

NEWS & NOTES

For Campers, Parents, and Alumni • Spring 2008 • Vol. 20, No. 1



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CELEBRATE GAC HISTORY AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Do you remember....

Manny Vezie telling the Knute Rockne story

Big Campfire, we sing to you...

Jeanie introducing girls to GAC

A canoe trip across Edison Lake for a campout

Boris Gregory booming, "Push the tiller toward the sail!"

Sleeping under the stars on Shaver Island

Wakeboards shaped like yellow bananas

Gold Arrow Camp is celebrating 75 years of tradition, friendship and fun! GAC has been an important part of childhood for thousands of people. If you are an alumnus (former camper or staff) of GAC, please join us for our Alumni Reunion Weekend, August 22-24, 2008. This is a great opportunity to reunite with fellow GAC alumni and reminisce about the good ol' days. You'll have an opportunity to participate in a few camp activities, sing around the campfire, and share stories with friends. Lodging is available at Sierra Summit Ski Resort located directly across the road from camp. Join us for all or a portion of the weekend.

To register for the reunion, visit www.goldarrowcamp.com to download more information and a registration form. Also, please register or update your information on GAC's website in our Alumni Guestbook. We're always trying to expand our alumni database and it's also a great resource for reconnecting with old friends. As we plan for the reunion, if you have any suggestions for special events, questions about the reunion, or need a paper copy of the registration form sent by mail, please contact Chelsea Rowe at chelster@goldarrowcamp.com or 800-554-2267.

NEW STUFF AT CAMP FOR 2008

This summer, there are many exciting new additions at Gold Arrow Camp. Campers will be able to use new sit-on-top style kayaks for more comfort and easier loading. The Shaver Lake outpost will be adding another competition-style ski boat. Expect to see some more new Sunfish sailboats on the waterfront. Campers can test their skill at the new GAC disc golf course at freetime. And everyone will sleep easier knowing they are sleeping on a new mattress. There also might be a few additional surprises to discover when you arrive at camp.

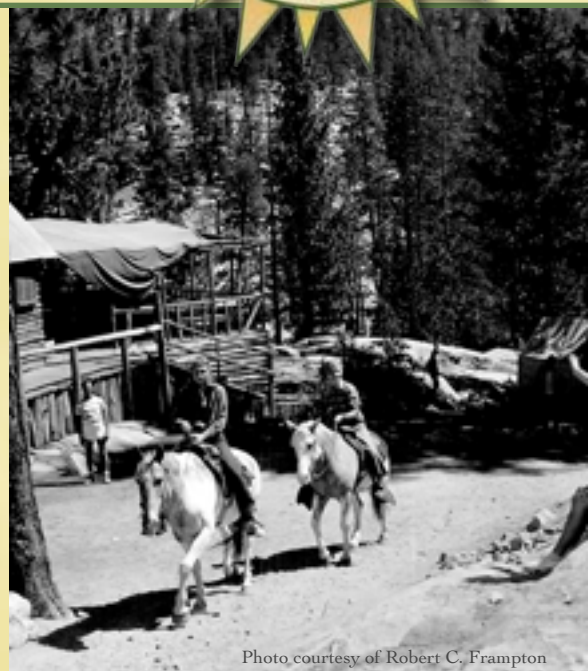


Photo courtesy of Robert C. Frampton



www.goldarrowcamp.com



CAMP PEOPLE

ALUMNUS PROFILE

On the last night of each camp session, we honor 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation campers. These legacies carry on their family tradition of spending summers at Gold Arrow Camp. In those moments, we are reminded of the impact GAC has on so many families. **Claudia (Gregory) Werlin** represents one of those families. She has spent 23 summers at Gold Arrow Camp in many different capacities. The Gregory family is an important part of the camp's history. Claudia's parents, Boris and Irene Gregory, directed the sailing program at GAC for more than two decades. In more recent years, Claudia is better known as "Cloudy," mom to campers Jake and Jessie Werlin and Camp Mom for the past 10 summers. Claudia shared some of the memories from her experiences at GAC.



Boris Gregory, Jessie, Claudia, and Jake Werlin

On what it was like being the daughter of the sailing directors: *I had the best of all worlds. I had my parents right there as much as I wanted or as little as I wanted. I was never homesick. July used to be boys month only so I felt like a queen with all the attention I received! I was able to spend much of the time helping my parents on the sailing dock and stayed with them in their cabin at night. August was girl's month, so I would relish the time where I was in the cabin with my tent mates. Then I probably saw my parents only at mealtimes and on the sailing dock. I look back on that time now and still think I was the luckiest kid in the world.*

What stands out most about my parents' time at camp is how much they appreciated being a part of something so rewarding and enriching. Camp staff was like family re-connecting each summer, year after year. They loved the kids, the fresh mountain air, the hard work and most of all their love of sailing on Huntington Lake. My father poured his heart and soul into the sailing program and it became his pride and joy. My parents had an agreement with each other that they would go for a swim off the sailing dock every day in the snowmelt called Huntington Lake. They never missed a day.

