

the Rocky Mountain Scat



all the scat fit to print

February 2008

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American Camp Association
Rocky Mountain Section
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President's Letter

Dear Camp Friends,

I hope this finds you warm and enjoying the snow of the season (also known as forest fire preventer). We'll all be thankful for it this summer as we enjoy the green grass and wild flowers – and camp fires!

I am excited about writing my first president's letter – which I guess makes me the new, official Scatologist, though Tommy Feldman may more appropriately lay claim to the title. As our section's new communications chair, Tommy is the creator of the Scat and keeper of our section website (www.acarockymountain.org). He brings many more skills to the board, as he has been in camping for many years, operates his own day camp in Boulder and is an entrepreneur in other ventures as well. We are glad to have him join the board and look forward to his many contributions to our section.

With the Scat and our website, anyone can contribute information, articles, links, trainings or other information you find out there that would be of interest or import to our section. (Pass them on to Tommy.) These two communication pieces are great resources for our section to continue and strengthen the fine work we do for the many children, youth and adults who attend our camps. Our Rocky Mountain section is well known for its hospitality and camaraderie, and our networking and information sharing are true signs of that.

On another note, our board bid a farewell to two fine members since

the first of the year. Maggie Hedge, Member at Large, and her husband, moved to North Carolina to be closer to family, and Jo Burns, Standards Chair, is stepping back from her board responsibilities to focus on the many other responsibilities in her life. Their hard work and commitment (and fun personalities) will be missed on the board. However, since Jo will still be in Denver, we'll look for ways to keep her involved in the section. (By the time you are reading this, we hope to have a new standards chair in place, and we'll update the section as soon as everything is in place.)

I am writing this letter ahead of the ACA National Conference in Nashville. It is shaping up to be a very exciting conference with some real changes in the works with regard to how ACA is moving forward and positioning itself for great success in the future. The 20/20 vision – 20 million children attending camp by the year 2020, with an ACA membership of 20,000 – is ambitious, but doable, through new perspectives and the efforts of each of us. Visit our website and check future Scats for conference updates and reports.

It is an exciting time for camps. Best of luck in your efforts to make this your best summer ever, and if I can help answer a question, guide you to the right resource or be a sounding board for a hope or concern you have, please let me know. All the best!

Mike
President, ACA Rocky Mountain Section



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Membership Update

Hello RMS Members! Hard to believe we've already hit February. I live on the Western Slope and am so tired of snow. We are at 148% of normal snow pack – great news for the rivers and reservoirs but, enough already!

I want to share some interesting tidbits that I learned about our members at the Fall Conference – we are a very interesting group. As you may remember, I asked attendees to fill out a short “questionnaire” which about 60 of you did. From your answers, I learned the following:

- 10 conference attendees have tattoos.
- 5 attendees are left-handed (2 attendees are ambidextrous)
- 4 attendees do not have a middle name (I'm not sure I ever knew anyone without a middle name!)
- Siblings:
 - 4 attendees have no siblings
 - 19 have 1 sibling
 - 19 have 2 siblings
 - 7 have 3 siblings
 - 1 has 4 siblings
 - 1 has 5 siblings
 - 3 have 6 siblings
 - 1 each has 7, 8, 9 and 10 (Wow!)
- Interesting Jobs:

- A Child Star (played a 2 year old cheerleader)
- A Chat Room Supervisor
- A Pasta Maker
- An Italian Ice Truck Man
- 2 Attendees “detassled corn” (I'm not really sure what that entails!)
- A Birdseed “jugger”
- A Test-tube Cleaner (Yuck!)
- A Custom Caulk Manufacturer
- A Kentucky Derby beer salesman
- A Cable TV Movie Watcher (“Quality control”– yeah right!)
- A Kids Entertainment Character (Is that code for Disneyland?)

