

"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 •

115th Anniversary



An Annual Newsletter by and for Family, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp

SPRING 2010

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.



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Save the date! Upcoming events for 2010

April 24

Fred Lee Day
(Come help set-up camp)

May 8

Open House
2:00–4:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Weekend
Volunteer Camp Beautification

July 9–11

All Era Alumni Reunion

October 3

Disc Golf Tournament

October 16

Camp Take Down/Service Day

December 4

Breakfast with Santa
8:00–11:00 a.m.

December 25

Light your candle!

December 27–30

Winter Camp

Watch the website

www.phantomlakeymca.org
for more details!



**Check us out
on facebook!**

www.facebook.com/plycpage

*Did you know you can
donate online?*

www.phantomlakeymca.org

REGISTER FOR THE ALL-ERA REUNION!

July 9–11, 2010

Visit **www.phantomlakealumni.com**
for more information and
to register online!

Call camp at **262-363-4386**
or email

reunion@phantomlakealumni.com
with any questions.

Schedule of events on page 3

Come Back to Camp... Alumni Reunion

by Diane Rogers, Alumni

The wheels of my suburban crunched on the snow as they made the turn down YMCA Camp Road. Piled everywhere, the windswept snow and bare trees cast a wintry scene as the car rolled its way toward the parking lot by the pines. Stepping out of the car, I thought to myself, "how many years have I been coming here?" Which, at my age, I really shouldn't do but do anyway. The years flood through me in a rush of memories that inevitably bring a smile to my lips.

Silence virtually surrounds me. Only the soft shush of wind in the pines and creak of trees make a sound. The towering trees, their commanding presence still guarding the entrance to camp, look just the same as they did in 1972.

*"Every time I wander down the
camp road on that east side with
my kids, they ask 'Isn't this where
your tent used to be?'"*

The tents are buttoned up for the winter. At first glance it is a sadness that permeates the air, they stand like silent sentinels eagerly anticipating Fred Lee Day when camp begins to come back to life for the summer. The new tents with their solid roofs and sturdy construction have weathered the winter. While others, not to name names, but Brigadiers and Vikings look so sad and naked without their canvas. They are ready for their spring tent makeover.

My first summer as a counselor I was a little panicked as I somehow had missed the SDP training on building your own fire. It was Unit Night and we were supposed to cook rubber hot dogs and those really dead brick hamburgers over our campfire. I couldn't get my fire started to save my life. Thank God for Jenny Porter, aka Bugle Butt, aka JP, who came over to help me or the kids in my tent would have been seriously unhappy. We've been friends ever since and I can build a pretty decent fire to this day.

*"We're the Adventure Unit
and we're here to say,
We go a lot of things we want
to do today,
Swimming, boating,
make a belt or two,
The Adventure Unit is the place for you..."*

Come back to Phantom...

I wind my way along the road and the Athletic Field begs for attention (ah, the Athletic Field). One summer, I passed out on that same field in the middle of a kettle game. The ground came rushing up to meet my face—splat. Hours



Friends gather at the Flagstones for a reunion in 2003. Front: Julie Cowser, Jenny Porter; Back: Sir G, Sue Cowser, Linda Ellis Olsen, Ellen Winchell Miller, Jenny Brown.

later, I woke up in the Health Lodge. A combination of the heat, the frantic pace and too little sleep from encountering campers while I was on Stretch. Campers, who at the hormonal teen moody age of thirteen, decided to stay up and cry endlessly midway through a ten day session, bemoaning the fact that they only had five days left to enjoy camp. (If you're reading this, you know who you are.) This all left me on the ground in the A Field on more than one occasion that summer. They called it heat exhaustion—I called it joy. And I wouldn't have changed it for the world.

*"Is she really down at archery?
Is she really going to shoot those
bows and arrows..."
(Sung to the tune of Joe Jackson's
'Is She Really Going Out with Him?')*

Come back to Phantom...

Every time I wander down the camp road on that east side with my kids, they ask "Isn't this where your tent used to be?" I was thirteen, and it was only my second year at camp as I came late to Phantom. It was a magical place to be, right by the water. Yes, we did skinny dip. I guess after thirty seven years, it's okay to fess up and I bet I'm in pretty good company. We were destined for a canoe trip down the Wisconsin River. There was a feeling of being special—the oldest campers, in camp but traveling out of it for a few days. We were testing our boundaries, canoeing skills and strength, growing into young women. Well, I think we all finally realized when we returned from our river journey, that being special didn't mean jack unless you shared it.