On her best memories as a camper:

That's like asking me what's my favorite ice cream ... it was all great. A couple that really stand out, first was "Baldy" the horse outpost. A camper was assigned a horse to completely take care of for 4 days. We had to water and feed them, brush them every

day, walk and ride them, completely take care of the horse as if it were our own. Then at the end of the hot summer days, it was a run and jump into the ice cold waters of Big Creek.

Second is probably thinking back to the Water Ski Outpost on Shaver Island. The evening campfires at Shaver were awesome, filled with songs and story telling. Learning to slalom and trick ski at Shaver are great memories of exciting accomplishments. Also, sailing a flipper to Will-O-The-Wisp and back for the first time by myself was a really big deal. Receiving all the hard-earned badges, even a Red Cross certification for canoeing was another camp highlight.

Another memory is the "Flour Bomb War." A flour bomb war was essentially a "Capture the Flag" variation. We used baking flour wrapped up in Kleenex tied with a rubber band as our ammunition and the whole camp was divided into two teams. Manny used to ride around the camp on horseback as the grand referee and mediator. Great fun!

For more of our interview with Claudia, see the last page of this online edition of the newsletter.

STAFF PROFILE

Salsa is returning for her 5th year at GAC this summer and looks forward to being wrapped in her 5 Year Blanket at the end of Session #4. This summer is extra special for Salsa, because her brother David is coming to GAC for the first time.

Starting last summer, Salsa moved into the role of Head Counselor. Salsa is also frequently onstage with AZ leading the Penguin Song and other assembly events. She spends part of her day on the phone, talking to parents about how their camper is doing at GAC. When asked about her favorite thing about Gold Arrow Camp, Salsa responds, "Being surrounded by friends – fun, goofy friends – 24/7."

Salsa grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, and loves to lead campers in singing the "Wisconsin Milk" (moo moo moo moo) song. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a degree in Political Science and Journalism. Salsa's hobbies include going to Badger football games, cooking and watching the food network, dance parties, and traveling. Her most recent adventure was moving to Auckland, New Zealand and working at an advertising and marketing agency. She'll be in New Zealand until she returns to the US to start working at camp again this summer.



NEWS SPLASH

What's Salsa's favorite camp activity? Rifflery! On the dining porch, look for Salsa near the chocolate and grapefruit juice – two of her favorite things. If you haven't met this fun GACer, be sure to introduce yourself to Salsa this summer and give her a "moo moo moo." We're excited to welcome Salsa to GAC's year-round staff as Personnel Director starting this fall.

MANNY VEZIE FUND

The Manny Vezie Memorial Fund was created to honor our camp's founder and provide camp opportunities for deserving children. In just five months of existence, over \$1,600 has already been donated to the fund. Thank you to the following contributors: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Altman, Mr. & Mrs. Rod Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Joji Atone, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Doherty, Mr. & Mrs. John Freis, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Grimmett, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Johnson, Helen Levin, Mr. & Mrs. John Schiro, Gigi Small, and Sanford Whiting. For more information about the fund or how to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit the "Parents" or "Alumni" sections of our website.

NEW ARRIVAL

Chuck ("Woody") and Karen ("Tahoe") Radke welcomed William Charles Radke into the world on October 10, 2007. Will was 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Will is looking forward to his first session at Gold Arrow Camp this summer.



FIRST-YEAR FAMILY ORIENTATIONS

In an effort to help alleviate some of the anxiety associated with going to camp for the first time, and to help make sure that your child's first summer with us is a great experience, we are offering optional online First-Year Family Orientation sessions. These are online meetings that will cover topics such as homesickness, communication while at camp, preparing for camp, and what to expect on the first day. The meetings are scheduled to have a 20 minute presentation time followed by an open question and answer period. You will be able to type in any questions you have throughout the presentation. The sessions will be moderated by Audrey "Sunshine" or Steve "Monkey" Monke. If your family is interested in attending, please RSVP to mail@goldarrowcamp.com with "Online Session" in the subject line. Session space is limited, and meeting instructions will be sent via email after your RSVP is received.

First-Year Family Orientations will be offered at the following dates/times:

- Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

GAC RUNNERS RACE AT THE SPIRIT RUN



On March 30, 2008, over 30 runners represented Gold Arrow Camp at the 25th annual Spirit Run in Newport Beach, California. The GAC running team promotes camp and a healthy lifestyle. To join the team, see more pictures, and get a free T-shirt, visit the "Campers" section of the camp website.

