

the Rocky Mountain Scat



all the scat fit to print

October 2007

Inside this Issue

- 1** • President's Letter
- 2** • Membership Update
• From the Section Office
- 3** • Camp Spotlight
• Art for the Whole Child®
• Board of Directors ACA RMS
- 4** • 2007 Fall Conference
• Trainings Available to RMS Camps!
- 5** • Share Your Camp's Marketing and Promotional Materials
• Fall Conference General Schedule
• Standards Training
- 6** • Childcare Standards Updated
• Fall Conference Fundraiser!
- 7** • Scat-Scoop
- 8** • Directions to the Nature Place
• A Map to the Fall Conference

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

President's Letter

From the Head
Scatologist:



Fall, 2007

Dear Camp
Friends,

Congratulations!

We did it - another great summer! Isn't it a relief to have another camp season safely in the record books? The intermittent rain seemed to have relieved many of our fire fears, and in chatting with some of you this fall, the "rain" was a re-occurring theme of gratitude.

Our section had a few "gaffes" with crazy nurse stories, airport mix-ups, and septic sagas! But doesn't that sound like any other summer? We are grateful that no serious accidents occurred, and generally camps in the Rocky Mountains reported good attendance and great staffs.

On the autumn horizon we hope to see you all at our annual conference to be held on November 15th and 16th at Sanborn Camp. Look for a standards visitor update on Wednesday night the 14th before the conference begins. Remember this annual meeting is an opportunity to re-connect with colleagues, share cathartic tales, and be inspired through great fellowship and excellent speakers, like Jeffrey Leiken!

Felicitations are in order for three new ACA camps who joined our circle this summer:

- *Dream Big Day Camp*, under the direction of George and Mary Stein,
- The Girl Scouts new camp, *Magic Sky Ranch*, and director Stafanie Lawhorn
- Andy VanDerWege reinstated *Camp Santa Maria* as an ACA residence camp through the Boulder Valley YMCA.

We well know the work and time that accreditation takes, but we also know the rewards are innumerable. These programs all deserve great kudos and credit for attaining their accreditation on their first camp season. We truly hope our ACA support has buoyed their progress.

Enjoy the favorite season – the golden aspen days before the frost – and we hope to see you at Sanborn November 15th.

Warmly

Nancy Atkinson

President, RMS ■



Membership Update *Molly Robison*

Greetings to the ACA-RMS members! I am enjoying the quiet of fall in the Rocky Mountains; my favorite time of year! This has been a good year for our section, our membership numbers have grown a bit, several camps had their first ACA Accreditation visit, visits went smoothly this summer and general feedback is that most of us had safe, positive summer sessions.

I want to welcome the newest members to the Section and strongly encourage them to join us at the Fall Conference in November. The conference is a terrific opportunity to put faces with names for many people in our section. The keynote speaker is great and the issues relevant and

important to all of us in the camp industry. I always look forward to talking with other members of our profession, sharing the summer highs and lows, learning ways to prepare for next summer, and just enjoying each others wonderful company. I truly value the friendships and professional relationships I have made through membership in the Section.

Here is a quick overview of the ACA-RMS membership:

Sept 2007

141 members (113 professional, 21 associate, 6 student, 1 life)
50 camps (37 accredited, 13 camp affiliates)
14 business affiliates

Sept 2006

129 members (101 professional, 20 associate, 7 student, 1 life)
40 camps (38 accredited, 2 camp affiliates)
8 business affiliates

And, a quick list of our newest Section Members:

- April Obholz, Champ Camp
 - Brad McClain, Paul's Supplies
 - Brad Muir
 - Paul Weidig, Cheley Colorado Camps
 - Alyse Baker, Cheley Colorado Camps
 - Becki Burnett, S.O.A.R. Inc.
 - John McGowan, Eldorado Wall Company
 - Karen Randinitis
 - Rita Thompson, Colorado Camp Cherith
 - Alexa Popcheff, Cheley Colorado Camps
 - Suzi Arnold, Sky High Ranch
 - Michael Huberman
 - Shane Wright, Camp Paha
 - Mike Gempeler, CamperReg Online
 - Monica Gray, Magic Sky Ranch
 - Sarah Brown
 - David Ross, J-CC Ranch Camp
 - Dream Big Day Camp, George & Mary Stein
 - YMCA Camp Santa Maria
 - Camp Timberline
 - Lyn Cogley, American Cancer Society
 - Skip Strickland, Rocky Mountain Conference UMC
 - Johnny Domenico, Sanborn Western Camps
- We are so glad to have you all joined our section. Please plan to attend the November Section Conference. It will truly be worth your time!
- Molly Robison
ACA-RMS Membership Chair ■

From the Section Office

Hospitality and camaraderie! These are two of the characteristics often used to describe our section. Not only do camp professionals from our area enjoy spending time together but there also is a tremendous amount of support for one another. There is nothing like sharing stories of the summer with others who understand. Even more valuable is knowing that when a new or difficult challenge arises, there are others to call for advice, suggestions or a listening ear.

