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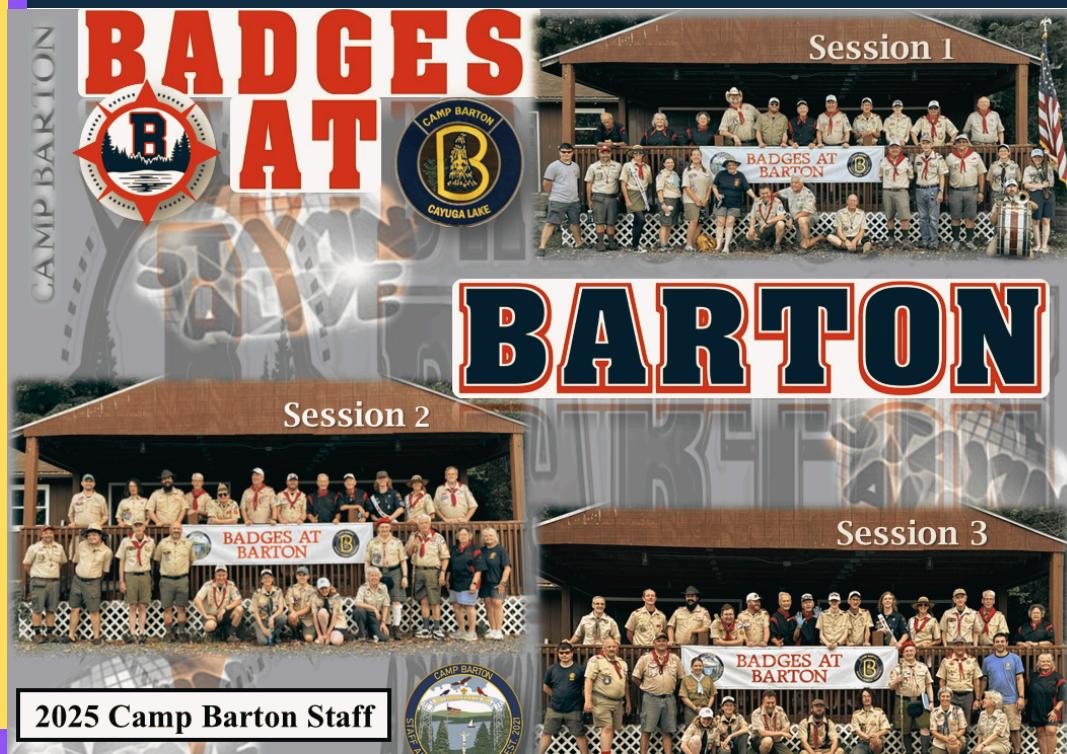
# THE CAMP BARTON STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FRONTENAC POINT OF VIEW



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Thank You to the 2025 Camp Barton Staff !



## ON THE HORIZON



CBSAA 5th Annual Meeting  
--- JULY 14 2026 ---



SUMMER 2026



SUMMER  
2021

# COME SAIL AWAY

## A PROGRAM THAT HAS CARRIED CAMP BARTON ON IT'S BACK 104 YEARS STRONG.



"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails." JYC

Camp Barton..., Cayuga Lake..., Sailing... these words are common to us all. A core and stable element of program at camp every summer for as long as one can remember. A signature highlight of one of the nations top waterfront & aquatics programs for decades. A majority of us would likely agree with and recognize that Camp Barton without sailing simply isn't Camp Barton. What we may not recognize though, is just how deeply embedded & synonymous sailing is with Camp Barton.

It's rare to look out over Cayuga and not see a sailing vessel - regardless of common hazardous conditions. It can be disheartening to look down along the waterfront beach and not see a fleet like the image below. Do you remember seeing that line of sails ready to hit the lake? Colorful, bright, vibrant. Sun Fish, Lasers, Laser 2's, Taners, Hobie Cats, The Zephyr.... Chappy's Dream, Das Boat, and now- Sensei. We take for granted the importance of sailing at Camp Barton, and many of us have been simply unaware that the origins of this skill in Scouting (on a national level) are very closely tied to central New York.

In 1910, as part of the original listing of "Badges of Merit" established for Scouting in America-- Seamanship was one of only 14 badges to capture the excitement of young men around the country. In 1911, Seamanship was given "awardable merit" and became part of the inaugural class of the first 57 Merit Badges of the BSA. Seamanship quickly emersed Scouts into various forms of boating and was deemed an essential skill required for Scout advancement. Young men not only needed to know how to swim, and to help others in water rescue situations, they needed to know how to operate watercraft. No boating skills, no Eagle.

