

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Winter 2002

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

Greetings! I do hope your holidays were filled with friends and family, love, good health and happiness.

As we enter this new year, there is hope . . . hope for a safe environment in which to live, hope for a better lifestyle, and hope for peace. Everyone can do his or her part to lead someone into a more positive place. That's where we come in: We all have a common thread, Camp Cherry Valley. Our lives were changed there. We grew to another place within and outside ourselves. As camp meant so much to and for us, maybe it's time to plan for its future and what that special place could mean to the young and the old who might visit.

Though the needs in and for camp are constantly changing, some alumnae continue in their own service. Some serve on the CORE Staff: others provide special "feeding" days. Service groups, some large and some small, come to camp to provide their unique style of giving back to camp. Still others give of themselves on the mainland. Others give financially. Bill Hartley and staff seem always to have just the right job waiting for just the right volunteer.

My challenge: Get involved, somehow, in camp. This is a positive we can generate in our society. The rewards are great! Get together with a couple friends or a group. Call Bill to ask for ways you might serve. He will pass on details about transportation, tools (if any), times, room and board, etc. (My job this winter/spring is to rebuild/repair the 15" Whaler which has served camp so well. Want to join me?)

May this year be filled with blessings . . . and may Cherry Valley be one. See you in camp.

NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

2001 will be remembered by each of us for many reasons. I have learned that over time we tend to remember the good things. I sincerely hope that none of you were personally effected by the events of last September. Despite the tragedy that touched so many, Camp Cherry Valley continues to move forward.

2002 will be the year that CCV begins a major transformation. In order to continue serving almost 15,000 campers each year it is necessary for the San Gabriel Valley Council to make many improvements to the facility. The cost will be significant; in fact, between

1990 and 2010, I estimate the council will have spent about 10 million dollars on CCV. Beginning in 1990 when we began year round operation, building standards and codes on Catalina were upgraded, and camper standards and expectations raised.

The final stage of this redevelopment project will begin this year. We will begin by installing the new Lighthouse this January. We will also install the water tank and water distribution system this year. After we literally replace the entire camp's underground domestic water system and install a camp-wide fire suppression system we will obtain an occupancy permit for the Camp Store and Craft Center and bring it on line.

At this point we will have the following projects to move forward on; Warehouse relocation, Trading Post remodel, Cook's housing units replacement, Waterfront improvements, and Sea Breeze Campfire site replacement.

In the meantime, we are making many improvements to the camp. Most significant is the completion of all the professional studies that have been completed on the camp property. With this information we can now make long term plans for the camp that will meet our objectives and still protect our investments and environment. Beginning this year almost half of our campers can now camp on raised deck campsites. Ongoing pier repairs will allow us to provide more campers with pier access for a longer period each year.

Program changes and improvements this year include a High Adventure program for our Summer Resident Camp and a one-week program for our Venture Scouts. Additional work will be done on our new fitness Area near the campsites.

I hope this year will bring you to camp. We would like to see you as a guest, CORE Staff member, or as a camper. Come on over if you can.

SUMMER STAFF REPORT

By Colby Nalder

First of all I would like to thank the Alumni for all their support in keeping the strong traditions of Camp Cherry Valley thriving. As the Program Director of 2001, I can say that our summer was a huge success. It has been an honor for me to serve Camp Cherry Valley for the last five years. And gratefully, five times I have nearly eaten my bodyweight in steak, thanks to the services of Morgan Morgan, Dave Minnihan and the entire Alumni Association. I invite all of you to come see the growth and revisit the beauty of Camp Cherry Valley.

I will also take this opportunity to thank Bill Hartley and Mark Serrat. Working along side these two gentlemen for the last five seasons, I have grown to appreciate all that goes into maintaining such a wonderful place. I am proud to call them my friends, and we can all take comfort knowing men such as these are looking after CCV.

Last summer was entirely new for many of us. A new Council Program Director, Gary Jensen. A new Camp Director, Dave Hopkins and 80% new camp staff. In my opinion these individuals have exceeded expectations. Since September 11, many things are new for this country as well. It is my hope that through the vessel of Scouting we will foster understanding of our Government and help each other make sense of the new situation the world is experiencing. We are gearing up with added confidence and assurance that together we can all help to bring the best Scouting experience possible to the youth of our fine nation. Again, I thank you for all your support. The Staff of 2002 will do our best to carry on the proud traditions of CCV.

