

# The St. Nicholas Lead

## Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Spring 2001

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

Greetings from camp! It is indeed a pleasure, and hard work too, to work on camp facilities. So many good memories are relived: of how to do a job and get recognition for it, to producing a disaster, but still others around you made it okay. Many of us learned to experience initiative and perserverance while undertaking a wide variety of jobs in camp.

C.I.M.I. is running their program--enjoying Cherry Valley. Bill and Mark continue to keep the place running while adding upgrades too. Karen and Kevin exemplify the on-going spirit of CCV. And then there is the team of volunteers, the Alumni Association, Cherry Cove Yacht Club, CORE Staff, Summer Staff, plus the many behind the scenes, all who work for the spirit of Cherry Valley too. . . the campers themselves. I once thought we did this work for the campers, but now I feel it is done as much for us as it is for them. We relive our past and pass on our joy so they might have a glimpse of what we saw, experienced and felt "many moons" ago.

I never tire of walks to Lion's Head, the peacefulness of sun setting on the water. I sit on the concrete remnant of the once-proud Lighthouse, but a memory. Maybe someday. . .

Join us in camp. It's great!

### NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

As all of you may know if you have visited the CCV Alumni Association web site, we started the year out with much needed rain. We wanted the rain just not all at one time. Anyway, after the storms delivered their rain, the camp developed a high ground water situation, which was affecting us all the way up to the Warehouse area. With all that underground pressure, the water would enter our septic system and overwhelm it to the point that the pumps could not keep up with it. It's at that time that we had no choice but to shut the system down and work on lowering the ground water by venting it to the sea.

By mid April the water table had lowered enough, or so we thought, for us to remove our old mid-camp lift station, the vault where our gray water is collected and then pumped up to the leach field, and replace it as well as repair all of our septic connections. It was quite a project; we started on Wednesday getting the equipment, workers, and materials into camp, by Thursday we had the barge arrive at Well's Beach and transporetd all the vehicles to the site, and then we started to dig out all of the septic connection points. At noon on Friday we shut the system down and ripped the heart out of the camp. Major nervous time for Mark and me. The main lift station was dug out and the new one was set in place. I mentioned that we did not wait long enough and as soon as the old vault was removed, ground water started to flood into the hole and we had to keep the pumps going during the entire project to keep it out of the hole. Not to mention that it decided to rain Saturday morning which turned the work site into mud city. By mid day Saturday we had the system installed and then the electrician connected the electrical system and IT WORKED.

Additional work that was accomplished this winter and spring included a new deck at Staff Village and we are completing another campsite deck as we speak. Another is planned to be completed by the summer. The Beach House, Mark's place, and my house all received interior painting, and new carpet and linoleum, which has made all three places seem like new.

A great deal of effort and expense has gone into getting new program equipment for this year. Our campers can look forward to new archery equipment, additional waterfront equipment, new tents, and a lot of other neat stuff. We are also replacing our camp van with a new one and it should be in camp soon.

As a group, the alumni planned to do a Trading Post facelift project this spring. Ron Wood is here now and will spend all week working on it for you. What happened, folks?

One neat advantage to the rains this year has been the proliferation of spring flowers and a beautiful green island that we will enjoy for the next month or so. The salina is still holding fresh water and is home to our first nesting Mallard ducks. We now have eight small ducklings swimming around the salina. Mom and Dad are standing guard and the little ones are becoming quite comfortable with the camp activities and seem to enjoy the photo sessions each time the kids go by. Anyway, I do not know how long they will be hanging around. The salina is drying up fast and the salt-water phase is starting to change things.

The Land Use Plan and its related projects are moving along nicely. We still have a fall start date for the water tank and distribution system. Following the completion of that project and approvals, we will be able to do a lot more work on the camp. Our first goal will be to complete the "New" Camp Store and Craft Center. We are also working on getting permission for a full size Lighthouse, making additional repairs on the pier, and completing the revised Land Use Plan, new Dining Hall, and Warehouse projects.

Well, we will continue to do what we can on our end to make CCV a better camping experience for the kids. We hope you will plan a visit to the camp soon or enjoy the companionship of your fellow Staff members at one of the planned CCV Alumni events scheduled this year, or maybe consider becoming one of our SGVC CORE Staff and apply your staffing skills on these beautiful spring and fall weekends.

## C.O.R.E. STAFF REPORT

By Susan Wood Roche

Hello gang! I have been asked by David Minnihan to let you all know what the CORE Staff has been doing since our last report. Buddy Renzullo who would normally be writing this article has been very busy with moving into his newly purchased home in Pasadena. Many of us on the CORE Staff have taken turns going over and lending Tina and Buddy a hand this winter with their new project. The place will be a palace when they get finished with it! We are all expecting to be invited to a summer party around their pool (Buddy, I hope you are reading this!).

The fall season finally wrapped up in November with the breaking down of the camp for the winter. Those of us who were there had the privilege of helping John and Tina Benham celebrate the exchange of their wedding vows in the evening. We wished them a long and happy married life. When we checked back in the spring, yes, they were still married and happy! Our wishes must have worked.

