and ignite feelings that you thought could never fester in yourself, as well as force you to try things you never thought you'd ever do. However, if you looked past the physical and mental barriers that any trip threw at you, some could realize that each of those opportunities gave you a unique insight into an amazing natural wonder. These extraordinary locations and natural phenomena that I saw during my myriad of trips set a foundation for ideas that are the basis for my architectural career: making built spaces emotive, while creating unique experiences for those who experience them.

One instance of a trip that personifies the way this design principle is a Panther Clan staple, Mahoosuc Notch. One of the few trips outside of the borders of New Hampshire, for those of you who were fortunate enough to hike through "The Notch," know how special of an experience it is. When you descend from the trails running down the two converging cliffs to a surreal boulder maze below, covered in steam that lifts from the year-round snow nestled beneath the rocks, you know you've stepped into something special. At face value, the description of the area doesn't sound that outstanding, but there is an indescribable feeling you get when you start to feel that cool breeze from the hidden snow converging with the summer heat, and see the resulting mystifying steam, that makes it undeniably one of the most unique natural phenomena you can experience. This type of feeling is something I believe that architecture can achieve, and some does. Obviously architecture doesn't need to spew a cool steam and force you to slide your backpack through crevices to navigate your hallway, however the way spaces are organized, articulated and lit can all have profound effects on how you feel when you enter and exist in a building.

Fast forward to a graduate program in architecture, and I realized how much of those amazing experiences in the woods of New Hampshire and Maine shaped the way I could design architecture. For obvious reasons, the natural world is, and will always be, a huge primary influence on architecture because it has always provided the most primal shelter and built space throughout all history. However, I realized that most of the people I worked with lacked the same understanding that I did of the natural world, especially in regards to places as unique as the wilderness of Northern New England. Something that I seemingly took for granted early in my life, turned out to be a foundation for my creativity and my career.

### KINKEEGWAN!

#### *Donate to the Alumni Association*

PAYPAL: [HTTP://BIT.LY/TOHKOALUMNIDONATION](http://bit.ly/tohkoalumnidonation) OR  
MAIL A CHECK (MADE OUT TO "CAMP TOHKOMEUPOG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION") TO:  
ROSS FALDETTA | 15 ALBEMARLE ST. APT. 6 | BOSTON, MA 02115

# CAMP NEWS & NOTES

## NUPTIALS!

- MATT CROFT MARRIED LAUREN TOTMAN ON JULY 29TH, 2019!
- BENJAMIN RICH MARRIED STEPHANIE LUBIN-LEVY ON NOVEMBER 3RD, 2019!

## ENGAGEMENTS!

- TOM LATRONICO GOT ENGAGED TO AMY SCUPIN ON DECEMBER 22, 2018!

## BIRTHS!

- ADELAIDE SHAINA BERMAN WAS BORN TO KEITH AND LARA BERMAN ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2018!



*Alumni Gather at Benjamin Rich's Wedding.  
From Left to Right: Sam Kellogg, Stevo  
Harding, Benjamin Rich, Stephanie Lubin-  
Levy, Matt Bruno, Nate Gordon and Doug  
Belliveau.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

### ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd**

This year we are excited to announce that Alumni Weekend will be on Labor Day weekend! Say "Hi!" to an old camp friend and invite them back to the valley if you plan on attending!

### NEW YEARS 2020

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31st - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st**

A gathering will occur in the valley to ring in the New Year! Further information to follow, but save the date! Contact Reid Lavoie with any questions or comments!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The Alumni Board would like to thank all the alumni and their families that returned to the valley last summer for an amazing Alumni Weekend! We had a productive Annual Alumni Board meeting, a great cookout with amazing live music, and heartfelt tribute to recently passed alumni, Ian Fair. Once again, thank you to the wonderful group of people who returned the Valley and made for such an unforgettable weekend. We hope to see more familiar faces in the Valley for Alumni Weekend 2019, during Labor Day weekend!



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? KNOW OF SOME TOHKO ALUMNI NEWS?

EMAIL THE ALUMNI BOARD: [TOHKOALUMNIBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TOHKOALUMNIBOARD@GMAIL.COM)

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