

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Winter 2003

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

This time of year people are renewed. It's not just the New Year resolution thing, but it's an indication the summer camp season really isn't too far off. Everyone involved is part of the planning process, from the camp director down to the first year camper. At every level of personnel, camp's importance is valued and excitement builds.

A people memory from the late 1980's: With a lot of work to accomplish . . . in the areas of physical facility, program and attitudes . . . there appeared a new camp staff member, a new unknown face from the East.

With spirit, intelligence and desire, this fun loving, but somewhat messy guy, found himself a part of many jokes. He always took the ribbing and did a good job . . . and he grew as a person, receiving admiration from his peers as well as the campers.

Over time, contact was lost. Recently, a surprise note came over our electronic communication device. This staff character had become an officer and a lawyer in a branch of our armed services. He's living with his family in Southern California, now, and we've talked about getting together in camp someday. Just the other day, a final e-mail came with notification he was deploying to the other side of the world. He'd be out of touch for a while.

Thanks for the memories, Lloyd, and thanks for serving our country in the name of freedom.

It's the people. What kind of memories are we creating? See you in camp.

NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

I hope everyone had a great holiday and is looking forward to 2003! I also hope all of you plan to put a visit to CCV and the Alumni Association activities on your list of things to do this coming year.

It's in this season's newsletter that I usually try to describe all the improvements and changes that have occurred over the past year. But I would like to change that concept a little and discuss what has and has not changed over the last decade.

Let's start by discussing what has changed. The change I'm most proud of is the fact that when I arrived CCV was only hosting about 2,000 scouts a year. For the last several years, the camp has hosted about 14,000 kids each year, and it looks like we will be continuing to meet or exceed this figure in the future. Not only are we sharing CCV with many more scouts than ever before, but we are also providing the camp to children that have never been outdoor camping before. This out door experience is far more important for them than a scout that has been camping with his troop for years. Following the BSA concept that outdoor living is a great way of developing independence,

appreciation of the earth, leadership, teamwork, and many other positive factors is clearly seen being learned by these kids.

Expanding the period of time the camp is available to campers has increased from about 3 months to over 9 months a year. Improvements to a physical property have made this possible. By controlling rainwater runoff, improving camp drainage, road improvements and campsite redevelopment, we have made the camp available and usable in the bad weather months.

Program improvements have been continuous over the years. By introducing the campers to new equipment such as kayaks, snorkeling equipment, and catamarans, we not only reach more kids, we have a higher return rate as well. New programs like ACE and High Adventure Week have kept the older kids returning to camp year after year.

Program leadership has continued to evolve and improve with each director change. By maintaining CCV traditions and drawing the many great aspects of each previous director's programs, the new directors have been able to create their own unique wonderful program. The campers have always received great programs at CCV.

Development has been very difficult. Trying to coordinate planning, design, fundraising, LA County requirements, and construction has proved almost insurmountable. But with persistence, the SGVC has continued to move forward. We are one project away from completing all the required preliminary projects. Once our fire system is completed, we will find it much easier to do the improvements we want to do.

The volunteer programs that were so important in the past are no longer around. Many factors have created this. This saddens me because I don't see good friends as often, but most projects now require licensed contractors to do the work. In order to pull county permits and meet today's liability concerns, professionals are called upon much more often. The camp's full time employees also now have the ability and tools to do much of the work that used to be done by volunteers.

I just received word that we will be able to continue with the water tank installation this spring. Our goal is to begin by installing the water tank electrical system, pumping equipment, and complete the fire equipment installation as soon as possible. Once installation is complete, we will seek the County's approval and final inspection. Following their approval, we will focus on the Camp Store and Craft Center and hope to have it on-line by this summer.

We purchased a new gear truck this year and have it in camp ready to go. Mark Bower and friends have donated a utility truck to CCV, along with some help from the CCVAA. This truck will be used as a camp repair truck and be set up to service and repair camp buildings and program sites.

SUMMER STAFF REPORT

By Dave Hopkins

It's hard to believe that it's already January and only six months until summer camp opens. I am still not finished reflecting on the great things accomplished by the 2002 summer staff. I guess you never really stop remembering the great memories made in the service of others. Planning for the 2003 summer is in full swing as the powers that be have assembled and are working very hard at constructing a quality staff. Most of the staff positions are full, although the interviews conducted in February at the council office will finish that process up. Unfortunately not all of last year's staff will be with us this upcoming summer. Colby Nalder, the Program Director and Assistant Camp Director the past several years, is not returning. Like many who have worked at Cherry in the past it was a very hard decision for him, but in the end felt it was time to move on to other great adventures. We will miss his leadership and his ability to make us laugh, but I am confident he will always keep a

