

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Spring 2002

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

Friends recently sailed from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to the Marquesas in their 37' boat—a long, tiresome passage. Before their trip, they planned. They studied. They talked to many. They prepared. During their journey they became tired and bruised—then equipment began to stress and fail. The boom broke, lines parted, self-steering device quit—an exciting adventure. They adjusted. They made their destination, a bit worse for wear, but they made it. Some of their arrival credit went to exciting summer camp and camp counseling experiences—preparation for the “Can-Do” life. Would they do it again? Probably, after needed rest and repairs. Be prepared to make adjustments in life, too.

As I sit here in Cherry Cove looking at the Camp I, too, remember a couple experiences as a young man on Camp Staff, which set up the “Can-Do” spirit.

Memories of the construction of Staff Village I in 1958: We arrived for Staff Week to find no lodging—only piles of pre-fab huts. We were not architects or builders—just young men (yes, with a bit of motivation) willing to do what it took to get the job done. Staff Village I was built with a bit of time left over for planning and training. (Oh, there was only an outhouse. Water was solar heated as pipes were above ground. Unwanted water flowed directly onto the ground).

In about 1962 National Aquatic School was to be held in Cherry Valley simultaneously with our Staff Week. To make this work we had an Advanced Party to Camp during Easter Week, expressly for launching the pier. About 50 of us stood on the beach. A Council Executive looked at us “Old Timers” and said, “put it in”. There was no map or chart, no past Water Front Director or even an assistant. We put the pier in by memory, muscle, creativity, and the “Can-Do” spirit. Oh, Aquatic School was a success and the Staff was prepared for ten weeks of campers.

Do you have memories of how camp influenced your life in a “Can-Do” way? Share ‘em.
Be Prepared! See you in Camp!

NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

So much has been happening at camp that I'm not sure where to begin. Following the tremendous efforts of Bob Booker and the SGVC's fund raising team, we were able to begin our camp's development projects.

Following the Fall Program we began with the regular repair projects then started at the Beach House and replaced the deck railing, built a boat rack behind the building, installed some new skirting, and painted all the new wood. Spent some time on my place and replaced the siding on the southside and added a small stairway on the front deck. We replaced one of the Dining Hall front door stairs and deck. We also did a little grading up at Mark's place to improve runoff and reduce erosion. We also modified the roofline on the Archery Range to allow better headroom access to and from the shooting area.

The major winter project was adding more decked campsites to the Cherry Grove. We just finished the last deck site in this phase to bring our total deck sites to five. This single improvement has made our customers very happy. They have really enjoyed these new sites.

The most visible change in camp is our new Lighthouse. This whole project was unique. Getting it here and on the beach was an island first. Using the Kingfisher as a transport vessel, it brought the whole structure to the beach and a crane lifted sections up to the high part of the beach and then lifted each section into place as we built it up. Check out the photos on our web site.

A most important project this winter, or specifically, beginning this spring, was our improvements to the water and fire suppression system, electrical distribution system, and other underground utilities. A complete description of this project can be found on the web site and photos will soon be posted there as well. The good news is we passed our pressure inspection and are moving on to the water tank and it's foundation. We have one more county concern to address and then we will be good to go.

The last of the major projects this year has been the repair of the pier. We needed to replace all the standing sections, install some additional pole supports, and are modifying it to work as a year round pier in the future. We installed the floats in late April, making it the first time we have been able to provide a pier for the entire spring program.

We have a lot of clean up to do and program area set up to work on, but we are ready for the most part and looking forward to a great program year. We plan on continuing to move forward and complete the water tank so we can finish the new store and other planned improvements.

I would like to mention the additions to the CCVAA Web Site. Rick has put a lot of time and effort into the site and I hope all of you check it out and also contribute your photos and stories to it.

In closing I would like to invite all of you to camp this year. We have some new things to show you, a great summer camp staff for you to meet, and a weekend program that is fun to have your family attend or for you to get back into camp staffing again.

SUMMER STAFF REPORT

By Dave Hopkins

The summer of 2002 is upon us so fast. It seems that just yesterday my family and I were waving to Bill and Mark on the dock in Two Harbors as we headed home last summer. I am particularly excited for this season because of the additions to our program at CCV. We have installed a low COPE Course up canyon across from the volleyball area. We are going to incorporate that area into our program through the encouragement of team building activities that strengthen and solidify troops and their leaders. We feel that camp should be a place to build the foundation of leadership and participation in the Scouts. We have also added a High Adventure course. Lead by Kyle Barrus and Neal O'Bray, we will give many boys and adult leaders the chance to hike, sail, and kayak the island. The campers will spend the week in the wilds of Catalina learning survival skills, studying the flora and fauna of the island and just having a great time. We are lucky to have such strong staff leadership in that area and hope that a great first year will be the foundation of many more great years to come.