By 1964 advances in watercraft type and technology were vast. Seamanship had grown in popularity so much so that the BSA made the decision to split the badge into two areas of focus; *Motorboating & Small Boat Sailing*.



The BSA's guideline surrounding sailing programs was simple. It stated that if the camp had a suitable waterfront then the camp should offer the badge.

"Suitable Waterfront" .....

**CHECK**



What's funny about that statement is when you learn about the spectrum of interpretations concerning what constitutes a "suitable waterfront". Just because you have a body of water, doesn't mean you have an adequate platform to run an aquatics program. For anyone who has camped at Scouting facilities around the north-eastern United States they would know that there are just a couple of camps where one can *actually sail*, subsequently, it just so happens to be that there is only one Camp Barton.....and there is only one Cayuga Lake.

Even though sailing has been offered at Camp Barton since 1922, it may have taken us until 2025 to actually recognize just how much sailings "livelihood" extends beyond the confines of the white picket fence, and, when we talk about sailing at Camp Barton, it is clear that there is a far greater meaning to be uncovered. Whether you are aware or not, sailing has had an enormous impact on the development of camp, and its earliest foundations--- and we mean that literally.

Most alumni presumably know by now, that the founder of Camp Barton was Samuel D. Bogan. Bogan was a man of immense influence who used Camp Barton as a platform to tap into the vast resources of the Ithaca community in order to bring a program to local Scouts. During those first 7 years of operation, Bogan ignited our eternal flame, established our spirit, and set Camp Barton on its path. For all the recognition and gratitude we bestow upon him, dually noted as it may be, what has been far less and observed, and appreciated are the efforts of his successor; Kenneth B. Spear.

When Spear took the helm as Scout Executive in early 1929, after Bogan's departure, he immediately began laying foundations to develop a Sea Scout program in the Ithaca area. Sea Scouting had been previously introduced in 1919 in the Finger Lakes Region, Auburn to be exact. The National Boy Scout Head Quarters at the time was based out of New York City, and Auburn, NY had been awarded the first Sea Scouting "Company" to hit the scene. Once established in Auburn - company's formed in Syracuse, Utica, Rochester, and Binghamton. In 1930, Spear became Camp Barton's 4<sup>th</sup> Camp Director and around that same time, two men had recently taken seat's at the executive board level for the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Council; Arthur Norman Gibb, and Jes Jessen "JJ" Dall Jr.

Arthur N. Gibb, was a nationally renowned architect who had steaked a large local footprint in Ithaca. Notable credits to his resume include a majority of the cities public facilities, the county municipal facilities, and most of the core campus buildings that make up Cornell University. Gibb was also a very skilled sailor. It is well documented that much of his wealth went back into his passion for sailing, and as a bonus, Gibb was equally as eager as Spear to see that Sea Scouting came to Ithaca. In 1930 Gibb solidified his foundations in Camp Barton history when signed on to be the lead architect for a new focal piece of Camp Barton- It would be named "Barton Lodge" or as we know of it today, the Dining Hall.



**KENNETH B. SPEAR**



**ARTHUR N. GIBB**



**J.J. DALL JR.**



# COME SAIL AWAY CONTINUED...

Jes Jessen "JJ" Dall Jr. was a transplant of Brooklyn, New York and the son of a successfull shipyard official. He had grown up around seacraft, the ocean, engineering, and construction. Dall, a recent Cornell graduate from the school of engineering would quickly make a very prominent name for himself in Ithaca. He was a decorated WW1 veteran, and a strong community patron. It's not hard to believe that in 1924 the Secretary of the State of New York approved the charter for the JJ Dall Construction Company Inc. Dall's construction outfit was the most prominent in the city. Much of the construction Dall completed throughout the 20's, 30's and 40's remains as notable landmarks of the infrastructure of Ithaca. Dall, amongst his many community endeavors, was a tremendous supporter and advocate for Scouting. Dall quickly became a critical lifeline for Camp Barton. It is well documented that the JJ Dall Construction Company not only built several early structures at camp, they also donated materials and skilled manpower regularly. Dall also was quite familiar with Arthur N Gibb. Having routinely been the called upon as the construction outfit to Gibb's architectural creation. The duo played a significant part of the pre, during, and post depression development of the City of Ithaca. They also shared a common passion- Cayuga Lake.