special place in his heart for the uniqueness of Cherry and the Island. David Dibble has been asked to serve as the Program Director and Assistant Camp Director for the upcoming season, and hopefully many to come. He will be a great asset to the camp, as this will be his fifth year at Cherry. He brings great musical and drama ability to the program, as well as numerous experiences leading people. The staff and campers will be blessed to have such a committed young man at the program helm. Also returning will be the Food Service Director, Karen Hartley. Whew! Now I can rest easy as the staff and campers will be guaranteed great food and excellent service. The reviews for last year's food service were the best ever and I look forward to the same commitment to excellence again this coming summer. The program will see a few subtle changes that will improve the overall look and quality of camp. Hopefully a tee pee will be constructed near the Mine during the summer season, as this will increase the Indian Lore program and encourage Scouts to do more activities that help them understand the rich Native culture of the Island. We hope to have at least one new war canoe, which will make our Wednesday hike days more enjoyable for the Scouts. Just want to thank all of those who have volunteered their services at CCV during the summer camping season. All your work is noticed and very appreciated, not only by the staff, but also by the campers who visit on a weekly basis. Looking forward to seeing many of you again this coming summer and hope the New Year finds you safe and healthy.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Rick Scobey

It's a new year and your membership is needed in the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association. Please take a minute to reflect back to when you attended CCV, either as a scout or as a staff member. Do you remember how much the camp meant to you? Help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley. The dues are still \$25 per year. Junior Membership (ages 16-20) is \$10, and Life Membership is available for \$250. 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. 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 don't plan on becoming an Alumni member.

See us at www.ccvaa.org and let us know what you think. If you experience problems, have any comments or suggestions, please contact us at info@ccvaa.org. We're also 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. If you've given us your email address, we'll notify you when we've made changes to the web site.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By Dave Minnihan

The first picture on the next page is from an Advance Party circa 1923-1925. Pictured from left are Tom Arnold, Paul Bascom, Skipper Robison, Carl Miller, Don Milliken, Leonard Busse, and James Gilbert. Skipper Robison was a staffman and later Camp Director from 1923-1953. Carl Miller was on staff from 1923-1926. The others were all campers during 1922-1925.

The second picture is a bit of recent history as it was taken by Mark Serrat, our ranger at camp during that period of high winds we had in January.

(See pictures on CCVAA web site)

CCV BELT BUCKLES

Vic Harris is a collector of belt buckles and wanted to know if we had a listing or could do an article about all of the buckles that have been issued for CCV. Though I've been collecting camp memorabilia for many years, and have a fair collection of belt buckles, I know I'm missing a fair number, as well as information about what was issued. For those of you who still have your old camp belt buckles, let me know what ones you have with a description and years they were used and we'll print it in a future newsletter.

ACTIVITIES

Movie Night

Want to go to the Movies? Saturday night March 22, at 7pm at Camp Trask, we'll be showing old CCV movies. First up will be one the Council produced back in 1926 showing life at Camp. We have one done by Skipper Robison showing the 1937 Advance Party getting camp ready to open (including erecting the original Lighthouse), and another from Skipper showing Camp in 1948-49. We'll also show some movies Phil Piet's dad made back in 1964-65. Bring some snacks /dessert/drinks to share. Call Dave Minnihan to RSVP.

Directions: Camp Trask is located at 1100 N. Canyon Blvd in Monrovia. Going west on 210 FWY exit Mountain Ave. Turn right on Mountain Ave. Turn left on Foothill Blvd. Turn right on Canyon Blvd. Follow Canyon all the way until it takes you into Camp.

Going east on 210 FWY exit Huntington Drive. Turn left on Huntington. Turn left on Myrtle Ave. Turn right on Foothill Blvd. Turn left on Canyon Blvd. Follow Canyon all the way until it takes you into Camp. Note: There is a locked gate near entrance to camp with a combination that changes weekly. Call Dave during the week before to get the combination to the gate.

Staff Week

The CCV Summer Staff will be arriving and setting up Camp and their program areas during the week of June 15-21. The Alumni will be going over for a few days during the 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 Camp on Saturday, July 12, 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

September 12-14 will be the annual Old Goats Weekend. Alumni and their families are invited to come to camp for the weekend and enjoy the activities. There will be more information in the Summer newsletter.

CALENDAR

March 22 Movie Night
May 15 Newsletter article deadline
June 15-21 Staff Week at CCV
July 12-13 Staff Barbecue at CCV
August 5 Newsletter article deadline
Sept. 12-14 Old Goats Weekend at CCV

OFFICERS

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1990s:	Al Garcia, Jr.	
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