

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Spring 2005

Would you ever consider lifting one of our war canoes by yourself and carrying it all the way down to the waterfront? Or, how about moving one of the pier sections off of the beach and putting it into the water? How long do you think it would take you to set up the camp for the first week of Scouts...by yourself?

Let's face it; some things in life are just easier when done in the company of others. While it is true that one could feasibly pick up the war canoe alone (Bear), why would you? Many hands make for light work. You remember how fun it was racing with your patrol to get your lashings onto your camp gadget done before the other patrols. I know you remember the pride you felt when the last campers were safely on the boat home from the last day of the season, not only because you were finished, but because you and your staff did a great job!

The thanks we received from the Scoutmasters and other adult leaders was a pat on the back, an "atta boy" for a job well done; but the memories the Scouts received from their week or weekend is a true legacy in the making! C'mon, do you really think anyone could possibly forget the first time they passed the daunting swim check or the first merit badge they earned at camp or the first bull's-eye they ever shot? In the 10 years as an Assistant Scout Master, I have participated in approximately 12 Eagle rank Boards of Review. When the question is asked what the Scout's most memorable part of Scouting was, it is always something that happened at summer camp.

I know you remember how enthralled many of our campers were as they listened to one of the many captivating stories told by Skipper Robison or Ron Wood or Delose Conner, Ian Pinkham, Pat Cramer, Buddy Renzullo, Dave Minnihan, and Yolanda Hernandez. The list is by no means complete, but it really is endless because this camp has a way of converting the soul and mystique of the common staff member into the magic that we have all seen and felt.

We know that some of these stories and antics will be told for generations to come, and who knows, maybe it will be the spark that ignites the next round of eager Cub Scouts to yearn to come to Cherry Valley. This camp is a legend...built from the blood sweat & tears (and a few chipped bones) by each one of us!

But we're not done yet for just as Cherry's tide keeps its ebb & flow, so do we. There were times when we made the trek to the island every summer or every weekend, and we came with an eagerness that was truly inspiring. We came because we had a job to do, we had friends to meet and see, and because we had a calling. My friends, our camp is calling us again.

There is still work to be done, and we have much to give. If our bodies are not able to offer our strength, then there is still much we can offer, either monetarily or in spirit. Sometimes, it is easier to look upon the past as a guide to the present and future. In doing so, we can learn from our mistakes and we can build on the successes of those who came before us. The time is now, and the location has not changed for over 80 years. Give us a call, we can set you up!

NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

I swear I've moved that same rock back up canyon twice already twice this year. Hope this is the last time. I also hope all of you have fared well this stormy season.

When I arrived in 1989, very little thought was given to year round program use. The troops that did visit CCV in the "Off Season" did so with very little support or amenities. They would arrive in Two Harbors, where I would meet them with the truck to pick up their gear and give them directions to camp. After they hiked in, I would meet them in the campsite area and point to where they could set up their tents and then stored their food in the Dining Hall. Other than returning their gear to Two Harbors, I would not have any other interaction with them for the most part. Today, however, every idea, plan, and eventually every project must consider year round operation factors.

With the storms this winter, it became obvious that the improvements and modifications that have been done to CCV have in fact made CCV a true year round operation. For example, when I first arrived if we received more than 1" of rain in a 24 hour period we would see the runoff destroy the camp road, flood the Dining Hall and other buildings, fill the Salina to capacity, and eventually break through the beach. As the Salina drained, much of our beach would go out to sea with it. After the last storm, which dropped more than 6" of rain in 48 hours, the beach stayed where we had put it. After just a couple of hours, our road was back up and ready to handle light vehicles. Even though the Salina was filled to capacity the overflow flowed to the ocean with out taking a single rock with it. Within two days the Salina had drained to its desired level and we were able to drive light vehicles down to the beach via the Staff Village road. Despite the huge amount of work that needs to be done we are still ready to receive kids and offer them a safe and comfortable stay.