*"Seven golden daffodils,
shining in the sun,
Light our way to evening,
when the day is done
And I will give you morning,
and a crust of bread,
And a pillow of piney boughs
to rest your head.
And a pillow of piney boughs
to rest your head."*

Come back to Phantom...

The lake is startlingly different in winter, frozen solid, snowy white and at this time of year, sprinkled with ice shanties. Flatbed Fords and Chevy pickups are lined up on the lake like a parking lot and is full of guys named Fred, Dale and Bob. Personally, I've never found the glory in ice fishing so I look right past them and I see instead the pier swaying in the water, buddy tags, and beach towels on the flagstones. I hear the creak of boats in the water; feel the cool shade of Davey Jones locker while the scent of suntan lotion and lunch from the Dining Hall wafts through the air.

My only rule as Admiral when I was teaching sailing was to keep me in the sun—it was a very good method to keep the kids learning how to come about, jibe and tack into the wind. I'm back on the Jeune Fille, there's a storm coming, the wind is picking up and we are about to capsize—intentionally. Here we go Battin'!

*"Oh Phantom Lake,
I love your dark green waters,
I want to cool my armpits,
In your waters all day long,"*

Come back to Phantom...

I trudge up the steps by the Dining Hall and drop my daughter off for the weekend SDP retreat. As I hug and let her go, the swinging door sweeps in the chanting songs we sang—Green Canoe, Titanic, Kookaburra, and memories of my days in the kitchen I learned to chop vegetables, pinch sweet rolls, make lasagna for the masses, not to flip pancakes until you see the bubbles, and I learned that I would never, ever eat tartar sauce again. I still have my Lady's Sue Kitchen Crew apron—where's yours?

*"Oh...they built the ship Titanic,
to sail the ocean blue,
And they thought they had a ship
that the water wouldn't go through,
But the good Lord raised his hand,
said this ship would never land,
It was sad when the great ship
went down..."*

Come Back to Camp... continued on page 3

Thank You

VOLUNTEERS

Al Lusia
Alaina Landi
Alec "Polo" Buccanero
Alex Brick
Alex Hass
Amanda Medendorp
Amy Kerman
Audrey Wayne
Becca Martini
Becca Martinie
Betsy Pike
Bif Buchan
Billy Korinko
Brittany Judkins
Casey Benner
Cathie Treacy
Christina Rye
Dan Pattee
DC Kerman
Debby Spang
Derek Mahan
Ellie Drotning
Emma Brick
Eric Johnson
Erin "Penguin" Eaton
Erin "Ringo" Guk
Sue Guk
Fanny Pelletier
Geiger Family
Gracie Currie
Hannah Graber
Hannah Travis
Jared Fedota
JB Pike
Jeff Holcomb
Jenna "Pinky" Haertle
Jesse Jacobson
Jim "Gluestick" Ertel
Nic Zavala
Joey Rotter
John "Goo" Williams
John "Mullet" Zydowicz
JP Porter
Julie Pastor
Kaitlin "Slim" Gooden
Kat McKagen
Kizzy Marco
Kristen Goedjen
Kristen Stankiewicz
Laura Hughes
Laura Levenhagen
Lauren "Springy" Daering
Lindsey "Lego" Morehouse
Liz McNally
Maggie Brick
Maggie Lach
Mary "Flare" Lewandowski
Matt "Pop" Quaglieri
Max Szudy
Meg Samuels
Mike Murphy
Natasha Hanson
Nikki Lickteig
Nora Wynn
Pat Johnson
Pat McSteen
Rob "Fish" Grainger
Russell Family & Friends
Scott Teschendorf
Sean "Smac" McCarthy
Sienna Teschendorf
Steve Fedota
Tony Ayala
Zac Barndt

From the Board Chair

From Michael Hase, Board Chair

I wanted to take a minute to talk about volunteerism at Camp. My story is that I was on staff in 1970 and 1971, met Meredy, got married, had kids, but didn't really think much about camp until I went back for a reunion 35 years later. Janet Richardson talked to me about getting involved and suddenly I started to reconnect. I've reestablished old friendships, made new ones, learned new skills and I'm proud of the things I've accomplished. I came across this quote from Teddy Roosevelt and I really liked it because it made me think again about the return on investment from volunteering—the more I put in the more I get out—and the stronger camp becomes.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena,

whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

I'd like to encourage you to think about coming back to camp—get involved again—"know the triumph of high achievement" Volunteer for work on a committee: The properties committee



Board Chair Mike Hase and wife Meredy, both PLYC alumni

needs help with building projects and maintenance, the communications committee needs writers, web masters and public relations skills, the fund raising committee needs help with campaigns. Trust me, there is no lack of important work to be done. Drop me a note and let me know how you would like to help.

