

"WHO DO WE WANT?"
"WE WANT THE CRIER!"

PHANTOM LAKE YMCA CAMP

"And Jesus increased in
wisdom, in stature and in favor
with God and man."
(Luke 2:52)

PHANTOM CRIER

· camping since 1896 ·

111th Anniversary



A Biannual Newsletter by and for Family, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp

SUMMER 2007

CALENDAR

July 13-15
90's Reunion

August 31-Sept 3
Family Camp

Sept 19
Golf Outing Fundraiser

For more information on any of
these events, visit our website at:
www.phantomlakeymca.org

There are still openings in several of the camp offerings:

Resident Camp:

6 days - \$539

Coed III ... July 29-Aug 4 ... Rock Star

Coed IV ... Aug 5-11 ... Around the World

Coed V ... Aug 12-18 ... Superhero

Coed Specialty ... Aug 19-25 ... Choose one:
Aquatics, Theatre, Trekkers

Day Camp:

Full or half-day for ages 3-13, prices vary

Session 7 ... July 30-Aug 3 ... Rock Star

Session 8 ... Aug 6-10 ... Around the World

Session 9 ... Aug 13-17 ... Super Hero

Session 10 ... Aug 20-24 ... Time Travel

Please call the PLYC office for reservations:
262-363-4386

Or make reservations online:
www.phantomlakeymca.org

PHANTOM CRIER SPONSOR?

Would you or your business like to be
a sponsor for the autumn Crier and
poster insert? Over 9,000 Parents,
Alumni, and Businesses from the
Midwest and around the world will
receive this newsletter.
Call for more details

Hot New Activities for Summer 2007

Geocaching

This year we are proud to announce the start of our Geocaching program. Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit.

The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. If the visitor finds something and receives a reward, the visitor is asked to leave something in return for the next cache seeker.

New - Soccer Specialty



The Camp, in partnership with Kettle Moraine Soccer Club, will be offering a Soccer Specialty Period during their Coed 5 sessions. According to Camp Director, Todd Lennig, "the camp is designed to promote soccer skills and

teamwork." The Soccer Specialty Period is being offered to campers ages 9-14 during the mornings of their traditional overnight camp session.

Phantom Lake YMCA Camp is thrilled to have Coach Zach Papnikolaou leading the practices, drills and scrimmages. He is ranked as one of the leading all time college players at UW-Milwaukee and is a member of the UW Green Bay Hall of Fame for Soccer.

Aqua Trampoline



At the waterfront, campers will find an aqua trampoline that will replace the raft that had been used in previous years.

Note: Both of the new activities were purchased with the money from camp store donations. We wish to thank all of the families that donated to that fund. What a great way to contribute!



Family Camp

August 31 - September 3, 2007

Family Camp is a traditional holiday weekend that runs every Labor Day weekend from after dinner Friday evening to Monday after lunch. Families play together... enjoy swimming, paddle boats, canoeing, fun yaks, sandpit volleyball, nature walks, basketball, biking, fishing, tennis, the infamous family talent night, crafts and more!

Families stay in our platform tents. Meals are served "buffet style" in our lakefront dining hall and

will provide portions for all appetites. Families help with the dining hall setup and cleanup but we do the dishes!!

90s Reunion July 13-15, 2007

All past staff and campers from the 1990s are invited to attend. We are looking forward to the sharing, caring, and joy of getting together. Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with the special friends you were able to spend such wonderful, quality time with.

Mission Statement

Through camp related and community programs, Phantom Lake YMCA utilizes Christian principles to provide the opportunity for both children and adults to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially in accordance with Luke 2:52.



2007 Board of Directors

Chair

Catherine Treacy

1st Vice-Chair

Andy Treharne

Secretary

Eric Woodruff

Treasurer

Jennifer Emond

Chris Briskie
Julie Cooper
Mike Hase
Robert Mlynarek
JP Porter
Kathryn Richardson
Jim Scharine
Walter R. Stewart
Jay Wall
Dennis Ward
Kennen Wood



Year-round Staff

C.E.O.

Jeff Spang

C.O.O.

