



Happenings from Horizons



March 2009
Volume 27, No. 1

Campers, staff beat winter blues with reunion

More than 30 campers and staff members found a great way to beat the winter blues on Sunday, Feb. 22, as they gathered for an afternoon of bowling and reconnecting with camp

friends during our Winter Reunion at Bowl America in Fairfax, Va.

Campers enjoyed seeing old friends from summer, swapping stories and memories and making friends with campers from different sessions. Everyone ended up bowling with bumpers, which made for some high scores and a lot of downed pins!

Campers attending were Avery Bass, Guillemette and Coline Bodenreider, Holden and Shane Cihelka, Carrie Gudenkauf, Sam Kane, Graham Liggan, Mario Lovewell, Reed and Irene Martinko, Katya Maslova, Mackenzie Miller, Ravi and Diya Nuxoll, Nadia Terry, Carson and Callan Rogers, Emily and Sarah Rothstein, Angela Sese, Annie and Emma Washa, Megan and Dylan Williams and Madeline Wodaski. Staff members who attended included Anna Buchanan, Megan Finnerty, Mike Gregerson, and Kim and Kenny Betts, accompanied by Brayden and Brinley.



Horizons receives Safety 1st award

Camp Horizons has received Markel Insurance Company's Safety 1st designation for 2008, the third consecutive year that Camp Horizons has earned this designation.

The designation recognizes organizations that are insured by Markel who have shown an exceptional commitment to the safety of their employees and customers. Camp Horizons was one of 62 camps nationwide and one of three camps in Virginia to earn this designation.

"Camps and clubs must meet stringent criteria to qualify for the Safety 1st designation," said Will Evans, director of safety education at Markel. "They must have a proven safety record for at least three consecutive years, undergo formal assessments and inspections, and participate in continuing education and certification programs. These facilities deserve to be recognized for keeping safety a top priority."

"We're very pleased with this Safety 1st designation," said Camp Director/Owner John Hall. "It further emphasizes our commitment to providing children with exciting, challenging and fun summer camp experiences in a safe and secure environment."



3586 Horizons Way
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802
Phone: (800)729-9230
Fax: (540) 896-5455
www.CampHorizonsVA.com

Don't miss these great savings opportunities!

Returning Camper 'Tax Credit' Discount!
\$100 off registration for 2008 campers who register for 2009
Early Bird Discount!
Register by March 13, 2009 and save 5% off tuition.
Sibling Discount!
\$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.

The Director's Corner



Spring is coming! The snow has melted, daffodils are starting to break through the ground – and preparations have begun for summer. Our maintenance crews are starting lots of projects to get ready for camp, including building additional stalls and planning a new riding arena for horseback.

Summer staff hiring is nearly complete, and we're pleased to welcome back many veteran staff members who will take leadership roles and add experience to our fantastic programs.

We also are thrilled to welcome our first "second generation campers" this summer. Carolyn Dube, who was a camper here in 1983-84, has just registered her two kids for camp.

We are continuing our "going green" efforts, including using our solar panels to generate power, promoting a camp-wide recycling program, producing bio-diesel fuel on site for our Mule maintenance vehicles and our camp buses, expanding our camp garden and encouraging on-line registration to save paper. With that in mind, this newsletter is exclusively on line.

During these challenging economic times, we all need to carefully weigh our finances. We are convinced that Camp Horizons offers parents one of the best values available for their children. Horizons' philosophy encourages kids to try new things, build their self-confidence, make friends, respect others, appreciate and learn about the world around them, embrace new cultures and – most importantly – have FUN!

Have a great spring and end of the school year, and gear up for camp. We can't wait to welcome you home to Camp Horizons!

John Hall
"Life is for Living"

Staff readies for Summer 2009!

Camp Horizons has nearly completed the hiring of the 2009 summer staff, and we excited about the enthusiastic, talented folks who will serve as counselors and support staff for our 27th summer season. This year's staff has a lot of experience – of the 46 staff members hired so far, 25 are returning staff, who provide the depth, experience and expertise to serve as fantastic mentors for our first-year staff.

Our staff is truly international in nature. Staff come from 10 countries – Argentina, England, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine and The United States, and nine states – Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia, as well as Washington, D.C.