A final item of interest to RMS members is the National plan to redefine the “customer” model and broadening the appeal for ACA programs and services outside the traditional spectrum of ACA membership. As part of this evolution, they are redefining the membership structure to broaden its appeal and recruit historically non-traditional constituents. They are endeavoring to create a new membership model that is simpler, more affordable to new entrants, and growth-oriented. The new model will have a flat rate for membership with discounts for students, visitors and retired persons. As part of this process, they will have interviews and focus groups at the upcoming national conference; ACA's Membership Task Force is aggressively researching contemporary, growth-oriented alternatives to the existing fee structure. I will continue to update the RMS members about this restructuring process.

My best to you all in 2008!

Molly Robison

From the Section Office

Coming Soon, ACA's New Improved Membership System

Beginning in July 2008, ACA individual membership categories will be streamlined. In fact, there will only be one membership category. Discounts will be available for ACA visitors, retirees, and full-time students. The new individual membership will be simple and more affordable. Why am I mentioning this now? Several reasons! For one, I am excited. Who doesn't love a deal? The phrase “more affordable” speaks to most of us. This brings me to my next point. With reduced membership fees we will have a tremendous opportunity to reach out to others who are not currently benefitting from the knowledge, services, and programs that ACA has to offer. In preparation for a membership mailing this coming Fall, I am looking for contact information for individuals and/or camps that are not currently associated with ACA. I'd love to hear from you if know of individuals or camps that should be included in the mailing. Thanks for your help.

Betsy Thamert, Section Executive
 American Camp Association, Rocky Mountain
 970-577-0214
 1-888-926-CAMP (2267)
 rmexec@yahoo.com
<http://www.acarockymountain.org> ■



Spring Workshop

Friday, April 18th 2008

This year the ACA Rocky Mountain Section is excited to welcome Scott Arizala as our guest to Denver.

Scott is one of the leading experts and premier trainers on kids, staff and the experience of summer camp. He has been involved with camps and youth development for over twenty years as a camper, counselor, administrator, teacher and consultant. As a professional speaker and educator, he has given keynotes, workshops, seminars and educational sessions at numerous professional conferences, training events, and with organizations. He is currently the CEO and Founder of The Camp Counselor, a consulting and training company working with hundreds of camps and thousands of staff & administrators across the country.

Scott will discuss:

Staff training tips & techniques
 Summer staff motivation and leadership
 Intentional camp programming
 Strength based professional development: conflict
 And more...!



Testimonials about Scott:

“Scott is wonderfully energetic and has his pulse on young people today, which gives him a keen insight into how to reach and motivate them. That’s truly what I think of him!”

- Bob Ditter
 M.Ed., L.C.S.W.
 Camp Consultant

“Several times during the summer our staff referenced back to your talks and the energy that you put into everything. I appreciate your dedication to making summer camp a home for discovery, fun, and support for youth at any path in life. Thanks again, the summer would not have been the same without you.”

- Adam Ellis
 Program Director,
 KenMont & KenWood Camps

Details:

Friday, April 18th
 9:00am to 4:00pm
 Lunch will be provided
 At Temple Emanuel (51 Grape St)

For questions, contact
 Andrew VanDerWege,
 Education Chair

Who's Who

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Council of Delegates Report from the ACA National Conference

by Mike MacDonald

Note: This year, the Rocky Mountain Section sent Mike MacDonald and Jeff Cheley to the annual council of delegates meeting

The annual report to the Council of Delegates on the state of ACA was given by past president Ann Sheets. There were a number of positives including increases in accredited camps, individual members and nature programs. The ongoing research in many areas continues and our efforts to increase non-dues revenues have been positive. Strong efforts toward putting on a big 100th (ACA) and 150th (organized camping) anniversary celebration in 2011 are underway.

