

The Acorn Highlights

October 2003

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

Rocky Mountain Section Office

Betsy Thamert,

Section Executive

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Initial reports from the summer of 2003 are that camps in the Rocky Mountain Section had a safe, happy season. A great many campers and staff enjoyed adventurous outdoor activities, learned something about living together in a community and gained social and emotional skills that will last a lifetime. So congratulations to everyone and please take a moment to reflect on the lives you touch and the contributions you make.

Our section family did, however, sustain a terrible loss last summer with the sudden, unexpected death of Sara Thamert, 3-year-old daughter of Section Executive Betsy Thamert and her husband Andy. While Betsy, Andy and son Ryan deal with their tragic loss, they have felt the love and support of the camping community.

A special thank-you this year to Standards Chair Gail Albers and her team of Standards Visitors. Because of visits deferred due to the fires in 2002, the Section needed to make 20 accreditation visits during 2003. Gail and her team did a great job, completing all visits in a timely fashion. Administration of the standards program requires a huge volunteer effort and we are fortunate to have such a large and dedicated pool of visitors.

We're looking forward to our annual meeting Nov 12-13 at La Foret Camp and Conference Center and hope that everyone will be able to attend. Education Chair Marty Ferguson has put together an exceptional educational program and our first-ever "exhibit hall" for vendors. As always, the networking that occurs when we all get together is one of the most valuable aspects of the gathering. The board has worked hard to keep the cost of this meeting moderate so as many people as possible can attend.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Fall and look forward to seeing you on November 12.

Sincerely,

Jane

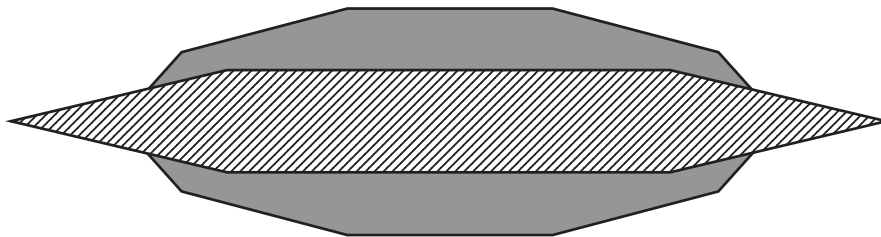
From the Section Office

Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate once said, “The measure of life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.” Peter Marshall’s words came to my attention following the unexpected death of my three year old daughter Sara this summer. Many of you knew Sara. Almost all of you had heard of her or have graciously looked at pictures of her and her older brother Ryan. Sara touched the hearts of many people during her short life. She definitely made a “donation”.

I would like to thank all of you for the “donation” you have made to my life. The support, prayers and love that have been extended to my family from the camp community following Sara’s death have been overwhelming. Thank you for the cards, emails, and phone calls. The contribution that the Section made to Sara’s memorial fund at our church preschool means a lot to our family. We were also comforted by the beautiful flowers that you sent and were touched by those of you who were able to attend her memorial service. Thank you.

As camp professionals, my life is only one of many that you have touched. Every summer you touch the lives of your campers and your staff, often in ways that you will never know. The time you have with your campers and staff is of a short duration yet the “donation” you make to their lives is often life changing. Thanks for all that you do in your personal and professional life to touch the lives of others.

Betsy



Camp Spotlight

Each edition of the Acorn provides an opportunity to highlight one or more of the camps in our section. There is a wide range of camps out there and the Camp Spotlight will shine some light on our friends and neighbors. If you would like to have your camp spotlighted, please send a write-up to the Communications Chair, Mike MacDonald (pg. 8)

Camp Paha is a day camp for children and young adults with disabilities. It has been providing a day camp experience in Lakewood, Colorado for over 20 years. Camp Paha serves approximately 90 campers with physical, developmental, behavioral, emotional and learning disabilities each summer - typically for 7 weeks. There is a staff of 65, providing a 1:3 staff to camper ratio. Camp Paha is a place where kids with disabilities do what other kids do at camp: swim, arts & crafts, sports, games, nature, drama, outdoor skills, and outings into the community all adapted to meet the needs and abilities of our kids. Camp Paha is administered by the City of Lakewood RISE Above! program and sponsored in part by the Friends of Paha.

