

# The Acorn Highlights

May 2004

The quarterly newsletter of the American Camping Association®, Rocky Mountain Section

## President's Letter

### Rocky Mountain Section Office

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Dear Friends,

I know that everyone is extremely busy preparing for the summer ahead. Education Chair Marty Ferguson and Section Executive Betsy Thamert are working hard to provide us with information about the trainings for program, first aid and others being held in our section. Marty also organized an excellent spring training with Bill Porter and Tom Leahy.

It seems like ages since the national conference in February, but several important decisions were made by the National Board and the Council of Delegates. The first is that, after more than a year of consultations with members and experts, the National Board has voted to change our name to the "American Camp Association". The hope is that this will help to separate us from RVs and KOA Campgrounds in the public's mind. The second is that a new logo has been chosen for the association. Betsy, in her report, will talk about the timing for implementing these changes. We have been assured, however, that no one will have to throw out brochures or other information which have been printed with the old name or logo.

The Council of Delegates approved a new charter. The Charter is the agreement which governs the way in which the National Office and the Sections work together. The new agreement is updated and more flexible, allowing the sections to accomplish their goals in more

individual ways. The Council of Delegates also approved new by-laws for the organization and a public policy position statement on Camp Safety. Please feel free to contact Gail Albers or myself if you have any questions about the deliberations of the Council of Delegates.

We are really looking forward to our Fall meeting which will feature Bob Ditter. We hope that everyone is saving the date for this really special training opportunity in the Rocky Mountain Section.

I hope everyone has a safe, successful summer. Please let us know if we can help at any time.

Sincerely,

*Jane*

## **From the Section Office**

### **American Camping Association to Become American Camp Association**

ACA will soon have a new name, a new tag line and a new logo! The Council of Delegates voted to approve the changes at the ACA National Conference in San Francisco. The new name and logo will better reflect who we are and what we do. Before these new items can be used officially, several tasks must be completed. They include:

DBA (doing business as) Filings: These filings have been made and will make it official that the American Camping Association will be doing business as the American Camp Association. Seven sections, including the Rocky Mountain Section are separately incorporated. The National office has taken care of our filing. The trademark rights to the “American Camping Association”, will not be abandoned so it will continue to be “correct” to use “American Camping Association”. In fact, it must be used periodically to retain our trademark rights.

Family of Logos Developed: to be completed in May, this includes the Accredited Camp logo, and Business Affiliate logo. The Camp Gives Kids a World of Good slogan and logo will continue to be used as a promotional tool.

Marketing and Stationary Transition: is already underway. The goal is that ACA National and the 24 sections will be using the new name and logo on stationary and marketing items this fall/winter. The National office and section offices are currently using up materials with the “old” (current) name and logo. These items include letterhead, envelopes, brochures, business cards, mailing labels etc. ACA camps that use the accredited camp logo on brochures and promotional items will not be imposed with a deadline to start using the new accredited camp logo. ACA is encouraging camps to use what they have and then start using the new name and logo when new brochures and promotional items are printed. Signs with the new accredited camp logo will be provided to ACA accredited camps for use by the summer of 2005.

Graphic Standards Manual: will be distributed to each section this summer. The manual will include specific instructions for using the new name and logo. A summary of the standards will also be on the web site.

Formal Media Release: The formal nation-wide media promotion will occur during the 2005 Orlando National Conference (February 22nd -25, 2005).

Have a Terrific Summer,

*Betsy*

### **ACA Hotline**

ACA’s Crisis Hotline is available 24 hours a day on a year-round basis. Callers who contact the hotline will reach a paging system where a message can be left regarding the crisis situation. Day or night you can call **317-365-5736**. A staff member will be paged and will return the call as soon as possible.

## **Section Tidbits**

### **The Acorn Highlights New Name Contest**

It's time to rename our section newsletter, and we need your help!!! . The Acorn Highlights is in need of a name change -- oak trees aren't all that prevalent here in the Rocky Mountains! -- and we are seeking suggestions from across the section. There's something in it for you as well. The winning name change (to be selected from all entries by the section board and announced in the Fall newsletter) will win its creator a FREE REGISTRATION to the Fall Conference (see details below) Send your suggestions to Mike MacDonald at [mikemac@sanboornwesterncamps.com](mailto:mikemac@sanboornwesterncamps.com) and watch for the new name in the Fall.