A. Todd Lennig

Finance Director

Nancy Kendzior

Registration Director

Carolyn Russell

Facility Director

Randy Rohde

PHANTOM LAKE YMCA CAMP

5110 W30240 YMCA Camp Rd.
Mukwonago, WI 53149

Phone: 262-363-4386

Fax: 262-363-4351

office@phantomlakeymca.org

www.phantomlakeymca.org

Remarks from CEO, Jeff Spang

"I'm extremely excited to be part of a wonderful organization that renders such a favorable, lifelong impact on the children of the surrounding communities. Many alumni and parents want their children and their children's children to be able to experience this camp. Our job is to make sure that will happen by encouraging volunteerism and taking an active roll in bringing resources into this camp.

I really believe in what we do here. After all, what could be more important than providing experiences that help strengthen families and develop strong, well-rounded kids? This camp has a rich history and tradition that I am looking forward to sharing with my own children.

I am extremely happy to be working with, and fortunate to have, a dedicated staff and wonderful team of volunteers as well as board and committee members who are committed to improving the camp and achieving our mission."

Spang's experience with the YMCA began in college in Eau Claire, where he served as a swim instructor and lifeguard.



Comments from Chair Catherine Treacy:

"I am truly excited about the progress we have made in building a resourceful and dynamic board. Over the last year and a half, the diversity and momentum of the board has soared. We have great people from a full spectrum of talents who are giving strength and real positive energy to the organization. We presently have 15 board members and are actively seeking six more to reach our goal of 21.

More importantly, is the need for dedicated volunteers who are willing to serve on the various committees. It is these committee people who get the work done and keep our facility alive; they are indeed the heart and soul of the camp. Without volunteers, there would be no camp.

There are alumni who have benefited from the Phantom Lake experience and wish to give something back

but may not realize that serving on a committee is, by far, one of the best ways they can do just that. We hope to strike a perfect balance between Phantom Lake alum volunteers, who have been touched by the camping experience, and volunteers from the general public sector who wish to express pride in their community and believe in helping others.

Many of the Mukwonago residents and people from the surrounding communities are little aware of the awesome "gem" they have right in their backyard and we are working diligently to heighten awareness. We want everyone to know that our primary mission is to help kids have a great time and build strong relationships that last a lifetime.

Phantom Lake is incredible; experience it and you will agree."

Testimonies:

The Same Old Phantom Spirit Bob Holloway



In 2001, I had the opportunity to revisit Phantom Lake Camp to introduce a new program, sea kayaking. Camp had always been a nurturing place, but I wondered how the staff and campers would respond to a 50-year old guy who hadn't had contact with camp kids for over 20 years! A rather haunting question of whether I was in the right place weighed on my mind. As I settled into the luxurious accommodations of the Phantom Lake Hilton, any apprehension I may have had was quickly extinguished as the familiar sense of extended family embraced me.

The staff soon returned from their day off, I was introduced to one and all, and the regimen of informative meetings began. The spirit of camp was as strong and welcoming as ever. The staff was energetic, enthusiastic and on-board for the kids and the campers flung themselves into the activities with passion. Interacting with the campers was really no different that it was 20 years ago and it quickly felt to me as though I had never really left.

Aside from natural changes like, the time and location for program announcements and the fact that there both boys and girls there, each day seemed merely a time transplant from the 1970s.

Emotions around the Square on closing night outside the lodge were richly familiar. Watching the campers sing arm-in-arm inspired a deep-seated and satisfying feeling of deja vue.

After my years on staff in the 70's, I have come to

think of those times as a particularly special part of my life. Having had the opportunity to share the experiences of Phantom Lake with the campers and staff of today, I felt the wonder of the Phantom Spirit flowing through generations on Idlewild Point. It was much like stepping out of a stream and then 20 years later stepping back in it to find that the droplets of water were new, but the flow and the vital spirit of the stream remained the same.

Fish: 1975-1982

The [camp]website brings back a lot of memories. The friendships you make at Phantom will last a lifetime! My sister and I still remember all of the songs we used to sing, "Tripping tripping with the mighty rule," "Oh they built a ship Titanic to sail the ocean blue," and "Riley's head is a ping-pong ball," [to name a few].