Improvements at camp are still moving forward and we are accomplishing a lot of the projects that we wanted to do this winter. We are still "fine tuning" the fire suppression system but can see the light at the end of that tunnel. The system works very well and it has passed all of the county inspections except for the final which we will have done within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting. Mark was able to clean up the Staff Village electrical and septic systems and made the area look much cleaner. We needed to replace the Warehouse water heater and shower this year and have almost finished that up. With new copper pipes, fixtures, drywall, and paint the place is looking and working well. A lot of time was put in to leveling the beach area prior to the storm activity and all of it stayed where it was put thanks to the "Sea Curb". We also added two more drain pipes to the Salina drainage system and boy has that worked out well. The first Santa Ana winds of the season came early this year and in November our pier took a good hit. Our first float off the beach was cracked on one side when the boat that was tied to it ended up on top of the float. That has been repaired and is back in service. Our plans to improve the waterfront area are coming together and we should see some of those improvements starting this year. The Camp Store and Craft Center is all set for it's completion as soon as the County gives us the go ahead. We are also planning and preparing to enlarge and improve the Resident Cabin.

This year we are looking forward to a great spring with lots of island flowers and healthy plants. I hope many of you have the chance to visit this year.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Rick Scobey

Membership is low this year. We need your help to keep the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association alive. It currently requires five new memberships each year just to cover the cost of

our web site. It also requires seven memberships, or approximately \$170.00, for a complete newsletter mailing to everyone in our database. We've found it necessary to cut the number of those mailings down to once a year. The other mailings are limited to current members, or those that have subscribed to the newsletter.

The membership fee is currently only \$25 per year, 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. Newsletter subscription only for our non-members is \$5 per year. If you are a current member, you do not need to pay for the subscription.

A special thanks to our Life Members: Hudson Bair, Mark Bevan, Scott Bice, Albert Cain, Tucker Cheadle, Bruce Davis, Dennis Dayne, Dominic Femino, Dave Hagen, Bill Hartley, Larry Hooper, Carol Hopping, Roy Johnson, Garry Kief, Mike Kilbride, Bob Lundquist, Ed McArthur, Jim McClung Jr., Keith Mikas, Dave Minnihan, Morgan Morgan, Bill Norris, Phil Piet, Ian Pinkham, Bob Shafer, John Shaw, Sherwood "Woody" Simpson, Clifford Thomson, Edward Wellman, Ron Williamson, and Ron Wood. If your name wasn't mentioned, please contact me.

Let us know if your contact information has changed. It's expensive and difficult to keep track of our members. Too many newsletters have been returned because of an incorrect address, and often, the Post Office charges us for address corrections. Be sure to send us your e-mail addresses. We'll notify you of changes to the CCVAA web site, upcoming special events, and newsletters when they are posted on the web site.

Don't forget to visit our web site www.ccvaa.org. We'd appreciate any ideas, suggestions or comments that you might 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, your membership is needed in the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association. Your dues are important and necessary to keep the Camp Cherry valley Alumni Association going! If you haven't already, please send in your dues now. Every membership helps. It makes a big difference.

Hope to see you soon!

C.O.R.E. STAFF REPORT

By Yolanda Hernandez

Mehiya! Hope everyone is doing well. Staff's looking forward to another great season. Our weekends will be filled with laughter for old and new campers. Extending an invitation to come and join us. Remember doing archery and shooting BB guns, getting into the kayaks, or sitting on the rocks listening to the water, or even taking part in a campfire skit or song? Looking forward to seeing you. The cove is calling you. Mehiya!

MEYER PIET

By Phil Piet

Long time Scout and Scouter, Meyer Piet, passed away last November 10th. Meyer's interest in Scouting started during his teen years in Los Angeles, where he was a member of a local Scout troop and Polaris Lodge, a predecessor to the Order of the Arrow.

