

The background of the entire page is a lush green forest. In the upper right, a wooden cabin is partially visible through the trees. In the center, a wooden staircase leads up a hill. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

THE PONKY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

AMC Ponkapoag Camp

Randolph, MA 02368

QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the newsletter or would like to contribute to it, please contact Dianna Wilson who is managing the camp newsletter.

Email: <mailto:PonkapoagNewsletter@outdoors.org>.

DISTRIBUTION: If you want your email to be added or changed for the newsletter distribution please contact Laura Dowd, Ponkapoag Secretary.

Email: <mailto:Ponkapoagcamp@outdoors.org>

Letter from the Chair

Hello and welcome everyone!

My name is Rich Crosby and I have been voted in as the new committee chair. I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to the previous chair Dennis and all the other members of the executive committee and general committee for all the hard work they have done. Without you this camp would probably not exist. I very much appreciate the ongoing effort you put in. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who donate their time regularly.



Rich Crosby

For those of you that don't know me, I've been coming to camp since right around 1990 though I can't remember the year for sure as I was a child. I have spent many years in the woods of the southeast corner of the Blue Hills that we call Ponkapoag or home, because that's what this place feels like to me. My mother Roberta was the summer manager for many years in the 90's and my father was the committee chair. Once I became an adult, my wife (then girlfriend) Nicole became camp renters and then to my surprise, my wife became the summer manager, and our very young children began to have many of the same experiences that I had growing up in the summer at Ponkapoag. How lucky am I!!!

This year we have had an entire turnover of the executive committee and our long-term off-season manager Trisha has stepped down as manager. Trisha, thank you for everything you have done for camp but especially not kicking out this troublesome Crosby that always has felt that whatever next thing I thought was gonna be awesome that went terribly wrong was gonna be straw that broke your back. Thank you.

Our new off season manager Lauren has been off to a fantastic season and has agreed to be our summer manager too. Can't wait to see what this summer brings.

Almost all the many little things that need to happen to keep camp running are performed by volunteers. These amazing people are just like you and me. They have day jobs and many responsibilities aside from camp but take the time out of their busy lives to give back to Ponkapoag. I urge all you reading this right now, yes right now, to consider volunteering at Ponk to help this camp move into the future while keeping the feeling that it's a place staying (not stuck) in a simpler time with fewer distractions. I hope I get a chance to meet each and every one of you whether it's in the swimming area, horseshoe pit, ping pong table, potluck dinner (please be karaoke night) or...on the road with a shovel and rake. Either way, summer is almost here. Get those reservations in and let's have a great summer.

Best,

Richard Joseph Crosby III
AMC Ponkapoag Committee Chair

Camp News

Summer is just around the corner!

Many of us are eagerly looking forward to our favorite summer sanctuary and we're sure many of you are wondering who the Summer Manager will be this year. It is our pleasure to announce that for the first time in a long time our Off-Season Caretaker will be continuing through the summer months!

Lauren, who stepped into the massive void left by our beloved Trisha, and who has done a remarkable job filling that void, will continue her incredible trajectory in void-filling and will be keeping Ponk safe and running smoothly through the year.

Summer regulars who have not had the pleasure of meeting Lauren yet, please help her adjust to the increase in camp presence and with the running of summer camp activities.



Lauren

SUMMER SEASON CAMPERS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY LIST

Because Ponkapoag is a volunteer-run family camp, campers are also strongly encouraged to do some volunteer activity while they are staying at camp.

During the summer season the manager maintains a list of volunteer activities and asks the campers' help when they check-in.

The list is on a whiteboard in the Lodge where campers write their name next to the volunteer activity of their choosing, including:

- **Potluck** – grill hot dogs and clean grill afterwards.
- **Potluck** – assist with setting up and cleaning up.
- **Movie night** – set up projector, screen, and chairs. Start and end movie. Put away the projector and screen and move chairs back.
- **Movie night** – make signs about movie night and put them up on the outhouse cover in the afternoon.
- **Movie night** – make popcorn.
- **Lodge** – clean up at the start of the day including sweeping, straightening out the furniture, and maintaining overall tidiness of lodge.
- **Lodge** – clean up at the end of the day including putting games away, removing trash, and putting items in lost and found bin.

Here is an example some ways you can help while camping this summer.