Jason Ryan year: 1977-1988

Living in CA

I am currently the Online Events Manager for Sony Online Entertainment. Before working in video games I spent about 10 years doing physical effects in the Hollywood film industry. I built puppets, prosthetics and theme park rides. It was fun, but dirty work. I hope to make it back to PLYC to visit sometime soon. I think about camp always, where I had some of the greatest experiences of my life.



Feature Stories: Generations of Campers...

Four Generations Experience the “Magic” of PLYC

“I still get that butterfly feeling in my stomach when I pull up, now, to bring my children to camp,” says Stephanie Rose (Williams-Kohn), who is the third generation of four in her family that have attended Phantom Lake Camp. “My grandmother, who is 91 years old and still lives in Waukesha, was the first of our family to attend the camp. The experiences here are so wonderful – actually, kind of magical - that sending our children generation after generation was, or is, never given a second thought.”

Not only does Stephanie’s immediate family attend camp, but her aunts and cousins do as well. “Two of my cousins and their children come from Florida and Montana,” she remarks.

Considering her most memorable moments, Stephanie says she remembers being part of the first coed camp in 1977. It was a move the camp staff was apprehensive of, but the results were overwhelmingly positive. “There was some concern that girls and boys might pair up, like teens do, but it was the spirit of camp – the all-over intention of the camp mission - that left no room for silly adolescent behavior. Great friendships developed between the genders that had no other connotation”.

Another thing that Stephanie is most proud of is the number of Arrowheads she has collected for the many years that she attended camp. They serve as a very pleasant reminder of joy she had participating in activities and getting to know other campers.

Stephanie’s children Hanna (14), Jake (11) and Josh (9) Kohn attend camp every year and she anticipates that

her grandchildren will do the same. “My daughter still cries when her stay comes to an end,” says Stephanie. “My boys really enjoy the many activities camp provides, and my daughter enjoys the people she meets and the friends she makes.

“I can’t tell you how many people I meet, regularly, that have been a part of Phantom Lake Camp, either as a past camper or part of the staff,” Stephanie remarks. It is no surprise! The camp’s reputation is far reaching and has a certain magnetic element that draws in adults and children who truly enjoy having good, clean fun.

Growing up at Camp

“My work as a psychologist was influenced by my experiences at Phantom Lake,” Pam Shapson says. “At camp, I was surrounded with diversity and got to know people at a much deeper level than during any other time of my life. I have always considered the friends I made at camp, an extended part of my family.”

Pam’s parents, Gerry and Sue Carman, ran Phantom Lake camp for 35 years. Gerry was the Camp’s director, Sue the cook.

“It all started when I saw a 3X5 card on a bulletin board advertising ‘help wanted’ for a camp counselor,” says Gerry. “After college, I taught school but I always had this certain desire to run the camp. In 1962, with a little influence from the YMCA staff, I came aboard as a youth director and through the years worked as an office manager, camp director and CEO at Phantom Lake.”

Pam’s mother started out working at the camp store, but eventually took over the kitchen. She cooked for roughly 200 campers and staff, every

day, three times a day, throughout the entire camp season. Not an easy task, yet Sue loved the work.

Pam and her three brothers spent whole summers at camp, learning respect and building life-long connections. Now her son, Sam, and daughter, Elisa, spend a few weeks every year.

Sam will be in the AC 3rd year junior counselor program this year; Elisa will be a camper. “My children love everything about the Phantom Lake experience, but the two themes that interest them the most are the craft shop and boating programs. Horseback riding has also been a favorite with my daughter.”

“Another very memorable a part of camp is the ceremony of Phantom Square,” adds Pam. “It is likely the most spiritual part of the day and is spectacular, every time.”

This family’s ties run very deep at Phantom Lake. There is a garden named in honor of Pam’s deceased brother, Richard Riedesel. Richard had been actively involved as a Stewart and staff person at camp for many years. Pam’s other brother Christopher Carmen recently served as the interim CEO for about eight months.

Phantom Lake has been a very influential part of this family and will likely continue to be so for generations to come.

The Generational Chain Begins

“Even though I was only there for one summer, I had a wonderful time and made some great memories,” says



Tara Troy. “Since then, I have worked for five YMCA camps and have consulted on a ‘bazillion’ different camp accreditations, but there is something about Phantom that really makes it a ‘different’ camp.”

