

**Fall 2012 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter  
XXX, 2012**

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- **Four new Staff members become Alumni!**

New members of the Canyon Camp Staff become Canyon Camp Alumni group upon their first year of service. This year four Staff members served on the Camp Staff for the first time – helping to transmit the Spirit of Canyon Camp to all the scouts they came in contact with during the summer. We extend a hearty welcome the following Staff who completed their first year: John Cornacchia, Andrew Gray, Seth Kannar, and Danton Studer.

New Alumni can access the Alumni and Friends website and contribute information to it, stay engaged with activities happening at Canyon Camp year round, and they may become eligible to be considered for one of the Spirit Scholarship awarded to current Staff at the end of each camping season.

- **2012 Summer Camp Report by Lee Binkley**

The summer of 2012 will be one remembered by many as a very hot and dry summer. Canyon Camp was certainly included in the challenges of an eight-week burn ban, temperatures at midnight of 93 degrees, and virtually no rain for 6 weeks. And yes, we did not have the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “once every 100 years” flood!

As we have done for over 40 years the camp staff once again helped with the activities, parade, and trading post at the U.S. Grant Pilgrimage, which was held the last weekend of April. Once done in Galena we headed back to camp where nearly 500 Scouts and Leaders camped to complete their Pilgrimage weekend. Work projects and the first camp staff meeting were held to get things rolling for the summer.

The first weekend of May brought a great work crew to camp for the Annual Kiwanis Work Weekend. Once again current and past staff members, Scouts, Leaders, and friends of camp gathered to complete the “opening” of camp. Through the generosity of the Monroe Kiwanis Club, John Etter, Bill Kubly, and Ron & Jennifer Spielman we were able to purchase materials to rebuild many of the shutters on the staff cabins, construct 10 new picnic tables, as well as 10 new tent platforms. The annual painting of the pool and general maintenance projects

were completed that weekend and many others were continued the first weekend of June by the Order of the Arrow at the Spring Conclave.

Camp has been a busy place throughout 2012. This past spring, as well as late summer, camp has been an outdoor classroom to several local schools. The Boy Scout summer schedule was very busy. (Did I mention it was also hot!!!?) We started staff week on June 8<sup>th</sup> with a director's weekend with the full staff reporting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. On Father's Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>, we greeted the 1<sup>st</sup> of 6 weeks of Scouts and Leaders. Attendance was up slightly from last season with 770 participants. As we finished week 6 we also hosted a Wolf/Bear Cub Camp with 115 Cubs and parents in attendance. New to our schedule this year Canyon Camp hosted the staff and participants (approx. 85) in the N.Y.L.T (National Youth Leadership Training) program which was held August 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

Once again the camp program was built around our schedule of nearly 40 different merit badges. New this year was the offering of Robotics merit badge as well as Kayaking merit badge, which was added to the Boy Scout merit badge list in June. This was the year for new programming. The Alpine S.C.U.B.A. club (from Rockford, IL) came to camp on Tuesday mornings to offer basic S.C.U.B.A. instruction. This was done in the pool and was enjoyed by all who participated. Our camp bicycles were well used this summer. We offered a bike obstacle course, near the barn, mountain biking on camp trails, and a day trip to the Jane Addams Trail in Freeport. These opportunities were fun and challenging for youth and adults. (Mike Hofmann, our O.W.L. director, is very good at changing bicycle tires!).

A big addition to Canyon Camp was added during April, May, and June. We have added a bouldering wall. It is located across the road from the Scoutcraft Area. Thanks to the organizational efforts of John Wurtzel and Gary Hollister, hundreds of hours by dedicated Scouters and staff were focused to complete the project just in time for Scouts to enjoy this summer. We hope for this to be phase 1 of an expanding climbing program at camp. If all goes well a climbing tower will be added in the near future.

Many of you may remember the Pioneer Potpourri Program that was offered in the 80's. Staff member, Sean Nack, took the challenge of bringing the program out of retirement. The new program was changed and enhanced to be very popular and well attended by Scouts of all ages.

As we started the camping season we had no idea of how hot and dry the summer would really be. There were a few activities that simply had to be cancelled due to safety concerns. And yes, the Canyon Camp staff came through it all with creative ideas and enthusiasm. There were 3 days where a homemade "slip and slide" was set up from the base of the Indian Point Trail and headed down the parade field. We actually broke tradition and used water balloons and not flour sacks during the Battle of Bunker Hill. Water balloon battles took place on two other occasions as the summer wore on. It was no small task preparing 1,500+ water balloons for each event..."other duties as assigned."

All in all Canyon Camp had a great 2012 summer...a great staff...and many enthusiastic participants. Thanks to all who support a place that is special to all of us.