### **Rocky Mountain Section Fall Conference**

Mark your calendar! Hold that date! Make your plans! The 2004 ACA - Rocky Mountain Section Fall Conference is set for **November 16 and 17** at The Nature Place Conference and Retreat Center in Florissant - part of the Colorado Outdoor Education Center and Sanborn Western Camps.

Great plans are coming together for the conference including having **Bob Ditter as our keynote speaker**. Other valuable sessions are being set up as well and it is shaping up to be another educational and fun conference. If you would like to be a presenter or know of someone who would be good, please contact Marty Ferguson at [mferguson@ymcarockies.org](mailto:mferguson@ymcarockies.org) There will be something for everyone.

The "I Support" auction planning is well under way, too, and donations are already being collected. If you know of any company or individual willing to donate goods or services for a great cause, please contact Molly Robison ([molly@genevaglen.org](mailto:molly@genevaglen.org)). More items (from coffee to condos!) make for a more exciting event and a great way to raise money for "I Support".

We are all excited about Bob Ditter, the many educational sessions, the new conference site, the exciting "I Support" auction and the chance to get together as a section once again. Keep your eye on your mail and e-mail for updates and announcements as we work toward November. (If you would like to learn more about The Nature Place, its facilities and more, visit their web site at [www.thenatureplace.net](http://www.thenatureplace.net).)

### **Rhonda Mickelson Wins National Honor Award**

Rhonda Mickelson, formerly of the Rocky Mountain Section, was presented with the National Honor Award at the National Conference in San Francisco. Rhonda, who was nominated by the Rocky Mountain Section, worked for the Mile Hi Council of Girl Scouts and Cheley Colorado Camps. She served in many capacities on the section board and served as the Host Committee Chairperson for the ACA National Conference in Denver in 2003. Rhonda has also served as the National Vice – President of ACA, a member of the National Field Services Committee and Chair of the National Charter Task Force. Unfortunately, Rhonda is now a member of the Southeastern Section but she maintains strong ties in the Rocky Mountain Section.

### **Encourage Your Summer Staff to Join ACA**

ACA student membership is affordable and offers a variety of benefits to those working in a camp setting or interested in pursuing a career in camping or any youth development field. Please encourage your summer staff to consider ACA membership. The student member rate is \$35 a year and is available to anyone who is a full or part-time student.

Student members receive the May/June issue of Camping Magazine and can subscribe to a full-year subscription at a discount. Student members also receive ACA's Student Member eNewsletter, a quarterly e-mail written for students by students and ACA's eNewsletter a monthly e-mail highlighting a specific core area of camp management. Other benefits include the opportunity to participate in the student member list-serve, access to the student's area of the ACA web site, discounts on purchases from the ACA bookstore, and discounts on ACA national conferences and educational events. Student members also receive discounts on the Rocky Mountain Section Fall Conference and Spring Workshop.

Membership applications are available from the National office (765-342-8456), the Section office (888-926-2267) and online ([www.acacamps.org/membership/onlineapp2.htm](http://www.acacamps.org/membership/onlineapp2.htm)).



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### Public Relations

Do you have a friend or contact in your local news media (print or television)? Zim Zimmerman, our Public Relations Chair, is developing a media contact list to better spread the word about camping in the Rocky Mountain West. We want ACA to be the place to go for writers and producers doing stories about camp. Developing media relations is vital for that to happen. If you know individuals in these positions or people who could help in our efforts, please contact Zim at [zim@congregationemanuel.com](mailto:zim@congregationemanuel.com).

Has your camp been the focus of a newspaper article or news piece? Zim is also working on creating an archive of articles and other pieces about Rocky Mountain Section camps. Please contact Zim if you have something (or think you might have something!) that would be of interest.