It takes a village of volunteers to maintain this volunteer-run camp and we need you! Please consider offering to run a potluck or a post-potluck activity or sign up for a clean-up task upon your arrival this summer! Ask Lauren to see the volunteer activity list.

Summer Reservations!

By the way, the Board is filling up quickly! Get your summer reservations in ASAP.

Mail-in is still the way to make reservations. The form as well as instructions can be found under the Reservations page on our website at www.ponkapoagcamp.org.

If you have any questions about availability or other questions feel free to call Lauren on the camp phone at (781) 961-7007 or email her at <mailto:ponkapoagcaretaker@outdoors.org>

We can't wait to see you all!



WANTED!

Waterfront Coordinators

As excited as we are for the summer season to begin though, we must announce that we are in dire need of two Waterfront Coordinators.

We cannot stress this enough; **there will be no swimming at Ponk this summer if we do not find lifeguards.**

If you know anyone who has adequate housing and transportation and is interested in a summer spent by our beautiful pond, we are willing to help them acquire the appropriate certifications.

Please reach out to either <mailto:ponkapoagchair@outdoors.org> or <mailto:ponkapoagcamp@outdoors.org> if you know anyone! Thank you!



Summertime at Ponkapoag



Work Party Calendar

The following are the early summer and fall Ponkapoag Work Parties.

Mark your calendars!

- **June 9th (Sunday)** – Opening the summer cabins (Leader: Laura Dowd)
- **June 22 (Saturday)** – Camp Summer Season Opening weekend
- **June 23 (Sunday)** – Camp Summer Season Opening weekend
- **September 2 (Monday)** – Camp Summer Season Closing
- **September 22 (Sunday)**
- **October 19 (Saturday)**
- **November 3 (Sunday)**



Road Work Party 2024!

To sign up for a work you check your emails for the work party announcements with sign up form attached. If you are not sure if you're on the work party email distribution list or want to subscribe to it, please contact Laura Dowd, Camp Secretary. <mailto:PonkapoagCamp@outdoors.org>



Tee and Nolan!

Also, please give a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Tee Diakabana - our newest general committee member! Tee will be helping camp by joining the Facilities Committee and leading some the work parties.

Welcome Tee and thank you!

Volunteer Appreciation 2024

You love Ponk!

The event was a smashing success this year! It was the third year in a row that Ponkapoag Camp hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner in the cozy lodge at the New England Base Camp in the Blue Hills. We ate yummy food, heard Rich Crosby, our new Ponkapoag Chair, thank us and inspire us to keep the camp spirit alive and physical structures intact. We marveled at the colorful origami crickets Lizi made for all of us, and enjoyed the centerpieces made by Trisha Minton that we also got to bring home! We applauded as Dennis received an actual chair from the AMC as the out-going Chair. Jamie Cohen, Heather Mick-Carito, and Christi Maher happily fed us appetizers, dinner, and cake & ice-cream for dessert! Cindy Maher had a slide show of camp playing in the background so we could enjoy the beauty of camp in every season and reminisce, and we all certainly loved Julie was our amazing host for the evening, keeping us laughing and playing fun games!

Thank you to all who submitted nominations for our Volunteer of the Year Award! They were.... Laura Dowd, Julie Linehan, Dennis Maher, Tee Diakabana, and Nolan Whitehead!

Thank you to the Volunteer of the Year Award Winner...

Laura Gersch!



Over the last several years Laura has done so much as the Facilities Committee chair. She organized and prioritized the work needed at Camp. She created a database and led several work parties. Laura helped keep our cabins and roads in tip top shape!

Ponkapoag LOVES you back!

They say pictures are worth a thousand words. Well, some of these pictures are worth a thousand questions!

Let's just say, Ponk volunteers had a blast!



Ponkapoag Volunteer Appreciation Event 2024!

Want to share your love of Ponkapoag?

Volunteer!

There are so many ways!

You can reach out to Rich Crosby by emailing him at PonkapoagChair@outdoors.org.

Also, this summer and fall you can be part of the newsletter team that creates the quarterly Ponk Newsletter!

Get in touch with Dianna Wilson and she will get you started contributing - sharing the Ponk news and spreading that Ponk spirit!

Email her at: diannaw710@gmail.com

Text her at: 857-2512485



Dianna Wilson



Ponkapoag Volunteer Appreciation Event 2024!

