

News from Our “Neck O’ the Woods” At the WWME Campout, Camp Holy Cross, Goshen, MA

By Ray & Beth Ginepro

There was something old and something new for everyone at the recent WWME Campout at Camp Holy Cross in Goshen, MA. We were blessed with perfect weather the whole time. Thirteen couples and families traveled from all over the state and as far away as Boston and Albany, N.Y. to this beautiful woodland retreat on a lake in western Massachusetts. New friendships were formed and old friends reunited as we shared worship, fun and campfire cuisine. Some made the trek to the diocesan campground for just the afternoon to enjoy peaceful time out on the lake or the annual Saturday night bonfire.



Nelbey Pepler and daughters Katrina and Alyssa roast marshmallows with Jim Montagna



S'mores are good!



Breakfast at Camp Holy Cross in Goshen, MA

Shortly after breakfast Saturday morning, six game couples participated in the first annual Couples Canoe Race. Each heat began with one spouse seated in the front of the canoe and the other pushing off the beach and hopping into the rear of the canoe. Three couples in each heat set off this way to race around the marker canoe out in the lake. First couple onto shore won their heat. In the first heat, Marie & Jeff Destromp were neck and neck with Don & Michelle Jarvis till the final few yards when Jeff and Marie surged ahead to win. After tipping the canoe at the very start, Ray & Beth Ginepro provided comic relief and finished dead last. Next up were Nelsey & Robert Pepler in the lead in heat two over Tim & Linda Laporte and Dan & Helene Robillard. They were looking good with clean coordinated strokes, but got snagged up on the marker canoe. This gave Dan and Helene a chance to capitalize on the mistake where they took the lead at the turn, finishing first on the beach. Heat three was close at the start between Jeff & Marie and Dan & Helene. In the end, Dan & Helene emerged victorious in the first annual Great Couples Canoe Race.



1st Annual WWME Couples' Canoe Race contestants and officials



Start of the Canoe Race



Ray & Beth Ginepro take a spill at the start of the Canoe Race



Dan & Helene Robillard receive the Couples' Canoe Race trophy from Bonnie Ginepro (the trophy bears the names of all winning couples and goes to the winning couple each year)

Two other new events this year were the hula hoop and free throw contests. Winning the Under 10 division in fine form was Kaitlyn Robinson. Amid a larger field of 10 & Over contestants (including some limber ladies), Jessica Ginepro hula hooped the longest to win. Campers of all ages participated in the Free Throw Contest in one of four divisions. Looking more confident than they may have felt, Boys and Girls winners were Kevin Laporte and Victoria Jarvis respectively. They set an excited pace for the adults who followed. In the Ladies division, Brenda L'Heureux shot 3 of 5 for the win. Three of the men shot 3 of 5 to tie. Jim Montagna, Josh Ginepro and Dan Robillard then went head to head in a sudden death shootout. Josh missed under the pressure while Jim and Dan advanced to take a second shot. Dan won with a swish.

From there the long-awaited annual scavenger hunt began. There was no age limit and up to three on a team. Campers scrambled from the gym in search of items. Several returned quickly, but had not selected the correct longest married couple or most recently encountered couple. Redoubling their efforts, the first place team of Stephanie Jarvis, captain, Michelle Jarvis and Russell Smith came in seconds ahead of the second place team of Melissa L'Heureux, Sarah Destromp and Kaitlyn Robinson. Kudos to all who participated!

Later in the afternoon, the Geezers played the Whippersnappers in a close game of soccer. For the Geezers, goalies Jim Montagna and Russell Smith sacrificed body and knees to make some admirable saves. Strikers for the Geezers were Nelsey Pepler (one goal, called back for off sides); Russell Smith (two goals) and Don Jarvis (one goal) against brave Whippersnapper goalies, Kevin and Thomas Laporte, Jessica Ginepro and Kaitlyn Robinson. Strikers for the Whippersnappers were Sarah Destromp (two goals), Victoria Jarvis (one goal) and Ray Ginepro (substituting for tired children and scoring one goal). The half-hour game ended with the Whippersnappers beating the Geezers 4 to 3. It was a fun way to work up appetites for the main event - the Annual Pie Eating Contest.

This year you had the choice of adding whipped cream, but only the pie needed to be completely eaten (without use of hands) to win. Winning in the Under 10 group was an exuberant Brianna, granddaughter of Jim & Mary Lou Haughey. Competition was tough in the 10 to 14 age group, but Thomas Laporte nudged out his competitors by a swallow to win. Even more ladies participated this year in the adult division. The ladies ate delicately. The men ate with gusto. In the end, last year's champion pie eater, Dan Robillard had to hand the rolling pin trophy to this year's champion, Ray Ginepro.

On Saturday evening, we celebrated Mass and followed that with a family enrichment on satisfaction. As darkness fell, the campers enjoyed the annual bonfire as songs were sung, and friendship was shared.



The Springfield, MA Sharing Group

Congratulations to all who stepped out of their comfort zones to join in this year's WWME Campout events. If this sounds like fun to you, or if you'd just like to get away and just relax in God's country, watch for the 2006 WWME Campout information coming soon in the eSpirit.



Pepplers and Robinsons enjoying the weekend