In Good Scouting,  
Lee Binkley

- **Spirit Scholarships awarded to 9 Canyon Camp Staff – by Ron Spielman**

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. In recent years an endowment has been accumulated to generate a portion of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

There are now four named scholarships awarded each year: Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2007 and the Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship first awarded at the recent Staff Dinner.

At the 2012 Staff Dinner Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented nine Spirit Scholarships to:

Troy Larson Scholarship to Dan Dick – Carthage College  
Dennis Pratt Scholarship to Joshua Feldhaus – Loras College  
Lee Binkley Scholarship to Jason Buss – Western Illinois Univ.  
Ronald Spielman Scholarship to Sean Nack – UW – Milwaukee  
Spirit Scholarship to Connor Daws – Ambrose College  
Spirit Scholarship to Dan Kurth – Highland CC  
Spirit Scholarship to Alex Rehberg – Rock Valley College  
Spirit Scholarship to Charles Ellis – South Dakota School of M & T  
Spirit Scholarship to Nicholas Moore – Rock Valley College

Through 2012 scholarships totaling \$33,500 have been awarded to 105 members of the Canyon Camp Staff. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to nearly half of its established goal of \$100,000.

Scholarship funding comes from staff alumni, Scouters, and Friends of Canyon Camp. Individuals making tax-deductible contributions may select prints of pen and ink drawings of Canyon Camp scenes. To date, artist Elaine Bethke of Monroe has generated nine different prints:

Canyon Camp Bells  
Held Nature Center  
Stagecoach Trail Sign  
Jamboree Cabin  
The Chapel  
Vickery Health Lodge  
Rawleigh Headquarters Building  
Hess Farmstead Barn  
Founder's Lodge

If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund contact Ron Spielman @ 608-325-6490 or spiel335@tds.net

- **Woodcutter's Ball at Canyon Camp – October 13**

The thirty-fourth annual Woodcutter's Ball will be held at Canyon Camp on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The Monroe Kiwanis Club is again sponsoring this event and is inviting Scouters and friends of Canyon Camp to participate. This annual workday has the primary focus of cutting, splitting, and delivering the winter supply of firewood to the cabins used by Scouts throughout the winter months. Scouters are asked to bring chainsaws, splitters, and appropriate work clothes to work in the woods.

For those who cannot work in the woods, attendance is still encouraged as this workday is used as a time to do routine maintenance to buildings and to ready the camp for the winter camping season. Hammers, saws, and paintbrushes are all tools to be put to use this workday.

Fall is a great time to visit Canyon Camp. You will enjoy the clean fall air and enjoy the fellowship of others interested in perpetuating the Spirit of Canyon Camp.

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will again provide breakfast and lunch for all volunteers. We'll plan to start at 9:00 a.m. and break for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Kiwanians, troops, and individual Scouters are invited to participate! Contact Lee Binkley with questions or reservations: Home phone number 608-325-5540.

- **Mrs. Orela Strohecker turns 100!**

Orela Strohecker, wife of Bert and mother of Jim, turns 100 years of age this year on September 24. Orela was a frequent visitor to Canyon Camp on Wednesday nights, and she and Bert supported the Staff and Canyon Camp in numerous ways with their personal resources, their knowledge of Indian dancing and costuming, and their extensive collection of Native American artifacts that are still on display at Camp. Please send Orela a birthday card at the address below.

Orela Strohecker  
Freeport Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Room 112  
900 S. Kiwanis Drive  
Freeport, Illinois 61032

- **Needs list for Canyon Camp**

Canyon Camp is in need of in-kind as well as cash donations for many on-going maintenance projects. If you, your employer or an organization you belong to can assist with any of the projects below please contact Properties Chair: Gene Nott gnott@helmgroupp.com.

New lumber, windows, and electrical supplies for the construction of staff cabins

Materials and new plumbing fixtures for the construction of the new visitor's latrine  
Treated lumber to replace the porch at the Camp Office  
Stain for the exterior of the Chapel  
Paint and stain for the Held Nature Center and many other buildings at Camp

- **New stuff on the alumni web site**

The alumni web site continues to grow through contributions from our members. Please feel free to submit any documents, photos or other memorabilia you would like to see on the website. Be sure to poke around on the Staff Alumni and Friends web site for new information like:

- A tribute to Dr. Harold Held written by John Weber
- 1960 Staff Annual – a great read!!!!
- New book titles written by Steve Diehl, Mike Coats, Doug Kroll, Paul Remington, and others
- Ron Sime's address at the 1967 Wetassa Lodge Winter Banquet
- Dr. Vickery's 1993 speech to the 'Friends and Founders of Canyon Camp'
- What's With Wetassa? - newsletter from 1943
- COMING SOON: LOTS of photos from past our reunions contributed by Bill Determan
- New Ordeal Member List from 1958