



# The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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## Leaders and Leading

Camp is a great place to learn how to be an effective leader. It was for me. I was fortunate to have had crew chiefs and directors who were good leaders and role models.

My first boss at camp was Bob Henzey. He was the Kitchen Crew Chief (when the kitchen was staffed by the Scouts.) and I was kitchen crew. It was 1973 and I was fifteen and away from home for the first time. This was my first job, not counting babysitting and mowing lawns. Bob was a demanding boss, expecting us to be on time, work hard and meet high expectations. If I did not perform as expected, Bob did not yell at me. Instead, he would point out how I could do better and work with me to finish cleaning the pot or mop the floor. I learned to work hard and take pride in my work, no matter what that work might be.

The following year, I worked on the maintenance crew and Bob was the Maintenance Crew Chief. He worked directly under the Resident Ranger, Bob McDermott. Our four-man crew worked on a variety of construction projects in addition to cleaning the kybos and collecting the trash. Bob McDermott taught us about basic plumbing, electrical and carpentry. He always found something positive to say about our work, even if we had made a mess of the project. He always made us feel that we were appreciated and part of a team, a family really, and that what we were doing was worth doing, even if it was pulling growlers from sewer pipes or sorting trash for the incinerators. We worked hard and we played hard too. We had special dinners at Parson's, lunch at Sandy Beach, soup and salad at Doug's and ate fresh elderberry cobbler (courtesy of Bob's wife Dorothy.) I learned that I could accomplish more as a member of a team than by myself and the power of positive reinforcement.

All of these experiences helped me to be a better leader when I finally was given some responsibility as the Business Manager in 1978. In those days the business (See **Leaders**, page 3)



Clif Stewart, Alumni Board Member, addresses the Alumni at the wine tasting.

## Successful Fundraiser

The invitation to the "Moonlit Nights and Crystal Waters" wine tasting at the Del Rey Yacht Club promised fine wine, good company and a beautiful setting. Participants of the event held on April 17 were not disappointed. Over 100 alumni and friends attended the event that was organized by Alumni board member Clif Stewart. Over \$9000 was raised for the Emerald Bay Campership Program which provides funding for disadvantaged children to attend camp. A large group of sponsors ensured that all of the money raised during the evening would be used to pay for camperships.

The evening began in the clubhouse of the yacht club. A variety of wines and non-alcoholic beverages were provided to eager tasters. Savory cheese, crackers and fresh fruit complemented the fine wines. The evening was hosted by Clif. He introduced each of the guest wine experts who talked about the wines they chose for the tasting. Alumni board members helped serve the wine and sparkling cider to the guests. Lee Harrison, Executive Director of Camp Emerald Bay, made an impassioned speech concerning the importance of the camperships and thanked

Alumni for their generosity. He explained that the campership program means that needy kids who otherwise might not be able to attend can experience the magic of a week at camp. In the background were slide shows of camp experiences provided by alumni.

Clif ended the evening by thanking the Alumni for supporting the event and generously contributing to the campership program. He also thanked the many sponsors who made the evening possible. Moonlit Nights and Crystal Waters was a highly successful evening enjoyed by all attendees. If you would like to make a donation to the campership program, please visit [www.emeraldbayalumni.org/winetasting](http://www.emeraldbayalumni.org/winetasting).



Sponsors who made the evening possible.



## Calling all Commissioners

Emerald Bay's large operation could not be successful without the continuing support and dedication from its volunteers, most of which come from within the EBA. This year we would like to take a step forward in the direct involvement of our adult alumni by encouraging them to volunteer their knowledge and skills during a week's time at camp as a volunteer commissioner. Historically, our volunteer commissioners have acted as ombudsmen for scoutmasters and Scout troops. The job is simple, but important. The commissioners address concerns before the concerns become bigger problems. This helps ensure a more positive camp experience that keeps the troops returning each year from all over the country.

Becoming actively involved in Emerald Bay's stellar program will also benefit our current staff. As most are aware, Emerald Bay is known for its hard-working and enthusiastic staff. By socializing with those newer to camp, you will be able to serve as a positive example of what an EB Staffer can strive to become. This will ultimately help the current staff understand the extent of how many people have been affected by Emerald Bay's traditions while integrating them into the EBA itself.