From the Director's Desk

From Jeff Spang, CEO

Our Tradition—115 years strong.

I'm looking out over the lake. It is frozen and covered with snow. Instead of campers in boats there are a few lonely ice fisherman. It is hard to imagine that in less than 100 days the campers will return! 2010 marks our 115th year of serving campers.

I really enjoy listening to parents and alumni share their experiences at camp. I especially appreciate hearing from past campers who upon reflection can pinpoint their experiences at camp as a time of self discovery and a time in which their confidences soared. One of our campers from around 1960 had this to say:

"One really good thing I remember from camp days is that my social life was totally different than back in Milwaukee, and I felt relaxed and accepted—even being a leader sometimes—instead of being frustrated and feeling left out because I wasn't in the in-clique (even in elementary school!)."

A lot has changed in the 53 years since this individual first attended Phantom. We have updated our facilities and programs to meet the needs of today's youth. What has not changed is our mission of helping children grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. This remains as relevant today as it was in 1960. Camp is a safe place for children to explore the outdoors, make new friends, and try something new. The canoe paddle in the dining hall captures this perfectly "Sometimes the best way to figure out who you are is to get to a place where you don't have to be anything else."

There have been times in Phantom's 115 year distinguished history, when our parents and even grandparents made decisions and sacrifices that enabled the Phantom Lake YMCA Camp to be enjoyed by future generations. Just 25 years ago we became an independent stand alone YMCA. It took a tremendous amount of faith, courage and generosity from thousands of people in the Phantom family to make this happen.

This same attitude from alumni helps keep us strong today. We continue to improve camp so that future generations feel the Phantom Spirit. For many, PLYC was the place where they discovered their special skills and abilities and developed the



Jeff Spang, CEO of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp, attempting the log roll.

confidence that helped them throughout life. Campers of today are learning these same lessons. It is my hope that many more generations will have their lives enriched by Phantom Lake YMCA camp.

We are blessed here at Phantom to have the generous financial support of our alumni, campers and the local business community. These contributions have strengthened camps finances, renovated buildings, added programs, and provided opportunities for those struggling financially to attend camp. You may not know it but the fees from campers cover the operating expenses, staff salaries, food, and supplies and regular upkeep. Your donations are used for program improvements, capital expenditures, and significant building projects.

I urge you to think about camp when you develop your giving plans. Everyone has wonderful memories from their camp experience. In order to keep building these memories with new generations we need your help and we need to keep you connected to camp. Just because you are not a camper or staff member doesn't mean you can't continue to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Man. Please go to our website at **www.phantomlakeymca.org** for information on donating to any of these funds or you can call me directly at **262-363-4386 ext.104.**

I look forward to seeing you this spring at Fred Lee day—April 24, hearing your stories at the reunion July 9–11 and especially to seeing the enthusiastic faces of our newest campers as they become part of the Phantom family.



"We continue to improve camp so that future generations feel the Phantom Spirit."

Spotlight: Dr. Bob Omba

By Julie "Trails" Shackelford, Alumni

"If I quit coming to camp," he laughed, "I'd have to grow up—and that, that is a frightening thing."

Despite the passage of time and the demands of the "real world," Dr. Bob never forgot his time at camp, and the Phantom Spirit continued to linger. When he reconnected with his old friend, Gerald Carman, in the early nineties, the latter, known affectionately as "Sir G," was camp director at that time. He confided in his friend that camp needed a fishing counselor. Sir G couldn't have spoken to a better person. Not only had Dr. Bob become a highly-skilled fisherman in his time away from Phantom's shores, but with his own children now campers themselves, Dr. Bob was feeling the itch for some of that



Take care of it he did. Eighteen years later, Dr. Bob is still at it, spending at least a week or two each summer teaching kids the arts of casting and making a fly, as well as the secret lives of Phantom's fish and the habitats they lived in.