Support staff members are all returning staff who have years of experience working with campers. Heading the support staff are Journey Program Director Lori Ostrem and Explorer Program Director Steve Martin. Journey Head Counselors are Cayley Howard and Ralph Demeger; Explorer Head Counselors are Carolyn Harvey and Chris Coventry; Activities Coordinator/Equestrian Director is Anna Buchanan; Performing Arts Lead is Devin Hall; Aquatics Lead is Alex Bellisle; Sports Lead is Graham Hollingdale; and Outdoors Lead is Bill Wides.

Returning staff members include David Beaumont, Jake Bogdonoff, Gustavo Calvi, Hannah Dunn, Megan Finnerty, Mike Gregerson, Caroline Hardaker, Yoon-Jin Kang, Gaby Krohmal, Roy Macias, Kristine Mc Nerney, Annabelle O'Hara, Kiara Ray and Sabrina Stevens.

First-year staff include Szabolcs

Barho, Rhiann Brokenshaw, Hayley Davis, Becky Delo, Anne Frazier Elliott, Gino Gauamis, Nell Gauamis, Cassie Jackson, Ben Johnson, Yurii Maslyiak, Lucy Mathews, Alice Pollard, Jenny Walker, Amanda Whitman and Doug Will. Also joining the first-year staff are Grace Corapi, Giulian Garruba, Jessi Gower, Liz Heilbronner, Maxi Keeler, Jenny Nagy and Andrew Wallace, who served as Counselors-In-Training during the 2008 season.

Camp Horizons also is pleased to announce our CITs for Summer 2009. CITs are rising high school seniors who are returning campers. The CIT program is designed to give these young people the training, leadership skills, responsibility and self-confidence they need to excel in future counseling positions and in other aspects of their lives. CITs who have registered so far are Andrea Becker, Mike Brown, Jocelyn Coates, Julie Hunter, Matt Porter, Liz Spicknall and Laurent Sudreau.



Horizons Family Album: Steve Herrmann



When camp is in full swing and the action is fast paced, one aspect of the camp operation runs like clockwork, three times a day. It's the food service operation, headed by Director of Dining Services and Executive Chef Steve Herrmann. Steve is a master at juggling responsibilities at camp's three dining halls, plus meeting the more elegant catering needs of Mountain Valley Meeting and Retreat Center and providing meals for

clients of the Outdoor Learning Center at Horizons. And he does it all with a steady hand, a flair for delicious food and a sense of humor.

A busy pace and juggling lots of duties is nothing new for Steve. Prior to joining Horizons in Fall 2006, Steve worked as Food Service Manager, Executive Chef and later Director of Catering for ARAMARK Corp., which provides food service operations for James Madison University. His career at JMU spanned 17 years. Additionally, he owned and operated a restaurant in Harrisonburg for five years. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Steve decided to come to Horizons for a change of pace and a new set of challenges. Plus, "How many

people work in a kitchen with a view like this," he said as he looked out over camp's Lake Philippa. In addition to camp, OLC and Mountain Valley, Steve also heads food service for Horizons' newest facility, Valley Pike Outdoor Education Center near Harrisonburg, and provides consulting and support services to food service operations at the Job Corps centers operated by Horizons Youth Services.

But this time of year, his thoughts definitely turn to camp – as he prepares the kitchen for the upcoming season, welcomes returning staff, trains new employees, comes up with menus and looks forward to greeting campers that he has come to know during the past two years.

Menus always are a balancing act between food that kids like and food that's nutritious. Fortunately for campers and staff, Steve is a master at both. He prefers to make things from scratch because "it tastes better, the quality is better and it's more cost effective." However, he concedes that there are some prepackaged camper-favorite food items that just can't be substituted – like French fries, fish cakes and breaded chicken patties. Steve also has to accommodate food allergies and dietary restrictions in his menus.

Admittedly the tasks seem overwhelming – unless you're Steve. In his management role at JMU, he felt too removed from the actual food preparation process and missed the adrenaline rush of preparing big catered events. "It was not as much of a challenge for me anymore, not as much fun." At Horizons, hands-on is the name of the game, and Steve is in the thick of it, enjoying the challenge and fun of feeding the extended Horizons family, three meals a day, seven days a week.

Check out Horizons' new specialty camps!



Camp Horizons is offering two exciting new programs this summer, geared for specific interests.

Our week long Horizons Equestrian Camp is open to girls, ages 8-12. The camp features full days of English riding lessons, horse care, trail rides and an end-of-the-session horse show, as well as plenty of other camp activities. Riders are grouped according to ability level to ensure they will get lots of personal attention from

our equestrian staff, have lots of fun, meet new horse-loving friends and progress quickly into confident riders. Dates are Session A: June 14-20 and Session B: Aug. 16-22.