C.O.R.E. STAFF REPORT

By Tina Renzullo

A flock of seagulls escorted us out of San Pedro on Friday night. 172 campers and the C.O.R.E. Staff had boarded the boat at 6:30pm and were headed off for the first weekend of our season when the entourage flew along side, as if showing us the way. After 7 years of working the weekend programs in various capacities, this was my first weekend as Program Director and I was filled with anticipation. It felt very good to gather the team together, see the excitement in the faces of the young campers, and know that we were going to one of the most precious places for those of us who read this newsletter, our CCV.

The weekend proved to be one that will be remembered by many of the campers for a long time to come. The weather was perfect. Cool mornings and sunny afternoons. Pleasant sea breezes blew through the canyon and the nights were just chilly enough to remind you that we are in spring. The new wetsuits came into constant use as the campers, under the watchful eyes of the lookouts posted atop the new Lighthouse, explored all that the waterfront had to offer. The ranges were in high demand as Tiger, Cub, and Webelo Scouts worked on earning their Shooting Sports belt loops. The Handicraft and Trading Post areas were in full swing by Saturday afternoon as campers bought and crafted memories of fabric, beads, and leather. The Junior Staff hosted a fine campfire filled with favorite skits from the past. The kitchen dished out hundreds of plates full of tasty, filling meals to the grateful stomachs that growled at the dining hall doors at mealtimes. Late Sunday morning we wrapped things up and sent our visitors out of camp on shoreboats pulled up to the new and improved dock, and on hikes led up through Sea Breeze.

As I walked through camp in the late afternoon, I saw many footprints left behind. They got me to thinking of the great numbers of footprints that have been left in Cherry Valley over the years. How so

many choose to return time after time, to enjoy the beauty, comradery, and spirit that makes CCV unique. I thought for a good while about our friend, Lynda Brugger, a fellow long time C.O.R.E. Staff member who died this past winter. She, like the rest of us was drawn to this wonderful place.

We, as a staff, represent a tradition that is meaningful and valuable. We leave a mark, not only in the dirt, but also in the minds of our fellow staff and campers. Together we create an important part of CCV. I look forward to sharing the CCV experience with the campers who come through camp this spring.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Rick Scobey

Membership is low this year. Your dues are important and necessary to keep the Camp Cherry valley Alumni Association alive! It currently costs about \$170.00, or seven memberships, for each newsletter mailing and the cost of postage is due to rise again. It also requires five memberships each year just to cover the cost of our web site. If you have not submitted your dues this year, please do. We need it and each membership counts!

Be sure to send us your email addresses. Let us know if your contact information has changed too. It's difficult and expensive to keep track of our members. The membership form included in every newsletter, also available on the CCVAA web site, can be used for address and contact information changes. We'll occasionally notify you of changes to the web site, special events, and eventually newsletters for those of you who want to help us save postage.

There have been recent additions and changes to our web site www.ccvaa.org. Bill Hartley has taken images of the new Lighthouse while it was being constructed. Those and other images from Bill of recent projects are now available for viewing on the CCVAA web site. Be sure to visit our site if you haven't lately, and check back often for changes.

We're looking for old photos of the CCV Staff for the web site, preferably group photos. If you have any old photos, please contact us. If you have anything else to share on the web site (pictures, stories, thoughts, etc.), please let us know.

Again, help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley. If you have not submitted your dues this year, please do so now. Remember. . . your membership counts! We need you.

CAMP DIRECTORS LIST

We are making an attempt at compiling an accurate listing of Camp Directors for CCV. Right now our information is sparse. We could use your help. Please send your information to Ron Wood or Dave Minnihan.

ACTIVITIES

Staff Barbecue

Saturday, July 13, is the date for the annual steak barbecue for the staff. We'll be going over in the morning, get acquainted with the staff, enjoy some activities, then cook up some steaks. If you're interested in coming, contact Dave Minnihan by July 6.

Old Goats Weekend

September 13-15 is the Old Goats Weekend. Alumni and their significant other/family are invited to come over for a fun weekend. The CORE Staff will be running a full program weekend, so you'll be able to do snorkeling, kayaking, archery, hiking, BB guns, handicraft, and campfires.

Cost of the weekend is \$25, plus your transportation. Most people will be going over on the Friday evening boat and returning on Sunday afternoon. Please make your travel reservations with Catalina Express (310)519-1212. Please RSVP to Dave Minnihan by Sept 8. Note: Unlike previous years, this will be our last newsletter before the Old Goats Weekend.

Ta Tanka Lodge 50th Anniversary Party

Ta Tanka Lodge will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a celebration on Saturday, Sept 21, at 1pm at Trask Scout Reservation in Monrovia. Many of our Alumni have been active with the OA. A reservation form can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~jecarter/tatankalodge488/>.

CALENDAR

July 13-14	Staff Barbecue at CCV
Sept. 8	Newsletter article deadline
Sept. 13-15	Old Goats Weekend at CCV
Sept 21	Ta Tanka Lodge 50 th Anniversary Party

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