

The perfect getaway Jon Pokorny's shed maintains creature comforts like a wood-burning stove.

that Palace lets hunt in the area gave him an autographed picture of the former Jets player Marty Lyons and a bottle of whiskey.

While Pokorny's shed is more sparsely appointed, Palace's is filled with years' worth of masculine curios, giving it an aura that lifestyle brands like J. Crew aim for but never quite reach. There is a model clipper ship made entirely out of Budweiser cans — Palace's favorite brew. There are black-and-white photographs of Muhammad Ali, John Wayne, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Ernest Hemingway and a yellowing newspaper cutout of Joe Namath throwing a touchdown pass. "They say he had a bad knee, but look how high he is off the ground," Palace remarks, pointing at the Namath photograph. "Hemingway is one of my heroes because he was always outdoors and pushing things

to the limit." At the helm of a drawing desk sit a pair of nautical lamps that turn on with the spin of a captain's wheel, a corn cob pipe, a string of yacht club burgees and a railroad lantern that Palace's brother long ago stole off a train in New Hampshire. "He got scared and dropped it in a lake alongside the tracks. Had to go scuba diving to get it out," Palace says. "Almost everything here has a story."

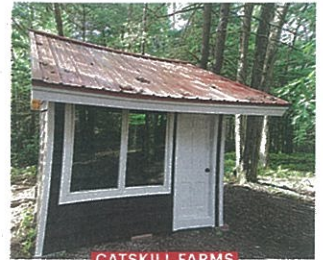
Palace often spends hours sharing the stories behind the stuff in his shed. Bobblehead figurines of the legendary Mets baseball announcers Ralph Kiner and Bob Murphy call to mind a chance meeting. "I had box tickets to a Mets game years ago, and I was hanging out in the Diamond Club during a rain delay when Ralph Kiner walked in. He ordered a double Red on the rocks and drank it like water — what a nice guy." An old wood-shafted mashie niblick and an antique shillelagh become talking pieces for discussing Palace's grandfathers, one a scratch golfer of Irish descent and the other a vaudeville comedian who once toured with Rudy Vallee.

"The coolest thing is that it's stuff that I've found and accumulated," Palace says. "I've surrounded myself with the stuff that makes me happy over the years. This, I find, is a happy place. People always leave with a smile on their face."

I did. ■

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