

YMCA Camp Carson

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Volume 2, Issue 1



Living The Memories

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In January, we were blessed with an impromptu visit by three sisters Sid, Cathy and Mary. They were campers and/or counselors here 40 years ago and decided to stop by — “they were in the area”. What an unexpected pleasure we had that afternoon as we listened to them share their memories and saw the sparkle in their eyes. Recently, we asked Cathy to share some of her memories and thoughts on paper. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

“When my sisters and I drove into camp this winter, **it felt like coming home**. A collage of memories rushed through my mind: best friends and favorite counselors, evening campfires, the scavenger hunt, the greased watermelon contest in the lake, canoe trips, the ill-fated raft trip, Bertha butter and bug juice in the mess hall, singing and singing and singing, shutter raids, trips to the canteen, taking out the canoes and sailboats, telling stories in the darkness of the cabin at night, walking to Greek's for astonishingly gigantic ice cream treats, all camp picnic, sports day, mud hikes, flashlights, flashlights, flashlights, skit night, morning chapel, summer of the donkeys, archery and crafts, winning cabin inspection, mail call, staying with three friends in a special tent cabin out in the woods, ultimately herding around my own little campers.

When I think of Camp Carson, I think of friends, fun and freedom. I think camp brought out the best in us as young girls and women. Within a safe setting, we had multiple opportunities to discover our preferences and strengths - to try our wings, if you will. To me, that was empowering. I was motivated from day one each year to earn the highest swimming rating so that the full range of waterfront activities would be open to me. I still remember the day we swamped canoes – a heady experience for a ten year old. My friend, Jodie, and I were thrilled to discover not only how hard it happened to be for a couple of skinny little girls to tip a canoe, but also the air pocket under the overturned vessel once we'd rocked it violently enough to accomplish our end.

Dangling from the gunnels, we experimented with the sound of our own voices and fancied that our conversation was a secret and could be heard only within the bubble. On a more realistic note, we also realized that one could hang on in that environment and have air to breathe for an extended period of time if need be. Here's what these kinds of experiences did for us: We experienced ourselves as independent, competent and skilled risk takers. Is there a better way to build esteem in kids?

I realize that when I visit special places I always seek the familiar and find the new a little disconcerting. Still, camp isn't frozen in time, thank heavens, it's still a growing, changing, and lively place with some beautiful new facilities. I mean who can really mourn the hilarious indignities of the old bathhouse?

The important thing is that camp is still there for kids!”

YMCA Camp Carson
Board of Managers

Mr. Craig Fenneman

Mr. Gene Dawson

Mr. Steve Fritz

Mr. Jeff Johnson

Mr. Steve Keck

Mr. Leonard Schlamp

Dr. William Wooten

**Ms. Jayne Bierhaus
Young**



Over the winter we've had many Alumni drop by to visit. This hardy group spent the day in temperatures below 20 degrees walking, talking, and trying to cook out! (left to right: Nicki Macy, Sarah Peddie, Crystal Roggenkamp, and former Kniese Scholarship recipient Lindsey Marshall)



Thanks to Mr. Greg Lannert for the donation of the Rave

Alumni Development — Committed to Staying Connected — Please Visit at Anytime

We understand that the camp experience lives long and passionately with all campers whether they attended camp last year or 60 years ago. It has been our pleasure to welcome many alumni that have "stopped by" camp each season. They come from many walks of life and many different decades but the central feelings and thoughts are the same - Camp truly is "An Experience That Lasts a Lifetime". As we strive to insure that camp remains a thriving resource for youth and families for years to come, we recognize that our alumni play a vital role in the success of this vision.

It is for this reason that Craig Fenneman, Chairman of our Camp Board, came to us with a proposal to personally fund a position here at camp to focus specifically and exclusively on our relationship and

communication with our alumni. *We are truly grateful to Craig for his passion and this investment in camp and Alumni Relations.*

As such, I would like to introduce Debra Scoular who has accepted the task of launching our Alumni Development office. Debra is excited about facilitating communication with you and working with you in so many ways to reconnect with and become actively involved in the ongoing mission of camp. Expect to hear from us often, and please know that we are always excited to hear from you.

As I mentioned earlier, we've had the honor of many Alumni dropping by to visit at different times of the year. This past summer we even had

several generations of campers on-site together, with dads and grandfathers sharing stories of their days at camp. A number of them even joined in our First Annual "Water Zip-a-thon" fundraiser.

I hope you ALL know you are always welcome at camp. I'd value the opportunity to tour camp with you, enjoy a coffee or iced tea on the porch of the Lodge, hear your stories and share what's new and possibly even in the works. Summer is a fun time to visit when all the action is happening. The other times of the year are great for those quiet strolls just to relive the memories. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Debra or myself.

