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# ON THE POINT

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## We have weather, whether or not we like it!

*There's beauty in them thar storms*

The slippery slope towards winter began just before Halloween with a bracing round of frigid winds and snow. What fun to thaw the lower cottages out in time for the annual Oestreicher's Halloween party. (See page 5 for photos of Sonny & Cher and the Geisha!)

After Halloween we geared up for the Thanksgiving feast – amid freezing temperatures and wicked wind, we also managed to decorate for the town's "Christmas Country Tour" lighting contest. (BTW: We won!) Thanksgiving turned out to be one of our greatest events – terrific guests, unbelievable food and plenty of camaraderie. David O regaled us with **M**ales of the native Americans and all retired to their cottages with visions of left-overs dancing in their heads.

Christmas crept up on us on little elvish feet...and

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## Ten Years After

*Looking forward, looking back*

Things at Prospect have changed quite a bit over the years, yet somehow it's the same place. The Oestreicher's have brought the cottages up to snuff and even added wireless access for the modernists among us...

However, if you look around you, you'll see that Donny has been scraping and painting cottages. It's time to start over with maintenance. Yikes.

There's a new dock this year. Somewhere in the future is a boathouse. Pine Cottage is finally finished and Maple, Cedar & Spruce will have their day (at some point). We will have a gift shop -- we just don't know when or where.

We have plans and dreams and lively discussions. We have a glass of wine at the end of some long, interesting days. And ice cream. We love ice cream.



*"Recharging"*

We are going to be able to keep Elm and Hemlock open this winter (at least, at this writing, that's what we believe).

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Santa, bless his heart, found the children staying here. Children (of all ages) from Puerto Rico, Virginia, and even New York State, awoke to yet more snow and our tasty continental breakfast. And cookies. Chuck the infamous red squirrel benefitted from some chestnuts that never made it to the fireplace. (He was last seen nursing a pulled muscle and a sore jaw.)

Meanwhile, Aunt Carol ordered seeds and herb plants, ever the optimist. Y

### **Do You Hear What I Hear?**

*Dateline January 2009*

While walking my dog up on Thomas Edison Rd last night, I heard a terrific booming – sounded like trees being felled by giants. What could it be? Just ‘ole Blue freezing up for the winter. If I’d bothered to turn the TV down a notch, I could’ve heard it indoors, I swear. People were out on the lake last week (Christmas time) but our guests settled for counting heads, waiting for the sloppy ice to give way. By the time February rolls around that ice will be so thick you could build a house out there. No kidding. We invested in snow shoes this year for the guests to make their tramping around easier and got good reviews from the brave hearts who strapped ‘em on..Y

### **Beware The Ides of March, and so on...**

March 9: Yesterday was warm and soft. Today is a grim reminder of the bi-polar nature of this new month. Staff and guests alike are a hair’s breadth from comatose. Still, we soldier on.

April 9<sup>th</sup>: Refer to above paragraph.

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Ditto. Ice prepares to leave the lake.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ditto, ditto with snow showers.

April 28: 75 lovely degrees and only a few dirty snow banks left. Hope surges through our shattered spirits.Y

### **Technology looms its noisy head**

One of the most controversial issues here in the mountains centers around cell phones. The Hamlet of Blue Mountain is completing the

process of applying for a cell tower over by the firehouse which will offer waaaaay better reception (and in a lot of cases, any reception at all). Such an event creates its own paradox: safety and ease of communication vs. the constant chatter of cell callers in unexpected places. We here on the Point don’t have an official viewpoint but we sincerely hope that the owners of cell phones use discretion and their best manners when here. We invite you to browse the Blue Mountain Center’s website for the provocative article “Reflections on the Cell Phone Policy” by Rob Nixon ([www.bluemountaincenter.org](http://www.bluemountaincenter.org)) But it must also be said that you should take that same piece of equipment with you on hikes – we had one lost hiker this spring and that little phone allowed the Rangers to find her. I would conclude with “For everything there is a season...”Y

### **Hunkering Down at Prospect Point**

#### **We ignore the economy, if only for one week.**

It’s a good thing the cable service here is so crummy or we’d all have way too much information about what’s going on in the Big World (that area that lies outside of the hamlet of Blue Mountain). We’d be depressed and take on a rather snippy attitude to all things in all ways. Luckily we have constant contact with some of the most steadfast guests/friends that ever an innkeeper knew. While you all dealt with the vagaries of Wall Street and (un)employment, we truly wondered what it would mean to Prospect Point. We needen’t have worried.

So a big fat thanks to all of you who went to some extraordinary lengths to keep your reservations with us. And also to new guests willing to try us out!Y



“The New Pine”

## THIS SUMMER!

Blue Mountain sure comes to life in June-July-August (and even through Columbus Day). Depending on your week there's sure to be something to amuse, astonish or annoy your group. Here's a sample:

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY 21ST

PLACE: THE BEACH

TIME: 7-9PM

We host a professional ghost-story teller

### July 26<sup>th</sup>

PLACE: THE TOWN BEACH

TIME: 2PM

Shakespeare in the Park: A Midsummer's Night Dream

### AUGUST 16TH

TIME 7PM IN TOWN

Square dance followed by fireworks over the lake

### SEPTEMBER

PLACE: BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE

ALL OVER TOWN WE HOST THE RUSTIC FAIR ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> AND THE ANTIQUES SHOW LABOR DAY WEEKEND. BRING CASH!