C.O.R.E. STAFF REPORT

By Susan Wood Roche

Hello from the weekend program! This has been a great year with the weekend program getting more and more successful. Just to give you an idea of the incredible growth of the program, let's go over some statistics. In total, we had fourteen weekends over on the island in 2001. There were over 2300 participants in total, with eight weekends that held above 200 participants. I recall my first weekend as a participant. There were only 15 Moms and their sons. Times have changed!

The weekend program is a lean mean camping machine, for almost everyone is cross-trained to do almost anything. It's amazing to see the Staff as they dash from kitchen duties, program areas, gear runs, and late night KYBO cleanup. Like a group of bees they seem to know what needs to be done and everyone instinctively works together until it is done!

There were also some new program features this year. For example, one weekend we hosted a scuba program in conjunction with Sports Chalet. We also entertained 500 Girl Scouts over a period of three weekends. They are so enthusiastic about the program they have promised to be back in 2003! In addition to this, we are again seeing some of the same campers and parents year after year. During one of our family weekends there was one young Cub who brought over 20 of his favorite family members! They must be having fun!

As you may know, there have been many structural changes slated for the camp that are becoming a reality-yes, even the long awaited for Lighthouse is coming on line. The camp is also working in conjunction with the Catalina Conservancy to develop more nature-related programs. The native plants are being identified and a signage program is in the future. This would be a great boon to pack more education into the programs that we use year round.

What's next for the weekend program? That is only limited by our ability to dream. If you have any talents that you would like to contribute for a weekend, a few weekends, or the whole season, just let the camping department know. We'd love to see you.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Rick Scobey

Your membership is needed in the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association and it is time to send in your dues again. Dues are still \$25 per year and are tax deductible. Life Membership is available for \$250. Junior Membership is \$10 (ages 16-20). If you were on Summer Staff, CORE Staff or Cub Staff last year, your dues are free for this year.

If you have moved, plan on moving, or have updated member information for us, please contact us. It is difficult and expensive to track Alumni members and your contact information is important to us. We want to be able to contact you for important functions. 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, even if you do not plan on becoming an Alumni member.

Don't forget to visit our web site www.ccvaa.org. We'd appreciate any ideas, suggestions or comments that you may have. If you have any pictures, documents, memories or anything else that you want posted on the CCVAA web site, or want to help work on the web site, please contact us.

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.

See you soon!

ACTIVITIES

Staff Week

The CCV Summer Staff will be arriving and setting up Camp and their program areas during the week of June 9-15. The Alumni will be going over for a few days during Staff Week to give them a hand. If you are interested, please contact Ron Wood or Dave Minnihan.

Staff Barbecue

We'll be going over to CCV on Saturday, July 13, for our annual steak barbecue for the Staff. This is a great chance to go over to camp for a weekend, get to know the Staff, and enjoy some great steaks. We'll have more information in the Spring Newsletter.

Old Goats Weekend

Mark September 13-15 on your calendar for the Old Goats Weekend. Alumni and their families are invited to come to camp for the weekend and enjoy the activities. We'll have more information in the Summer Newsletter.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Dave Minnihan

Our first photo is from Ron Wood and also appears on our Web page. In 1962, National Camp School's Aquatic Course was held at Cherry Valley. That's Ron Wood standing at far right.

The second photo is of the Land Ship taken in the late 1960s-early 1970s. The Land Ship was built by Skipper Robison in late 1920s or early 1930s and was originally three stories high. First floor was used for classes and storage of waterfront equipment. 2nd and 3rd floors were Waterfront Staff housing. The two top floors were torn down in late 1960s and Waterfront Staff had to move to Staff Village. Prior to campfires, the Staff would gather in the bow of the Land Ship and sing songs, then lead campers up to Sea Breeze. The Land Ship was torn down in 1974. The Sea Lab now stands in it's place.

In the background of the photo, in front of the Mine, is the old Program Office/Leaders Lounge. This was also used as the Camp Store up until the 1950s. The top floor was used as Staff Housing. It was torn down in 1973, though the steps still remain. For a couple years afterward, there was a shade structure there and they used it as the Handicraft Lodge. Now there are a couple tables and a program box and it is used for classes.

The Camp flyer is from 1923, the first year at Cherry Valley. This was the fifth Annual Training Camp for the Pasadena District Council, as the first four years were at Howland's Landing. Note the cost of \$12.50 for ten days. Wonder what that would be in 2002 dollars.

(see web site for images)

CALENDAR

May 15	Newsletter article deadline
June 9-15	Staff Week at CCV
July 13-14	Staff Barbecue at CCV
August 5	Newsletter article deadline
Sept. 13-15	Old Goats Weekend at CCV