The C.O.R.E. Staff has been likened to an extended family. What would be more appropriate than to have a family reunion over the holidays? We thought it would be a great idea, and got back together for a potluck party on the mainland for Boxing Day. Already in December, we were wishing we could be back on the island but at least glad that we could see each other again. There is something magical about the place to make us want to return like ducks in the spring.

Speaking of ducks in the spring, when we came back in April to unpack after the winter, we had a family of baby ducklings waiting to greet us on the salina. Every weekend we have been watching Mama Duck teach her little brood how to look for food, avoid dangerous man-cubs and swim. As of the last count, we still have eight of the little guys. They are too cute as Mama Duck marches them through the boating area to get to the ocean, and then pushes down the swim lines to allow them to cross (Hey, you ducks in the swim area, where's your buddy tag?!).

Many nice facility changes had taken place over the winter. They ranged from the lovely shade structure overlooking the waterfront to the new platforms for the tent sites up the grove, as well as many enhancements in between. Pretty soon we will have to rename the program "Cub Med"!

The weekend program so far has been a great success! We have seen many campers who are back for their second or third times. I'm not sure if it is the great food, the wonderful facilities, the scenic surroundings, the Scouting family program, or the incredible staff that keeps them coming back. Whatever it is, we must be doing something right! We're looking forward to another fun year.

## CCV HIGH ADVENTURE/AQUATICS WEEK

By Gary Jensen

We are planning a High Adventure/Aquatics Week at CCV in August 2002. We hope to offer the following programs:

- Water Skiing
- Canoe/Kayak Catalina
- Scuba Discovery
- Scuba Certification
- Swimming
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Mountain Biking

We are looking for any ideas that would help in developing the weeklong program into a super activity. We're also looking for past program material, copies of leader's guides, info on canoe/kayak trips around the Island, trails used for mountain biking, info on overnight hikes, etc. We are also looking for help in acquiring ski boats for the program. Please contact me at (626)351-8815 ext. 227 if you can help.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Rick Scobey

Our membership is low this year and we need your help. If you haven't already, please don't forget to send in your dues. The dues are still \$25 per year and are tax deductible. Junior Membership (ages 16-20) is \$10, and Life Membership is available for \$250. If you were on Summer Staff or CORE Staff last year, your dues are free for this year.

Your contact information is very important to us. We want to be able to contact you for important functions. If you have updated membership information for us, please contact us. And if you have not done so in the past, please take a minute and fill out the enclosed slip and return it to us so we can update our database.

Those of you that have already sent us your email address already know that the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association is in the process of building a web site. Eventually this site will have information about the Association, camp news, previous newsletters, calendar information, contact information, links, photographs, and more. See us at [www.ccvaa.org](http://www.ccvaa.org) and let us know what you think.

Some of you may have problems viewing the site. If you experience problems, or have any comments or suggestions, please call me or email me at [info@ccvaa.org](mailto:info@ccvaa.org). Be sure to check back later to see the changes.

Again, please help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley and send in your dues now. Your membership is needed and it does make a difference!

## ACTIVITIES

### Staff Barbecue

In our last newsletter we gave the wrong date for the barbecue. Our Master Chef, Morgan Morgan, had told me we needed to schedule the barbecue for the last weekend of July and I forgot. Since Morgan is the most important person the Alumni needs for this event, we are rescheduling for July 28-29. Of course, we'd like to have other Alumni come along as well. This is a great event as we get to go over to camp for a weekend, get to know the Staff, and enjoy some great steaks. If you're interested in attending, please contact Dave Minnihan by July 21.

### Old Goats Weekend

If you're an Old Goat (or a young one), why don't you start planning on coming over for the weekend of Sept 14-16. Your significant other/family is welcome to attend. The CORE Staff will be running a full program weekend, so you'll be able to do snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, archery, BB guns, handicraft, or just sit back and relax. We'll have information on price and schedule in the Summer newsletter.

## Work Project

At the Winter Business Meeting we decided to give the Trading Post/Handicraft Lodge a facelift by repainting the outside, re-hanging the shade coverings, and rebuilding the workbenches. Ron Wood spent a week at Camp doing the painting and hanging the shade coverings. We still need to go back and spend a weekend rebuilding the workbenches. If you are interested in helping, please give Ron or Bill Hartley a call.

## CALENDAR

June 10-16	Staff Week at CCV
July 28-29	CCV Staff Barbecue
August 7	Newsletter article deadline
Sept. 14-16	Old Goats Weekend at CCV

## OFFICERS

Chairman: Ron Wood  
Secretary/Treasurer: Morgan Morgan  
Membership Chairman: Rick Scobey  
Membership Coordinators:  
1950s: Bill Gold  
1960s: Mark Bevan  
1980s: Frank Brundige  
1990s: Al Garcia, Jr.  
Work Parties Chairman: John Morales  
CCV Camp Liaison: Bill Hartley  
SGVC Staff Liaison: Buddy Renzullo  
Editor and Historian: Dave Minnihan