

Camp Quest NorthWest – Site Tour Only

Camp Niwana (11606 Ranch Dr. SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367)

July 21, 2011 at 3:00pm

Board Members in attendance:

Vice President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Treasurer – Jerry Schiffelbein

* Note: this was not an official board meeting. Brennon, Jami, and Jerry visited Camp Niwana for a guided tour of the grounds and facilities.

Overview of the Area (information from notes and website):

Lodges and Multi-purpose Facilities:

- Pokiwanis Lodge (main lodge & dining hall)
 - L-shaped lodge seats 116 for dining and meetings. Has a large stone fireplace at one end. Partially insulated and winterized, but not warm in the winter time. Restroom just outside the lodge.
 - Dining: No food service is available through them. We have to either pay a caterer or do it ourselves. Neither Nick nor Rick had any suggestions on local vendors. Apparently most groups do things themselves.
 - The kitchen is large and has a dishwashing area, 4 working ovens with 4 burners each, all electrical. There is a standing freezer and a standard refrigerator freezer. All tableware, pots and pans, and cooking utensils seem to be there.
 - Any cooks we hire should visit the kitchen beforehand to get an idea of what they're working with, and whether or not they need to bring extra utensils.

- Happy Hollow Cabins
 - Three small, screened cabins that can be used for crafts, meetings, or sleeping. If they are to be used as sleeping cabins, cots would have to be moved there first. Each cabin can fit 9 beds each, for a total of 27.
 - These cabins are closest to the dining area.
 - Only restrooms available are Porta-Potties.
 - This area is more forested than the other sleeping units.
 - Small outdoor fire pit could that could accommodate a handful of people. Hasn't been used for a while and needs to be tidied up.

- Staff Lodge
 - The living room can serve as a small group meeting area; it has a wood stove and couches. Sleeps 14 in bunks. Has its own kitchenette and restroom/shower. Rustic but heated.
 - Good space for counselors in training.

Sleeping Accommodations:

- Further away from the main gathering area, there are three clusters of cabins separated by mostly open field. It used to be more forested, but last year they had to log a significant portion of the Douglas Firs because they had become diseased. Now it's covered in ferns and brush. Cots with mattresses are available, just bring your own sleeping bag. Like Happy Hollows, each space has a small fire pit that can be used by a handful of people.
- Vagabond Village: 5 A-frames
 - Each cabin has 6 bunks plus loft space. The unit has an outdoor central washstand and an outhouse with flush toilets.
 - Cabins are fairly open to the elements.
 - Capacity: 30.
- Gypsy Glen: 3 three-sided cabins
 - Each cabin has 8 bunks. The unit has a central washstand and an outhouse with flush toilets.
 - Since they lack an entire wall, these cabins are very open to the elements. A semi-see-through screen can be pulled down to keep out bugs.
 - Capacity: 24.
- Tall Timbers: 5 cabins
 - Each has 8 bunks. The unit has an outdoor own central washstand and an outhouse with flush toilets. These cabins are closest to the central shower house.
 - Capacity: 40.
- Health House
 - Sleeps 6. Has restroom/shower & kitchenette. Heated.
- Cook's Cabins
 - Two little cabins near the main lodge. Each sleep 3 or 4.
- Hidden Cabin
 - *Rat infested. Unusable.*
 - Very small cabin behind Staff Lodge. Sleeps 2.

Restrooms and Showers

- Each of the three "outer camp" cabin clusters has outhouses with flush toilets.
- One central shower house has co-ed restrooms and shower facilities (we should discuss its limitations in person). A laundry room in the same building has one washer and dryer.
- Most "inner camp" cabins have Porta-Potties.

Lake

- The lake is not too large, but certainly large enough for waterfront activities such as canoeing, rowing, paddle-boating, and swimming. It also has fishing, though it's catch-and-release only. Lifeguards may be available for around \$30/hour. We would have to pay an equipment charge if we used their equipment, or hire someone for another \$30/hour to handle the other waterfront activities.

- The campsite basically runs a ring around the lake.

Archery Site

- Archery is available, either with an equipment charge and having one of ours certified to teach, or through them for \$30/hour.

Central Campfire

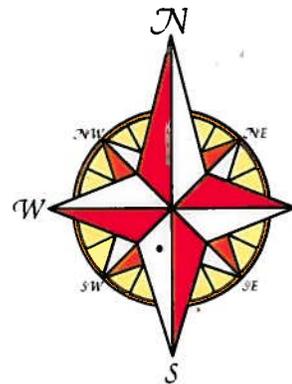
- There is a single, large spot for a campfire. Logs serve as benches.