Tara’s oldest daughter had her first day camp experience this past summer and loved it! “We had signed her up for a couple of weeks throughout the summer, but she liked it so much, that she ended up going almost the whole time! It cracks me up how the kids sing the same old songs, but bugs me how they have morphed and changed lyrics and tunes. My daughter, Mary Kathryn, (see I always was a good catholic girl) gets mad at me when I try to sing the ‘real’ words to those songs!”

Tara’s husband works for the State of Indiana, but at one time was a YMCA Camp Director. “I hope to convince him to tag along to a reunion or family camp next summer. Our family reunion is being held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park Colorado, next summer, maybe that will spur an urge in him.”

The Administrative Staff: The Stars

By: Travis Judd



As June begins, the administrative staff gathers at Phantom Lake YMCA Camp to mold a detailed outline of the coming summer activities. Using past strategies that have provided over one hundred years of success at camp, eight individuals will deliberate on the six sectors that are the backbone of Phantom.

The most experienced resident camp individuals are the two Resident

in Madison. They will manage all major camp decisions that will keep the campers happy so that during the drive home from Phantom, each and every camper will have many unique stories to tell their parents.

Next up are the culturally diverse Day Camp Program Directors: Lego (Lindsey) and Trails (Julie). Lego spent her last semester taking classes

Camp Program Directors, Sienna and Tony. This is Sienna’s fifth year on staff - second as the Program Director, and Tony’s fifth year on staff - first as Program Director after a two year run as SDP Director. This last year they both worked at a YMCA after school program

in Australia and was able to travel to New Zealand and Fiji before returning to the U. S. Trails, who took a two year hiatus from camp, traveled to and lived in France. Their responsibilities for this summer will include every aspect of camp from the moment the campers arrive until each and every one is picked up at the end of the day.

The Program Directors will be working closely with the Land Activities Director, Billy (Liam), and the Waterfront Director, Amanda. Safety is their key concern, but they also work together to make sure that Resident Camp and Day Camp have no scheduling conflicts, because they both use the same resources. Their job is to make sure that things run smoothly for everyone week after week.



The last of the Administrative Staff

are the SDP Program Directors, Christina and Travis. They are in charge of shaping the future by teaching the campers of today to be the staff of tomorrow. The Staff Development Program (SDP) is something both Christina and Travis went through to become staff members at Phantom. Christina and Travis are also well traveled, as Travis went to Ireland this last semester and Christina spent an entire year in Spain.

These eight staff members arrived on June 2nd and have since spent long days organizing, scheduling, and preparing for the arrival of the counseling staff and the arrival of the campers.

The new CEO of Phantom, Jeff Spang, calls them “the shining stars in the success of our program.”

We build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

 
PHANTOM LAKE YMCA CAMP
S110 W30240 YMCA Camp Road
Mukwonago, WI 53149, U.S.A.
Phone: 262-363-4386
Fax: 262-363-4351
E-Mail: office@phantomlakeymca.org
Web: www.phantomlakeymca.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mukwonago, WI
53149
Permit #95

Connections

UPDATES ON PHANTOM FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

Entertainment Hit:

Hilary Mercer says, "I have had a lot of cool gigs in the last couple weeks including one in front of 14,000 people at the Bradley Center with the Trans Siberian Orchestra! It was awesome. I was right in front of 20 foot flames, various lasers and pyrotechnics - so I definitely got to feel like a rock star for a night! Have you ever seen that skit on Saturday Night Live with Christopher Walken and Will Farrell where they do the "more cowbell" bit? Well, we had one of the guys from Blue Oyster Cult join us on stage for that song (don't kill the reaper or something), unbelievable!

BIRTHS – FUTURE CAMPERS

Jemma (Parker) and Russ Wilson had a baby girl, Iona Christine Georgia Wilson, born on November 28, 2006. They live in Aberdeen Scotland.

Julie (CeCe) and Paul Vernon had a baby girl, Emma Grace, born on November 21, 2006.

Sarene (Schumacher) and Nicky Caiazza had a baby girl, Elsa Teofila Caiazza, born on May 6, 2007.

