

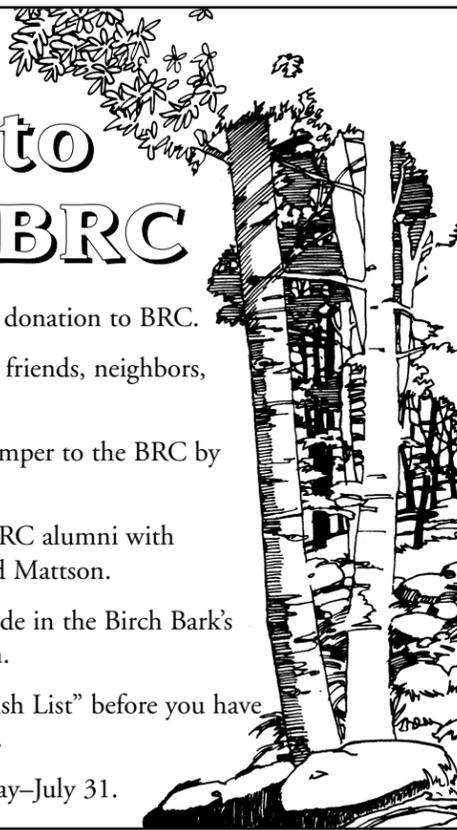
Mark Your Calendars for 2005!



June 1	BRC Summer Office Opens
June 4	Spring Clean-Up Work Weekend
June 9	BRC Staff Orientation
June 26	BRC Opening 1st Session
July 10	BRC 1st Visitation Day
TBA	Maine Wilderness Adventure
July 20	BRC 1st Session Ends
July 21	BRC Opening 2nd Session
July 30	Alumni & Board Day
July 31	BRC 2nd Visitation Day
TBA	Maine Wilderness Adventure Returns
August 13	BRC for Boys Ends
August 17	BRC Family Camp Begins
August 21	BRC Family Camp Ends

It's Easy to Help BRC

- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to the BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Send us news to include in the Birch Bark's Alumni News column.
- Ask us about our "Wish List" before you have your spring yard sales.
- Join us for Alumni Day—July 31.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

BIRCH ROCK CAMP



A non-profit corporation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Becca Brewster
- Carol Brewster
- Seth Brewster
- Toby Brewster
- Ryck Birch
- Francie Campbell
- Kathy Coster
- Mike Coster
- Barbara Cogswell
- Steve Cogswell
- Tom Clemence
- Michael Herzig
- Peter Herzig
- Fred Howard
- Michele Howard
- Helene Kazanjian
- Jeanne McDonald
- Bruce Rood
- Patty Rood
- Karen Shelnutt
- Bob Stone
- Bev Stone
- Dave Weeks



THE BIRCH BARK

P.O. Box 148, Waterford, Maine 04088
 Winter: (207) 741-2930 Summer: (207) 583-4478
 birchrock@aol.com www.birchrock.org
Rich Deering, Alumni Director • **Michael Mattson**, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP



By David C. Weeks S'70s -

August 1, 2004 - Tibetan prayer flags greeted the BRC community as its members gathered together to celebrate the opening of the camp's new boathouse. Connecting the boathouse to a neighboring tree these colorful flags fluttered in the breeze as the assembled gathering awaited the welcoming remarks from **Board President Seth Brewster '60s**. After his warm welcome he expressed his appreciation to the Birch Rock Community who supported this special project and particularly extended his thanks to Board member and boathouse project manager, **Fred Howard '70s** for his dedication and tireless efforts. Fred Howard then followed with words of praise for all the people who contributed to the realization of this new feature on the Birch Rock campground. He spoke about how this beautiful new building with its large second floor, instructional porch and storage space would add much to the quality of Birch Rock's summer camp experience. Having transported the prayer flags from Tibet to Birch Rock for the boathouse celebration, **Director Emeritus David Weeks '70s** followed with remarks about the meaning of the prayer flags and their value to the Birch Rock community.