Other Highlights from the Tour:

- They are very open to service projects, and honestly the place could definitely use some. Ideas: making signs, cleaning, restocking firewood. They're in the middle of rehabilitating the campsite, which will include burying the electrical wires.
- They never mentioned a minimum number of camps. The maximum it could support is 100+.
- Cleanup: Leave it as you found it.
- Insurance needed is the standard \$1,000,000.
- Emergency communication: None of us had cell phone reception, and the landline phone was dead. We assumed there wasn't Internet service, either.
- Overall, the camp is very rustic, definitely an underdog. The campsite is quite spread out and secluded. Has potential, but will need a lot of TLC. Will probably have to make several trips out there to prepare the site.
- Jami took pictures, which are available here:
https://picasaweb.google.com/jami.blackann/CampNiwanaVisit2011?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCO_rkauUwKf15wE&feat=directlink

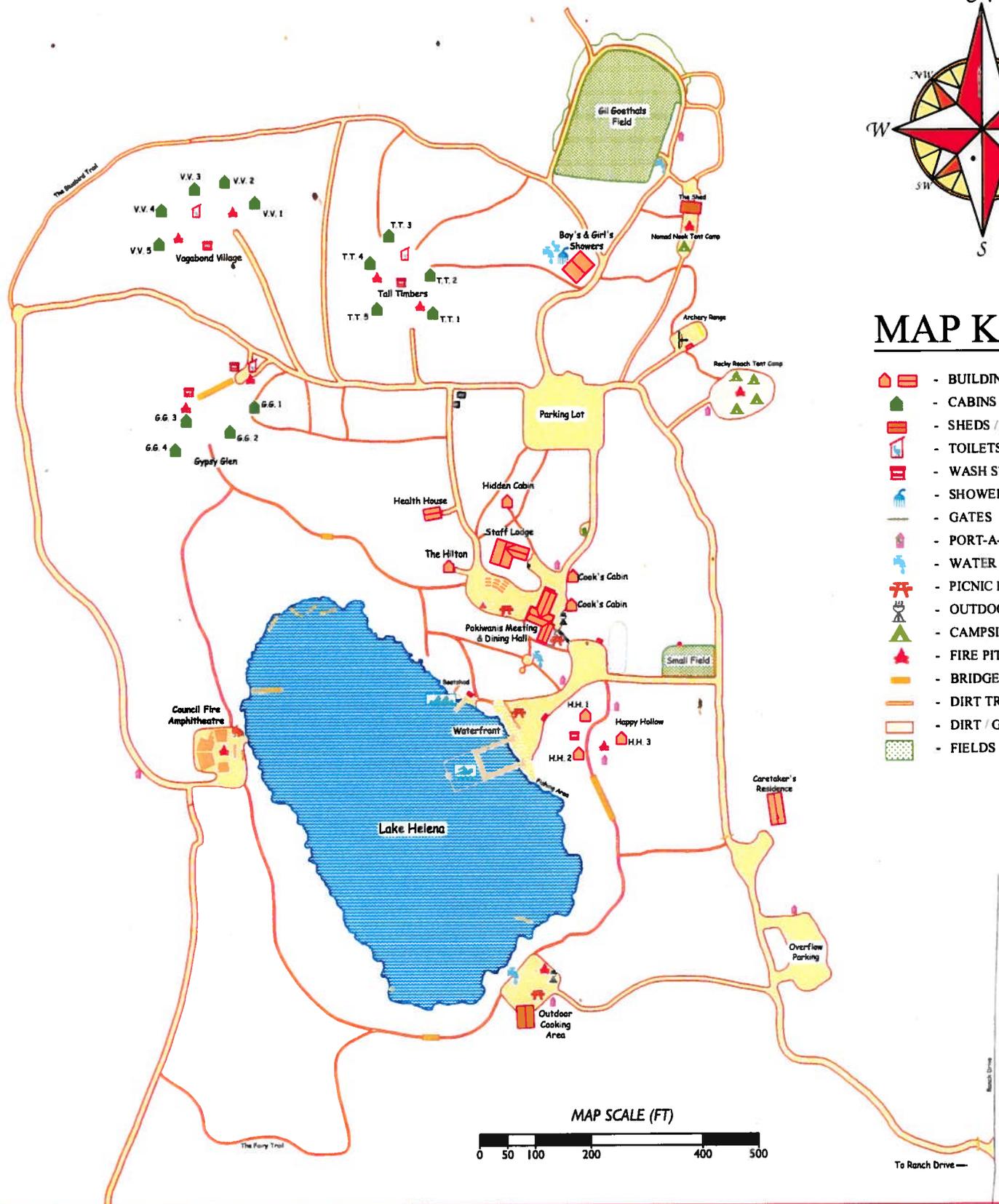
Reminder of Next Board Meeting:

Keisers' house (755 SE 10th St., North Bend, WA 98045)
Wednesday, July 27, 7pm sharp



MAP KEY

- BUILDINGS
- CABINS
- SHEDS / CANOPIES
- TOILETS
- WASH STATIONS
- SHOWERS
- GATES
- PORT-A-POTTIES
- WATER SPIGOTS
- PICNIC BENCHES
- OUTDOOR COOKING
- CAMPSITES
- FIRE PITS
- BRIDGES
- DIRT TRAILS
- DIRT / GRAVEL ROAD
- FIELDS



Camp Niwana

A member of Camp Fire U.S.A. since 1954

11606 Ranch Drive SW, Port Orchard, Washington, 98367

Camp Information

Director of Camping: (206) 463-3174 x22
 Rental Manager: (206) 463-3174 x21

Facilities and Onsite Service

Caretaker: (360) 876-3315
 Camp Kitchen Phone: (360) 895-4505