### Newsletter Contributions

The Acorn Highlights (soon to be renamed -- see page 3 to submit your idea(s)) is the official newsletter of the American Camping Association Rocky Mountain Section. It is YOUR newsletter. Let us know how it can best serve your needs and wants as a camp professional. Also, when you come across articles or information that you think might be useful to others in the camping community, please pass it on to Mike MacDonald at [mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com](mailto:mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com). If you want to write an article, or if you have an idea about a possible submission, please contact Mike.

### Sponsor the Acorn!

Advertise in the Acorn Highlights and get your name and services into the hands of camp professionals across the Rocky Mountain Region and beyond. Prices are very reasonable. If you are interested in advertising or know someone who is, contact Mike MacDonald at [mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com](mailto:mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com).

### ACA Business Members

We all have vendors we use regularly to provide goods and services for our camps. Are your vendors current ACA Business Members? If not, have them contact our Section executive Betsy Thamert at [rmexec@yahoo.com](mailto:rmexec@yahoo.com) to learn more about the benefits of membership. These include discounts on advertising and vendor booth charges at conferences as well as increased exposure across the Section. Many camps look to do business with business members first. Business membership also benefits the section financially, which helps everyone.

Check out the many products and services offered by our current ACA-Rocky Mountain Section Business Members as you plan for summer. They know camp and can help you take care of your campers, staff and facilities.

**American Camping Association®,  
Rocky Mountain Section  
Business Members**

LIP IVO - Dawn Kohlman - [www.lipivo.com](http://www.lipivo.com)

Wilderness Aware Rafting - Joe Greiner - [www.inaraft.com](http://www.inaraft.com)

Callippe Solutions - Wynne Whyman - [www.callippe.com](http://www.callippe.com)

Fletmeyer and Lee Associates, Inc. - James Fletmeyer - [www.flaboulder.com](http://www.flaboulder.com)

Leahy & Associates - Tom Leahy - [www.leahy-inc.com](http://www.leahy-inc.com)

Rocky Mountain Sunscreen - Davide Erickson - [www.rmsunscreen.com](http://www.rmsunscreen.com)

Ouray Sportswear - Dean Bassett - [www.ouraysportswear.com](http://www.ouraysportswear.com)

Lowe Alpine - Gareth Richards - [www.lowealpine.com](http://www.lowealpine.com)

Real American Action Wear Inc. - Glen Dotter - [www.raawear.com](http://www.raawear.com)

This Generation Presents - Russ Fox - [www.thisgenerationpresents.com](http://www.thisgenerationpresents.com)

Digital VoiceXchange - Robert Shinn - [bshinn@cvxtel.net](mailto:bshinn@cvxtel.net)

Four Iron Apparel - Jim Gallup - [www.fourironapparel.com](http://www.fourironapparel.com)

Camp Channel - Eric Beerman - [www.campchannel.com](http://www.campchannel.com)

The Duck Company - Bud Doyle - [www.duckco.com](http://www.duckco.com)

## ACA Young Professionals Group

The last six months have seen the development of a new resource for people entering the industry. Known as the “ACA Young Professionals,” this group seeks to provide resources for people who are interested in (1) being an active part of the industry in the sections and at a national level, and (2) having a larger network of peer professionals and mentors. This resource center will serve as a place to direct both year-round employees and seasonal time staff who might be considering the camp industry as their profession.

What is “young?” There has been much discussion of this, and for the time being the Young Professionals Committee feel that this effort can best serve people up to 35 years-old for now. That doesn’t mean that if you don’t fit into that age range you can’t use the resources and be a part of increasing the involvement of young people in the industry. In fact, it is the knowledge and experience of the more ‘seasoned’ camp professionals that this group will be dependent on for its success.

The four members of the Young Professionals Committee and members of the ACA National Board have met with hundreds of young professionals at conferences around the country – in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. From those meetings, they have started the development of a long-range strategic plan to implement the ideas gathered in those sessions. The “YP” Committee has also met with the Section Executives and Presidents to ensure a broad buy-in from all areas of the country.

This summer, please make your summer staff aware of the developing Young Professionals resources including a List-Serve, web pages on the ACA web site, and opportunities for involvement!