There was much camaraderie on the recent Fall Camp Tour. Thirty-five of us visited camps along the 285 corridor including Geneva Glen, YMCA Camp Santa Maria, Camp Id Ra Ha Je, and Tomahawk Ranch (Girl Scouts of Colorado). Participants enjoyed spectacular fall color, a tour at each camp, lunch at YMCA Camp Santa Maria and a lot of time for visiting and sharing.

Another terrific educational opportunity is just around the corner. The Fall Conference for Camp and Youth Development Professionals is an event not to be missed! This educational offering features a thought provoking keynote, a wide variety of breakout sessions, an exhibit hall featuring vendors with products of interest to camps, a great fundraising activity, and time to visit with others who work with youth and understand the unique joys and challenges of our profession. Please encourage others you know to attend the Conference and experience the hospitality and camaraderie of the Rocky Mountain Section.

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



Camp Spotlight

Art for the Whole Child®

The giggles of preschool and kindergarten children fill the room as they finish their “brain break” games and songs. On the tables behind them rest

pieces of clay shaped like pepperoni, green peppers, black olives, and tomatoes – “delicious” toppings for the ceramic pizzas they are making. The next day, the older, elementary school-age students are heard praising each other’s color choices, asking if someone needs help washing brushes, and getting ideas on techniques to use for their painted canvas placemats. Looking at the works they have painted, one can see the unique style and approach of each camper, while at the same time appreciating how they have influenced each other’s painting in positive ways.



experience. Started in 2003, Art for the Whole Child® has helped nurture creative expression and a sense of community for hundreds of campers in the summer and students throughout the school

year. Juli Kramer and Fran Kutner created the program in response to their children’s experiences with art education in school. They saw art as a means through which children could tap into creativity and joy in expression, versus simply going through the motions and doing a project exactly like the teacher says it should be done. Drawing upon her experience as a resident camp director, Kramer also envisioned that campers could build a sense of community and an environment for safe risk-taking through the lessons. Using a developmental approach, activities are designed to challenge campers of different ages in a wide variety of artistic mediums including



These scenes and many others make up the Art for the Whole Child®

Camp Spotlight continued on 6

Who’s Who

Board of Directors
ACA Rocky Mountain Section

Betsy Thamert, Section Executive

1-888-926-CAMP
rmexec@yahoo.com

Nancy Atkinson, President

303-697-4621, x11
nancy@genevaglen.org

Mike MacDonald, President Elect

719-748-3341
mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com

Marty Ferguson, Vice-President

970-887-2152, x4172
mferguson@ymcarockies.org

David Secunda, Secretary

720-249-2412
david@avid4.com

Juli Kramer, Treasurer

720-325-9347
addipres@msn.com

Jo Burns, Standards

303-987-4866
joabur@lakewood.org

Andrew VanDerWege, Education

303-413-9622, x4450
andrew.vanderwege@ymcabv.org

Zim Zimmerman, Public Relations

winter 303-388-4013, x314
summer 303-567-2722
zim@shwayder.com

Jeff Cheley, Legislative

303-377-3616
jeffcheley@cheley.com

Molly Robison, Membership

720-201-6476
mollyrobison@sopris.net

Kreg Hamburger, Communications

405-640-6183
kreg@justkreg.com

Maggie Hedge, Member at Large

970-493-1844, x317
camp@gsmcpc.org

2007 Fall Conference - November 15-16

Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey Leiken, M.A.

Jeffrey Leiken, M.A. is a professional counselor and trainer who travels nationwide educating and inspiring leaders in the helping professions. He has worked counseling children for over 19 years in schools, after school programs, residential treatment programs and summer camps, as well as in private practice in San Francisco, New York and London. He holds a Masters Degree in Educational Counseling, a Pupil Personnel Services credential and has extensive training and certification in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP™), and is one of only two Licensed Certified Trainers of the MythoSelf® process. He is also adjunct faculty in the University of San Francisco Graduate School of Education.