As a volunteer commissioner you will not be required to pay for anything. You will room with other commissioners in the volunteer cabin, or you can bunk in a tent or staff cabin if desired, pending availability. Not to mention you will be able to spend a week at Emerald Bay, enjoying the sun, the sea, and the fellowship. If you are interested, please email Adam Hunt, Assistant Program Director of Camp Emerald Bay at [ahunt@bsa-la.org](mailto:ahunt@bsa-la.org). Adam can provide more information to you, as well as get to know you a bit. Adam thanks you in advance for your support, and hopes to hear from prospective commissioners soon.



## Meet the new Camp Director

Dennis Ellis was initially attracted to Emerald Bay by the "passion" of everyone involved. "From the Scouts, to the staff and volunteers, every person I meet seems to overflow with love and passion for the camp," he has noted. He is looking forward to his first summer as the new Camp Director for Camp Emerald Bay. He has been working with Executive Director Lee Harrison during the winter and spring making sure that the off season academy sessions run smoothly and that camp is ready for summer. Recently, Dennis graciously answered some questions by email about himself and his expectations for Camp.

Dennis is not new to camp management. He has worked in a variety of camps, most recently with Comfort Zone Camps for bereaved children, where he was the Camps and Services Manager. In that position he had to recruit volunteers, campers and donors to support the camps. These experiences will certainly help Dennis accomplish his goals at Emerald Bay.

Dennis believes that the Emerald Bay program is capable of "changing young people's lives and creating leaders who are capable of making values-based decisions." He hopes to "offer more than merit badges during the summer program... where Scouts leave talking about when they can come back." Though he acknowledges that the program at Emerald Bay is amazing, he looks forward to working with his staff to improve it. New merit badges, revamping the Parson's experience and increasing opportunities for learning are on the agenda. Dennis says "It's my job to make sure that everyone has a safe, fun and memorable experience at camp."

As a newcomer to camp, Dennis is making it his mission to "get in touch with the culture of Emerald Bay." He said, tongue in cheek, that remembering everyone's name is his biggest challenge. On a more serious note, Dennis said that he "can't accomplish anything if I don't know the identity of Emerald Bay."

Dennis sees an important role for the Alumni in the future of Emerald Bay. He hopes to "actively engage the Alumni at every step of the way, learning from (See **Boss**, page 3)



**Boss** (from page 2)

their experiences and stories. Without knowing where Camp comes from, it would be impossible to help it move forward. From spreading the word to younger Scouts to improving camp itself,

we all have plenty of work ahead of us.”

Dennis’ energy, camping background and high standards will ensure that Emerald Bay will continue to grow and move confidently into the future.

## Where in Emerald Bay?



Where was this cluster of buildings and trees? This picture was taken from the back of the dining hall looking toward the back of camp in August of 2000. The freezer room, Program Shed and Handicraft Lodge/Staff Lounge are on the left. The Gail and Bucket of Bolts are on the right. All of these buildings and some trees are gone and the 223 Plaza and surrounding buildings, including the Handicraft lodge and Ship’s Store have taken their place.

**Leaders** (from page 1)

manager was in charge of all of the business areas, including the dining hall, kitchen, commissary, trading post and camp laundry. I am sure I made mistakes, but thankfully, staff gave me the benefit of the doubt and we muddled through. I learned that you can earn respect by working hard, being fair and acknowledging achievement, even if you aren’t perfect.

I have never forgotten these lessons in leadership that were imbedded in my camp experience. I believe that I am a better leader today because of that experience.

- Bob Fenton, Editor



### Calendar of Events

- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Jun 10    | - EBA Board Mtg  |
| Aug 14-15 | - Summer Reunion |
| Oct 23    | - Fall Barbecue  |

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 Alumni, P.O. Box 959. Venice, CA, 90294

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



*Leeward*

[www.emeraldbayalumni.org](http://www.emeraldbayalumni.org)

# Springtime on Catalina Island



View from the ridge toward Silver Peak



Adam Hunt leads a spring work party



The Dining Hall renovation is underway



A picture from a past spring at Emerald Bay

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Address Correction Requested