

December 2012

From the Board President:

Dear Pinewoods Members, Family, and Friends,

It's blessed cold at our beloved lake this time of year, daytime highs in the 20's. The Weather Service indicates Lake Effect snow showers intermittently over the next week. Chipmunks are tucked away, cottages sit dark and quiet in the pines.

While the heady days of summer seem distant, your Pinewoods Board continues its work. Finances are in reasonable shape but could be better. The month's end October financial report, shows a Dining Hall net income of \$7,898. That stands \$2,926 better than budget. Much of this derives from operational cost savings as revenue exclusive of tips was \$1,961 below budget. Meanwhile, net income from General Camp Operations is \$758 better than budget year to date.

At the end of October, our operating cash balance was \$32,399, which is \$5,836 less than last year. The drop is largely due to a \$21,329 increase in accounts receivable to \$31,108. Your board will pursue these accounts and expects significant improvement by end of year. (As of December 10th, nearly 80 members of Pinewoods have outstanding balances. Our accounts receivable are now still in excess of \$15,000. Some of this is due to the recent fall billing. However, 45 members of Pinewoods have bills which are more than 90 days old.) Please note that Pinewoods needs to maintain its cash flow, even in the off season, in order to protect and preserve a place that is dear to all of us.

If you know or think you may be on "the list", please square your account as soon as possible. If you are not sure, please feel free to call me at 802-379-8060 or email me at LTrain1@mac.com. I will be happy to check the list. Alternatively, you can contact Robin Smith of our accounting firm Smith & Associates at robin@smithassocmi.com or call her at 989-348-2811. Once again, I would remind our members that most of our billings are sent by email. If you have not received your bill, please check your mail programs to make sure the billing is not being screened out. We also depend on membership to inform Robin Smith if your emails have changed.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has prioritized a number of spring projects. dining hall staining, dormitory roof replacement, selective removal of dangerous trees, and the generator project are in the offing. The \$6,000 generator project special assessment approved at the annual meeting will be included in the spring billing. The operating statement is available at: <https://sites.google.com/a/pinewoodscamp.org/public/>

The Pinewoods Board will determine Dining Hall opening and closing dates after the holidays and will make this information available as soon as possible. Kathy Piehl has agreed once again to oversee our nourishment. Ed Babcock will also return in his role as Pinewoods caretaker.

The 2013 Annual meeting will likely fall on July 27th and the Notice of Annual Meeting and proxy forms will be sent in the spring. All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting, so plan ahead!

Warmest regards and looking forward to seeing you all next summer.

Lauris Wade

From Kathy Piehl...

On behalf of the staff and myself I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the tip fund. It is really nice to receive a little bonus at the end of the summer. We all appreciate it. I am really getting into this retirement thing. I do what I want, when I want. How much better can it get? I'm babysitting Zoey Lynn 5 days a week. Yes, I love it! Angela and I are going to water aerobics, too! Merry Christmas to all and love.

From Louisa Lawrence...

Recently *The Gerrish Gazette* published information about our new sanitation services company, Republic Services. We will have the usual Monday pick up, but we also now have RECYCLABLE PICKUP. The recyclable materials will be picked up the first and third Friday of the month. Bins for recyclable items were distributed in late October. Since very few Pinewoods people were in camp, Jean Lawrence put all of the bins away at each cottage, either next to existing garbage barrels, or in a garage. Thanks, Jean!

I know it's only December, but I am already counting the weeks till we get back to Higgins!

Remembering Bill Gaus



From Andy Gaus....

My brother Bill died this past September, after suffering a massive heart attack. Bill had bypass surgery and appeared to have survived it, but later developed escalating complications--the same thing that happened to his father and mine, who also died in his 60s shortly after emergency heart surgery that had been deemed successful. For me and Bill's family it's been perhaps an even more wrenching loss than that of my mother, Laura Gaus, a year and a half ago. It helps a little that I

saw him in August, only a month before his attack, and visited with him in good spirits and seemingly good health.

Saint Agnes Church, where Bill was a regular parishioner along with his wife Terry, was packed for his funeral, and attended by Bill's six kids, along with cousins Frank and Marjorie Bennett; I was there as well. Terry can be reached at theresebglaus@yahoo.com. If you're old enough that you still know how to use US mail (if not, have some older person show you), she's at 784 Ashbury St., San Francisco, 94117-4014.

Bill's and my older brother David is still living in Indianapolis. He didn't make it to the funeral, though he was present at a smaller gathering of Bill's childhood friends held in Indianapolis. He can be reached at davidsgaus@gmx.com or at 249 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201-3105.