However ACA is facing some 'brutal truths' out in the world. These include:

- We're not the only game in town (over 20 major camp websites

and search engines)

-We don't own the term 'Camp' (1000's of summer programs call themselves "camp", regardless of the attributes of the program, including 'Camp Bow Wow', for dogs)

- Accreditation is often seen as the only way to get involved, and service fees are viewed by some as too expensive and a barrier to accreditation

- Accreditation does not have our desired significance (there are 12,000 camps & only 2700 are accredited, and over 90% of the public doesn't know what accreditation means)

- Less than 20% of the 54 million children (age 5-17) attend any type of camp

- Less than 2% attend an ACA camp

- Our message is not being

heard (national public awareness campaigns are expensive)

In an effort to face these brutal facts, and begin the work to achieve its 20/20 vision, ACA is changing its governance. The national board will change its makeup so that more than half of its members will be public leaders (corporate, business, professional, educational and others) rather than camp professionals. The board has also committed funding to develop an integrated funds development/ cause marketing/public awareness program. The first steps of a new, streamlined membership structure has also been approved to make membership more appealing and less confusing. Also, the National Standards Commission is reviewing the accreditation/ education process to see where improvements can be made to make it more effective.

These are vital first steps on a national level, and each section has committed to local efforts to contribute to the achievement of the 20/20 vision. For the Rocky Mountain Section, it is a commitment to reach out to national educational and environmental organizations based in our section to look for partnership opportunities, to expand our efforts to connect with non-accredited camps, to identify ways to increase individual memberships and to adjust the makeup of the section board to include more public leaders.

The COD meetings also included the approval of public policy statements on Children and Nature

CPR, First Aid and Universal Precautions Trainings Available to RM Section Camps!

Betsy Strohmaier of Mountain Day Camp is available to instruct courses through Medic First Aid, an ACA recognized CPR/First Aid vendor to camps in the ACA Rocky Mountain Section.

Certifications last for 2 years! Low cost, easy scheduling. Call 720-249-2997 or e-mail betsy@mountaindaycamp.com for more information.

Betsy Strohmaier
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PO Box 3666 Boulder, CO 80307
Phone: 720-249-2997
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and on School Calendar Issues. (see the ACA website for the final versions). Approving these public policy statements lays the foundation for future efforts in support of ACA’s position on these matters. There was also a report by the National Standards Commission on issues related to AEDs and aquatics. No actions were taken, though.

All in all it was a very interesting Council of Delegates. Much change, and conversation about it, took place. And, though we face many brutal facts, our association is taking bold strides to be relevant, influential and the leader in enriching the lives of children, youth and adults through the camp experience.

For more information, visit <http://www.acacamps.org>

Fun Food and Good Ideas in Nashville

We asked the conference attendees for their thoughts! Here are a few:

Carole Cheley said:

“The biosphere was so cool! Beautiful waterfalls, amazing tropical plants, “stars” twinkling at night, the river, the boat, exquisite flowers... it sort of beathed on its own. And its always the best to see all my conference buddies!”

Jeff Cheley said:

“I really enjoyed Bob Ditter’s session as always and also a session on technology at camp. We are thinking of doing

a video podcast this summer as well as looking into blogs, posting more video on YouTube, and increasing our internet presence. There were some good ideas.

The luncheon pudding was awesome. We went to see Spamalot on the first night with a group of directors and the performance was awesome and there were some great conversations during the intermission and at dinner. I always feel like my time spent talking with other professionals at meals and down time is where I get the most value. Strong sessions are the bonus.”



New Members!

We are proud to present these new members to the ACA Rocky Mountain Section:

Rae Bruce -
Camp Chief Ouray YMCA

S Brooks Crosby

Dana Darrough - Camp Timberline

Bill Darrough - Camp Timberline

Christa Diederichs

Seasea Fuhrman

David Graf - Blue Mountain Ranch

Bob Graf - Blue Mountain Ranch

Heather Graves

David Hansburg

Torrie Harvey

Kathy Howe-Kerr-
Girl Scout Camp Lazy Acres

Pete LaFleur

Jack Magill

Patrick McConnell -
MBS Mountainboards

Betsy Novak-
American Mountain Guide Assn

Carly Platt -
Teton Valley Ranch Camp

Lori Shumanis - The Duck Company

Miriam Shwartz- J-CC Ranch Camp

Casey Stalkfleet

TJ Tavegie

Michael Trevail

Gretchen Vaughn

What's in it for Me?

