

# NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

A Primitive Camp for Boys Ages 10-14  
[www.nighteaglewilderness.com](http://www.nighteaglewilderness.com)

Fall 2018-2019 (802) 446-6100  
[Facebook.com/nighteaglewilderness](https://www.facebook.com/nighteaglewilderness)

## From the Director

In the 1930s, when Ken Webb, a respected camp owner and visionary in Vermont, suggested that, "A really fine camp could be set up with only one small building (a place to store the campers' city clothes) and tipis for boys to sleep in," people laughed. Today, over eighty years later Night Eagle is proving him right.

Ken understood what many people didn't - - in the heart of every boy is an inborn love of the outdoors and adventure.

To be sure, living in a primitive community such as he envisioned does require effort. Because the space in a tipi is limited, the modern gadgets that campers have come to depend on in their outside lives have to be left at home, and boys must learn to live simply and adapt to nature. Under these conditions, however, a true spirit of community develops. There is simply no place for cliques or loners. Soon, artificial distinctions disappear, and we are who we are.

Quiet campers who have never had the opportunity to lead are chosen as members of the Akicita, not because they are athletic, but because they are kind and respectful. Returning campers help the new campers settle into their tipis and then show them around camp and explain the intricacies of using the Maxwell. A camper leader consoles a young camper who is a bit homesick and soon has him playing a game of "Sticks." A group of campers notices the woodpile is getting low and they give up their rest hour to saw wood for the cook crew. Two other campers notice that the sawhorses we use during chores look a little rickety and take it upon themselves to repair them during their rest hour.

These are the kinds of contagious selfless acts that are commonplace around Night Eagle.



**The Two-Headed Professor?** (*Hummingbird Drums and Moon Quest*)

New campers see them and quickly join in, becoming a contributing part of camp. Perhaps *community* more than anything else is why campers have returned to Night Eagle year after year.

## A Time for Reflection

It's been 397 years since that October in 1621 when 50 Pilgrims and 90 Indians gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, for three days of feasting and games. The Pilgrims had survived a year in the New World and, with the help of the Indians, had managed to successfully grow a bountiful crop. They had much to celebrate.

We, too, have much to be thankful for, but sometimes it seems that the turkey on the table and the football on the television divert our attention from the purpose of the holiday. As we sit down to our Thanksgiving meal this year, I hope we all take the time to look around and count our many blessings - family and friends - and notice the little things in life that make our lives so special.

We are thankful that each of you has come into our circle of friends, and we wish you a safe and joyful Thanksgiving holiday!

## Fall Work and Play Weekend



Ryan Williams, Arrow Shade, Ember Glow, Rolling Brook, Morning Bear, and Summer Bear take a break.

On September 23, I arrived at camp bright and early to tidy up the food shelter and unload supplies. It had been a wet September and the weather was a bit chilly so I wasn't sure who would show up.

As I was unloading the car, **Rolling Brook** arrived with his trusty chainsaw. Not long after, the Williams family (Gary, **Arrow Shade**, and Ryan) walked into camp and **Summer Bear** appeared.

While **Rolling Brook** and **Summer Bear** were wrecking havoc cutting up downed trees on the Get Lost Trail, **Arrow Shade** and I attacked the water bars on the camp road, cleared trees from the second dam, and carried the extension ladder to the Gatehouse, leaving Gary and Ryan in camp to build planter boxes for the sweetgrass.



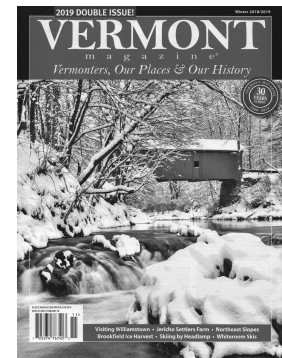
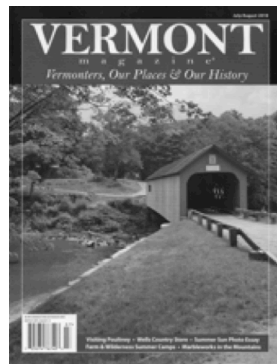
Around lunchtime **Morning Bear** and **Ember Glow** arrived and gave us an opportunity for an extended lunch break so we could catch up with them and talk about “how it used to be” at Night Eagle.

After drying a couple of tipis, we rolled them and stored them in their cans for next summer. By then it was time for supper and huddling around a fire for a bit of warmth. Afterwards, it was off to the tipi for the night.