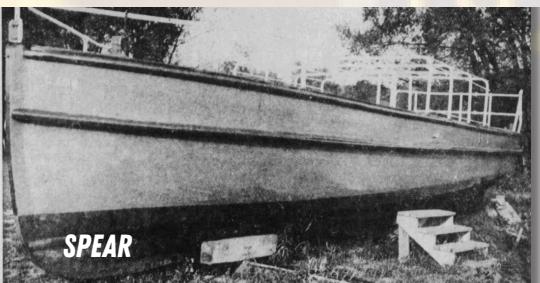
This critical connection between Dall and Gibb was recognized by Spear. Spear harnessed these two men not only to bring significant development to the infrastructure of Camp Barton, but to drive the council forward in its establishment of Sea Scouting. Dall, notably, was the councils Camping Chairman working alongside Spear. The Barton Lodge was constructed in just 3 months time with Gibb at the design helm, and Dall's outfit making it a reality. Much of the funding for what would become Camp Barton's most historic/iconic structure was navigated by the generosity of these two individuals. If not for them, the keen coordination of Spear, and some critical timing, who knows what would have come of Camp Barton. Its easy to overlook the idea that without the Dining Hall how may have things turned out? If that structure doesn't come along, does the camp survive? What we do know, now nearly a century later, is that the collaboration of Spear, Gibb, and Dall Jr. -which has been historically overlooked, was of an immense proportion to Camp Barton.

Fast forward to 1934 - Barton Lodge has become a cathedral for Scouting in Central New York. Camp Barton is sky-rocketing to premeir status as a camp, and the Sea Scouting program has arrived in Ithaca. Spear, Gibb, & Dall Jr. have all been instrumental in this progression. The landscape of Scouting in central New York continues to grow and flourish. While records are a bit scarce currently on the exact date that Ithaca's first Sea Scouting company was chartered we know that both Troop's 1 & 6 had organized Sea Scout patrols as early as May of 1929. Regardless of this, we know that by the summer of 1934 Sea Scouting has erupted in the LAF council so much so such that Dexter S. Kimball Jr. is hired by Spear to serve as Camp Director of a completely separate specialty camp at Barton solely for Sea Scouts. This camp is one of the first documented of its kind in Scouting, and helped pave the way for the rapid integration of Sea Scouting into summer programming, and likewise, summer camps serving as Sea Scout Bases.

Ithaca's first Sea Scouting "Company" was officially chartered in late 1934 as Ship 25, led by Robert T. Leonard, a local Scout Leader involved with Camp Barton since 1926. - The charter was revised in 1935 and newly recognized by the BSA as Ship 25 SSS "Spear" following the resignation of Kenneth B. Spear from the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Council in late 1934. It was an honor bestowed in Spear's name to the program he helped bring to Ithaca by council board participants the likes of Gibb and Dall Jr. The ships first registered Scout would be Samuel J. Deeb, a future Waterfront Director at Camp Barton from 1946 through 1950.



Several boats have been operated by the company including the Lucy T, and the Spear. In 1939, the Ship cruised to the Worlds Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York and served as part of the Scout Service Corps. Ship 25 would also earn Regional Flagship honors during the early 1940's. In 1949, the ship was named "*The best Sea Scout Unit in the country*" according to a February 9, 1960 article within the Ithaca Journal. The ship continued its active charter through the 1980's when it was unfortunately disbanded due to a lack of funding and participation. Remarkably though, it was resurrected and rechartered in 2010. Of the original Central New York Sea Scouting fleet, one of the nations oldest and earliest set of regional participants- SSS Spear/Ship 25 is by far the longest lived. Now nearing a century in operations it remains a symbol of the dedication of Kenneth Spear and those he surrounded himself with, not only for the movement of Sea Scouting, or the preservation of Sailing on Cayuga or the benchmark program feature at Camp Barton, but for the connection it represents to a community. More recently, the ship earned its status as a 2025 National Flagship Fleet, as presented by Boat U.S. and Scouting America Nationally.



No mention of Sea Scouting in Ithaca or Ship 25 can be made without due recognition to one of the founders of the Ship, and its Skipper from 1935 until his passing in 1966. Robert T. Leonard, born in Caroline NY in 1893 he served on the Camp Barton Staff in 1926, he instructed Seamanship Merit Badge. As instrumental as Spear, Gibb, and Dall Jr. were to launching the Sea Scouting program into the Ithaca area, Leonard was equally if not more instrumental in its success and sustainment. Leonard pushed the program to great heights and kept enrollment to the max. Leonard was a Silver Beaver recipient in 1946, and also founder the Spear Alumni Association in 1950. A farm boy who fell in love with sailing as a Scout at camp called Barton and spent a lifetime paying it forward.