Prior to flying the twenty multicolored flags hung horizontally on a rope, each member of the 2004 Birch Rock Camp community was invited to write personal sentiments on the flags. **Camp Director Mike Mattson '80s** penned, "I wish only the best for the Rock for many years to come." **Head Counselor Doug Miller '00s** commented, "May your days be as glorious as those of the trees." Many flags simply had names of campers and family members. One flag was devoted to the names of many special people: **Chief and Onie Brewster, Pat Brewster, Buck Hard, Albert Bryan, Omar Moxey, Phyllis Deneault, Jeanne Hard Queale, Pete Haas** and others who in their lifetime added so much to the spirit of Birch Rock.

The prayer flags represent the colors of nature. The blue symbolizes sky; white represents clouds; red reflects fire; green indicates water and yellow embodies the earth. At Birch Rock Camp fifteen flags were hung in the spirit of "Help the Other Fellow" and will remain fluttering in the North County breezes throughout the year showering the life giving "Dar Cho" energy. When the flags are tattered

and torn they will have given much to Birch Rock Camp and will be ceremoniously burned in gratitude for all the "gifts" that will have come to the BR community.

At the end of the boathouse ceremony, it was fitting that the youngest member of Birch Rock, **Nathan Howard '00s**, surrounded by his cabin mates cut the ribbon at the lower floor entrance for they and the boathouse represent a new beginning with the promise of greatness to come. **Alumni Director Rich Deering '70s** in his closing remarks echoed the other speakers in giving thanks to all who contributed to this special ceremony and to the Birch Rock Community.



Fred Howard and Campers.



Birch Rock Welcomes New Board Members

At the camp's Board of Directors Annual Meeting on August 1, 2004 – the camp community officially welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors: **Francie Campbell** (*mother of Charles & Harry Netzer*) of Larchmont, NY and **Mike and Kathy Coster** (*parents of Jack Coster*) of Falmouth, ME. Also, rejoining the board was **Rychard Birch '70s** of Natick, MA.



Pamela Stock

BRC Salutes Pamela Stock

Birch Rock Camp is proud of its 78 year commitment to provide Tutoring, a long standing tradition established by the camp's co-founder Leona Brewster. And for the last 11 years, our camp has been blessed with the talent of another great lady, Ms. Pamela T. Stock. Pam is not only Birch Rock's tutor and camp librarian; she is also our entrusted camp mother, big sister, teacher, and confidante and core Birch Rock mentor. Here are a few of Pam's reflections of Birch Rock:

I love every season when campers and staff return because it is a new beginning for everyone. Birch Rock believes in the capacity to grow, change and learn...It has given my two boys wonderful social skills, confidence and sense of belonging to a community. Birch Rock is my safe haven, peaceful place and wonderful way to spend the summer.



On top of Mt. Tir'em

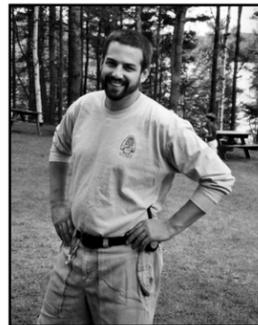
Family Camp 2004

By Becca & Toby Brewster, Family Camp Directors

Family Camp 2004 hosted twelve families, including six new families, from Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Families gathered for an abbreviated three-day session this summer, a schedule which ultimately attracted more guests than previous years. The BRC staff offered a creatively packed schedule, providing as much entertainment in the three days as possible.

Families enjoyed time by the water, on the tennis court, and in the Adirondack chairs. Children's activities ranged from campcraft and archery volleyball and afternoon challenges. One rainy morning allowed for a creative reworking of the children's schedule to offer indoor bowling in the newly constructed boathouse' second floor and an across-the-camp scavenger hunt with rain ponchos as the only requirement. Families hiked Mount Tir'em for the fourth year in a row, and new this year, 2004 Olympics coverage ran in the evenings for those sports enthusiasts, impacting the last night cribbage activity. The last night's festivities included the annual Lobster Bake and campfire when families shared their theatrical talents with skits based on an "Olympic theme." The evening also served as a perfect time to toast to the engagement of Doug Dickey and Kathy Mackey!