Opening Keynote:

When Warm-Fuzzies, Campfires and Capture The Flag Are No Longer Enough; The culture has changed and changed kids with it. To understand today's youth, it is vital to understand how instant access to communication and information, and high level brain stimulation without physical movement (particularly with video games) is literally reshaping the way their brains function. When this is coupled with the lasting imprint of 9/11 – the worst impact of which is being experienced now – what we get are a generation of me-first, live for now, adrenaline junkies whose capacity to appreciate others, nature and “the simple” things has been diminished greatly and in some cases, to the point of extinction - and it is only going to get worse for the foreseeable future.

The Dilemma: “Traditional” Summer Camp is set up under the auspices of adding value to kids’ lives by teaching them to learn to

make real connections with others, to live in community, to appreciate the simple things and to be physically active outdoors. To still do this effectively demands way more than the simple traditions that worked as recent as a decade ago, and to do so without compromising some of our most sacred held values and still be successful as a business is even harder (how many camps now allow phone calls or have shortened their sessions when they didn't a few years ago?)

This keynote will offer you a provocative and at times disturbing glimpse into the forces at work that are changing our kids, and will point you in the direction of what it takes to still be effective at reaching the kids that can still be reached. There is hope, and those who plan many steps ahead will sustain and even thrive when others will not. The world is changing and this demands that we change with it. How to change though without compromising the core of what we most cherish and value though may indeed prove the greatest challenge of all.

A few of the Break-out Sessions

When Saying “Thank You” 100 Times Isn't Enough - We spend an inordinate amount of time trying to show staff they are appreciated yet inevitably some are never satisfied. Learn the truth about what is really behind feeling “unappreciated”, what it is people really need and what to do about it that actually works.

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
 Director, Mountain Day Camp
 PO Box 3666 Boulder, CO 80307
 Phone: 720-249-2997
 Fax: 720-225-9122
<http://www.mountaindaycamp.com>
betsy@mountaindaycamp.com ■



Evacuation 2007: The Most Pleasant Disaster We've Ever Experienced - For one camp this summer, in a moment's notice, fire evacuation became necessary. This session will discuss the big picture (where will we evacuate to?) and the small details

(what should we take with us?), how to communicate with parents and when to return to camp.

Camp MBA: Taking Your Camp from Good to Great -

Now for the first time, the keys to success of top-performing corporations adapted specifically for the camp industry. In this session participants will learn How your leadership style may be hampering the good to great transition and what to do about it; Create an action plan to take home to begin a self-perpetuating good to great transformation.

Real Time Incident Tracking and Immediate Program Adjustment

- Most camps wait for the end of the season to compile incident statistics and decide if program adjustments are necessary for the next year. In this session, you will learn techniques for real-time tracking of incidents so that you can spot trends and take decisive action.

New Research on Being a Successful Leader in the 21st Century - Beyond charisma and vision, learn what the latest cutting edge research tells us makes leaders over the top successful. You may be surprised. The skill

Share Your Camp's Marketing and Promotional Materials

New at this year's conference we hope to provide the opportunity for camps to share their printed promotional materials and promotional videos. If you would like to share, please mail

your materials along with your conference registration form. Not attending or faxing your registration?

Please mail materials to American Camp Association Rocky Mountain Section, PO Box 2566, Estes Park, CO 80517. Brochures and printed materials will be displayed throughout the conference. ■

