

December 28,
2020

Winter Camp News

"Traditionally Unconventional"

"On Guard
Since 1986"

A Study in Mythos

by Chris Adams (Winter Camp @ Camp)

Since Winter Camp XL, the Geocache activity has been a testament to Alan Wilson's coding skill and electronic abilities. This year, albeit traditionally unconventional™, these black wooden boxes were used in our Mythology theme: To find and retrieve lost artifacts of Winter Camp past that have been to (almost) every Winter Camp to date.

The two teams, which were split up by odd and even birthdays, were then tasked to come up with a story that explained the background and historical significance of those two items. The items in question for this geocache were a Pet® Evaporated Milk can opener and a clock about as old as time itself. Migisi Opawgan Chapter members, being the creative souls that they are, came up with compelling back stories as to what these deities were, and how they came to be significant to winter camp history itself.

The first story described the significance of the evaporated milk opener in the creation of Winter Camp, as told by Gwen Pratt. The story speaks on how a lad with curly hair, rather similar to Steve Donohue, was struck into history with a can opener provided by a higher power that gave him the ability to travel throughout time, perfecting his creation the Order of the Arrow. The story include many time traveling shenanigans including falling from 5 tads above Beaver Creek, to his being worshipped as a deity known as the "Great Curly One" to the

Where's Steve?

You may be wondering why Mr. Donohue isn't at camp. Well, he recently had a stress test and it didn't go well. Doctors have ordered him to avoid stress and strenuous activity until they can get him in for a procedure. Steve would probably tell you that camp is a great place to relax (and one doctor maintains that he's probably safer at Winter Camp than anywhere else), but Kristie knows better and Steve was specifically told (by doctors) not to go to camp even for a visit. His surgery should be soon and he expects to be at Winter Camp XLV.

Quotes O' The Day

"If you're a mastodon, you can stab people with your face."

—Michelle Matowski, in a ringing endorsement of the new lodge totem at the final planning meeting, 12/22/20

"If it's too spicy, add more chocolate."

—Steve Donohue, speaking of a box of Fishski Jalapeno, Hatch Green Chile Grits, sent to camp, that Kristie Donohue decried as awful and too spicy, also at the 12/22/20 meeting.

formation of the Migisi O-Paw-Gan Lodge.

The second story described a mysterious clock that forebodes a terrible ending. Self-proclaimed Doom speaker Matthew Grimble states that such a clock had been created to foretell the end by the two titans whom had been locked in a eternal struggle with one another. These two eternal figures, dubbed the "One-Armed" and the "Horned" are prophesized to start the end of the world that would be signified by the stopping of the clock. Ominously the Clock made its final tick shortly after being presented.

Today's Schedule

(All times EST)

Winter Camp At Home

Individual Event: Work/Service Project (Fort Wayne)

Group Event: Time Capsule Livestream Opening

Food: Mexican Meal

Group Discussion: To appear on Discord

Winter Camp At Camp (Some times approximate)

07:30: Wake Up

08:00: Breakfast- Oatmeal/Warm Breakfast

09:00: Service Project at Camp

12:00: Lunch-

13:00: Clean Up & Leave

—————Begin Interstitial Winter Camp—————

PM: Service Event @ Fort Wayne?

19:00 Group Event: Time Capsule Livestream Opening

Alimentary Endings

The traditional **Setup Day Lunch** of canned ravioli, garlic bread, and cheap cookies was served at the Donohue house in Allen Park on setup day 2020. Kristie took a picture and said "I'm sending this to Mark—>—it's another reason we don't do setup day".

No one is sure how old this tradition is, but 30 years plus is probably not off the table.

Bread Baking Success: The Jackbox game was delayed twice by successful bread bakers. Both Michelle and Gabe had loaves in the oven as the evening progressed. Pictures they posted made it clear they were both successful. Kristie Donohue skipped out on Jackbox as she had opted to make Cinnamon Rolls instead of bread and was hard at work during the game. Gabe mentioned that he had bought French butter for his bread. We were confused until he told us he'd seen it on sale at the local grocery store. We weren't entirely sure what it was, but apparently it was butter made in France (ooo-la-la!)

The 72 Lesser Weekettes: Winter Camp Year-Round

The spirit of Winter Camp, and the machinations necessary to ensure its success, can surely not be confined to the year's last weekette. So it is that several Winter Camp projects are planned and executed throughout the rest of the Earth year in order that Winter Camp thrives and advances.