15 Knock-out Rewards for Accredited Camps

If you're an Accredited camp, you may not even know all that you have at available! Or, you are probably working with or near non-accredited programs. Here's a quick list to bring you up to date!:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A continual pipeline of expert advice | in a single year! |
| 2. Round-the-clock reassurance | 11. Dynamic staff services |
| 3. Encouragement and mentoring | 12. ACA's Camp Database visited by families |
| 4. Risk management support | 13. Use of ACA's trusted mark |
| 5. Savings on staff training | 14. A network of other professionals |
| 6. Exclusive business discounts | 15. More staff training with less of your time |
| 7. Ready-made template for quality | 16. (BONUS!)An amazing and supportive section! |
| 8. Just-in-time knowledge | |
| 9. A friend in Washington | For more details, visit:
http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/ |
| 10. Millions hear the camp story | |

Nursing Update

Colorado's Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) became effective on October 1, 2007. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is an agreement between states to recognize each others' licensees. This model of mutual recognition was developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to facilitate interstate practice and regulation, allowing a nurse to have one license issued by his or her state of residence and practice in other states participating in the NLC.

Twenty-two (22) states belong to the NLC. They are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Rhode Island is planning to implement on July 1, 2008.

The NLC includes RN and LPN licensure only.

What this means, is that if an RN or LPN holds a current license in any of these 22 states, they can practice in any of the other 22 states without getting a specific license for that state. So if an RN holds a current Arizona license, he/she can work as an RN at a camp in Colorado without getting a Colorado license.

Good news for us!

Mary Marugg, Sonlight Camp, mary@sonlightcamp.org



CampWest Conference

**Building Connections: Creating
Camps That Make a Difference**



April 2-5, 2008

Alexis Park Resort
Las Vegas, NV

www.CampWest.org

The Rocky Mountain Scot

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

February 2008

*ACA Rocky Mountain Events Calendar-
Please Check <http://www.acarockymountain.org> for
updates, changes and additions including Standards
Trainings and Events this Spring*

March:



- Saturday, March 1st: 2008 Summer Fair and Camping Expo, with Colorado Parent Magazine: National Western Complex, Denver
- Saturday, March 8th: Boulder Camp Fair Casey Middle School, Boulder, Colorado

April:

- April 2 - 5: Camp West Conference Alexis Park Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Friday, April 18th: ACA RM Spring Workshop featuring Scott Arizala Temple Emanuel, Denver, Colorado

November:

- November 19 - 21: ACA RM Section Conference The Nature Place, Florissant, Colorado

 <p>Industry-Relevant Research for Camp Professionals from ACA</p>	<h2>Healthy Camp Study</h2>
<p><i>Discover Strategies for a Healthier and Safer Camp</i> Sign up today for ACA's Healthy Camp Study!</p> <p>Sign up today for ACA's Healthy Camp Study and become one of the hundreds of camps that are gaining valuable information about camp safety. Through the generous support of the Markel Insurance Company – an ACA Mission Partner – ACA is conducting a five-year study of U.S. camp injuries and illness.</p> <p>Participating in this free study will help you learn more about illnesses and injuries at your camp. A few minutes of staff time per day each summer you participate will give you a lifetime of knowledge about how to make your camp a healthier and safer place.</p> <p>ACA also thanks our partners at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Ohio State University, whose skills and systems make this study possible.</p> <p>Learn more about the Healthy Camp Study and sign up today at: www.ACACamps.org/research/healthycamp.php.</p> <p>Questions? Contact Sheila Dannemiller at: sdannemiller@ACACamps.org.</p>	
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