The dates for 2005 Family Camp are August 17 thru 21. Save the Date!
For more information: www.birchrock.org



A View From The Top

By Camp Director Mike Mattson '83-

This summer began with Head Counselor Doug Miller, CIT Director Ryan Massey, Field Director Matt Downs and me splitting many cords of firewood as a way of recycling our downed trees. Chop wood, saw wood, carry wood, drink water and then chop and carry all over again. These gentlemen gave me just a taste of what I could expect from the 2004 BRC Staff. When people outside of camp would ask me how our staff looked this summer, I would respond, "WD-40, just spray them on and watch them work!"

Birch Rock has always had great pride in its leadership and its terrific camp staff. With WD-40 coming in for the summer, I knew we would be heading for great things. The staff's obvious love for our community is paramount to our success. With almost 300 summers of Birch Rock experience in our staff ranks, the love of camp was obviously strong. Our staff did a great job and we thank them.

Honestly though, our campers are truly the most important

members of our community. They symbolize our future and will ultimately decide what Birch Rock will become. Our campers this summer were an amazing bunch. We had seven Whales, including one incredible swim by Henry Rounds who came in with an amazing time of 2 hours and 28 minutes.

Here are some interesting facts about this year's population:

86% of our staff are veteran Birch Rockers
79% of our campers returned; 21% were new campers
The camper geographical break-down includes:

New England	60%	Mid West	4%
Mid Atlantic	21%	South	3%
West	1%	Foreign	11%

At the end of the summer many of our campers were already talking about next season and what great adventures are ahead of us. Many of them wanted to come back for the full seven weeks and experience every waking moment of the Rock. About a week after camp, the applications for next summer already started coming in... The boys are excited and so are we for another great summer in 2005.

Summer Fest 2004

By Meg Wheeler, Chair

A bit of serendipity happened in Waterford, Maine this past summer. The Waterford Congregational Church was planning SummerFest 2004, a midsummer weekend of fundraising events open to the whole community. Assigned with preparing a menu for the kick-off dinner, Birch Rock neighbor Joy Plate sought advice from the BRC kitchen staff on how to feed large numbers of people in one seating. Advice turned into a plan of action, and what a plan it was, resulting in a delicious meal prepared by Birch Rock Chef Tony Morris and delivered to the Waterford Community House dinner site compliments of BRC. Alumni Director Rich Deering and seven polite, enthusiastic Birch Rock CITs served the meal. What a credit to the camp and the Waterford Community!

Heartfelt thanks to Birch Rock Camp for helping the other "fellow," in this case a very appreciative Waterford Community.



Chef Tony and CIT's 2004.

MAINE WILDERNESS ADVENTURE 2004

Congratulations to **Andrew Bowden, Aidan Bozzelli, Pat Huycke, Joe Cohen, and Ryan and Chris McElroen** for an outstanding 4th Maine Wilderness Adventure Program. Under the tremendous leadership of MWA Director **Todd Eler**, our MWA candidates experienced a great expedition throughout some of the more beautiful areas of Maine. These BRC explorers started out a Baxter State Park hiking around lakes and up mountains before summiting Mount Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine. After that they canoed the St Croix River, located on the Canadian Border and went sea kayaking among the islands and inlets of the "Downeast" Maine Coast. Then the adventurers did a little rock climbing for a couple days before heading to Acadia National Park to hike the hills and hit the beach. Finally, the quest ended with a lot of fun and laughter white water rafting the Kennebec River. Our boys had an incredible time and an experience they will never forget. We thank **Todd and Vicki Miles** for their wonderful leadership.