Phantom Lake would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Bob for all of the time, energy and talent that he has given to camp over the last two decades. Dr. Bob—you have taught us not only how to fish, you've taught us what that good ole Phantom Spirit really is. Thank you.

good ole Phantom Spirit. He saw camp's need for a fishing counselor as the perfect opportunity to share one of his own special interests and talents with the place he loved. He told Sir G simply: "I'll take care of it."

Come Back to Camp... Alumni Reunion

Continued from page 1

As I head back to back to the parking lot, I walk through the center of camp with the Hilton and Health Lodge off to my right through the snowy trees. If you've never been so lucky as to be non-counseling staff and live at the Hilton at for part of the summer, you really don't know what you missing, after all they don't call it The Hilton for nothing—it did make living in a dorm room seem luxurious and don't get me started on the bathrooms. The Hilton pier is gone, but there were nights of lying on that pier in summers so hot, you'd sweat in your bed, sleep elusive, and we'd try to imagine a breeze off the waters lapping at the shore while counting the constellations.

"Hmm I wanna linger
Hmm a little longer
Hmm a little longer here with you..."

Come back to Phantom...

I turn toward Alford Lodge. While not impervious to the vestiges of time, it still stands solid and true, anchoring camp to the land. I had the occasion to be out at camp this summer helping out with the Staff Dinner. The Back CC was open and the Really Scary Back CC closet was open. The closet was full of stuff you wouldn't believe like counselor applications, complete with pictures (that '70s hair) and hilarious SDP reviews. I admit to not always taking that process very seriously, I mean in how many ways can you say your best friend is perfect and deserves to be asked back? The musty couches and chairs I don't think

have changed—seriously! They look the same as they did thirty years ago. In case you were all wondering, know that the Back CC is still there in all its glory, cradling the counselors in its dusty, cramped comfort.

The hardwood floors have seen many a camper footstep. The stage is careworn with, I swear, a slight indentation in the middle of the stage where I used to sing, just as countless others have through the years. You're probably one of one them. I missed the Phantom Square my first year, can't remember why but in subsequent years, I took my turn at different sides of the square. Both sitting in front of a counselor, a friend and giving my own version of increasing with wisdom, stature, in favor with God and Man.

"Today while the blossoms
still cling to the vine,
I'll taste your strawberries,
I'll drink your sweet wine,
A million tomorrows will all pass away,
Ere I forget, all the joy that is mine today."

Come back to Phantom...

The traditions of the square have changed somewhat. The classic picture of Jesus is still up on the chimney but they dress up for Square, which is kind of nice. They are sometimes a bit more irreverent than we used to be—they don't have Sir G staring them down—but that's okay too. The essence hasn't changed. The swirl of emotions that sweep through you as you watch the kids exchange last night hugs and see the tears in some, even in the boys. It reaches in and grabs your heart and takes you back to your own days there. The beauty, the singular joy of Phantom,

is the deep common bond that threads through us generations of campers. While the camp legends you and I knew and loved have long left Phantom, there still *are* camp legends and heroes leading a new crop of kids. Only the names and faces have changed. What connects us all through the years is this feeling at the core. As a Phantom alumni, you belong to something good, you're a part of something special, something you can share with legions of others. No number of years can change that. You can meet someone you never went to camp with and become instant friends because they're a camp person.

"By old Phantom's rippling waters,
Where the campfire's bright,
Keep the flames of friendship burning,
In our hearts tonight,
Here we gather in the twilight
Loyal friends so true,
Building in our hearts fond memories,
Phantom Lake of you..."

Come back to Phantom...

My footsteps crunch through the Civil War unit as the cardinal's song whistles my exit from camp. Breathing in the sweet scented pines, I open the car door, then stop to pivot round and take one long last long look as I smile inwardly. I'll be back, in fact, I've never left.

Come back to camp and let the sun glint off the gray in your hair, feel the lines of your face crease into endless smiles. Come sing the soaring songs of summer camp—come and share your stories, reconnect with old friends and make some new ones at the All Ages Reunion. Schedule of events for the reunion on this page, right column.

Take a look at the new tents and renovated Health Lodge!



New Western Unit & Civil War Unit Tents from 2009



Renovated Health Lodge

Thank you to all those who made these projects possible. Hilton renovation under way—see article on page 6.