General Schedule

Thursday, November 15th

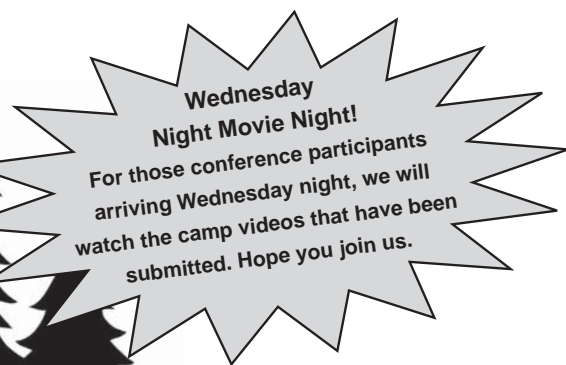
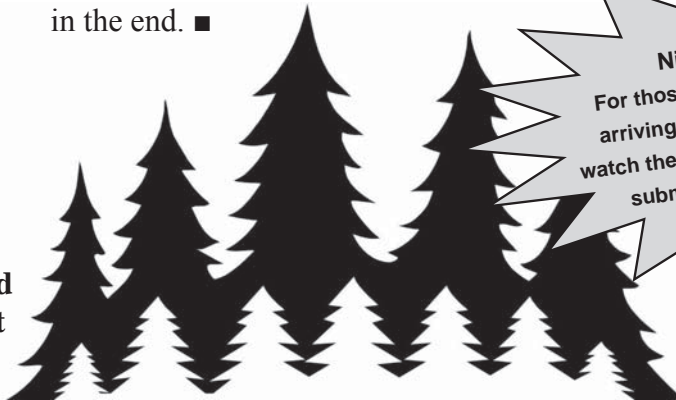
8:45-9:30 AM Registration
 9:45-10:00 AM Welcome, Introduction
 10:00-11:30 AM **Jeffrey Leiken: "When Warm-Fuzzies, Campfires and Capture the Flag Are No Longer Enough!"**
 11:30-12:30 PM Lunch
 12:45-2:15 PM Break-out Sessions
 2:30-4:00 PM Break-out Sessions
 4:00-7:00 PM Exhibit Hall/Social Time/Dinner
 7:15-9:15 PM I Believe Event/Entertainment

Friday, November 16th

7:00-7:30 AM Breakfast
 7:30-8:30 AM Annual Meeting
 8:45-10:15 AM Break-out Sessions
 10:30-12:00 PM Break-out Sessions
 12:00-12:45 PM Lunch
 12:45-2:00 PM **Jeffrey Leiken: "7 Things To Be Doing Now To Ensure You'll Be A Huge Success With Tomorrow's Youth."** ■

Check out the RMS website for further Break-out Session Updates.

set you'll need to master is a challenge, but well worth the effort in the end. ■



Wednesday Night Movie Night!
 For those conference participants arriving Wednesday night, we will watch the camp videos that have been submitted. Hope you join us.

Standards Training

November 14th at the Nature Place the day before the Fall Conference.

A Standards Training will be offered for camps who will be visited in 2008. Participants will need to arrive by 12:00 PM (in time for lunch). The class will run from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The cost for this training which includes lunch, dinner and Wednesday night lodging is \$65.00. ■

Childcare Standards UPDATED

After over two years of work and a very successful collaboration with Colorado Parks and Recreation Association, a new set of Day Camp standards have been rolled out from the Colorado Department of Human Services, Childcare Services. These standards now provide a distinction between School Age Childcare Programs vs. Day Camps. In addition, the Adventure Activities (climbing, kayaking, etc.), were taken out of both the Day Camp and Resident Camp standards, and placed in one, new, Adventure Activity standard. In past, there had been differing standards for the same activity depending on if it was hosted by a day camp or a residence camp.

All in all, this is a huge success for Day Camps. This overall process was motivated and lead by the RM Region Day Camp Task Force and we can all feel proud of the final outcome which will deliver more focused and relevant standards for our day camps and participants.

You can review a copy of the new standards on the ACA RM Section Website.

David Secunda, Program Director
avid4adventure
www.Avid4.com
david@Avid4.com
Office: 720-249-2412
Cell: 303-589-8975
Fax: 303-265-9445 ■

Camp Spotlight continued from 3
ceramics, acrylics, textiles, mosaics, woodcraft, and more. For the adult programs, Art for the Whole Child® seeks to create a safe place to help adults stop saying, “I’m terrible at art” and enable them to work without negative judgments and tap into their creativity. “We can’t believe we’ve already finished five summers!” says Kramer. “We have learned so much and look forward to even greater things in the future. Our connection

to the American Camp Association’s Rocky Mountain Section has definitely been an important factor in our growth and professionalism, and we’re thankful for what everyone has to offer.” The most rewarding moments for Kramer and Kutner are when students share that they have brought art into their lives, sketching, painting, and creating on their own or with their families. For them, it doesn’t get much better! ■



Fall Conference = Fall Fundraiser!

Each year during our Fall Conference, we have a section fundraising event. Every year you are all creative, thoughtful and generous. Well, it is that time of year again—we are asking you to start thinking about ways to help support our annual event. All donations are tax-deductible and the funds we raise are used within the section to support a wide variety of projects. All aspects of running our section benefit from your support.

