
ON THE POINT

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall-Winter 2007

So Long Summer

Welcome Quiet times of Winter's Glory (and so on)

In the blink of an eye the busy days on the Point are gone but not the memory of all that fun that broke out between June and September. Sometimes certain things stand out in your mind, little gems that may or may not have seemed funny at the time:

Such as:

The girl who wished the bear shot but then helped mount a rescue mission on an unsuspecting fisherman's bait bucket. All but a few crayfish were returned in short order after a brisk search of the shoreline. Restitution was made for the escapees who, no doubt, became fish bait shortly thereafter.

How about that other (name withheld) young lady who learned to repair door moldings after a particularly brisk episode of door slamming, directed we're told, at her really irksome little sister.

Not to leave the boys out of the mix, thumbs down to our wee guest who lobbed a rock at Molly Crilly. Too bad for both of them his aim was terrific. Molly recovered nicely after a liberal dose of pie and milkshakes. The young felon remains young.

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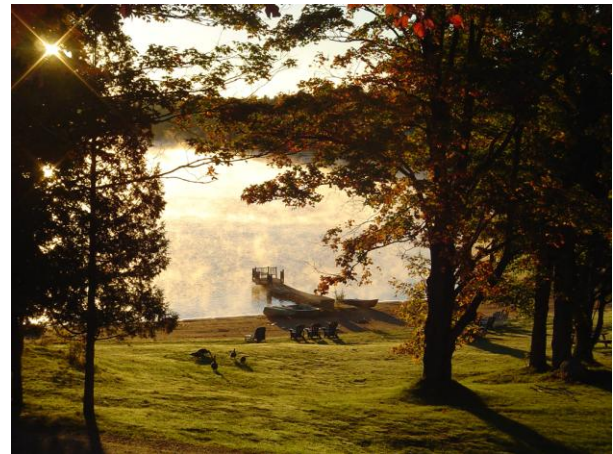
Something Old, Something New

What's up for 2008

Every vacation has to start somewhere and in 2008, summer for the weekly rentals begins on June 21st ...Solstice!!! Now what did we do with that May Pole? Being a bit short on Morris Dancers to help us celebrate the longest day of the year, we'll have to make due with a bonfire and tall tales...

Checklist for Your Winter Vacation

- Boots. Gloves. Coffee. Snowshoes. Cross Country skis. Cell phone Laptop Car alarm
- A vintage Merlot Digital camera Kindling



Quiet Autumn Morning

*(Thanks to Daniel and Lynn Gear
of Hilton, NY)*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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"Daddy, can we stay up and watch Donny shoot the bear?" Melissa K.

The “Most Mice Sent to Their Great Trap In the Sky Award” goes to the Suitors who came here mainly to celebrate the 50th anniversary of meeting each other at Prospect. Their record stands at 10 in one week. Well done guys!

Runner-up status was secured handily by the Dietz’s who also managed to dispatch one mouse with two separate traps. (Betty claims her success was due to beautifully arranged peanut butter-raisin or PB & cheese hor d’oerves. Martha Stewart would have been proud.)

Talent Nights?

Piano virtuosos, Irish step-dancing, magic tricks, poetry, satire and spam sung a capella. Nice work. Of course, it’s hard to beat a 1 ½ year old break dancer. Thanks again to Mrs. Adele Looney for her inspirational Tai Chi lesson, despite the fact that Paul Oestreicher had trouble keeping up with her. (And added thanks for her unflagging efforts to keep the geese off the Point!)

Yet again the guests showed off the depth and breadth of their talent (and courage).

Yet again Julius Oestreicher terrified small children with his infamous Legend of the Haunted Toilet. Way to go boss!

Notes from our Founder

On the first issue of this newsletter, and as we approach the 10th-year anniversary of the purchase of Prospect Point Cottages, it seems fitting to review this year’s events and to look back as well at the changes that happened here since 1998.

In the spring of this year Betty and John Liddle, our manager and caretaker respectively, retired. We thank them for their long service over the years and their many contributions to Prospect Point.

It has been said that when one door closes another opens. With the retirement of Betty and John, Carol Doherty stepped in as our manager and host. Donnie Potter took over as our caretaker and groundskeeper. Both have proven invaluable – a dream team of creativity, commitment and good cheer.

Carol brings with her a freshness and vision which is swiftly taking the Point to new heights. Flower gardens are sprouting on the grounds, conifers are being planted along Route 28, the lawn now extends in front of the Lodge, and green grass grows where once gray gravel reigned. The

cottages are at last being decorated – an ongoing project. Our winter and spring seasons will abound with murder mystery weekends, romantic getaways, and snowshoeing weekends. Carol’s enthusiasm, quick wit, and creativity, and Donnie’s steady and gifted hand, promise to make Prospect Point a unique and memorable experience for all of us to enjoy.

