



December 2012

Dear Friends,

No longer a boy, Andrew, 16, has a passion for road biking. Competing in several local events, the Firehouse 50 (50 miles, 2:17) and the Ashland Bay Days Triathlon, he placed well among men. "I touch the ground, to train for corners." Gulp. The emerging mom of a young adult put a liplock on the former youth-mom who wanted to screech "that's too dangerous!" My response was something like "wow – ok, just try to be careful." Cross-country (ski team) and downhill (recreational) ski season are starting for both Andrew and Zach.

Zach, almost 13, is growing up too. We took a spin down to Chicago. The Segway tour was like ballet on wheels. Zach wanted to stop at the Weiner Circle, a Chicago hot dog stand that encourages entertaining, but foul, exchanges between employees and customers late at night (shared on youtube). Opting for day, he got food and a photo with one of the employees. I didn't realize until I looked at the photos on a bigger screen, that she included the one-gun salute – in good humor and true to form for the restaurant, but totally missed behind the camera. We took in Navy Pier, the zoo, the Museum of Science and Industry, the History Museum and the Windy sailing ship, where Zach got to raise the sails, fire a cannon and drink at the bar (sprite). I needed horizontal time when we returned home.

Andy is still reading the NYT daily and keeping those who will listen apprised of his interpretation of events. Always interesting – he missed his calling as a pundit. He is looking forward to completing the 2013 and 2014 Birkies, whereupon he will receive his 20-year bib. In 2015 he will drop back to the less grueling Korte race (20 miles vs 33 for the Birkie), wearing the revered purple bib.

Q-ie and I went to obedience class this fall. Their no-refund policy needs to be revised. Hiking and kayaking with the five newbies (they run or swim beside), helps keep their energies in check. Normally receptive to their affection as I enter the kayak, the last few icy days of the season I plopped in, flailed the paddle toward them off and got off shore. They must have been thinking me quite rude.

Good things are happening in cabin #1 and #3. The spring letter will detail those improvements.

Happy New Year!

All the Einspaniers



**DELTA LODGE**  
 WILDERNESS PLAYGROUND  
 13565 Scenic Drive  
 Iron River, WI 54847  
[www.wilderness-getaway.com](http://www.wilderness-getaway.com)  
[info@wilderness-getaway.com](mailto:info@wilderness-getaway.com)  
 (715) 372-4299