To contact the YP Committee with questions, ideas, or comments:

Email: [youngprosinfo@acamaillist.org](mailto:youngprosinfo@acamaillist.org)

Visit the ACA web site: [www.acacamps.org/youngpros](http://www.acacamps.org/youngpros),

Or email Rocky Mountain Section Member Tommy Feldman at [tommyfeld@mac.com](mailto:tommyfeld@mac.com).

## Cal West becomes Camp West!

The Cal West Conference is growing to become a Western Sections Regional Conference – **Camp West 2005 is underway!** The Cal West Conference Steering Committee has grown to include a representative from each of the following Western ACA Sections – Rocky Mountain, Evergreen, Oregon Trail and Coronado. The site for the 2005 Conference is Riverside California and the preliminary site for 2006 is Las Vegas Nevada.

“So, why the change?” you might ask.

On the National level, there is a move to streamline conference, workshop and education programming. National is looking to reduce duplication of services and prevent direct competition for Camp’s (always-limited) time and money. This duplication and competition occurs among the Sections and between the Sections and National. National is looking to provide quality, affordable, convenient training opportunities throughout the States.

Within the California Sections, there is a push for improving and expanding the current conference offering. Their Section members are asking for more program options, specific interest tracks, national level speakers, education components (visitor’s trainings, standards updates, director certifications, etc...) and more.

Among the other Western Sections, there seems to be a growing need for cost effective, more staff inclusive, convenient access to conferences, workshops and education opportunities.

Specifically in the Rocky Mountain Sections, based on your conference feedback, the Board has been discussing expanding our Section Conference. Adding an additional day or two, offering standards and visitors training, increasing participation to include Rec. Districts, other Sections and Business Members. I think we can all agree that these are good ideas however, they require a lot of time, money and effort. Our Section Conference will continue to grow and evolve and Camp West will provide us a chance to be in on the ground floor of creating a terrific Western Sections Regional Conference.

These factors combine to present the Western Sections with a wonderful opportunity to work together to create a fun, relevant, economical, inclusive, accessible, exciting Western Sections Conference. With a real focus on issues unique to Western Camps, lots of camaraderie with peers and a welcoming Western atmosphere.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **Update on criminal background checks**

As of January 1, 2004, the Colorado Central Registry of Child Abuse no longer exists, and we are now required to get these record checks, for Colorado residents only, through the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Database, TRAILS. Background checks formerly processed utilizing Central Registry data will now only be checking information input by the counties into the TRAILS system. As such, these checks serve only as a basis for further investigation by the employer. Also, the TRAILS system has only been operational since April of 2001, so the reports will not include any information prior to that date.

Requests for these records are no longer handled by the Division of Child Welfare. The Background Investigation Unit (BIU) with the Employment Affairs Division in the Office of Performance Improvement will now process these requests. The mailing address is :

BIU  
3550 W. Oxford Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80236

The fee for each background request is \$35.00 and should be included at the time of request. There is a new Background Inquiry Form, which you should have received by mail. If you have not, you can contact Rose Guillen at [www.rose.guillen@state.co.us](mailto:www.rose.guillen@state.co.us) or (303) 866-7183.

There is no change this year in the legislation affecting finger-print based criminal background checks. The actual Colorado legislation (C.R.S. 26-6-107 B ) states:

“Rules promulgated by the state board pursuant to this subparagraph shall allow an exemption from the criminal background investigation and the state central registry of child protection investigation for those out-of-state employees working in Colorado at a children’s resident camp in a temporary capacity for fewer than ninety days. Each person so exempted from fingerprinting and the state central registry of child protection investigation shall sign a statement that affirmatively states that he or she has not been convicted of any charge of child abuse, unlawful sexual offense, or any felony. Prospective employers of such exempted persons shall conduct reference checks of the prospective employees in order to verify previous work history and shall conduct personal interviews with each such prospective employee.”