CLICK  
ANY IMAGE  
TO ENLARGE

**ROBERT T. LEONARD**  
5.17.1893 - 1.9.1966  
"SKIPPER"





# COME SAIL AWAY CONTINUED...

The Camp Barton aquatics/waterfront program has continued to instruct Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the early 2000's, David N. Gross, a longtime Waterfront staffer developed an advanced sailing program unique to Barton that would be offered throughout summer camp for those Scouts who both excelled in sailing, and likewise took an additional interest in its challenges. The



program provided Scouts opportunity for an overnight excursion, advanced technique & skill development, racing applications, and team building. The program was appropriately named Helmsman, meaning *"The person who steers the ship"*. The Helmsman program quickly gained in popularity and elevated to one of the nations top programs of its kind, the likes of Sea-Base. Today, Helmsman has been adapted to remain as part of the Badges at Barton experience. We can attribute the sustainment of this program to the ongoing charter and stability of SSS Spear/ Ship 25, and as well, the Friends of the Ithaca Sea Scouts Charitable Organization. Jim Graney, Committee Chairman of Ship 25, and owner of "Sensei", a remarkable 33 foot sail-boat, and the current "vessel" for Ship 25 continues to carry on the Helmsman legacy of high adventure sailing at Camp Barton.

For additional information on SSS Spear/Ship 25 or the Camp Barton Helmsman Program Click Below:

**DAVID N. GROSS**

CAMP BARTON STAFF  
1993-2003, 2022-2024  
FOUNDER: CAMP BARTON  
HELMSMAN PROGRAM

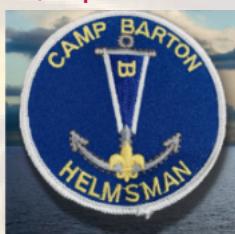
**JIM GRANEY**

CAMP BARTON STAFF  
2009, 2015, 2023-2025  
SSS SPEAR/SHIP 25  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



**SENSEI**

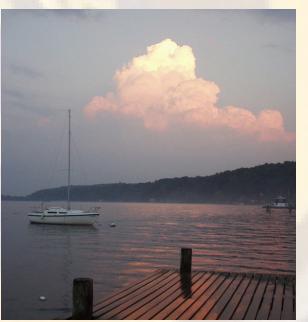
**SSS SPEAR/SHIP 25 ACTIVE VESSEL  
CURRENT HELMSMAN PROGRAM VESSEL**



**HELMMSMAN**  
ADVANCED SAILING PROGRAM



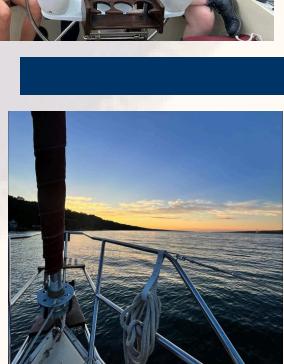
**DAS BOAT & CHAPPY'S DREAM**  
**HELMMSMAN PROGRAM VESSEL'S DURING THE 2000'S-2010'S**



**CHAPPYS DREAM & ZEPHYR II**  
**2 ORIGINAL HELMSMAN VESSELS**



**ZEPHYR II SUN RISE & SUN SET**





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Benjamin L. Brown

Camp Barton

Staff Member

1959, 1960



Benjamin L. Brown was born at very young age. The lifelong Tompkins County native