WEDDING BELLS

Angela Richards (00s) married Nathan Cook in Madison on October 21, 2006. They will make their home in Pewaukee.



Katie Malin and Rob Riepenhoff married on March 3, 2007. They are now happy members of the 2% club. They currently live in Chicago.



SEND YOUR NEWS TO
office@phantomlakeymca.org

How Can You Help?

**WE DESPERATELY
NEED A MINI-VAN TO
TRANSPORT THE KIDS!**

**We also are in need of a
computer server with a
3GHz or greater CPU**

Please call Jeff Spang at camp
if you can donate either of
these desperately needed items.

Be part of our Sailing Crew:

Deck Hand ... \$100

Five Life Jackets

First Mate ... \$2000

Pram sail boat with life jackets
named after your family or group

Admiral ... \$12,000

Fleet of 10 Pram sail boats and life jackets named
after your family or group

Sailing Shore Supervisor ... \$2500

Repairs and sailing dock construction

Be part of our Canoe Crew:

Beginner ... \$100

Three life jackets and three paddles

Advanced ... \$800

A canoe, 3 life jackets and 3 paddles named after
your family or group

Lewis and Clark ... \$8000

Fleet of 10 canoes, life jackets and paddles named
after your family or group

Canoeing Shore Supervisor ... \$2500

Repairs and canoe rack and dock construction

Join our Archery Team:

Level 1 ... \$150

Bow, target-with stand and accessories

Robin Hood ... \$400

Four bows, four targets and accessories

William Tell ... \$2000

Archery Shade Structure and four bows, four targets
and accessories

Join our Sports Team:

Bronze Medal ... \$100

Basketballs, kick balls and Frisbees

Silver Medal ... \$500

Shelving and storage, basketballs, kick balls,
Frisbees, etc.

Gold Medal ... \$1500

Siding for the Athletic Shed, Shelving and storage,
basketballs, kick balls, etc.

Friends of Phantom Lake Camp:

Caring Community Member ... \$ Any donation
that will benefit the campers, their families and
spruce up our facility.

Please contact Jeff Spang or Todd Lennig with your
generous offers.

Fundraising

First Ever Golf Fundraising Event

There is a very impressive list of committee members who are planning a golf outing to raise funds for the camp. Our first attempt at having an event like this to support our cause, hopes to be the precedent for future fundraising events.

The outing will be held at Rivermoor Country Club in Waterford on September 19. Four-somes entry fee is \$395. Sponsorships are available and needed. Donations are also needed for the auction.

Please contact Jeff at the camp if you have any items you would like to give or if would like to get a team of golfers registered. (262) 363-4386 or by email: jeff@phantomlakeymca.org

Expanding our welcome...

For your Company Picnic, Enjoy Phantom Lake Camp

Phantom Lake YMCA Camp has become the ideal place to enjoy a company or church group outing. The camp is available on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and has the facilities to satisfy any number of people. It is gradually becoming the 'hot spot' to treat and entertain large gatherings of people; it would surely please your group. Call the camp to secure a reservation.

Strong Kids Campership Fund

Camperships are essential to the character of the Phantom Lake experience because they provide kids who might not have the means to attend camp an opportunity to benefit from this uniquely supportive environment.

Phantom Lake YMCA is committed to providing the means for 125 kids to attend our Resident Camp, Day Camp, and Phantom Adventure Camping program this summer. Please consider making a contribution to our Campership Program, so that we can help create wonderful memories for children who might not otherwise be able to have the camping experience. We appreciate your past support and hope that you can help us continue to spread the Phantom Spirit. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact the Business Office at 262-363-4386.

Camp Improvements

Our sand volleyball court will get a truckload of sand and a new net to improve conditions of play. The athletic shed will have proper siding replaced to help weatherproof the building. The archery area received a shade pavilion to help keep our archers comfortable while they are shooting.

In order to continue the momentum with these improvements we need support from people willing to help sponsor these projects.

How else can you support PLYC?

Save Our Shore Fund, Heritage Club (Bequests), Endowment Fund, Director's Wish List, Matching Company Funds, volunteer skills, consulting, and time.

