

Dear Cousins, and Children of Cousins,

As many of you are aware, changes are taking place with the Pocono house. Our parents have decided that the time has come for them to stop worrying about and paying for the property, the Heims seem to feel the same way, and Aunt Kay is not able to enjoy the place any longer. Last fall, an appraisal was made (a copy of which we have enclosed), and it seems clear that a decision about the fate of the property will have to be made, and effected, by next fall at the very latest.

The house has fond associations for all of us who have been a part of it, and, as we all know, there have been discussions among our generation for several years about the future of the camp. The major question has been whether it is feasible that the property could stay within our family for another generation, rather than being sold outright. It has been a hard question to answer, for it involves balancing the love that we all feel for the place against the difficult logistics of financing, managing, operating, and coordinating the use of it.

However, it seems clear that it is a question that we have to answer, and answer soon, if the Pocono house is not to be sold away. A number of us seriously believe that it is possible to keep ownership within the family, and intend to explore the possibility fully. Obviously, to take on this responsibility will involve hard decisions--about how much it will cost each of us, or any of us, to buy into the property, about the cost of maintaining it, about responsibilities for upkeep, about availability for use, about membership. Perhaps most importantly, we will have to decide how decisions are to be made.

Most immediately, however, we have to reach some understanding about who desires to be a part of a next generation of ownership, and who does not, for we can't begin to answer questions or make decisions without knowing how many of us are willing or able to participate in the decision making and financing, and to what extent.

We would like to propose, therefore, that you get in touch, within the next couple of weeks, with one of us, or with Kitty, to express your feelings or interests about the whole matter, or simply to ask any questions that you have. In the interests of general communication, we've ferretted out and included the addresses of everyone who could conceivably be involved in this rather daunting proposition. Please give us a call or a letter soon.

All the Best,

Bill and John Ritchie

The Extended Family

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