spent his childhood living on Turkey Hill, and like most boys growing up in the 1940's & 1950's, Scouting was the thing to be a part of. Ben was a member of Troop # 7, formed in 1924, one of the earliest troops of the Ithaca Council. He was a Scout under the leadership of Kenneth Loveless, a long time Scoutmaster and support/staff member at Camp Barton. Ben would earn the rank of Eagle in 1960. He did so like his father before him. Ben attended Ithaca High School- which was located from 1914 to 1959 at what is currently the "Dewitt Mall" on Cayuga Street. He would graduate in 1960, the first class to do so at Ithaca HS where it currently stands today. Ben would go on to serve in the United States Navy. According to his son Keith B. Brown - Ben worked as Soda Jerk, a Pin Setter, and a Short Order Cook. Also according to Keith, Ben was a formidable tap dancer, the likes to be reckoned with. For 30+ years Ben would go on to work at Cornell University in the Theory Center. He would serve on staff at Camp Barton in 1959 as a Kitchen Aid/Dishwasher, and in 1960 as the Dining Hall Steward. In the early 2000's Ben was the pioneer of a trek program known as the Trail to Eagle, which offered Scouts a week-long advancement/training/challenge opportunity, while at Camp Barton. Programs of similar origin would soon catch on in councils across the nation eventually driving Scouting to develop their own program known as Life to Eagle Training which Ben currently serves as an instructor for. As his son Keith gained interest in Scouts, Ben entered what has become a lifetime of service to the Baden-Powell Council. First as the long-time Scoutmaster of Troop # 2 of Ithaca, where he remains active as the Unit Commissioner to this day. He also served over 10 years as the Council Program Committee Chairman helping to keep resources and opportunities alive at Camp Barton. He has served on the Council Advancement Committee, and in several capacities likewise for the Taughannock District. He has trekked Philmont Scout Reservation, and he has sailed all over the world. Ben has more Barton B segments than actually exist, and he has also mastered the ability to nap at any time, anywhere. Mr. Brown is a decorated volunteer having been awarded the Silver Beaver in 1999 amongst other council and regional recognitions. Ben remains active and spry at the young age of 85 as he now serves as a Member at Large on the CBSAA Executive Board. Ben has served on staff for all 4 seasons of the Badges at Barton Program missing only a couple of weekend sessions to date. Ben Brown is synonymous with Scouting in the Ithaca area. He is the embodiment of a Camp Barton Staffer and a true alumni. Ben is one of the few remaining original members of Chi-Sigma, the honors society privy to Camp Barton created by Samuel D. Bogan. Ben has always put the needs of others, and the greater good before himself, and it is a privilege to call him one of our own. We are forever indebted to his service, and we look forward to sharing more of it in years to come. Cheers and thank you to Ben!

## A CBSAA HISTORICAL REVIEW - "UNCLE LOUIS"

**“Uncle Louis”**

**Louis Agassiz Fuertes**  
B: February 7, 1874  
D: August 22, 1927

Camp Barton Staff  
1922-1927

A World Renown  
Naturalist, Artist, & Storyteller.....

Click The Image To Enlarge & Download PDF



Louis Agassiz Fuertes was a world- renowned illustrator, naturalist, and pioneer in the field of ornithology. His stature remains a symbol that reflects the remarkable leadership of Camp Barton and serves as a benchmark for the camps expectation of quality. In this CBSAA historical review we take a dive into Fuertes's life, and the legacy he left for us all to share.

Join us as we discover the narrative of Camp Barton's most iconic landmark. In this review we explore the origin of this great structure, uncover its foundation, its architectural story, and the underlying purpose it has provided for nearly a century. The centerpiece of it all.

## THE RECREATION HALL, THE DINNING HALL, "BARTON LODGE" -EST. 1930



# REMEMBER WHEN....

We dedicate this section to the memories of times spent at Camp Barton. We dedicate this section to the memories of those no longer beside us, those we hope will walk with us again, and to those we have yet to meet. Thank you for all of the memories and contributions to this section!



"My father, and my older brothers William and Fred all found ourselves in Scouting. We made many lifelong friends and developed interests that carried through each of our own families. We wouldn't have adopted Scouting so strongly in our lives had it not been for Camp Barton and all of the other staff members we were surrounded by. My Scoutmaster was Rev. Sidney Winter - he was stern, and no nonsense but we all benefited and learned from him. He cared about Camp Barton more than anyone we knew, and that inspired us to do the same. - Here I am, 94 years, Camp Barton has and always will be part of my life - David Geller



Masonry Merit Badge. I was the first to use the new nature-conservation building, "The Nature Lodge" or Gannett Lodger--but it had its price. Bill Alder, the Scout Executive, was a man of high energy and capability. Just before camp opened a big pile of rocks showed up at the new building and Bill Alder told me I was about to earn Masonry Merit Badge. Seventy years later I can still walk by my chimney and reminisce about the good time working with Bill Alder on its construction."