Some items you might think about donating: bottles of wine, restaurant gift certificates, gift cards from anywhere and everywhere, cool products for the home, outdoor gear, gift baskets, event tickets (Avalanche, Bronco’s, Theatre), ski tickets, condo space, etc! Don’t forget to think about asking the businesses you work with, your friends, and your family for donation items.

If you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or have a suggestion of someone we could contact for a gift item, please call or email Andrew VanDerWege (303-709-2464 or andrew.vanderwege@ymcabv.org). Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you in November! ■

Here's the summer "seat-scoop" from some of our ACA camps and comrades.

Camp Santa Maria had a brand new breath of life as it reopened in under the auspices of Boulder YMCA. This was the first time this Y has ventured into residence camping and our hats go off to ANDY VANDERWEGE and his wife Arianna and their staff for being successful with their ACA accreditation for their first summer of operation!

MAGGIE HEDGE - of Meadow Mountain Ranch camp had a productive season. Maggie had a tough start when she lost their facilities head, however she got an engagement ring at the end of the summer, so she's feeling pretty chipper!

DAVE JARVIS - of Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp was delighted with the weather, keeping that fire-factor down in his neck of the woods. His facility was happily full with outstanding leaders, and a relatively mellow season. Who could ask for more! We look forward to seeing the Trails folks at our annual section conference.

ZIM ZIMMERMAN, of Schwayder Camp, won first prize for the best "SCAT" as his facility battled the age-old problem of waste treatment! He had a great staff, they were full with plenty of happy campers, but trenches scarred the grounds as the mystery of where sewer lines really are unraveled. "It wasn't pretty!"



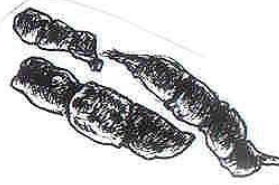
Beaver

3/4" -
1/4" -
1/4" -
3" -
3/4" -

3/4" DIAMETER

MARTY FERGUSON - of Camp Chief Ouray had a scary June with a full-fledged fire/evacuation of all campers and staff for one night only. Thanks to his ACA standards in place, evacuation procedures and thorough plans in place, mitigation, it all went without a flaw, and many parents were extremely impressed with the efficiency and calm demeanor of the Ouray leadership team. One parent was so impressed they made a substantial donation to the camp. I was very impressed how well they communicated this emergency information on their web site - a good model for other camp directors

Mountain Lion

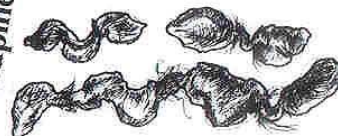


1 1/4" DIAMETER

Jo Burns filled us in on this scoop: Camp PAHA Rise Above got academy award nominations for their version of "The Lion King." This was a first time exposure for many of these special kids, and the parents literally watched the production with tears running down their cheeks. These parents were full of pride and gratitude to the amazing camp staff that helped their kids feel like stars!

Love among the teepees... at Scaborn Western. One more romantic success: Ryan McGowan, and Ashley Denison Congratulations on their marriage last June.

Porcupine



1/2" DIAMETER

Wyoming had great weather, like Colorado, as Teton Valley Ranch Camp folks were exuberant with praise for a dynamite summer. The season was full of appreciative campers, fun staff, and not one crisis. Sounds good to me!

Romance is in the air - how happy we are for JEFF CHELEY and his bride Erika. They wed over a beautiful Labor Day weekend up at Cheley, and spent their honeymoon in Greece. Boy talk about looking forward to the end of summer!

Raccoon



Skunk



The Rocky Mountain Scout

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

October 2007

Directions

Directions to the Nature Place from Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs, take Highway 24 West (exit 141) toward Manitou Springs and Pikes Peak. Stay on Highway 24 through Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, then Divide. About 8 miles past Divide on Highway 24 you will reach Florissant. Drive through Florissant then turn left on the gravel road (route 46) at the top of the hill just west of town. There is a real estate office and a sign for Wagon Tongue Road on the corner. Follow this road about 2.5 miles, bearing left at the fork. Go about 1.7 miles and you will reach a covered wagon. Bear left here, continue up the hill, and we will be the first driveway on the right. Please drive carefully on unpaved roads-the gravel can be unpredictable, and children, animals, and semi-trailers may be encountered at any time. Any problems please call us at (719) 748-3475. ■

A Map to the Fall Conference

