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2007 NHN&WR letter/story #09

**Cedarvale**

**Gong Show/Challenge**

The Cedarvale’s beginning dates from 1961. It quickly grew to some 28 camps, cottages and whatevers along the west side of Pelots Point, North Hero. There are beautiful lake and mountain views. There is lovely indigenous fauna. Best of all, .... everyone knows everyone else! In this day and age, how many neighborhoods can say that? In 2006 residents gathered for a celebration of Cedarvale’s 45th anniversary. A whopping success!

Christmas ‘06, *"Bennett, Jefferson, McDevitt & Associates Inc."* received a commemorative ‘07 calendar courtesy Heidi Jefferson. Monthly montages of some 5-8 photos depict Cedarvale scenes from the sixties to the present. Prevalent were pictures of former ‘Fun & Games’. Looking at them brought instant nostalgia.

THE GONG SHOW! THE CEDARVALE CHALLENGE!

The Gong Shows came first. The rehearsal hostess has a trophy presented to her in 1980 in gratitude for her survival of innumerable practice sessions. In our nostalgic ramblings we will avoid names, but to appreciate a Gong Show one just had to be there. Picture: North Hero Town Hall, wasting away on stage are three performers, two can’t carry a tune, the song is Margueritaville, there are three Judges, ... much, shall we say, participation from the audience, Gong Gong Gong.

In 1988, Gong Show talent/non-talent was incorporated into the Cedarvale Challenge. This was team competition at its dirtiest. A weekend long saga of games, perfomances and embarrassment. Generally there were six teams of about 8 players rummaging around the Point. To this day you might see a Challenge surviver sporting their old team T-shirt.

Normal agenda.

Sports: Volleyball, croquet, lawn darts (the lethal kind), softball.

Theater: Charades, Win lose or Draw, Team Cheer.

Special Events: Scavenger Hunt, The Equalizer Relay (Guaranteed to prevent the leading team at the time from winning The Challenge)

Misc: Broken bones, beer (kegs & cans), Medals & Ribbons, lost contact lenses (or was that Atlanta?)

Wow! Wonderful pictures Heidi, where did you get them all? After viewing the month of July’s, we decided to check the Cedarvale ‘Walk of Fame’. This is a walkway, from one gate to another, made up of homemade pavers. Each paver carries the name of a winner and the year(s) that they won. The first paver has a multiple winner, starting in 1989. Ah yes, ... can still picture her in the Equalizer. She ran the ‘Grapefruit in the Panty-hose’ leg. Ever seen this? Take a pair of panty-hose . Put a grapefruit down one leg. Tie the other leg around the waist so the grapefruit dangles just above the ground. Then the participant, with erotic undulations, initiates a pendulum movement of the grapefruit and attempts to knock a beachball through a goal some 25 feet away. Hey, ... just a run of the mill Equalizer event. Oh gee! Here’s a paver for that guy who was on stage in charades. Took him 25 minutes to get his team to say *"Blazing Saddles".* Memories, memories.

Next year, 2008, will be the twentieth anniversary of the first Cedarvale Challenge. We took a quick scan of NHN&WR subscribers. Good Grief! There are about 25 Gong Show/Cedarvale Challenge alumni out there. Ha, ...shall we do one more? Below is a survey for anyone wishing to comment.

1. I’ll watch. (And laugh)

2. I’m game.

3. You are out of your mind?

4. Will there be wheelchair events?

5. What are your liability limits?

6. Have Gong. Will travel.

7. Would want to see venue first.

8. Making a fool of myself is not high on my list of favorite things.

9. Count me out, but would like to see the calendar.

From North Hero, VT

Lucile, Ken & Bailey.