- Dr. David Hanselman



For our first year at camp, 1968, I was 11 and my brother Mark was 12, and we were chosen to represent troop 19. The more senior campers gave us the following advice: "Don't go for the watermelon until toward the end, when all the other scrappy scouts are covered in grease and tired out." So, we waited near the goal, the victory line everyone wanted to carry the watermelon over, as the grease got spread around. We then spread handfuls of tiny stones and lake sand on our hands and chests, so we could grip the watermelon, and went in for the kill. Yes, we got scratched & clawed, but while Mark pulled out the legs of the stronger competitors, I clutched the holy grail tightly over the line with would be defenders holding on my limbs to keep me back. Our troop was ecstatic. We were heroes for the day. -Michael Koplinka-Loehr



During the last week of July and first week of August 1976, I was a 14-year-old Scout attending Camp Barton with my troop from Huntington Station, Long Island, NY. At that time, I was an Eagle Scout and had earned most of the merit badges offered at Camp Barton so other than earning what I could towards Palms, I spent most of my time at the Waterfront, Rifle Range and hiking the Gorge both lower and upper. To my great delight on Sunday, of I believe the first week, the Program Director announced that there was going to be a Sea Plane landing on the Lake and that a small number of Scouts and Leaders, who met the criteria and passed several tests, would be invited to board the Sea Plane for a tour of the area.

The criteria were that you had to be a First Class Scout, over the age of 14, or a Troop Leader and attend several training courses including education on digging imu pits, first aid, signaling, emergency parachute landings etc. How could I not be included in this wonderful activity. So along with three of my fellow troop members of equal age, my Scout Master, and many others in attendance at camp, we spent Monday through Friday training and competing to get one of the very cherished but limited seats on the Sea Plane. On Friday afternoon at lunch the lucky winners were announced. I, my fellow troop members, and my Scout Master, had met the challenge, and were chosen, along with about 15 others, to take a flight that night on the Sea Plane. The chosen few met on the porch of the dining Hall after lunch and all were assigned a roll and some form of safety item to bring for the flight. As dinner approached, the entire camp was excited about the impending flight, however, it was announced at dinner that the lake was too rough in front of Camp Barton for a landing, so the Plane would land in a different location, and we would be put in row boats and towed over to the Sea Plane just out of view around the corner by Family Camp. After dinner the entire camp headed down to the fishing dock (then just off the Flagpole) and the fifteen or so chosen loaded into the row boats to be taken over to the Sea Plane. Tom Bond (then "Mr. Bond") and the waterfront boys began towing us to the Sea Plane. The weather was perfect, the lake a bit choppy, but it did not matter as we were going to fly in a Sea Plane. Most of us had never flown in an airplane before, let alone a Sea Plane. The ensuing flight was truly amazing. The lift off was so smooth that it felt like we had never left the water. The view of the lake and camp from the Sea Plane was so clear it was as if we were still in row boats, several of which sank that day, and I still can't figure out why. The other jealous Scouts who could not make the trip, "cheered" from the banks of the lake. It was the best flight of my life. At the final retreat on Sunday, all of us who had competed and had "flown" on the Sea Plane were presented with a Sea Plane 76 handmade neckerchief slide to memorialize the occasion. A few years later, as a Staff member, and former member of the inaugural flight, I was asked by the Camp Director Alan C. Dixon and Program Director Matt Salino to assist with the training of a new group of Camp Barton elite, who would once again fly high above Camp Barton on a Sea Plane. As technology had advanced since 1976, their experience was even better than ours. With the success of the two Sea Plane adventures, a few years later, we brought a submarine to Camp Barton, but that is another story for another time. -Scott D. Stolte

## What the Hey!! .....Vern Blaker was heard off in the distance exclaiming

back to the  
**80's**  
It has been recalled that 2 staff members who happened to be tent-mates' were engaged in several "Best of 7 Series" That's 7 weeks of camp - the contest --brace yourself..... total # 2's taken per week. This # was recorded in the dining hall on the chalkboard, and was included in daily announcements to the campers/leaders... the thing is that only the staff knew what the # represented. The camp would erupt in cheer when weeks winner was announced



Lets play and game and see how many camp trucks a camp go through in a decade! 1, 2, 3, 4..... nope -keep going!



Camp Director Jamie Saroka is meticulously selected for the dining hall production of Cock Robin.... led by the king of music Bob Kestler. Jamie will play- "The Fly" .... when asked why Jamie had to be "The Fly"- Jeff Andrews explained. Everything about Jamie is consistent with the buzzing, movement, and mannerisms of a fly. His hair also currently resembles the abdomen and thorax of a fly. ...."with my compound eye....."



A notable prank from the 2010's:

Tin Foiling the Nature Lodge, Knot-Weeding the Nature Lodge and moving the giant table from Sidney Winter into the Nature Lodge- just because....

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## Letters to the Editor / Articles / Photos

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FOR ME..... HEY!!!!!!**

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Spring 2026