Active as a Cubmaster and Scoutmaster during the years his sons, Phil and Larry, were in the Scouting program; Meyer spent 11 years escorting Troop 103 (Arcadia) to Camp Cherry Valley from 1960 to 1970, always during 8th Camp. It was during these camping trips that he developed an interest in woodcarving, a hobby that provided decades of joy and diversion. He eventually won international acclaim for his woodcarving skills. CCV Staff Members from that era may remember him as the scoutmaster who brought a bag full of hand-carved neckerchief slides for distribution through a lottery during Troop 103's stay at camp.

Meyer is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Beverly; his son Phil, a CCV Staff Member in 1965 and 1966, and long-time CCV supporter; and his daughter, Milinda. Meyer was preceded in death by his son, Larry.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By Dave Minnihan

Below is a list of all who have served as Camp Director of summer camp at Cherry Valley. Please let us know if there are any corrections. Thanks to Ron Wood and Bill Hartley for some of this information. In the future, we'd like to run lists of all those who served as Program Directors and Aquatics Directors. We are missing many names, so if you remember who served in those positions during your years at camp, please let us know.

CCV Camp Directors

Tallman Trask	1923-1926
Skipper Robison	1927-1953
Bill Davis	1954
Herb Williams	1955
Jack Hoag	1956
Spike O'Connell	1957-1958
Jack Hoag	1959
Royal English	1960
Bruce Ackerman	1961
Jim Brown	1962
Bob Lundquist	1963-1964
Ron Wood	1965
Bob Lundquist	1966
Don Mickelson	1967
Ed Wintermute	1968-1970
Don Davis	1971
Roger Williams/Don Beattie	1972
Don Beattie	1973-1975
Doug Emory	1976
Ross Turner	1977
Rylan Mann	1978-1981
Frank Brundige	1982
Terry Richardson	1983
Jim Miller	1984
Rusty Hale	1985
Jon Maeda	1986
John Chikow	1987
Ron Wood	1988-1990
Glen Goddard	1991-1992
Bill Hartley	1993-1994
Delose Conner	1995-2000
Dave Hopkins	2001-2005

CHERRY VALLEY TRADING POST CATALOG

Something new for 2005! There is now a printed catalog for Cherry Valley Merchandise. T shirts, sweatshirts, hats, pins, postcards and other miscellaneous items are now all available by catalog. See what the well dressed camper or alum will be wearing this season! The catalog is available online by visiting the Council's web page www.sgvcbbsa.org and going to the Camping link. You can also contact Gary Jensen, San Gabriel Valley Council BSA, 3450 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107. (626)351-8815 ext 227 to get a printed copy.

NEW SCOUT EXECUTIVE

After 16 years service, Bob Booker retired as the San Gabriel Valley Council's Scout Executive in January. Our new Scout Executive is Marcus Mack, who previously served as the Area 4 Director, and as Scout Executive of the Bay Area Council in Galveston, TX. Our best wishes to Bob in his retirement and a hearty welcome to Marcus-hope to see you in camp!

SCOUT EXPO

Once upon a time, we knew it as Scout-O-Rama. It's been called Scout Expo for quite a few years now, but it's still the same activity-a chance to show what Scouting's all about. This year's Scout Expo will be Saturday, June 4, at the Santa Anita Race Track. Come on out and see what's going on.

ACTIVITIES

Staff Barbecue

We'll be going over to Camp on Saturday, July 16, 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. Please RSVP to Dave Minnihan (714)641-4845 by July 10. .

Old Goats Weekend

September 9-11 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.

NEWSLETTER

We are always looking for articles of interest to our members. If you have anything you'd like to share with us, articles or ideas for articles, memories, photographs, etc. please contact us.

CALENDAR

June 4	Scout Expo
July 16	Staff Barbecue at CCV
August 1	Newsletter article deadline
Sept. 9-11	Old Goats Weekend at CCV

OFFICERS

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