



The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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Wet and Bubbly Memories

I am writing this column on a dive boat as I return to San Pedro after a day of diving at Santa Barbara Island, which is northwest of Catalina Island. We are rounding the west end of Catalina Island heading back to LA Harbor. It is a four hour trip back to port so I have time to reflect.

I have enjoyed scuba diving ever since I was certified at the beginning of the summer in 1986. I became certified because a lot of my friends at camp were certified and I wanted to dive with them. I left for camp that summer with one more dive needed to complete my certification. I met my instructor on a dive boat at the Isthmus anchored on Isthmus reef to finish the process. I dived Isthmus reef for the first of many memorable times that morning. It is a spectacular dive, beginning with a gently sloping face that turns into a dramatic wall full of life and drama. I never get tired of diving it.

The summer I was certified, and for many summers after, we dove as much as possible. Tom Peck, among others, and I dove on days off, during lunch and any other time we could sneak away. We dived Indian Rock, Ship Rock, Bird Rock, Eagle Reef, Blue Caverns, West End and many other spots. We usually took a Gregor (they did not leak as much as they do now) or sometimes one of the power boats. Because we were over eighteen, we could leave the bay, sometimes taking younger staff, such as Sean Gardinier or Bryan Silver, so they could dive somewhere beside Indian Head or Table Rock. We had to take our tanks to the Isthmus to be filled, because Camp did not have a compressor (See **Divers**, page 3)



The group picture from the 2010 Emerald Bay Association Reunion.

Rousing Reunion

Almost 150 alumni and families attended the 21st annual Alumni Reunion at Camp Emerald Bay August 14-15. After disembarking from the ferry, Camp Director Dennis Ellis welcomed the alumni to camp. Attendees enjoyed the sunny day on the beach and in many areas of camp including the Handicraft Lodge, Field Sports, Pennington Marine Science Center and the Waterfront. A sumptuous dinner was followed by a campfire where current and former staff provided the entertainment. Sunday morning saw the 8th annual Emerald Bay Triathlon, annual meeting and a lively memorabilia auction. The reunion provided time for reminiscing about the past and also a chance to see the present and glimpse into the future of camp. Mark your calendars for next summer's reunion on August 13 and 14, 2011.

Endowing the Future

The Emerald Bay Association governing board began to fund an endowment in 2009. The board decided to not only raise money for specific projects, like dock sections, camperships or replacing the rifle range, but also for an endowment that would ensure a steady source of funding for the camp in future years. The endowment will allow the Association to offer a wider range of planned giving opportunities, such as bequests from wills or living trusts. A conservative investment strategy is utilized to ensure steady, positive growth as the fund accumulates capital. Once the endowment reaches approximately \$100,000 in assets, a more aggressive strategy that will achieve long-term appreciation and income will be employed.

The success of the endowment, and the ability of the Association to continue to support Emerald Bay, depends on the continued support of generous Association members.



Timeless Memories

I believe 1925 was the first year a Boy Scout camp was held at Emerald Bay. I went in 1926. The cost was \$12.00, or 10 tons of old newspapers for 7 days in camp. That included the steamer ride from San Pedro to Avalon to Emerald Bay and return, on the Betty-O, a two deck ferry boat. We slept in old Army tents, eight scouts, as a patrol, to each tent. The mess hall was a canvas covered frame tent. We brought our own sleeping bags. We could skinny dip in the bay before reveille if we wanted to, but we could skinny dip at Parson's Beach anytime. We could visit the Ning-po, which was aground in Catalina Harbor. We could walk about 100 feet into an old silver mine on Silver Peak if we wanted to. A herd of wild goats sometimes grazed in sight of camp. We could collect abalones from Emerald Bay to eat. There were no moorings in Emerald Bay. There were no buildings, only one Eucalyptus tree and two fig trees at camp. Drinking water was hauled in by boat. Emerald Bay was amazing in those days.

- by Ken "PeeWee" Wise
(Submitted by Rich Wise. Note: Ken was on staff for many years in the late 20's and early 30s. He just celebrated his 97th birthday and stays in touch with his old camp pal, Ed Butterworth, another camp treasure from EB's earliest years.)

A Rose by Any Other Name

You may have noticed that we have changed our name from Alumni to Association. Boardmembers felt that the new name better reflects the scope of our organization and the inclusiveness that we want to inspire. Any friend of Emerald Bay is welcome here!



Alumnus John Meyers makes a point as Paul Renner and others listen at the Barbecue.

Blazing Barbecue

The emerald green and yellow burgie flapped gently in the breeze, hanging from the picnic shelter in the seaside park on a recent cool October morning. The Emerald Bay Yacht Club burgie marked the location of the third annual Emerald Bay Alumni Barbecue hosted by the Emerald Bay Association on Saturday, October 23. Almost thirty alumni gathered on the cool, partially cloudy day to enjoy burgers, soft drinks and good company. Many of the attendees wore Emerald Bay staff jackets and staff shirts. Dave McAlister and Brad Rothenberg organized the event, with Dave's dad in charge of the grill. The burgers were grilled to perfection and enjoyed by all of the attendees. The Manta, in tip top shape after a recent haul out, was moored nearby and ready for tours for any interested Association members. Association jackets, burgies and other items were available for purchase.

All of the alumni who attended enjoyed spending time with their camp brothers. The event was free of charge

to current Camp Emerald Bay staff. The Association board hopes that providing free or low cost access to Association events will increase participation of younger members and current staff.

The idea of the barbecue was to provide an opportunity for fellowship for camp alumni. Providing activities that promote fellowship is one of the purposes of the Emerald Bay Association, which supports camp and the camp staff.

More events are planned in the future and the Association board hopes you will join us for future events.



Chef Dave McAlister prepares lunch.



Divers (from page 1)

in those days, often piggybacking on a garbage run, because it was easier to load the tanks on a truck than a boat.

The diving was spectacular, with

the usual great conditions at Catalina in the summer. Clear emerald colored water, good visibility, lots of fish and other animals and always interesting underwater terrain. The diving was also great because of the good friends that I

was diving with.

I continue to dive today in many of those same places, experiencing the same joy and excitement that I felt all those years ago. It never seems to get old for me. I am certain that if I had not worked at camp, I would not have embraced scuba diving and I would not be enjoying the sport today. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to provide service as a camp staff and to perfect my diving skills with good friends in a beautiful place.

- Bob Fenton, Editor

Where in Emerald Bay?



Where is this hole in the ground and why is it important? This is the Silver Mine, located in Bouchette Canyon. It can be reached by walking up the stream bed that runs next to the Nature area. A side trail leaves the stream bed and climbs the canyon wall to the mine. Entry to the silver mine has been closed, as it is now a protected bat sanctuary. However, no bats were sighted on a recent trip to the mine.



Calendar of Events

- Aug 13-14 Emerald Bay Alumni Reunion
- Jun 12 First Camping Session
- Aug 27 End of Last Session

Yes, I want to help raise funds 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 www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate.



Leeward

www.emeraldbayalumni.org

Images from the Summer Reunion



2010 Triathlon winner Pat McDonald in the middle, flanked by the second and third place finishers



Rich Wise leads the memorabilia auction during the reunion



Alumni preparing to explore the bay in a kayak



Larry Munson, John George, Ted Hatfield and Rod Wheeler

Emerald Bay Alumni
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Address Correction Requested