Disc Golf

The First Annual Disc Golf Outing was on October 4, 2009. It was organized by staff and SDP's from the 1990s to raise money for camper scholarships.

Thank you to Ian Gatley, Liza Zimmerman, Bryn Orum, Brian Jensen, and Molly Garner who organized the event. Thanks to Becca Dilley for coming out to take photos.

It was a really fun time! Join us for the second annual Disc Golf Fundraiser on October 3, 2010.



Steve Hill, Liza Zimmerman, Bryn Orum and Ian "E-Dog" Gatley try out their disc golf skills

Five Year Fleece



It is tradition for staff members returning for their fifth summer on staff to receive a five year fleece jacket in appreciation of their dedication. This year's awardees were: J.B. Pike, Amy Kerman, Christina Rye, and Natasha Hanson (6th Year).

All Decade Reunion

July 9–11, 2010

Starting Friday at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Friday highlights:

- Square Ceremony with campers
- Campfire and Pizza in Pavilion



Saturday highlights:

- Activities open throughout the day, for both alumni and kids
- Disc Golf, Zip Line, Swimming, Boating, Archery, Riflery, Craft Shop, Mercantile, Rock Wall, Staff supervised activity for kids
- Kettle Game
- All Decade Staff Show and Songs
- Campfire for kids
- Square Ceremony led by Sir G



Sunday highlights:

- Sunrise Ragers
- Prayer service in Chapel of Pines
- Activities open throughout Sunday morning, for both alumni and kids
- Disc Golf, Mercantile, Craft Shop, Zip Line, Swimming, Boating



The 1896 Society

Named for the founding year of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp, the 1896 Society recognizes alumni and friends whose annual unrestricted gifts total \$1,896 or more. Your membership in the 1896 Society helps to ensure the proud heritage, legacy, and mission of PLYC for generations to come.

Our members include Diane & John Rogers, Mary Kay Caldwell, Mike Hase, Michael Murphy, JP Porter, Taylor (Don L. & Carol G.) Family Foundation, Erik Bakk-Hansen, Thomas Abbott, Jeff & Debbye Spang and Patrick Carroll.

2010/2011 is our Charter year for the 1896 Society. Membership is renewable annually. We are looking for 100 people to become Charter Members of the 1896 Society, who will be recognized individually as well as on a plaque.

To encourage lifetime giving, we have created different levels within the society:

Giving Level I ~

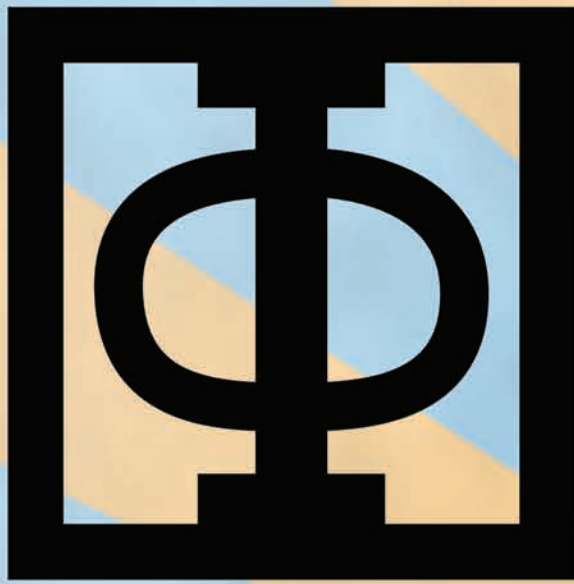
- Bronze \$1,896–2,999
- Silver \$3,000–4,999
- Gold \$5,000–7,999
- Platinum \$8,000–9,999

*Cumulative total (over maximum of 5 years)

Benefits of membership ~

- Specially designed 1896 pin
- Charter member plaque/recognition
- Special listing in Annual Report of Donors
- Special listing on Alumni Website
- Invitation to 1896 Society events

For more information or to join the 1896 Society, log on to www.PhantomLakeAlumni.com or call the office at (262) 363-4386.