Bill was a credit to his family, his church, and his profession, not to mention a very funny guy. He stayed married to one wife and raised six fine children to adulthood but never became a grandfather. Extremely sharp and extremely principled, he was about as good a combination of the cunning of the serpent and the innocence of the dove as most of us are likely to find in our lifetimes.

Andy's contact information:

382 Riverway Apt. B, Boston, MA 02115-6435
Home: 617-232-3896, Cell: 617-331-3285,
andygaus@sprynet.com

From Paul Bennett...

An excerpt from Losing Bill, and Keeping Him with Us:

Bill loved a good story, and didn't hesitate to make it a better one. I remember his arriving at the lake one night much later than expected. He had absolutely not gotten lost, he assured us -- the highway had simply disappeared from under him.

Well, I'll reassure myself with the thought that Bill's not lost this time, either. The road just disappeared from under him, and when we run into each other again, he'll make a good story of this one, too.

From Kathy Lawrence...

The Duncan Lawrences have news--we became grandparents once again. Chris and Amy welcomed Sean Escott Johnston on October 27th. No red hair this time--Zach keeps that honor all to himself.

Jordan was in Eastern Europe visiting several countries for about a month. He experienced Halloween in Transylvania which he states is on the 'creepy' side. While in Prague, he stayed with a friend he knew from his Pomona College days. He also found out that Ava Geupel was studying there and I believe they did touch base. The Pinewoods connections reach out internationally once again! Jordan will find his way back to Sweden at the end of November to begin teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in a town outside of Stockholm. He will be there for about a year, but is hoping to come back for a visit in July in order to be at Pinewoods over the 4th.

From Rebecca Taggart Aaland...

Here at the Taggart-Aaland residence, our girls are fully engaged in life. Miranda, now 16 and a junior in high school, has spent the fall semester at the Oxbow School in Napa, California. A one-semester boarding school for juniors and seniors, it encourages students to explore across the spectrum of visual arts, and to creatively engage in academic subjects. Miranda has been one of 38 students from across the country lucky enough to be selected to participate this fall. It was a joy to have her home to visit for Thanksgiving discussing big ideas. She presents her final art project during the school exhibition December 15 and 16, and comes home for good on December 20, or at least until college beckons in a year and a half!

Grandpa Mike (Taggart) proved he is the greatest once again by giving Ana, now a 7th grader, tickets to see one of the Giants playoff games on their way to the World Series title this fall. (Both her parents lucked out, too, getting to accompany Ana.) A huge Giants fan, she wore a bright orange wig, rainbow

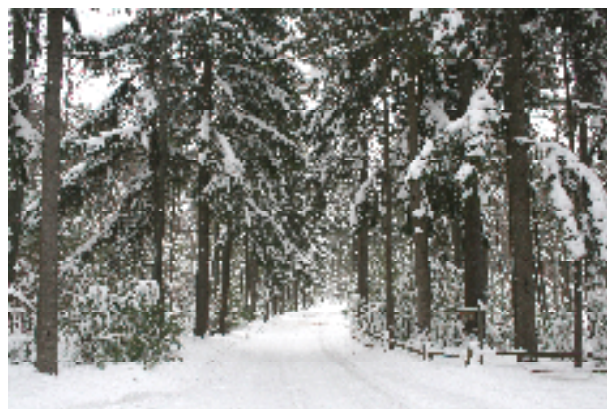
eyelashes, and carried a big sign to hopefully thank G'pa on TV. Ava just celebrated her 12th birthday by riding all the big roller coasters at Six Flags. She certainly loves excitement and adventure!

Mikkel is organizing an international "Future of Photography" conference, to be held during the annual Nordic Light Art Festival in Norway next spring (2013), along with finishing a book and other projects.

I have just started a new job teaching chemistry and math to high school students at Fusion Academy, a short walk from home.

Life is good for all of us, and we wish the same for all our Higgins family and friends!

From Harman Foster...



Judith and I are in PW right now (Nov. 26) in our winterized and toasty cottage. I just took a bunch of pics in 10" of snow. It will be a high of 28 today! Heading for Fred's for lunch. It's packed every day! Nowhere else. They have a gold mine and are doing well.

From Kathleen Dewey...

I am happy to report that Margaret (age 16) and I swam from the island to the Pinewoods shore on Sunday, July 29th. I was a beautiful clear morning with calm water. We started our swim at about 7:30 a.m. and completed the approximately 1 and 1/4 mile swim in just under 58 minutes. It was a wonderful achievement of a long time goal.