### OCTOBER

ADIRONDACK MUSEUM'S HARVEST FESTIVAL THE 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>

### On-going stuff

**One rumpas or another in the Library – talent shows, scary movies and/or ice cream socials. Be where the Wild Things Are....**

### 10 Years (con't)

We'll once again celebrate Thanksgiving with friends new and old and Christmas will find us fully decorated and festive like you read about. (check out our website for details)

So here's to hopes and dreams. New and old. Y

*Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.*

--Emerson



We help our guests in any way we can! (The Lourdes Family taught us to remember how much fun snow can be.)

### Table For Two?

Last fall we instituted an "Adirondack Brunch" as a nice little amenity for our guests during the off seasons. In response to suggestions from a bunch of folks, we decided early-on that it would be from 9am till 11 am, rather than earlier. And so it is that people are free to wander up to the Library within that time frame and eat in leisure. If you were expecting dry cereal and weak coffee, here's a sample menu :

- Spinach Quiche
- Blueberry Belgian Waffles
- Sausage Gravy & Biscuits
- Bacon and Sausage Links
- Fresh baked muffins
- Fruit bowls

This brunch will be offered after November 1<sup>st</sup> and up until the last day of Spring rates each year. Enjoy!

We'll keep the waffle maker warm for you.

(And the quiches, and the crepes and the....)

## BITS & SNIPPETS

(OR “CONVERSATIONS WE WISH WE’D HEARD MORE OF”)

AT THE OPEN HOUSE

“...I had no idea those mammoth bones would take up so much space. “

AT BREAKFAST

“you should really try the bacon, I’ve had at least a pound already...”

“...we saw the No Vacancy sign and decided to try anyway...”

On The Phone

“What is there to do there, anyway?”

“I’m allergic to trees. Do you have many?”

“Where am I calling again?”

Emails

“Do you have bathrooms?”

“What will the weather be the day I get there?”  
(huh?)

Our Favorite

“I know you said you’re full for the summer but do you have anything in mid-July?”

## Bumps & Roadblocks

*What the dickens is going on here?*

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary to re-arrange the first week of week to week rentals, The Bump rears it’s useful but often confusing head. For those who’ve been coming for at least 4 years, you see the need to stop the backward flow of time. Folks with less experience tend to melt down...

We didn’t invent the calendar (who did, really?) but we have to learn to co-exist with it ... peacefully. We all have to vow to deal with the changes, each in our own way.

So, when your reservation creeps backward, and we reset the first week of the summer rentals, just remember that you are in a line of 10 weeks, not a particular date...*f*

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*“I think I get this (the “Bump”) in the same way I understand: women, the Dewey decimal system, perfect pitch and the success of the show Ugly Betty... I will now begin drinking and see if I can get some clarity on this issue.”*

*-Wishes to remain anon.*

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Weekend Warrior Women Unite!



An Adirondack Brunch



## ASK AUNT CAROL

Q: I've been coming here for 25 years. Can I take my time checking out on Saturday?

A: No.

Q: If we forget to come to the office and rebook for the next year, will you put us in automatically?

A: No..

Q: Do we have to take a nap?

A: No. (but you should).

Q: Aunt Carol, why are you so negative?

A: Well, dear reader, if you've

been to Prospect Point before, you see that we're a small, family owned business and, try as we might, we just can't do it all. Plus, most of of us are old and have very little short-term memory. 'Nuff said?

About check out: Saturdays are tough on everyone – staff and guests alike, and we hate to see you go but there are seventeen new families barreling their way towards the Point, cars stuffed to the gills, kids asking “are we there yet?”

On the other hand, we want everyone to know they can stay on Saturday, enjoy the beach or whatever. And do personally

re-book for next year. We'd miss you if you didn't.

Q: Why do you ask us to sign out when we go hiking? Don't you trust us?

A: No. Just ask Sgt. Blue (not her real name) who set out before breakfast with her friend for a short jaunt up Castle Rock this March. The Rangers found them around 5pm – totally off course, headed towards Canada, and unprepared for spending a cold night on wet ground.

Turns out our retired Marine had a GPS unit but it was home in St. Louis in a drawer. Only the fact that her cellphone worked for a brief bit (very briefly) let us know where she was. Otherwise we had no idea they were missing.

Lesson learned?.



**Bear & Canoe watch over the Library**



**The Glory Days**



**The winter winds of Prospect**

# Winter Scrapbook



**Your faithful Staff, ready to serve**

*Blue Mountain Lake –  
"Close to being the ultimate in Adirondack eye appeal."  
- The National Geographic Magazine*



**Paula & Heidi in the snow storm  
(Pretending they're not from Puerto Rico!)**



**Our Cathy racks 'em up on the lake**



**Why Carol missed Halloween**



**Autographs in Pine**