Thanks, everyone, for all your help! Here's hoping that the Spring Work and Play is sunnier and warmer!

### **Exciting News!**

For the past couple of years, we have been advertising in *Vermont Magazine*, one of the premier magazines published in Vermont. I believe we are the only camp to advertise in the magazine, and last week the publisher contacted me to see if we would be interested in having an article written about Night Eagle. Of course, I said that we would be thrilled.



Because Night Eagle is a small and relatively new camp in comparison with other camps in New England, we don't have the advertising budget or the name recognition of the larger more established camps in the area. Being featured in *Vermont Magazine* would be an awesome opportunity to get the word out about Night Eagle in time for the 2020 enrollment.

The plan right now is to have a reporter and a photographer visit camp this coming summer to get a feel for camp, write the story after the visit, and publish it in the fall or winter edition of *Vermont Magazine*. I'm psyched!

## Just In Time for Winter!

We are now taking preorders for Night Eagle's first sweatshirt! The heavy weight forest green hoodie will have Night Eagle Wilderness on the front in yellow gold letters and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary owl drawing on the back (without the word "anniversary" of course).

If you want to see the sweatshirt looks like in color, check out the fall edition of the newsletter on the Night Eagle website.



If you are interested in purchasing a sweatshirt, let me know the size you want. The cost is \$35 (which includes shipping and handling). I can't guarantee that you will receive it by Christmas, but I'll do my best!

## The Beaufort Wind Scale

If you are ever out in the woods and want to know how fast the wind is blowing, all you have to do is use the wind scale below.

**0 Calm (-1 MPH)** Smoke rises vertically. **1**

**Light Air (1 - 5.5 MPH)** Wind motion visible in smoke.

**2 Light Breeze (5.6 - 11 MPH)** Leaves rustle; wind felt on bare skin.

**3 Gentle Breeze (12 - 19 MPH)** Leaves and twigs in constant motion.

**4 Moderate Breeze (20 - 28 MPH)** Dust is raised. Small branches begin to move.

**5 Fresh Breeze (29 - 38 MPH)** Branches of a moderate size move. Small trees begin to sway.

**6 Strong Breeze (39 - 49 MPH)** Large branches in motion.

**7 High Wind (50 - 61 MPH)** Whole trees in motion. An effort is needed to walk against the wind.

**8 Gale (62 - 74 MPH)** Twigs are broken from trees. Progress on foot is seriously impeded.

**9 Strong Gale (75 - 88 MPH)** Branches break off trees. Some trees blow over.



## Wakinyan Tanka - Thunderbird

*(The following is excerpted from John Lame Deer, a Brule Sioux medicine man, and can be found in its entirety in American Indian Myths and Legends by Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz.)*

“Wakinyan Tanka, the great thunderbird, lives in his tipi on top of a high mountain in the sacred Paha Sapa, the Black Hills. The whites call it Harney Peak, but I don’t think he lives there anymore since the wasichu (whites) have made these hills into a vast Disneyland. No, I think the thunder beings have retreated to the farthest end of the earth, where the sun goes down, where there are no tourists and hot-dog stands.

The Wakinyan hates all that is dirty. He loves what is clean and pure. His voice is the great thunderclap, and the smaller rolling thunders that follow his booming shouts are the cries of his children, the little thunderbirds. Four paths lead to the mountain on which the Wakinyan dwell. A butterfly guards the entrance at the East side. A Bear guards the West, a Deer the North, and a Beaver the South.

There are four large, old Thunderbirds. The Great Wakinyan of the West is the first and foremost among them. He is clothed in clouds. His body has no form, but he has giant, four-jointed wings. He has no feet, but enormous claws. He has no head, but a huge, sharp beak with rows of big, pointed teeth. His color is black.

The second Wakinyan of the North is red. The third Thunderbird of the East is yellow. The fourth thunderbird of the South is white, though there are some who say that its colors are blue. That one has no eyes or ears, yet he can see and hear. How that can be is a mystery. From time to time a holy man catches a glimpse of a Wakinyan in his dreams, but always only a part of it. No one ever sees the Thunderbird whole, not even in a vision, so the way we think a Thunderbird looks is pieced together from many dreams and visions.