So, by state law, we are required to have a fingerprint background check and TRAILS System check for any staff member who works for us for more than 90 days and for Colorado resident staff members who work for us for any length of time (the reasoning behind this is that Colorado checks now come back in a very reasonable time frame, while federal checks take much longer)

Of course, you may get background checks on everyone on your staff or certain groups, as long as you consistently apply your policy. Once you have done a fingerprint background check on someone, you should not have to repeat it, since this is a tracking system and you will be notified by the Department of Human Service if someone you have done a background check on has a conviction in the future.

When sending in your fingerprint cards, remember that we must include the authorizing statute on each card. This is CRS. 6-26-107.

## **Cal West becomes Camp West!**

(Continued from previous page)

One of the first steps in the creation of Camp West is to gather some information. In the next week or so, you will be asked (via email to all RMS Members) to take a short online conference survey. Your answers will help our Conference Planning Committee create programming that you and your staff will value and that will benefit your Camp.

Over the next several months, more information will be coming your way. For now, please know that the Camp West Conference Planning Committee is working to create a very economical conference, in a wonderful site, with a real focus on issues that are pertinent to Camps in the West. So, mark you calendar for April 6 – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and watch your email, check your snail mail and read the Acorn for exciting Conference updates.

## AIRPORT UPDATE AS OF 4-13-04

Again this year, United has agreed to issue us Escort passes so counselors can go pick up campers at the gates on arrival days and take campers to the gates on departure days.

### Ground Transportation

They are willing to work with groups if you call and arrange your plans in advance. If you are only picking up a small group of campers, it may not be worth the effort. If you are using charter busses, I would recommend you call to arrange for the bus to load curbside. Terry Smith can be reached at 303-342-2200 ext. 4070 or Greg Smith can be reached at 303-342-4066. They work different times so one of them should be able to help you. Tell him you are with the American Camping Association and they should work with you.

### Inside the Airport

The process this year is similar to the last few years but **A FEW THINGS HAVE CHANGED**. Again, you will need to submit a list of counselors who need escort passes to Darrel Wilson. This year, they need their **FULL LEGAL NAME** to do a background check. Also, you need to email and fax your list (see next page). As before, they have been extremely helpful and we want to do everything we can to continue to strengthen our relationship. As we prepare for arrival and departure days, these are some good ideas to keep in mind.

1. Ask campers to limit carry-on baggage to expedite the security line procedure.
2. Encourage campers to use the least amount of bags while making sure they pack everything.
3. Airlines are more strict on the weight limit on bags this year. Be prepared to pay the fee for additional bags or bags over the weight limit. United's fee for bags 51 lbs – 99 lbs. is \$25 and the extra bag fee is \$80.
4. Make sure campers do not have anything in their possession that would set off the x-ray machines. If they have to stand in line to be checked again with the wand, it adds about 5-10 minutes.
5. Camper's baggage must be with them at all times. This means that the luggage legally has to be in the same vehicle as the camper. Putting all the bags in a pickup truck and the campers in a van means that the bags have been out of their control and will need to go through secondary screening. This will add about 10-20 minutes to the process.
6. Make sure campers do not joke about a bomb, hijacking, etc. This has always been true but they are even more strict about it now.
7. Passengers must check in at the counter **at least 60 MINUTES** before their flight. This is a new regulation. It used to be 30 minutes but with the possible length of the security lines, they have extended it. **They recommend arriving to the airport 2 hours early.**
8. Monday mornings are the busiest time at the airport. If you have to drop off or pick up campers on a Monday morning, allow more time.
9. We recommend that you utilize the Sky Caps both inbound and outbound. Curb-side check-in is much more efficient than standing in lines in the terminal. We tell our campers to tip the Sky Caps \$1 or \$2 per bag.

United and Darrel Wilson are willing to issue Escort Passes to camp staff members. To obtain these passes, you need to fax a list of staff members needing passes at least 1 week in advance to him at 303-348-4770 (please use the form on the next page) and email the names to [Darrel.e.wilson@ual.com](mailto:Darrel.e.wilson@ual.com). Please limit the amount of passes you need. Each staff members will need to check in at United Counter 755 (inside West Door 614) with a legal ID to receive their passes.