Looking back on the past year I can’t help but reflect also on the larger picture. My wife, Ann, and I have been coming to Prospect Point Cottages for over 50 years, long before either of us ever dreamed that for a while we’d become stewards of this beautiful place. When our children, David, Paul and Heidi came along we’d take them with us, and their love of the Point and the Adirondacks has grown equal to ours. It is a happy prospect indeed to be in the “memory business,” the kind of place where people forge friendships and memories that can truly last a lifetime. Ours sure have. Nothing makes us happier than seeing a new generation of children making friends round the bonfire, or enjoying the same beach that our own kids loved – and still love – so well. What job could possibly be more rewarding than the one which allows you to see so many wonderful people – so many dear friends – return each year? We are lucky indeed.

When we acquired Prospect Point in 1998, it wasn’t because we wanted to get into the hospitality business, but because it was apparent that unless someone did something, this magnificent piece of property was going to be irretrievably lost. To have this unique bit of heaven subdivided or developed, and the friends we’d forged renting cottages together over the years scattered to the winds, seemed a colossal tragedy. Our decision to acquire the property was an emotional one, and it’s one we’ve never regretted.

Not that there weren’t some difficult days. At the time of our purchase only five cabins remained operating, and they were in poor repair. The other cabins had largely been abandoned. Saplings took root on the porches, and you could see the sky peeking through Poplar’s roof. The carpenters informed us that in another year or so some cottages

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NEW STUFF WE'RE DOING

If you tire of being relaxed and spending time alone in the wilderness, join us for one of these week-ends. Valentine's Day excepted of course, we'll give you a whole new set of tales to brag on.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 21ST 4-7PM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

IN THE PROSPECT ROOM

MID-WINTER GET-AWAY FOR COUPLES

JANUARY 25TH & 26TH

COST: \$350 PER COUPLE FOR THE WEEKEND

A loaf of bread, a jug of wine (in this case champagne) and thou...plus continental breakfast and Saturday night buffet.

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY (A MURDER MYSTERY)

MARCH 8TH, 9TH & 10TH

COST: \$425 PER COUPLE (MEALS INCLUDED)

Every family has conflicts – especially this one!

A MOST TAXING AFFAIR (A MURDER MYSTERY)

APRIL 11-12-13

COST: \$425 PER COUPLE (MEALS INCLUDED)

Fauntelroy Snead, tax assessor is found dead and no one escapes the scrutiny of Agasta Feisty, and her cohorts as they pick their way through clues and dead-ends to unmask the killer of the unlamented, unmissed and none-too-popular Snead.

BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND

APRIL 4TH-6TH

COST: \$350 PER COUPLE FOR THE WEEKEND (MEALS INCLUDED)

Bring your gear and laptop and learn the tricks to taking advantage of early spring's spectacular light here in the mountains. Instructor Sally Delmerico will lead us, teach us, and inspire us. Class size limited so book early!



HEY CAMPERS! It'll be 10 years this summer!

Advertise your family's presence with your very own flag. You design it, we'll provide the flag holder on the cottage. Let 'em know you're in residence and ready for fun.

"Next year we're bringing more charcoal and fewer cell phones." J. Fosdick



Mr & Mrs Dan Wagner

June 2, 2007

"Daddy, Donnie's not going to shoot the bear is he?"

Sara P.



Ann & Julie 1998

WORTH A LOOK

GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/BLUEMOUNTAINLAKE

Prospector Gerry Krasnick invites us all to join his group which is dedicated to all things Adirondacks. Great shared photos and discussions.

Prospector Lou Erlanger's Radio Show on the web;

[HTTP://wool.fm](http://wool.fm) (Sundays, 8-10pm)

[HTTP://www.wvew.org](http://www.wvew.org) (Mondays, 6-8pm)

For a quick look at what Paul O's been up to, check out: (He promises he's working on his own site so stay tuned.)

[HTTP://WWW.GOBRONZE.ORG/ARTISTS/OESTREICHER](http://WWW.GOBRONZE.ORG/ARTISTS/OESTREICHER)

IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LINK YOU'D LIKE THE REST OF US TO KNOW ABOUT...HOW ABOUT IT?

Ancient Indian Artifacts Discovered!

A chance encounter with a buried map led the Krasnick family on a merry chase to Gull Island where, according to Certified Expert Prof. David Oestreicher, they uncovered evidence of Native American hunting in our very own area! Imagine that!



Figure 1312 Emmi Rose, Nolan & Spencer show off their loot

What's A Murder Mystery Weekend?

Murder Mysteries have gained in popularity and have, evidently, a widely diverse following who enjoy both murdering each other and solving the aforementioned unexpected death.

After registering for a Murder Mystery Weekend, guests will receive a "character" package, explaining what part they will play in the whole sordid affair. You're encouraged to get into the role as much as possible, knowing that there are no lines to memorize or concrete timelines. Mystery weekends "unfold..."

