



# The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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## Message from the Chair

### Fellowship and Fundraising

As many of you have likely noticed, the EBA Board has made the decision to not increase the fees for attending the summer reunion for the past five years. Baring any unforeseen economic changes, we are planning to maintain this rate freeze for several more years. The reason for this is simply to support the fellowship half of what we do and get as many people to attend the weekend as possible. We are no longer utilizing the attendance fees for the weekend as a fundraising tool. As such, you will see and hear a few more direct financial "asks" from us as we support the other half of what we do, financially supporting camp.

Don't forget that we have three fundraising campaigns going at any given time - capital improvements, camperships, and the endowment. Don't feel obligated to contribute to all three, but please do consider financially supporting the program you feel best suits you even if it is just a little. Every dollar helps!

- Dave McAlister, Chairman



Alumni gathered for a group photo at the 26th Emerald Bay Association Reunion.

## 26th Annual Reunion at Emerald Bay

The alumni charter pulled up to the dock at Emerald Bay and began to offload. Everyone was excited to begin the reunion weekend. It was a wonderful and memorable reunion.

The warm weather and unusually warm ocean made all of the ocean sports amazing. Kayakers and paddle boarders seemed not to mind falling into the ocean. Thank you to the waterfront staff for graciously opening the waterfront for alumni.

Land based activities were equally fun. Alumni were able to use the rifle range and Handicraft Lodge. Some hiked to Arrow Point for the sunset. After dinner, the evening campfire provided family friendly entertainment.

Sunday was busy, starting with the Triathlon. After breakfast, the annual Association meeting was held with the memorabilia auction following. The money raised in the auction is split with the staff fund.

Reunion attendees had some additional free time after the auction because of the later than normal departure. Finally, it was time to board the charter boat and return to the mainland. Judging by the positive comments of many alumni, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and is looking forward to next year.

## EBA TRIATHLON TURNS 14!

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual EBA Triathlon drew huge crowds on rumors that Paul Renner would lace-up (his racing shoes) and crush the course record. Sadly, Paul was nursing an injured fluxcapacitor, but promised to come out next year. With a wide-open field, the race got off to a blistering swim start, as Jess Schem led the boys out of water. Hot on her heels was Jimmy Moore, a veteran competitor with a previous podium finish. Lee Harrison made up ground on the kayak portion of the race, but it was all Jimmy Moore once the racers reached dry land. Turning in the fastest run of the day, Jimmy's breakthrough performance gained him his first EBA Championship. Lee managed to hold off some fast runners to take Second Place (and 5<sup>th</sup> Place). Bradley Sanders took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place over his dad (Dave) in a memorable finish line sprint. (See **Triathlon** on page 3)



## 2015 Annual Emerald Bay Association Survey Results

Following this summer's reunion, the Emerald Bay Association (EBA) conducted an online survey to not only solicit feedback about the reunion, but to gather insight from all of our membership. The survey went out to all EBA members for whom we have e-mail addresses (over 1,300 people), and we received over 200 responses. We read every comment.

We received survey responses from alumni serving on staff during every decade from the 1950s through the 2010s. We were thrilled to note that slightly over half of the alumni base has supported the EBA's fundraising efforts -- THANK YOU. We noted your interest in more EBA programming throughout the year and more opportunities to volunteer at camp during the summer.

Among those that attended the reunion, almost everyone was satisfied. The most common reason for the satisfaction was "seeing old friends." The great weather and the wine and cheese reception were also frequently cited. There were concerns about the charter that left from Long Beach. The most stated concern was the bumpy ride going over in the chartered boat. Unfortunately, the charter is unable to do much about the sea conditions. The cost of parking was another frequently stated concern. Parking was not part of the charter, but if we use the same charter next year, we will try to arrange a better deal with the parking vendor.

In general, the positive aspects of the weekend outweighed the concerns. One survey responder noted his reasons for attending that seems to sum it up, "Selfishly [I] was able to introduce EB to my daughter for the first time. She loved it and can't wait to go back... for all of the genuine energy, love and enthusiasm that the entire group shows for EB."

Responses were very mixed over the scheduling of the reunion during the last weekend of camp. Survey responders listed more time in camp, a more relaxed atmo-



A view of the nearly completed Emerald Bay Association Terrace that overlooks the parade ground and the waterfront. Photo is courtesy of Lee Harrison.

sphere and feeling less rushed as positives of attending during the last weekend of camp. However, responders had concerns regarding the energy level of the campfire and less action at the auction without many of the current staff involved. About half of the responses favored the date and half would have preferred earlier in the summer. The board carefully reviewed these responses and decided that the concerns could be addressed. They decided that the date of the 2016 reunion would continue to be the last weekend of camp.

Among those who did not attend the reunion, the overwhelming explanation was a conflict with the dates. The second most commonly cited rationale for not attending was cost. The reunion is a break-even event for the EBA and the board has favored keeping expenses to a minimum to maximize participation. Prices have not been increased for several years even though costs have been rising. This is a conscious decision of the EBA board to ensure that reunion remains as accessible for as many alumni as possible.

The responses to the rest of the survey questions provide insight concerning what is important to our members. Results indicate that alumni support evenly all of the areas

that the EBA fundraises for including campships, endowment, capital campaigns (i.e. the terrace project) and the general fund.

The most popular of the EBA sponsored activities is the summer reunion, but almost half of the responders indicated that they have not attended any events. Email (which includes the electronic version of the Chronicle) and the website are the most popular ways alumni stay in touch.

The board appreciates all of the feedback and suggestions and will use this data to inform our decisions during the coming year. We will, in the words of one responder, "keep on rocking out."

- Scott Nusbaum and Bob Fenton





# EmeraldBayAlumni.org

## Triathlon (from page 1)

In the end, all the participants are to be commended for coming out to compete. A special thanks to our official timekeeper Greg Weinstein, and all the volunteers who make the race possible!

You are all invited to come out next year to cheer, volunteer, or set your own personal record. Four prior champions are expected to toe the line for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual EBA Triathlon. Will Jimmy defend his title? Will Pat notch yet another win? Will "LaBronge" return to take the title for the ladies. Will Paul Renner skip the Olympics and crush all of them all? I look forward to seeing you all when we get the answer next August!

- Your race director, Rich Wise

## Where in Emerald Bay?



This cabin, the Kona Kai, was one of the cabins built by Bob Hawkins that housed staff from the 60s through the 80s. It was the first cabin that your editor, Bob Fenton, lived in as a staffman at Emerald Bay in the 70s. It was located on North Hill near where the canoes on the beach are today.



The flags flying in the ocean breeze at Camp Emerald Bay this summer.

## Calendar of Events

Jun 05, 2016	First Camping Session
Aug 13-14	Emerald Bay Alumni Reunion
Aug 13	End of Last Camping Session

Yes, I want to support Camp Emerald Bay.

I am enclosing: ( ) \$50    ( ) \$100    ( ) \$250    ( ) \$500    ( ) \$1000    ( ) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your donation to the Emerald Bay Association, P.O. Box 959. Venice, CA, 90294

To learn more and donate online, please go to [EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate](http://EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate).



*Leeward*

*Emeraldbayalumni.org*

## Scenes from the summer reunion



Emerald Bay Triathlon winner Jimmy Mooore accepts the trophy from race director Rich Wise.



Western Los Angeles County Council Scout Executive Lee Harrison talks with Ryan O'neal and his family.



Alumni enjoying the sunset on Arrow Point.



Alumni getting a closer look, and feel, at sea life in the touch tank at the Pennington Marine Science Center.

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Address Correction Requested