ACA ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
CAMP AND THE 21ST CENTURY!

November 12th and 13th
La Foret Camp & Conference Center
Colorado Springs, CO

Be sure to attend the annual conference this year! There is a full schedule of events and educational sessions along with great opportunities to see friends old and new. See below and on Page 4 for program details, schedules, a registration form and more. It is a wonderful event so bring a friend or two! Just like at camp, the more the merrier!

Conference Highlights

Being a camp professional in the 21st Century is both challenging and rewarding! We will strive to address many of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing camps in the Rocky Mountain Section today. The sessions will be varied and interesting, covering topics such as: food service, infectious diseases, challenge courses, including campers with disabilities, understanding and supporting teens, legislation, insurance, 15-passenger van issues and more!

Program details

Exhibit Hall*: We are excited this year to have a wonderful group of exhibitors this year. They will be sponsoring a cocktail and appetizer hour for us on Wednesday from 4-6 P.M. in Inglis Hall.

**Exhibitors - Please contact Marty Ferguson at (970) 887-2152 ext. 4172 for details on exhibiting at the conference. The cost for a booth will be \$150 for ACA Rocky Mountain Section Business Members and \$250 for non-members. A \$50 discount will be offered for this, our "inaugural year". The exhibitor cost DOES NOT include meals or lodging.*

Banjo Man: The wonderful and wild Wayne Faust (Many of you will remember him from the National Conference in Denver!) will be entertaining us and warming us up for the "I Support" Auction on Wednesday at 7:30 in Ponderosa

"I Support" Live and Silent Auction: Bigger and better than ever! We would like to celebrate our unique talents and interests by bringing "non-camp" items to be auctioned. The possibilities are endless, but perhaps you take great photographs, your husband creates wood crafts, your sister makes beautiful theme baskets, etc... Any unique item would be greatly appreciated! Just bring the item(s) with you to the conference and we'll take care of the rest! This is a great opportunity to show off your talents, imagination or crafts. Please come prepared to bid along with checks or cash.

Section Awards: We will be recognizing and honoring several members of our section. If you have any suggestions, please contact Nancy Atkinson at Geneva Glen camp at (303) 697-4621 ext. 11.

More details about the conference on page 4



CONFERENCE FEES

- \$110 - Full Conference
- \$100 - Additional people
(from same camp)
- \$125 - Non-ACA member
- \$85 - Student
- \$100 - Exhibitor (member)
- \$200 - Exhibitor (non-member)
- \$30 - Tuesday Night Lodging
- _____
- _____ - TOTAL

(OVER for more information)

Name: _____

Camp/Business: _____

ACA Member #: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Meal Preference: _____ Standard _____ Veggie
_____ Dietary Restrictions

FALL CONFERENCE

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, November 12th

8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30 Welcome and Introductions
9:45 **Don Cheley - Keynote Address**
10:30 Educational Sessions
12:15 PM Lunch and Annual Section Business Meeting
2:15 Educational Sessions
4:00 Exhibit Hall and Social Time
6:00 Dinner
7:30 **Wayne Faust - The Banjo Man!**
8:30 "I Support" Auction and Extravaganza!

Thursday, November 13th

7:30 AM Breakfast
8:30 Educational Sessions
10:15 Educational Sessions
12:00 PM Lunch
12:45 Closing Event

Session and Presenter Highlights

Keynote:

Don Cheley - "Where we've been and where we're going"

Session Speakers:

Dan Fox - "Relationship Strengthening Communication"

Juli Kramer - "Performance Excellence Through Excellent Relationships"

Farrell Anderson and Jo Burns - "Including Campers and Disabilities into Resident or Day Camp Settings"

Lara Holzman - Project Wild and Learning Tree

Gretchen Vaughn will host a roundtable on staff recruiting

Mary Marugg - "Bugs and Sneezes: When Communicable Disease comes to Camp"

Registration Information

The conference fee is \$110 for ACA members, \$100 per additional person attending from the same camp, \$85 for students and \$125 for non-ACA members. The fee includes all meals (breakfast Wednesday to lunch Thursday), social hour refreshments, lodging on Wednesday night and all the educational sessions and workshops.

