

January 3, 2017

Dear Theta Phi Alpha Sister and family or friends:

Cortland Winter Raquette Lake is Fri Feb 10 5pm to - Sun Feb 12 12pm

Costs: 3 days x \$34 + 2 nights x \$22 = \$ 146 / per person

We need to confirm our final attendance no later than Wed January 18, 2017. Please respond to me as soon as possible if you will be attending.

I will collect checks from you on the departure date. Please respond to this email with your name, names of any guests, email, phone, arrival day, and estimated check amount.

Questions? Comments? email me at VB600@aol.com

Thank you. Teri Tiso

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Guests Names? _____

Estimated check amount _____

Check one:

Depart: _____ Fri Feb 10 between 4 - 5 pm

_____ Sat Feb 11 9am

Winter Raquette Lake Report Feb 12 - 14, 2016

Report from Teri Tiso '1974, first time as Theta Phi winter camp coordinator:

Four intrepid sisters and one friend ventured to Camp Huntington to enjoy our Theta Phi Winter Raquette Lake weekend. Teri Tiso '1974, Geri Knortz '1972, Karen Uhlendorf '1975, Ellen Barber '1971 and Janet Little, M.S. 1974.

Friday: The weekend started off well as we shared our dinner on Friday night with the Cortland Writer's group. We happily took over the right wing of the "DOR's Den," formerly called McDermott, or Hemlock, or Holiday Inn. We diligently rehearsed our skit, wrote out invitations for next year (What would Pat do?), and hummed our favorite melodies (What would Barbie do?). Next we dragged out the jig saw puzzles, and proceeded to stare at each of the pieces until one or two of them fit together. (The rest of the pieces are still waiting.) Geri and Janet kept beeping with fitbit excitement as they meticulously reached 10,000 steps albeit after dancing with swinging arms to reach their goal. Mesmerized by the beautiful moon and stars rising over the lake, we bid each other good night, and fell sound (more or less) asleep.

Saturday: Uh Oh! *"Tiso what time is breakfast?" "It is always at 9:30am."*

Except this time! It was at 8:00am as Janet and Geri discovered during their early morning fitbit walk. We hurried sheepishly to the dining hall; me especially since I was on KP! (What would Nels do?)

It was cold. Very cold. Below zero cold, but we were undeterred! Even though it had been snowing lightly, there was not enough to track the cross country ski trails, so we locked on the crampons and hiked through the woods. (Got to get those steps...) Ellen was leaving after lunch, and so Geri, Teri, and Janet donned every bit of clothing we brought with us to walk Ellen across. OMG! It wasn't just cold. It was minus 28 degrees cold; minus 40 with the wind chill! You see today was the Raquette Lake Winter Lake carnival and we wanted to enter the frying pan throwing contest to uphold the honor of Deb Bendon Spiak '1975, and Barb LoPiccollo Muench '1969, past winners. Well we did not make it to the carnival. It was so freakin' cold that we waved goodbye to Ellen, ran to our cars, sat in our warming up vehicles, and then trekked back to camp. With the wind at our backs, Janet and Geri added a few hundred more steps to the fit bits!

Sat pm. It was a full house as the Red Dragon Softball team joined us at dinner. We regaled each other with "tales from the tundra" recounting our past college days of sleeping in the lean to's back in the day when it was minus 50 or so, sleeping four to a sleeping bag, and waking up to freezing hats and coats; all for a chance to earn one credit without having to write a paper, and of course to be able to talk about it 40 years later!

And now the moment we were all waiting for! (Or at least I was.) The sauna and ice jump! However, because of the conditions, there were no "ice holes" cut out of the lake, and therefore, we would not go in. Well, that was our story. (What would Carol and Meg do?) So, we had no choice but to return to the DOR's Den, drink some wine, eat some chips and cheese, fit together a couple more puzzle pieces, post pictures on Facebook, record a Happy Birthday singing video to Ellen's sister (that took awhile to get it right), do some class work (yeah right), read, listen to music, laugh, talk, laugh some more, and finally go to bed.

Sun am: We made it to 8:00am breakfast. Sadly we could not sing the grace because Ellen had left and we did not dare try to fill her shoes. So we packed our bags, cleaned our rooms, and hiked one last time through the woods to St. Williams' Church, waving to the softball team doing their team building at the Challenge course. One more walk across the lake to Antler's, where we hugged each other goodbye and drove off to our homes. I am still laughing as I write this; thinking of the good times we all shared. I can't wait ill next year when I will hopefully will be able to redeem myself as coordinator. We did make it to Sun breakfast in time!