The Great Wakinyan’s tipi stands beside the tallest of all cedar trees. That’s why we use its

foliage for the “smoking up” in our ceremonies which call for sweet-smelling incense to purify our houses and ourselves. Inside the Wakinyan’s tipi is a nest made of dry bones. In it lies the giant egg from which the little thunderbirds are hatched. The egg is bigger than the whole state of South Dakota.

You cannot see the Wakinyan because they are wrapped in robes of dark clouds, but you can feel their presence. During a vision quest they may come and try to frighten you, to see whether you have enough courage to go through your four days and nights of fasting on a lonely hill. They test you this way, but the Wakinyan are good spirits. They like to help the people, even if they scare you sometimes.

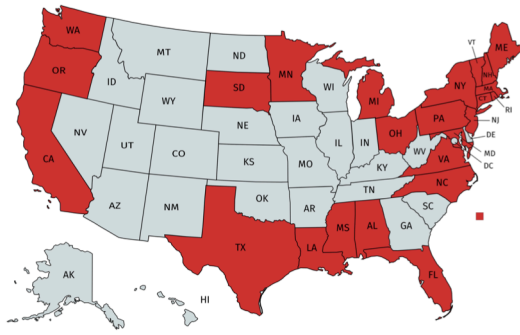
Everything in nature moves in a certain way that whites call clockwise. Only the thunder beings move in a contrary manner - counter clockwise. They do everything differently.

The Wakinyan’s symbol is the zig-zag lightning, forked at the ends,

The thunder beings are guardians of the truth. When you’re holding the sacred pipe and you swear on it, you can say nothing but the truth. If you lie, the Wakinyan will strike you down with their lightning bolts.

So thunderbirds stand for rain, and fire, and the truth and like to help the people.”





**Our campers have come from 23 states, 9 countries, and Hong Kong:** Argentina, Australia, Canada, Japan, Spain, France, Germany, Russia, and Switzerland

**Early Bird Enrollees for 2018**

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Sunrise Bear | Mountain Maple    |
| Night Heron  | Mountain Friend   |
| Distant Fire | Yellow Flame      |
| Arrow Shade  | Fronts the Wind   |
| Blue Spruce  | Sun Bear          |
| Yellow Flame | Hummingbird Drums |
| Greg Pedzich |                   |

**Bring a Friend to Camp**

Please help us get the *Night Eagle* word out! If you know someone who might be interested in attending *Night Eagle* or learning more about camp, call or e-mail us and we'll send the family an information packet. ***If any of your referrals enroll for any Night Eagle session, we will be happy to credit your account with a value of 10% of the new camper's tuition.***

**What We Are Doing!**

It's hard to believe but ***Little Bear*** will be finishing up his degree in Business at the University of Tampa this coming May, while ***Snowy Owl*** will be completing his Masters in Military History at Norwich University. It seems like just yesterday they were running around *Night Eagle* playing Crack About. Congratulations, guys!



*Summer Spring and Drum Spirit on a survival hike.*

Speaking of colleges, ***Rolling Brook*** is in the Nursing program at Castleton University and will also be completing his degree soon! It surely would be nice to have him join Nurse Trudy at *Night Eagle*!

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**2018 CAMPER LEADERS**

**1ST SESSION**

**Wicasa**  
*Arctic Rain*

**Pipe Keeper**

*Meadow Stone*

**Drum Keeper**

*Thunder Willow*

**2ND SESSION**

**Wicasa**  
*Sunrise Bear*

**Pipe Keeper**

*Circle Singer*

**Drum Keeper**

*Hummingbird Drums*

**Akicita**

*Arrow Shade*  
*Drum Spirit*  
*Circle Dance*  
*Heart Spirit*  
*Winter Moon*

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**To Parents**

We are thankful that each of your families has come into our circle of friends. We have enjoyed getting to know you and watching your sons grow into young men. Thank you for entrusting them to us for part of the summer and for letting us be part of their lives in such a special way.

**Please Note Our New Address!**

Aug. 4	Second One-Week Session Opens
July 14	First One-Week Session Opens
July 21	Second Session (2 and 3 weeks) Opens
July 14	Four-Week Sessions Opens First One-Week Session Opens
June 30	First Session (2, 3, 6 weeks) Opens
June 23	Staff Week Begins

**Important Dates:**

**Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures**  
**P.O. Box 479**  
**Wallingford, VT 05773**



The moment of truth for *Thunder Willow*!  
Is the egg hard-boiled or not?