Additional lodging is available at La Foret for \$30 per night. Please contact Betsy Thamert (pg. 8) for additional information regarding lodging facilities or to make special arrangements.

You will receive a confirmation packet after you register with additional conference information and a map to La Foret.



Refund Policy: Full refunds will be given for cancelations prior to November 5th

Please mail completed registration form and payment by October 31, 2003 to:

American Camping Association
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517

Please photocopy this form as necessary

You may also fax your registration form to (970) 586-5097
(Please mail form and payment as well to address above)

Standards Committee Update

Gail Albers

What a great summer for our camps! As always, we had another really busy summer of visitations for camps. It amazes me all the work that directors put into a camp visit to make it such a good learning experience for their staff. I thank all our visitors who were flexible and timely in getting their visits accomplished.

I am pleased to tell you that the following camps were successful in attaining accreditation this summer season.

C Bar T	Camp PaHa Rise Above
Colorado Mountain Camps	Colvig Silver Camps
Eagle Lake Camp*	Rocky Mtn. Village, Easter Seals
Flying G Ranch	Glacier View Ranch*
J Bar CC Ranch Camp	LaForet Camp and Conference Center*
Meadow Mountain Ranch	Poulter Colorado Camps
Sonlight Christian Camp	Tomahawk Ranch
YMCA Camp Jackson	YMCA Pikes Peak Day Camp*
Teton Valley Ranch	

Continuing on in their accreditation are the following camps:

Adventure Unlimited	America's Adventure
Anderson Western Camps	Blue Mountain Ranch
Briargate YMCA	Camp Chief Ouray
Santa Maria	Challenger Middle School
Cheley Colorado Camps	Colorado Camp Cherith*
Estes Park Center/YMCA of the Rockies	Genesee Day Camp
Geneva Glen Camp	High Peak Camp and Conference Center*
Highlands Presbyterian Camp	Horizon Adventures
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp	Sanborn Western Camps
Shwayder Camp	Sky High Ranch*
Templed Hills Camp and Retreat	Timberview Middle School*
Trails Wilderness School	YMCA Camp Shadybrook
Girl Scouts Lazy Acres	

Congratulations to each of you, for making camping in the Rocky Mountain Section a safe and wonderful experience for our kids!

PLEASE NOTE...IF YOU HAVE AN * BY YOUR CAMP NAME IT MEANS YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED A STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE FORM FOR 2003. Please go to the ACA website and sign one as soon as possible!

Section Tidbits

Opportunities to Present at the Fall Conference

If you have a topic of interest for the upcoming Fall Conference, please contact Marty Ferguson (pg. 8). Maybe you want to present an educational session or lead a round table discussion on a particular topic. All ideas considered. We have so many resources to share within our section - now's your chance!!

Congratulations to Rob Alexander and the Wilderness Education Institute

The Wilderness Education Institute (WEI), a non-profit environmental education organization based in Boulder, Colorado, recently received the Community Spirit Award from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) for their work integrating young people involved with CCH family services into WEI's environmental education summer camp programs.

Presented on Wednesday, May 14th at CCH's 16th Annual Conference "Confronting Challenges," the Community Spirit Award annually honors the business or corporation which recognizes homelessness as part of its commitment to serving the needs of the community. Learn more about WEI's programs at <http://www.weiprograms.org>

Public Relations

Do you have a friend or contact in your local news media (print or television)? Jo Burns, 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 camping. 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 Jo (pg. 8)

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

Newsletter Contributions

The Acorn Highlights is the official newsletter of the American camping Association Rocky Mountain Section. It is YOUR newsletter and should be important to you and something you look forward to receiving four times a year. 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 (pg. 8). If you want to write an article, or if you have an idea about a possible submission, please contact Mike. It is our newsletter. Let's keep it rich and beneficial.

Sponsor the Acorn!