Our Adventure program has been restructured into one two-week Horizons Adventure Camp, for teens 15-17. The coed Adventure Camp offers teens an action-packed outdoor adventure experience that challenges them within a small group setting that's huge on support, encouragement and shared

accomplishments. Horizons' Challenge by Choice philosophy allows each camper to set individual goals and feel pride in his or her accomplishments regardless of experience or skill level. Campers will use the Adventure Village at Camp Horizons for their base camp and venture to beautiful West Virginia for part of the session to experience new challenges and adventures. Activities include whitewater rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, canoeing, the Via Ferrata rock climbing challenge, caving, high ropes courses, low ropes initiatives, the climbing wall, mountain biking and much more. Horizons Adventure Camp

will run July 19-Aug. 1.

For more information about either of these exciting new specialty camps, check out our web site or give us a call at 1-800-729-9230.



Alumni News, Views and Happenings

1984

Carolyn Dube (camper 1983-1984) has registered her two girls for camp, making them the first second generation campers!

1988

Gabriel Blanc (camper 1987-1988, Junior Counselor 1988) lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and 17-month-old daughter. After camp he lived in Toronto, moved back to his native France, graduated from business school then lived in Boston, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

1997

Stefan Silverlov and wife Linda have two children, Clara, 6, and Albin, 2. He is a surgical trauma nurse in Sweden and still enjoys climbing and diving.

Colin Rice would like to get back in touch with staff from 1997 and is looking for a copy of the summer staff newsletter, The Glob, from that year. Contact camp for his e-mail address.

Seth Johnson manages a locally owned coffee house in Flagstaff, Ariz., and travels to Seattle in the pursuit of music – his true love and passion. He is the drummer for the band Telescope and will start to tour in Europe in April. Check them out at www.telescopeband.com.

1998

Rajan Bajumpaa Shore (1991-1998) and husband **Monty (1996-1998)** have two children – Sam and Hannah. Rajan works at Blue Ridge Community College near Harrisonburg, and Monty just celebrated his 50th birthday!



Hannah Shore



Sam Shore

Rachael Hunter Barber has two children – Grace is 4 and Alexander is 20 months – and is a travel agent at Flight Centre in Australia.

2001

Clarissa Hunter Howe has two children, Hunter, 21 months, and Millara, 4 months.

Kathy Hilimire works for NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) and is a doctoral student in Environmental Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Faye Lillie lived in Australia for five years after camp where she ran into **Claire Angel** and **Clarissa Hunter**. She is now back in the UK.

2002

Rhian Leslie is living in Australia and missing camp!

Wendy Hawksworth Weber (2001, 2002) is hoping to reconnect with counselors **Helen Coles, Belinda DeFrancesco, Meghan Norman** and **Sanford Worth**. Contact camp for her e-mail address.

2006

Jung “Jee” Ji-Hyun (1999, 2006) spent time as an engineer with Samsung Electronics and is now teaching in South Korea.

2008

Devin Hall enjoyed catching up with other staff during a trip to England over New Year’s.



Pictured are **Hannah Dunn, David Snowdon, Claire Grove, Jon Galbraith, Ellie Gannon, Caroline Hardaker** and **Devin Hall**.

We enjoyed seeing 2008 campers **Giulian Garruba, Mario Lovewell** and **Karlin Stuckey** at recent camp fairs in their areas!

New prescription service offered

Rx

Managing a child's prescription medication can be challenging, and, for many parents, is a source of worry as they prepare to send their child to summer camp. To minimize potential medication errors and ensure that every camper gets the correct medication and the correct dosage at the right time, Camp Horizons now offers a new prescription drug program. The program, offered through Rapps Pharmacy Camp Program Rx, prepackages your child's prescription and non-prescription medications and vitamins on a daily or as-needed dosage basis. All pills your child takes are packaged, sealed and sorted according to the day and time of administration. Each package is labeled with your child's name, medicine, dosage, date and time to be given.

This new service costs \$12.50 for one session, and includes the cost of packaging and shipping all of your child's medications, including refills, directly to camp. It does not cover the cost of the prescriptions or other medications. However, the program will bill drug costs directly to your insurance company. Any unused medication will be sent home at the end of the child's session.

Check out more information about this new service on our web site, www.CampHorizonsVA.com, under Forms.