PHANTOM L

WWW.PHANTOMLAK

"...AND JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM
AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN"



Lake YMCA Camp

KEYMCA.ORG

DOM, IN STATURE,
AN." LUKE 2:52



2010

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2011

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PLYC Hilton

Renovation Project

A number of dedicated camp alumni have collaborated on a renovation of the Kiwanis Inn (The "Hilton"), the main staff housing structure at camp. This renovation will greatly improve the living environment for the entire PLYC staff and will continue the momentum gained through the Richardson Health Lodge renovation. The Hilton provides housing to all non-counseling staff members and private showers and bathrooms for all PLYC staff.

We are preparing a renovation that will improve the use of the building for the future of PLYC. We hope to provide adequate staff housing, an improved staff lounge, staff computer area, staff kitchen, as well as remodeled bathrooms. Until now, the building has not undergone a single major renovation during the time it has served hundreds of PLYC staff. This renovation isn't considered a luxury, but rather a necessity. The Hilton Renovation committee is launching a fundraising campaign and plan to renovate the building for the enjoyment of staff during the 2011 summer. A lot of staff and alumni can relate to this project, so please don't hesitate to give.

To donate please visit our Facebook Cause Donation page: www.tinyurl.com/plychilton.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact hilton@phantomlakeymca.org.

Because of Camp...

by Tony Ayala, Resident Camp PD

The American Camp Association produced a public service announcement this summer entitled, "Because of camp..." You can find it online or sometimes it'll pop up while your watching you favorite TV shows on Hulu.com. In a nutshell, this PSA introduces the viewers to a number of famous celebrities that went to camp in their youth. Such celebrities as Olympian, Kerri Strug, musician, Lisa Loeb, and Grey's Anatomy actors Justin Chambers and James Pickens respond with their own personal statements to the finish the statement "because of camp..."

How are you affiliated with Phantom Lake YMCA Camp? Were you a camper at PLYC? A SDP or YLT? Or did you make the commitment to work as a staff member?

Because of camp, how was your life changed? Our camper parents, time and again tell us that we've made an impact on their child. An impact, not just an impression but a substantial impact on the direction and future path of a their son or daughter. Because of camp this child may gain an appreciation for the environment and advance climate policy. Because of camp this child may take up an piano and learn to write influential music. Because of camp this child may pursue a degree in law and fight for the little guy. Because of camp this child may strive to become a junior counselor and continue the cycle. At Phantom, we often talk about the ripple



effect. When you drop a stone in the lake, the splash goes out in a ripple and after some time, it reaches the other shore. Our staff are prime examples of how the ripple continues to guide the future of Phantom.

I've worked at this camp for 7 summers dating back to 2003. It's been my pleasure to work alongside hundreds of staff members, thousands of campers, and I've had the privilege to interact with parents, family and friends as they drop off their child for opening day. Some of my favorite conversations are shared with alumni staff and junior counselors because they can reflect on their experience as campers and describe how they paid it all back as PLYC staff members.

The staff alumni often review their fond memories which usually sparks their relationship with camp. Some donate money and supplies while other donate their time and skills. I appreciate the generosity of everyone that takes it upon themselves to give back. In due time, I, too hope to find my place as a proud alumni of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp family.

It's a beautiful thing to look back at the start of my relationship with PLYC and see how much has changed. I credit our progress to the dedication of our summer staff, the efforts of our year round staff, the excitement of our campers, the support of our alumni, and the goodwill of our families.

Phantom Spirit All Year Long

By Matt "Pop" Quaglieri, YLT Director

It's hard to believe—the last hardcore necklace has been given out, the last chorus of the "announcements song" has been sung, and the Ishkabooie is actually (somewhat) clean again. Summer of 2009 has officially come to a close, and although Day Camp has concluded for the year campers, YLTs, and staff members alike can agree that their memories from summer will live on with them forever. Highlights from the summer include: drenching counselors and YLTs in the dunk tank, countless games of "gaga," Phantom Idol during a rainy Friday, JK Lee Tai Kwon Do, Tuesday All-Camp-Games, weekly lunch events (including songs, competitions, trivia, dances, and theme day festivities), and Nagi trips to the State Fair, Miller Park, and the Jelly Belly Factory, just to name a few.

A gigantic KUDOS needs to be extended to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2009 Day Camp Program a great success. From running criers and planning theme days to working with children of all ages one on one and within groups, each and every staff member truly made a difference this summer. Another huge thanks needs to be extended to Phantom Alum Rob "Fish" Granger and Natasha "Mu" Hansen for coming back to PLYC to once again share their energy and camp color on staff for part of the summer.