Advertise in the Acorn Highlights and get 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 (pg.8)

HELP WANTED

Assistant Director of Member Services

Includes: Membership Services, ACA Accreditation Program and Educational Programs

Qualifications and skills include: demonstrated knowledge of the organized camp industry/ACA Accreditation program, excellent written/verbal communication skills, computer knowledge, and proven successful supervisory and administrative experience

Send or e-mail resume:

Bette Bussel, ACA New England
214 North Main Street, Suite 104
Natick MA 01760
bette@acane-camps.org

Outdoor Program Specialist / Resident Camp Director

Seeking team-oriented individual to develop, promote and provide on-site direction and administration of ACA accredited resident camp. Responsible for recruiting, training and supervising staff. Develops, implements, and markets dynamic outdoor programs focused on the interests of today's girls, while ensuring all accrediting agency's criteria and standards are met. Qualified candidate will have ability to develop and maintain outdoor programs, associated statistics and evaluation data and oversee budget development of program events. Hiring Range: \$27,800 - \$32,800 with generous benefits.

Send resume to:

Girl Scouts of Limberlost Council, 2135 Spy Run Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805



San Francisco

February 24-27, 2004

AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Building Community . . . in San Francisco! We're excited and delighted to invite you to help us build a powerful camp community at the American Camping Association 52nd National Conference in beautiful San Francisco, California. Camp communities are powerful tools in youth development and solid bridges to building strong communities both in and out of camp.

Cutting Edge Information! We have intention-ally selected and sought out speakers throughout the U.S. and across the association to help you find answers to those "hot topics" and "emerging issues" foremost on your mind. An energizing opening, powerful keynotes, showcase spectacular and dynamic sessions you don't want to miss.

Reserve Rooms Online Now!

Lowest room rates will be available to attendees and exhibitors on a first-come, first-served basis. For more detailed hotel information, conference registration, and updated session speakers, please visit www.ACacamps.org/conference or call 765-342-8456.

Watch your October mail for the upcoming Conference Overview! Whether you are new to the camp arena or a seasoned veteran, the national conference has much to offer! Renew old friendships, discover new ideas, and celebrate camp as a community! We look forward to seeing you in the city by the bay! Join us in San Francisco at the ACA National Conference February 24 - February 27- Bridges to Powerful Communities. For updated conference information please visit our web site at www.acacamps.org/conference. We hope to see you in the city by the bay!

The National Program Committee is seeking high quality, interactive presenters for the National Conference in San Francisco. If you have ideas, **please contact Cathy Scheder**, 765-342-8456 ext. 320 or cscheder@ACacamps.org with contact names and information.

Session Topics

Economic Challenges

- Raising funds in a difficult economy
- Setting your camp fees, guidelines for the 21st century
- Managing tight budgets without compromising quality
- Camper recruitment in a depressed economy
- Getting the most out of your dollars
- The cost of deferring maintenance

Relationships

- Dealing with anxieties and expectations of today's parents
- Hiring staff who relate to kids
- Mentoring and modeling for staff and campers
- How do relationships affect quality programs?

Staff

- Staff training: camp culture, norms, values, mission, outcomes
- Hiring quality staff
- Legalities to hiring – what you need to know!
- Building a strong staff retention program
- Training staff/ building the foundation of your camp community
- Welcoming and integrating international staff
- Getting staff to understand risk management in their decisions

Health

- What are all these changes with HIPPA?
- Emerging health challenges . . . SARS, West Nile Virus
- Appropriately responding to parent health communication needs/expectations
- Building health information exchange between parents and directors, what do they tell you, what do you tell them?

Crisis and Contingency Planning

- What do you do when the unexpected happens?
- Vans – to drive or not to drive? Alternatives?
- Dealing with the death of a staff member

Behavior

- Setting limits (campers and staff)
- What is appropriate behavior?
- What are the issues surrounding medications at camp?
- Recognition and response to behaviors and attitudes
- Meshing different values in camp

Tentative listing, subject to change. Updates on speakers and sessions will be posted to the ACA Web site and printed in the program preview sent in December.

The Acorn Highlights
American Camping Association®,
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517

Address Correction / Forwarding Requested

First Class Mail

Who's who??

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American Camping Association
Rocky Mountain Section

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Jay Poulter, Past President	970-879-4816	poulter@poultercamps.com
Winston Marugg, Vice President	970-264-4379	winston@sonlightcamp.org
Molly Robison, Secretary	303-697-4621	molly@genevaglen.org
Juli Kramer, Treasurer	303-741-0159	addipres@aol.com
Gail Albers, Standards	970-586-3341, x1108	gma25@aol.com
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