NAWAKWA

BUILDINGS

The camp buildings are leased from The Palisades Interstate Park Commission and consist of 6 air-conditioned, wall to wall carpeted and superbly furnished motel-type sleeping cabins; a central lodge, and two outside privies, each conveniently located one-half mile from the main building, non-qualifying.

The central lodge is a large 6 room building, all rooms having been completely modernized in 1926. The basement contains 2 super deluxe gas refrigerators, a well-equipped work bench with power saw, lathe, drill press and a number of thoroughly hardened paint brushes.

Private lockers are rented to members for private stock.

The main room, in which all meals are served, is heated during cold weather by a large stone fireplace and 2 atomic energy heaters to a comfy 55 degrees. Approximately 60 people can be thoroughly stuffed at a meal in this room. The kitchen is equipped with a large gas range, a gas gill (gas grill) and coal range, all electronically controlled. Also a large variety of cooks eating.

UTENSILS AND MEMBERS

The Park Department furnishes running water from early summer until late fall except in winter. In winter, when no one bathes, water for cleaning and washing is enthusiastically pumped from the lake by a manually operated member, usually the skinniest one around. This is a real ducky operation. Drinking water is pumped by hand from an outdoor well near the main cabin, a quaint innovation. The hospital room is furnished with 2 beds though no one seems to recall 2 people being sick at the same time. The combination medicine, first aid and sewing cabinet includes a snakebite kit, tightly corked. The sleeping cabins, which are dromedary style, are each equipped with 8 extremely light-weight beds, luxurious mattresses, and mildewed pillows.

RECEATIONAL FACILITIES

Camp Nawakwa is located on Lake Sebago which is about 2 miles long and a mile deep where you dropped your watch. There is a dock, diving board, float and shallow-depth crib available for swimmers, except in winter. Privately owned canoes may be kept at camp during the summer and conveniently stored there during winter months with the minimum help of about 10 sturdy members. Also available are picnic tables, outdoor fireplace and underground horseshoe court. Ice skating, snowshoeing and, on occasion, skiing also may be enjoyed at camp, except in winter. A small library is maintained, including books and periodicals on natural science, outdoor sports, conservation and courtship. The magazine section would do justice to your dentist’s waiting room.

Evenings are well spent as card-sharks transform the main room into a veritable Monte Carlo. For dancing, the very latest in stereo equipment is available.

A host or hostess (that is: a member who volunteers after 2 cocktails at the Annual Dinner in January), is in complete charge at Nawakwa during each week-end, except in winter, when he should have stayed home in bed.

MEALS

Proper planning of meals is essential to eliminate as much recreation as possible. A small commissary containing a few staples is maintained on the open shelves in the kitchen, staples have been found to be more digestible than screws or nails.

FEES

Fees for the use of camp have been set by the Board of Directors. Applicants and guests pay a higher fee than members but they get the same crummy mattresses.

All visitors are expected to pay the daily fee. In the case of short visits, for instance, flying over the area, no fee is required. Reservations for weekends at Nawakwa must be received by the host by Thursday of the same week.

Register immediately upon arrival at camp and then dash madly to find the host. If you are not satisfied with your assignment, get even with him on your own weekend.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Beds should be made before dinner. Dinner can then be made after your snooze. The good blankets are stored in the hospital room. There are 55 of them in case 2 people are hospitalized at the same time and both feel cold. Always fasten the cabinet door to prevent mice from carrying away the blankets. Army blankets are available for those who miss their night in the Armed Forces (A.E.F.). Blankets should be aired each morning, weather permitting. Don’t leave blankets on the line if you leave camp for a walk when it looks like rain. Wear one.

In addition to assigned duties, each person is expected to find odd jobs that keep camp neat and running smoothly. Find a job, then give it to the Camp Chairman to do.

Washroom etiquette is important. Paper cups are available for cleaning teeth if you cannot afford a toothbrush. Bikinis and topless evening gowns are forbidden in the main cabin, summer or winter. The use of liquor, including beer and wine, is not considered in keeping with the Nawakwa scene and is specifically prohibited at camp. However, special occasions, for example an eclipse of the sun or the 15th anniversary of Elizabeth Taylor’s wedding, might call for something extra in the dinner preparation, then cooking wine would be indicated. Under lock and key, specially secreted in the basement and with full authority of the State Liquor Board, a 2 oz. vial and eye dropper are available. No restrictions apply as to the quantity if spirits are to be used for religious purposes.

DOGS

Dogs are not allowed at camp. Experience has shown that they are continually confused because of the large number of trees. Still, in extraordinary circumstances, there may be no alternative but to bring a pet to camp where quite possibly it may be found useful. The thing to do then is to lock it in the wire garbage can enclosure, removing garbage cans and placing them as close as possible to women’s cabin #1. When night prowling raccoons, intent on food, approach the wire enclosure they will be startled by the presence of a dog or cat and vice versa. The ensuing cacophony will awaken the women in cabin #1. They can then come out and stand guard over the garbage.

SWIMMING

Swimming alone is forbidden unless accompanied by another swimmer. Diving from boats is not permitted unless boats are in the water.

THE KITCHEN

In the kitchen, individual epicureans may cook gourmet meals to their hearts delight and then get the hell out of the way. Dishes for meals prepared before the official weekend should be washed and put away before the weekend bedlam commences.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOSTS

Applicants and guests are introduced at the first community meal. Those who fail to stand after being introduced may be considered overfed.

The gate should be kept locked at all times. It will usually be found locked if you have forgotten your key.

Each host is responsible for the condition of camp at the end of a weekend. A few light chores are necessary so that everything will be in spic and span shape to mess up the following weekend. Except for cleaning the main cabin, pack room, hospital, wash rooms, front porch, back porch, basement and sleeping cabins, there is little to do but clean the refrigerators, stoves, sink and work tables, scrub the floor, remove left-over food from cabinets, empty and clean garbage pails, burn paper in incinerator, check cabins, inspect fire extinguishers, check supplies, make certain that wooden rowboats are properly moored, that aluminum boats and canoes are locked on their racks, and that oars and paddles are locked up. Also drain pipes and tanks, except in summer.

If time hangs heave, a few trees may be felled and the wood box filled for the next host.

In concluding this section of the handbook pertaining to Nawakwa, and in particular to hosts and their responsibilities, a word of advice might be in order. At the next Annual Dinner, make it Pepsi Cola or tomato juice.

Author: Unknown

Retyped by Ellen King, Nawakwa Archivist, April, 2020 due to poor original