Read on for the details of this year's projects.

Succession Planning

—by Steve Donohue

After years of prompting and a couple of medical scares for Winter Camp pioneers, Steve Donohue assembled a group of volunteers in 2020 to help write down everything they knew (and still remembered) about planning and executing Winter Camp. Six of the seven volumes in the rainbow series, whose cover colors span the visible spectrum from R to V, may be found online at <https://wintercamp.com/leaderguide>. The seventh (violet) volume, which explains how the website works, was deliberately not put on the site because it would have been a security risk.

The books are available to anyone to read online. Pace yourself as there's over 50,000 words of wisdom to absorb.

Website Remodel

—by Steve Donohue

Our website, wintercamp.com, received a major overhaul this year. There were significant changes to the content of the site with some things added, some removed, and many things made easier to find. The site now has a standard look for navigation on every page with a left-menu chock-full of Winter Camp goodness.

The two biggest changes are probably the Newsfeed, which lets you find things that have been updated recently on a single page, and Skunkworks, which lets you see details on some of the craziest private projects ever to bless Winter Camp from Alan Wilson's geocaching boxes to K2's 3-D printing.

You can also create an account on the Winter Camp site which makes a few things easier to do, like commenting on planning and using checklists.

Checklists Launched

—by Steve Donohue

Winter Camp's newest feature is the checklist. There are two kinds: a personal checklist is designed to help people make lists of things for camp and a group list which shows things we're working on together.

The personal lists are really meant for individuals to print out and most of them now are about gear for camp.

The group list was used to help plan the grits kit and Winter Camp at Home Kits as well as to create a task list for some of this year's unique requirements. You can find them at wintercamp.com/checklists.

Back In The Day

Tales Of History and Imagination

Today's at-home lunch is the **Mexican Meal**. Careful observers will note that the exact meal is not specified. This is possible because "Mexican" is the first meal theme to appear at Winter Camp as a breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Winter Camp's most common ethnic meal ("Caveman" is *not* an ethnicity), the Mexican Meal debuted at Winter Camp X in 1986 and has been served under that name 6 times. The menu may vary slightly from year to year, but we usually serve tacos in hard or soft shells, tortilla chips, and Spanish rice. The meal was moved to noon as a lunch at Winter Camp XXI.

At Winter Camp XXXVIII, the first dinner was the Mexican Team Dinner and was intended to be an all-hands participate cooking fiesta. Dave Oakley took charge and assembled his own team, including Gabe Church, Doug Wilson, and Joe Warren. He then led them in the preparation of a fine Mexican bill of fare including chicken enchiladas, tacos, and chips and salsa. Reviews were generally positive, and the adults tapped the leftovers the next day when camp ran short of MRE's for the MREapalooza.

Mexican became the first meal theme to complete the trifecta when it was served as a breakfast at Winter Camp XLII. The meal consisted of milk, orange juice, and breakfast burritos. Chilaquiles (fried tortilla strips) were initially on the menu but were vetoed when it turned out they would require being sautéed first in oil and then again in salsa---the prep time was deemed too long for the outcome. (Aside from the service project day, Winter Camp has come to favor quick breakfasts.)

Winter Camp Trivia

From yesterday's edition:

1. Who developed the remote-controlled robots demonstrated at the Winter Camp XLIV planning meeting?

—Alan Wilson

2. Before its cancellation, who were the youth leader and adviser of Winter Camp Local?

—Isabel Alderman & Steve Donohue, respectively

3. Who wrote a 7-volume set of Winter Camp planning books in 2020?

—Steve Donohue

4. Who was Winter Camp's first 3-time youth leader?

—Matt Grumble

Today's questions:

1. How many OA Distinguished Service Award winners have attended Winter Camp?

2. Who used French butter (ooo-la-la) on his homemade bread at Winter Camp XLIV?

3. What two camp artifacts were part of Winter Camp XLIV's Geocaching event?

You Might Be A Winter Camper If...

If you've ever awoken to the *Posthorn Gallop*...

If you know someone who prefers frozen strawberries to fresh...

If you know you won't have a burger between Christmas and New Year's...

If your wife expects you to fall asleep before the ball drops every year...