Hope to see you soon. Mark Scoular Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE SUMMER 2009 70th REUNION

Our 65th Reunion was a great success and we are looking forward celebrating 70 Years of Camp Memories. Please make plans to join us.

As part of our preparation, we are asking for your help to **update** our records **AND** make **contact** with as many alumni as possible. Please take a moment to complete the survey below! We are attempting to connect people who came to camp during the same time frames, so please include your years at camp.



You Can Help:

Volunteer Needs /Camp Wish List

Volunteers to help organize two annual workdays at camp (Spring/Fall)

Host Families for "2008 Camp Informational Nights" to help spread the word!

Team Leaders for our 2008 Annual Fund Campaign

Used Station Wagon

Sponsor the implementation of a Mountain Bike Program at Camp.

Sponsor the purchase and installation of "The Wet Willie" a 100 foot water slide

Sponsor the purchase of a Water Cannon for the Waterfront

Thanks to all those who gave to our Camp Endowment, Annual Campaign and Facility Improvements in the last year!

Action Temporary Services, Inc.
BP America, The Fabric of America Fund
Bierhaus Foundation, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bobbitt
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Brown
Mrs. Annabel Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Davis
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Mr. Levi Stahl
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Stiles
Ms. Amy Subaey
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing Indiana, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Tunks
VFW Post1147
VFW Post1147 Mens Auxiliary
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Wilson
Drs. William & Mona Wooten



FREE Week of Camp for Children of Military Families

We are pleased to announce that Camp Carson has been selected by The National Military Family Association to be one of the host sites for Operation Purple Camp. NMFA developed this free summer camp program in response to the need for increased support for military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed. Camps are free to all eligible children thanks to a partnership with the Sierra Club Foundation and support from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. The NMFA is the only nonprofit organization that represents families of all ranks and services, prepares spouses, children and parents to better deal with the unique challenges of military life. For more information about NMFA, visit www.nmfa.org.

Registration for Operation Purple Camp begins March 24, 2008.

Applications will only be accepted online. Sign up at www.operationpurple.org

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO HERE and mail to camp (e-mail if you prefer)!

In order for us to **eliminate DUPLICATE records** etc., we ask that you please provide all the requested info.

We promise we won't tell anyone how old you are!

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Camp Nick Name, if any: _____ Maiden Name _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Wedding Anniversary _____ / _____ / _____
Month/Day/Year Month/Day/Year (optional)

Years at Camp: _____ Camper Year(s) _____ Counselor Year(s) _____

Other Staff Positions: _____ What Year(s)? _____

Any **corrections** to Address: _____ Zip Code _____

Other Current Info:

Email: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

OTHER ALUMNI! Who do you know that we need to reconnect with? Please attach a list of other alumni you remember. Please include the following:

Name (Include Maiden Name) Address (indicate if this is CURRENT or LAST KNOWN)

Phone Number (indicate if this is CURRENT or LAST KNOWN) Yrs as camper _____ Yrs as counselor _____

E-mail Address if known

We love to hear your stories..... Please feel free to write a memory and mail or email us any time. Who knows, it may just show up in our next newsletter or web letter (with your permission of course).

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An Experience That Lasts a Lifetime!



Meet our New Program Director and International Intern

Thomas has been associated with the YMCA since 2001. He was a camp counselor and assisted the CIT program at Camp Carson in 2001. In the summers of 2002 and 2003, Thomas was the Backpacking Director at YMCA Camp Classen out of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He graduated from Indiana State University in December of 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Sport Management. Upon graduation, Thomas worked full time at the Terre Haute Family YMCA where he was the Aquatics Director. Thomas has also worked at the Terre Haute Boys and Girls Club as a Program Director. In January of 2008, Thomas accepted the position of Program Director at Camp Carson.



When Thomas is not working at Camp Carson, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Lacey, and daughter, Madilyn, and enjoys being in the outdoors.

Derek began his Camp Carson connection during the 2007 summer season as a Senior Cabin Counselor and LIT Director. He was greatly impacted by his summer experience and readily accepted the invitation to return this January as an International Program Intern. Derek lives in Scotland with his parents and sister and, thanks to Camp Carson, has friends all over the world. Derek graduated from The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland with a BA Honours degree in Business, specializing in Marketing.



He is very keen on sport and has played rugby since he was 5 years old. Derek has represented his local rugby club as well as his University and the Glasgow District. He also plays soccer, volleyball and golf. After the completion of the 2008 summer season, Derek returns home to Scotland.

THERE ARE STILL OPENINGS FOR 2008 — visit us at www.campcarson.org
Register online today!

Register online today!



*The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc., following the example of Jesus Christ, responds to community needs by serving all people,
especially youth, through programs that promote healthy spirit, mind, and body.*