But remember everyone—the weather may be cold, but that Phantom Spirit lasts all year long! There are several opportunities to stay involved at camp all year round, no matter who you are!

There are retreats, work days, Breakfasts with the Easter Bunny and Santa, reunions, and so much more! Call or e-mail the office at **(262-363-4FUN, office@phantomlakeymca.org)** for more details or to find out about other ways you can stay involved! Hope to see you soon!



Pop and Yatzee



Gaga pit

Connections **UPDATES ON PHANTOM FRIENDS AND ALUMNI**

UPDATES

August 13, 2009—Emily Ardell

You're right about me getting married last year. I got married on August 22, 2008 in Chicago to a wonderful guy named Matt Oster. We met during our graduate program in International Relations at Johns Hopkins in 2003–2005. Since 2005 I've been working with Catholic Relief Services. It's an international humanitarian organization that works all over the world. They've sent me to live in some random places, including Bosnia, the West Bank/Gaza, Baltimore MD, and in February of this year my husband and I moved to La Paz, Bolivia where I took a position as the South America Regional Program Manager—which means I'm responsible for development and humanitarian assistance projects in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. So far we're loving life down here in South America—despite the intense poverty in Bolivia; it's a beautiful, dynamic place to be. Certainly can't complain!

BIRTHS (FUTURE CAMPERS)

William Ryan Benish: Born to Sarah (Steil) and Chris Benish August 8, 2009

Elizabeth Ann Vernon: Born to Julie (Cirrincione-CeCe) and Paul Vernon June 1, 2009



Kylie May Bickelhaupt: Born to Katy (Bragg-Giggles) and Phil Bickelhaupt August 19, 2009

Azure and Shale Schroeder: Born to Jodi (Gamon-Breeze) and Ben Schroeder: March 22, 2009

Ryan Hicks: Born to Annelies (Flossie) Howell and Dan Hicks: February 11, 2009

Louis Reipenhoff: Born to Katie Malin and Rob Reipenhoff July 18, 2009



Stella: Born to Nicole Dehne and Peter Smiar December 12, 2009

Nolan Ryan: born to Ryan Krueger (Goonie) and Missy Buer (Happy) January 6, 2010



Owen Christopher: February 18, 2010 Born to: Todd (current PLYC Chief Operating Officer) and Melissa Lennig.

WEDDING BELLS

Emily Ardell and Matt Oster: August 22, 2008

Matt and McKenzie Anderson: August 16, 2008

Betsy Berry and Aitor Luna Olivares: June 21, 2008

Chris and Rosie Hawbaker: August 2008

Janet Carey and Steve Gongola: May 17, 2008

Bryn Gross and Jon Orum: October 25, 2008

Mike and Sarah Bezak: July 2008

Kim Zimmerman and Tom: September 2008

Ashley Zimmerman and Max Salazar: August 2009

Courtney Griffin and Tim Lindl: August 14, 2009

Cynthia Holt and Jeremy Pinc: September 19, 2009

Sherry Will and Tim Swanson: September 19, 2009

Pam Shapson and John Prestby: June 27, 2009 (married at camp on campfire hill)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Doug Battin, Joyce Winchell and Lew Williams

INCLUDE PLYC ON YOUR E-MAIL UPDATES



office@phantomlakeymca.org
We would love to hear from you!

Help Camp Go Green!

We have been making strides whenever and wherever possible to make camp more environmentally friendly. It is our goal to make Phantom Lake YMCA green!



Help us with our current goals:
Geothermal heating unit and installation for one building \$25,000.

Solar hot water system for dining hall.

Director's Wish List

Sailing

Deck hand ~ \$100
Five Lifejackets

First Mate ~ \$4000

Butterfly sail boats with lifejackets, boat will be named after your family or group name

Admiral ~ \$25,000

Fleet of 6 Butterfly sail boats and life jackets, boat will be named after your family or group name

Sailing Shore Supervisor ~ \$2500
Repairs and construction to sailing docks

Canoeing

Beginner Canoeist ~ \$100
Three lifejackets and three paddles.

Advanced Canoeist ~ \$800
A canoe, three lifejackets and three paddles, will be named after your family or group name

Lewis & Clark ~ \$8000
A canoe fleet of ten, lifejackets and paddles, will be named after your family or group name

Canoeing Shore Supervisor ~ \$2500
Repairs and construction to canoe racks and docks

Don't see your activity here?
E-mail Todd Lennig,
Chief Operating Officer to
get the most current Activity
sponsorship break down at
todd@phantomlakeymca.org.