"WADDA"ING OUR WAY THROUGH WINTER

Thanks to the families who opened up their homes to GAC this year, many of our campers and staff were able to put a little "Wadda" into the winter months. GAC Chats offered the chance for returning and new families to connect, remember the fun of 2007, and get ready for the summer of 2008. We'd like to thank the following campers (and their parents) for hosting our GAC Chats this year: Louisa, Henry, and Nathaniel Dodge (Newport Beach), Will, Charlie, and Brady Jameson (Pasadena), Annie and John Kingsland (San Francisco), Taylor and Peter Klarwein (Palos Verdes), Lauren, Evie, and Danny Blackburn (Carlsbad), Sarah Groux (Newport Coast), Katie and Preston Ortiz (Manhattan Beach), Piper and Logan Pollard (Pacific Palisades), Cobi and Bryan Baker (Rancho Santa Fe), Mickey, Kyle, and Ryan Moran (Park City), Hayley, Garrett, and Jake Caddes (Sandy). Thank you for providing snacks and fun for some very large groups of "wadda"ers!





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NEWS & NOTES SPRING EDITION IS HERE!

DANCE FEVER TO HIT GAC IN 2008

One of the highlights for everyone at Gold Arrow Camp is the dance at the end of each session. This is a low-key event where costumes are encouraged, but not required. Many campers bring costumes from home to wear, while others use items around camp to create a costume. We do not suggest buying a costume for the dance. In fact, we want to honor campers and staff this year who are the most creative in using low-cost, eco-friendly, ordinary materials found at home or around camp. These individuals will be given a Creative Costume award during the dance. Here are a list of the dance themes for each session:



Session 1: The Farm Dance. Dress as farmers, farm animals, crops, farm implements, tractors, barns, or anything relating to farm life. Don't forget the overalls!

Session 2: Under the Big Top. For this circus-themed dance, come looking like acrobats, clowns, animals, trapeze artists, cheap souvenirs, junk food, etc. Beware of carnies!

Session 3: Let's Get Animated! Come dressed as your favorite cartoon character. Spongebob, Nemo, Cinderella, Superman. Thousands of characters to choose from. Who is your favorite?

Session 4: Safari Celebration. Think wild animals. Explore your inner jungle. Dress like lions from the Serengeti plains or monkeys from Tarzan's jungle. Or just look at the wildlife in your matching khaki shorts and jacket!

Specialty Week: Hawaiian Luau. Floral prints, grass skirts, and coconuts are all acceptable. Grab a pineapple and hang loose by the volcano. Aloha!



ALUMNUS PROFILE - CONTINUED

Lanyards, lanyards and more lanyards – every way, every design, every color, I became an expert. We had a pact among ourselves that we couldn't go to sleep each night until we counted 10 falling stars as we lay outside on the deck in our sleeping bags. Talk about idyllic summers!

I'll never forget the old camp song "Big Campfire". As kids we all thought it was too corny, but as an adult it stirs my emotions with memories of an innocent and carefree time.

On her memories as a staff member during college: During my college days the staff was divided into two groups, the instructors and the counselors. As an instructor we were to develop our activities and concentrate on preparing and providing a good program for the kids. The counselors were to take care of their cabin group 24/7. Counselors didn't have assistants in those days. Having the evenings free most of the time enabled more than a few of us instructors to find "rest and relaxation" over at China Peak Ski Resort (now Sierra Summit), across the highway from camp. The ski resort's restaurant and bar were always open for business during the summers!

Who are some friends you remember from camp and would like to see again? Your questions have brought up dozens of faces I'd like to see again. But, ha, I can't remember everyone's name! Kathy Shuppe comes to mind quickly.

When sending your children to GAC, what were your hopes for them as campers? Initially I was excited to think they would have all the great GAC experiences, Huntington Lake, friendships, the Sierras, all the activities, smelling the vanilla tree, campfires – definitely not enough room in this newsletter to list them all. But even more so, it was a chance for them to take a peek into my childhood and experience some of my happiest days. It was a great gift.

When you returned as Camp Mom and helped with the sailing program, how was that experience different from the previous experiences at GAC? Easy answer...it was a whole lot more work!

How has GAC changed over the years? When I first went to Gold Arrow, it seemed we were pushed to really learn each activity and become truly proficient. There weren't as many choices in those days so more time was devoted to each activity. Now I see many more options available to the kids, it's more diverse and they have lots of opportunity to follow their passions and interests.

How has GAC changed your life? All the skills I acquired at camp have served me well over the years. My admiration for Manny and Jeanie has enriched my life even today. The outdoor skills I acquired, the competence I learned and the confidence I gained from mastering the activities and interacting with so many wonderful people are things I still use and cherish today. Best of all, I've been able to pass them along to my kids.

Any other comments? I feel fortunate to have been able to watch the camp grow and blossom into what it is today. Sunshine and Monkey have done a remarkable job!

MORE SPIRIT RUN IMAGES

