

The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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Rugged Adventure

I wanted to experience the Rugged Adventurers program first hand during my visit at camp this past summer. I have perused the glossy brochures and visited the website, but wanted to see for myself what this new program was all about. The Rugged Adventurers Program Director gave me permission to accompany a troop on a hike from the Isthmus to Blackjack Campground at the Base of Blackjack Mountain, a distance of about 13 miles. We had to carry all of the water and food we would need on the trek. The distance would be rugged enough, but the Scouts, who had never hiked on the island, had to find the way using a map and compass. We adults had to stay in the background and allow the kids to make the decisions.

We began our hike in the cool of the morning, trudging up the hillside out of the Isthmus. We did not get very far because there was disagreement on the best route to take. Since the Scouts could not see the final destination, they had to rely on the map and compass and the leadership skills of the young man who was leading the group. The boy leader asserted himself and chose to not follow the main road, instead taking a combination of fire roads and trails.

The day was perfect with brilliant sunlight lighting up the brown, dry landscape and contrasting with the azure sky. When we climbed high enough, we were able to glimpse the ocean on both sides of the Island and could see our destination. We could visually confirm that the Scouts (See **Rugged** on Page 3)



2008 Summer Alumni Reunion participants gather for a picture in front of the Dining Hall. See page three for more information about the reunion.

EBA Campfire Circle Burns Past Fund Raising Goal!

Your generous support for the Emerald Bay Alumni Campfire Circle has been truly astounding. We are pleased to announce that your contributions and pledges now total over \$80,400! There have been over **150 donors** to this campaign so far —by far our largest participation ever. *But we're still not finished!* We are expecting to begin construction in early December--less than a month away--and we're finalizing the last details right now.

Due to the tremendous outpouring of generosity, the Board has decided to “upgrade” the Campfire Circle design and look into building the project out of block-and-stone. Not only will this revised plan be more ecologically sound, but it will also enable us to build a more beautiful and permanent circle--a new circle that is more befitting of our environment and which will complement the many new buildings in camp.

If you have not donated yet to this cause, now is your opportunity to join in and help us reach our new goal of \$90,000. There will be 10 new opportunities to purchase plaques in this newly upgraded campfire circle. Visit www.campfirecircle.org for more information and to donate online.

Thank you again for your continued support. *You are the reason we are successful.*

In fellowship,
Rich Wise, CFC Fundraising Chairman &
Andrew Wilder, EBA Chairman



Emerald Bay Alumni

P.O. Box 959

Venice, CA 90294

First Annual E. B. Alumni Barbecue

The Emerald Bay Alumni gathered at Burton Chace Park in Marina Del Rey on Saturday, October 25 for the first annual Emerald Bay Alumni Barbecue. Chairman Andrew Wilder, Vice Chairman David McAlister, Board Member Kara Taylor and Secretary Brad Rothenberg prepared a delicious luncheon for alumni and their guests. In addition to marinated chicken breasts, fish tacos, hamburgers and grilled portabello mushrooms, a selection of salads, chips and homemade deserts were served. Attendees received a special EBA pin and the opportunity to (see **Alumni Barbecue** on page 3)



Alumni leaving the Manta after a harbor cruise through the marina.

Successful Summer Reunion

Another hugely successful Reunion took place this past August. Not only was it the 3rd best attended reunion, but the EBA raised record funds in its campaign to build the new Campfire Circle.

Among the weekend highlights was the 6th Annual EBA Triathlon. The race this year saw record numbers as more gals turned out to challenge the fellas. In the end it was Joe Lyon roaring to the top of podium after squeezing out perennial speedster Matt Davis (2nd place) and past champion Kirk Hetherington (3rd place). The ladies put on a tough race, with 3 of them in the top 10 (Dr. Michele, Lisa H. and "Cupcake").

Past champs Pat McDonald and Paul Renner were unable to race

due to training injuries, but vowed to come back stronger next year to reclaim the trophy.

In the end, a great time was had by all. Everyone is encouraged to start training now as plans are already being laid to honor all racers at next year's reunion, when the EBA intends to dedicate the new EBA Campfire Circle. - Rich Wise



Alumni enjoying the Archery Range at the Reunion.



Chairman Andrew Wilder and Board Members Rich Wise and Brad Rothenberg conduct the Memorabilia Auction.





Alumni Barbecue

try on and purchase the brand new Alumni jackets. The afternoon was made special with a cruise of the marina courtesy of Ship 16 and the Manta. Twenty five alumni and guests attended

the annual event. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year. Check the Alumni website www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org for future special events and opportunities to reconnect with friends and support Camp Emerald Bay.

Rugged

(from Page 1)

were good navigators and that we were moving in the right direction.

By the time we reached the Airport in the Sky, we were tired, thirsty and hungry. The siren song of Buffalo Burgers at the airport diner was loud, but the boy leaders again made a tough decision to carry on and eat lunch at Blackjack Campground.

We arrived at the campground a couple of hours later. The Scouts quickly devoured their lunches and while the adults napped and whined about sore feet, the kids explored the area and summited Blackjack. A truck met the Scouts at the campground to drop off food and bicycles for the next part of the adventure. I hitched a ride back to Camp, but the Scouts were spending the night and then biking the next day to Little Harbor and back to camp. Whew! What an adventure.

I enjoyed the hike though the scenic interior of the Island. I was impressed with the way the Scouts and their boy leader worked together to make decisions and find their way to the campground. I could see how this rugged adventure was both challenging and character building.

- Bob Fenton, Editor

Where in Emerald Bay?



You get extra credit if you can figure out where this is and what Bob Mc Dermott, the Resident Ranger, is holding in his hand. The others members of the Maintenance Crew are Jon Erickson, Bob Fenton and Steve Geise. Give up? The Crew is standing next to the former Staff/Leader Lounge that later was torn down to make way for the new Ship's Store. Bob is holding a fish scale to weigh a record 22 foot long and 22 pound growler.

Yes, I want to help rebuild the campfire circle at Camp Emerald Bay.

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

Name _____

Email Address _____

Please send your donation to the Emerald Bay Alumni, P.O. Box 959. Venice, CA, 90294
To learn more and donate online, please go to www.campfirecircle.org.



Images from Summer 2008



Winners of the 2008 Triathlon: Joe Lyon, 1st; Matt Davis, 2nd and Kirk Heatherington, 3rd (right to left)



War canoe landing at Parson's Beach



Trendy new uniform for staff?



A class in the Nature Area gets back to nature.

**Emerald Bay Alumni
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Address Correction Requested