Strong Kids Campaign

**Molly Garner
announced as the new
campaign chair**

"Having spent my career in public education, I am continuously amazed by the way that Phantom Lake is able to draw out of a child a strength of



character and wisdom that is rarely seen in other settings."

Camp and Cross Cultural Friendships

By Joshua Haberstroh, 2009 Camper

Becoming friends with certain people allows you to put a certain, special perspective on your life which is truly unique. The power of friendship doesn't belong in anyone else's life but yours. The power truly lies in your own life, and how it affects you. To find how truly unique your own life is, sometimes you have to put yourself in someone else's shoes and find the sharp similarities and differences that truly make up who you are.

Two years ago, I went to Phantom Lake YMCA Camp in Mukwonago. At first I was somewhat nervous, since I didn't know anyone there and I would be there for a week straight, but almost immediately I knew I would really enjoy my time there. During the first day I became acquainted with all the guys in my cabin, but during dinner another guy named Alex joined us at our table, that just arrived from a late flight. Originally I thought he was Mexican, but it turned out he was in fact from Nice, France, which is a major city on the French Riviera near the Italian border. That night and the day after, I got to know him a little bit and I learned a little about his life, and by the same time

the next day, I knew more about Alex than anyone else at the camp. It turned out, that there were several other French people there, and I and Alex hanged out with a few of them. During the course of the next few days I found out a lot more about Alex, and France in general.

"To find how truly unique your own life is, sometimes you have to put yourself in someone else's shoes..."

Originally, I didn't care very much for France at all, but the more I found out about it, the more I started to like it. It seemed like the little things that made me understand it and find my place in the world, like the fact that I had to explain how to play baseball and what a smore was, and a marshmallow for that matter, as they don't really exist in France. I also learned really big, impressive things that also changed my opinion of France, like universal health care, great public transportation, the importance of soccer, miniature cars, and the fact that he and most of the people he knows in France is at least trilingual, which I found jawdropping. As me and

Alex did different activities together, like rock climbing, swimming, zip lining, kayaking, and of course soccer (which I thought I was pretty decent at, since I've done it since 1st grade, and soon found out I was cannon fodder for him) I began to show a deeper appreciation for my own culture by explaining new words, ideas, and activities, some for example, how to play football and what true American Rock really sounded like.

At this time, I was just going into High School in the fall, and I originally planned on taking German, but as I found out how cool French was, I decided I wanted to take a language that a few days earlier I had scoffed at. (And realized how lucky I was afterwards seeing that the administration cancelled German.) Near the end of the camp, I hung out with so many of the French people, both counselors and campers came to the conclusion that I was French as well. I believe no one should doubt the power of friendship and how it can truly enlighten your opinions, and I believe everyone should be exposed to new cultures to see how their own life compares with the rest of the world.

Nina Limbeck (camper/SDP 1996–2005) met Maria Del Mar Gonzalez, an international camper from Spain in 2005. They hit it off and Nina went to Madrid to visit Maria in 2006 right before starting college. Now they are both together for their junior year abroad in Santiago, Chile.





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We build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Find our Crier online in full color



THE ALL-ERA ALUMNI REUNION IS THIS JULY!

More information inside on page 3



POSTER INSIDE!

THE NEW CRAZE AT CAMP—GAGA!

It is a game that is similar to dodgeball but played by rolling the ball on the ground within the walls of the "Gaga Pit."



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CHECK OUT 2010 THEME WEEKS!



Where the Wild Things Are



Toy Story

- Coed I (Week 1)**
Pirate
- Coed II (Week 2)**
Outer Space
- Teen (Week 3)**
Color War
- Boys (Week 4)**
Where the Wild Things Are
- Girls I (Week 5)**
Under the Sea
- Girls II (Week 6)**
Fairy Tale
- Coed III (Week 7)**
Gilligan's Island
- Coed IV (Week 8)**
Toy Story
- Coed V (Week 9)**
Cartoon
- Week 10**
Around the World

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REGISTER TODAY!

www.phantomlakeymca.org
 or call
 262-363-4386
 for more information

Would you like to lead or take part
 in a group service project for camp?
 Contact us at:
Info@PhantomLakeAlumni.com.