From Esther Greenleaf Murer...

Daphne Murer was born to George Murer and Phoebe Hwang on Sept 16. We got to meet her over Thanksgiving, and ascertained that at 2 months she can tell one tune from another.

From Phil Will...

We're recently back from a short Thanksgiving family gathering at the Jersey shore. Karen's sister and husband were hosts. Kayden, Coe and Craig, and Riley joined us. It was great fun. Craig and Coe are working on plans for a July wedding.

From Sara (Almirall) Takikawa...

Official Cottage Grover, honorary Pinewoodser

This past summer, I was able to visit Higgins (from Portland, Oregon) twice. Once, to obtain and recuperate from a necessary surgery and the second time to take full advantage of the Lake, jump on Kathy Lawrence's volunteer list for a wine & cheese party at the Dell, and see the sights of Roscommon.

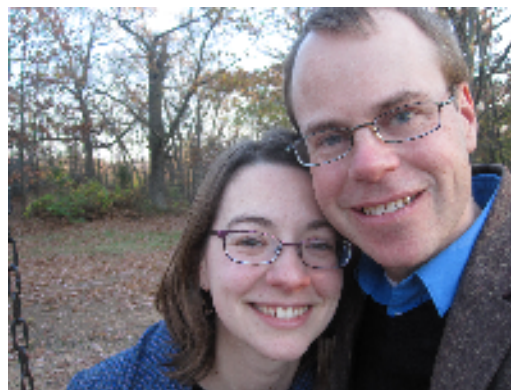


During the fall, my husband, Jaime, and I took our honeymoon holiday in Whitefish, MT, and Glacier National Park.

Jaime works as supervisor at Portland's Northeast branch of Whole Foods and is constantly perfecting his stellar cooking talents. He has also begun teaching students the trumpet. This is a wondrous opportunity for Jaime, as he's adored music his entire life and been playing the trumpet for nearly that long.

Winter has opened with an opportunity for my first photography gallery showing. Granted, the show will be held at a local pub, but what's the Pacific Northwest without Art and beer?

From Blair Cochran...



Chris (Guttridge) and I are engaged and we're both very happy. We're planning to make honest people of each other sometime this summer, most likely in NJ. Until then, we're living in sin in Boston; we'll also be up at Pinewoods (most likely near the hammock) in July or August. Hope to see as many of you as possible in one or more of those places!

From Jerry and Marilyn Kerns...

Pinewoods friends should be fore-warned!! Marilyn and Jerry are 'taking down their professional shingles' and will close their counseling practices at the end of January. Therefore, Pinewoodsers best not say, in casual conversation, "Oh, you should come see us sometime." as they will be more likely to respond, "Oh, we would love to. When?"

Of course, on the other hand, with no work schedules Marilyn and Jerry should be able to provide B & B accommodations to the Pinewoods Clan any time throughout the year.

From Dan Wilson...

Joyce and I took a bicycling adventure trip to Denmark.

Some observations:

- Denmark is flat if you are in a car. Not so flat if you are on a bike.
- The Danish people love to sail. There are sailboats everywhere. Good for my soul.
- The Danish language is not something like German.
- Danish people are happy. It's the second happiest country in the world. (No one knows which is the happiest.)
- The Olympics were on Danish and Swedish TV. Coverage of the sailing competition was super.
- Denmark is not on the euro. The exchange rate is about 6 or 7 kroner to the dollar. (It's like play money until you get home and see your credit card statement.)
- We had fun.

From Ann Taylor...

Taylor/Brown news:



Phoebe Murer, Paul Brown, Morgan Brown, Maddie Elliot (taken last summer at Higgins)

This fall has been a busy one. In September, Alyssa was honored with a large art commission in Trondheim, Norway and is now back in Austin, TX preparing for a group exhibition. Paul continues to work and plan for his move to California. Morgan has

acclimated beautifully to her new studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Mary completed her huge eagle commission for the Veterans Memorial Park in Rochester. And I finished eighteen paintings for my China sponsors.

We are looking forward to the holiday season and wish all of you a splendid new year!

From Frank Cochran & Stephanie FitzGerald...

We had a wonderful fall excursion to Athens, four Greek Islands, Istanbul, the Aegean Coast and Central Anatolia. With so many breathtaking vistas, archeological sites, geological oddities, cities, museums, churches, mosques and people, our heads were spinning. Since our return we are still continuing to absorb the rich art and history.



Here we are in Santorini after having buffed and puffed up 588 steps from the Old Port to the main town of Phia.