**ATTN: Darrel Wilson or GSC**

**ESCORT PASSES NEEDED FOR ACA CAMP**

Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Travel: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival or Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of campers being picked up: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Legal Names of Staff Needing Escort Passes**

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**\*\* Fax form to 303-348-4770 AND email info to [darrel.e.wilson@ual.com](mailto:darrel.e.wilson@ual.com) \*\***

# § Mark your calendars §

Here are a number of staff training opportunities around the Section. If you know of additional trainings available to the public please contact Marty Ferguson at (970) 887-2152 ext. 4172 or [mferguson@ymcarockies.org](mailto:mferguson@ymcarockies.org).

## **Ropes Facilitator Training**

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is hosting a ropes facilitator training on May 4-7. The trainers will be from Adventure Experience ([www.advexp.com](http://www.advexp.com)). Registration can be done from their website. The cost is \$425.00, which covers training, lodging and meals. For more details you may call Greg at Rainbow Trail at 719.942.4220.

## **CHA Horsemanship Training**

Sylvan Dale Ranch is hosting a Certified Horsemanship Association Combined Trail Guide and Instructor Certification course on May 24 - May 28. It will be held at Sylvan Dale Ranch, 2939 N. CO Road 31 D, Loveland, CO 80538. Please contact Karen Burbank at (970) 667-3915 for more information. Cost for the course is \$600

## **Basic Archery Instructor Course**

YMCA Boulder Valley will be hosting an N.A.A. Level 1 Basic Archery Instructor course in late May or early June. The details were still being worked out at press time. The cost for the course will be \$75 and this will include lunch and snacks for the participants. The training will be held at the Arapahoe Center YMCA in Boulder. Please contact Andrew VanDerWege with any questions or to RSVP for the training. He can be reached at [camps@ymcabv.org](mailto:camps@ymcabv.org) or (303) 664-5455 x216.

## **Wilderness First Aid**

Sonlight Christian Camp is hosting a Wilderness First Aid course on May 25-26. The certification is through Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. Cost is \$175.00, which includes lodging, meals, instruction and course materials. For more information contact Sonlight Christian Camp at 970.264.4379.

## **Wilderness First Aid**

Camp Chief Ouray will be hosting a Wilderness First Aid course on May 28-29, also through WMI of NOLS. Cost is \$140.00 for the course. Lodging and meals available for additional cost. For more information contact Mary Ann Degginger at 970.887.2152 ext 4172.

## **Wilderness First Aid**

Colvig Silver Camps will be offering a Wilderness First Aid / WFR Recert course on June 4-5. The course fee is \$138, meals included. To register or request more information, Contact Megan Weidmann at (970) 247-2564 or [office@colvigsilvercamps.com](mailto:office@colvigsilvercamps.com).

## **Wilderness First Responder**

Camp Chief Ouray will also be hosting a Wilderness First Responder course through WMI of NOLS from September 20-29. For more information contact Mary Ann Degginger at 970.887.2152 ext. 4172.

## **Mountains, Kids and Camp -- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop for Camp Nurses**



**Date: Friday June 4 - Saturday June 5, 2004**

**Location: Sanborn Western Camps at Colorado Outdoor Education Center  
Florissant, Colorado 80816**

**Cost: \$65 For ACA Members  
\$95 for Non-ACA Members**

**Continuing Education: The fee includes course materials, CEU's for RN's, meals and lodging. The educational activity for nursing contact hours for Colorado nurses is provided by the Colorado Department of Education. A Certificate of verification will be given to participants who attend all sessions.**

**Contact Information: Betty B. McLain, RN, MSN, Coordinator  
719-748-3435, [McL26@direcway.com](mailto:McL26@direcway.com)**

The course is designed for RN's, with continuing education units provided for nurses. The ACA-Rocky Mountain Section continues to sponsor the Camp Nurse Workshop, with the firm belief that specific education is needed for nurses to provide the best care they can for campers and staff. Curriculum includes the basics of camp nursing, medication management, as well as an overview of the state regulations that specifically impact health care. There will also be discussions about the emerging trends in camp health care.

**The Acorn Highlights**  
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## *Who's who??*

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