Costs for the weekend are per couple and you may be sharing a cottage with another couple (think B&B). Friday evening kicks off the weekend with a wine and cheese reception in the Prospect Room, giving us all a chance to settle in. Meals are provided throughout the weekend so that we can concentrate on tracking down the killer. Is it the person in the next bedroom? Your spouse? Or was it you?

Birds seen at our feeders so far this fall:

Blackcap chickadees

Evening Grosbeaks

Goldfinches

Song sparrows

House finches

Common Redpolls

Nuthatches

Dark-eyed Juncos

Hairy Woodpeckers

Pileated Woodpecker

And of course

Deer

Gray & Black Squirrels

Red Squirrels

ASK AUNT CAROL

Q: My husband refuses to help unload the car when we arrive. How can I motivate him to help?

A: Pack his beer in first so it's really hard to get at. Take your time unloading, paying particular attention to refolding tee shirts and arranging the refrigerator to your satisfaction. Thirst is a great motivator.

Q: Our family is growing and we'll need a two bedroom cottage soon (on the water, of course). How do we upgrade?

A: Patience. Bribery. Luck.

Q: Our smoke alarm kept going off. What's up with that?

A: Your toast is done.

Q: We can't come next summer. Will we lose our week forever?

A: Yes. HOWEVER, if you find someone on your own to take your week, we'll still consider it "yours" and reserve it for you the following year. Sad, but true, we have to apply the same rules to everyone.

Q: Sometimes the wireless works and sometimes it doesn't. Why is that?

A: We don't have a clue. It's just the way it behaves up here in the mountains.

Have a question for Aunt Carol? Send it in and she'll be happy to give it a whack.

Disclaimer: All advice dispensed in this column is guaranteed to annoy someone. If you are one of those people, let it go. Our lawyers have advised us to ignore complaints and/or refer them to the Boat Livery for meditative purposes. Small children should not ingest nor apply our advice liberally on their persons since it has been proven that bad advice can lead to faulty decision making later in life (in particular, shady real estate deals). For more details, consult a professional. This offer not valid below 2,000'.

NOTES FROM OUR FOUNDER

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would be in danger of collapse. Our projections as to the time and cost of repairing the cottages were incredibly underestimated. The renovations we naively imagined would be completed in 6 months have taken almost a decade, and we're still not done. Except for the friends we remained in touch with, we had no guest list, and there were days we really didn't know what would happen to our venture.

At that time we would have been happy to initially achieve a 70% occupancy rate. The website built by our son, Paul, helped spread the word that Prospect Point was back, and to our amazement and delight, we swiftly managed to achieve almost full occupancy. So while we greatly underestimated the time and cost of repairs, we also underestimated the occupancy the Point would enjoy. We were wrong on everything, but fortunate that to a certain extent they balanced each other out. How's that for good planning!

In the years that followed, a Lodge arose where the old office once stood, and the new Library/Conference Room became the Point's very heart; hosting talent shows, movie nights, parties and get-togethers. While we've tried to preserve the feel of the old green and white cottages on the outside, the interiors renovated by Bob Curry and Ken Bennett – many with skylights, cathedral ceilings and fireplaces – are second to none. Walking around the Point these days, it seems to us a long way from those earlier times, but somehow we feel connected and attached to those days too. We can never express the joy we feel wandering around the Point and seeing so many happy faces. The heartfelt letters we receive telling us what a wonderful experience and vacation some of you have had fill us with pride and make it all seem even more worthwhile.

My family and I look forward to improving the Point. We're confident that with Carol's boundless enthusiasm and the help of our excellent staff, we will have a Prospect Point that

A Handy Guide to Hiking Terms

"Moderate Grades" – Bring Bengay for après hiking

"Good Trails" - Little, if any, clambering over dead-fall

"Steep Near The Top" – Bring crampons & rope

"MUCH UPHILL" – Plan to walk on all fours.

"EASY" – Yeah, right

"Much downhill on the way in" – Much uphill on the way out

"FINE LEVEL TRAIL" – (choose this trail folks)

A Handy Guide to Adirondack Weather Forecasts

Sunny – used to indicate possibility at some point in the day.

Chance of Showers - ...or not (it's just a guess)

Cool- take this one seriously and bring gloves (& survival gear)

is open all year, with memories to take home of children building castles on the beach, of bon fires and ghost stories, of talent nights in the Prospect Room before a roaring fire, impromptu concerts from our many talented guests, murder mystery weekends, romantic getaways, programs on local history, the environment, poetry readings...all bring a heightened sense of good feeling and enjoyment. This is the Prospect Point we want to see, and thanks to all of you who love the Point as we do, one which seems just around the bend.

Julie Oestreicher