

The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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Thoughts About Summer in the Middle of Winter

It is raining and blustery and I know I am going to be wet and cold when I supervise students at dismissal. Meanwhile, I am trying to balance a budget that refuses to be balanced and find money to pay for an employee the District says is in an unfunded position. At least the student sitting in front of me, sent to my office for discipline, is willing to concede that he may have done something wrong, but claims it wasn't his fault. Normally, I enjoy my job as a school principal, but today I wish it were summer. No students, no budgets, no rain and a chance to get to Catalina.

I have a picture of Emerald Bay on my office wall and looking at it takes my mind off the rain and the budget and reminds me of past summer adventures on the island. I am transported back a few years ago, when I joined a few other alumni and staff for a snorkel off of Arrow Point. We talked a waterfront staff person in to taking us in a boat to the point. When we got there, the conditions were perfect. The kelp was on the surface and gently flowing eastward, indicating a mild current heading back to camp. The sun was overhead, lighting up the blue green water and bringing out the variety of colors underneath. We jumped in, off the boat, with snorkel gear, swim trunks and nothing else and began a glorious swim back to camp. The boat returned to camp and left us alone with the swirling kelp, crystal clear water, clouds of fish, rocks encrusted with ferns and sea grasses and all kinds of other (See **Thoughts** on Page 3)



The new Emerald Bay Alumni Campfire Circle nears completion. The stone seating will accommodate almost 750 campers.

EBA Campfire Circle Ready for Debut

The pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and the Great Wall of China are all impressive feats of construction but they pale in comparison to the recently completed Emerald Bay Alumni Campfire Circle at Emerald Bay. All of these wonders, including the Campfire Circle, are made of stone, constructed by hand and are larger than life. However, the construction of the Campfire Circle had an additional challenge that the other wonders did not have: all of the materials had to be transported to the site from the mainland by landing craft!

Resident Ranger Brian Pierce graded and prepared the site. Contractor Bob Hawkins and his crew of three men completed the outdoor amphitheater in about six weeks. The Campfire Circle is about 60 feet across at its widest point and is about 11 feet high. It has 11 rows that that can seat about 750 campers.

100 tons of gravel and 83 tons of stones were used in the construction. Each stone was set and leveled by hand and sits four inches deep into the ground. The color of the stones blends with the hillside. The semicircle now faces out into the bay, providing a dramatic backdrop and a beautiful view.

The formal dedication of the Campfire Circle will occur during the annual summer Alumni Reunion at Emerald Bay on August 15-16. All of the donors who made the new Campfire Circle possible will be recognized and thanked for their generosity.

The Emerald Bay Alumni Campfire Circle is a distinctive landmark in camp that will provide a distinguished and comfortable setting for campfires and other gatherings for generations to come. The stone arena is a visible and enduring symbol of the Alumni's commitment to Emerald Bay.



New Director is No Stranger to Camp

There is a new face in the Program side of camp. Though new to the program as the current program director, John Vrbanac is not new to camp. John was a camper in 1998 and a CIT in 1999. He then began a rise through the Business staff beginning with clerk, trading post manager and finally assistant business manager. He became the program director in 2008.

John works year round to make sure that the summer camp runs smoothly in the summer. Off season, he works with the camp director to hire staff, orders program supplies and uniform parts. He also works with groups who utilize the camp in the off season to make sure that they have the program they desire.

During the summer, he is responsible for making sure that the program areas of camp are providing high quality instruction and an excellent experience for campers. In a recent interview, John said that



Program Director John Vrbanac, left front, at attention.

making the program “the best it can be” is his mission. He wants to make sure staff morale is high and that the program staff has the tools and training to be successful.

Like many Emerald Bay staffmen, John met his best friends at camp. He said that camp people

are his favorite part of camp. He said it is “exciting” to see his friends (and the rest of the staff) at camp and work with them to provide excellent service to Scouts.

John hopes to develop new program for the future. He would like to begin a sailing program that would be part of the High Adventure program. He wants to extend “ethics and leadership” into more areas of the program. He wants to ensure that as many kids as possible can experience camp through camperships that would target underserved Scouting units.

John’s camp experience, motivation and leadership skills bode well for the future of the program at Camp Emerald Bay. He looks forward to being an important part of the administrative team and building the on season and off season program for the future.



John Vrbanac, facing forward on the right, on the Waterfront.



Tasty San Diego

Join alumni, friends and family for a tasty adventure in San Diego, California on Saturday, May 30. The Alumni have arranged for a beer

tasting at four breweries for 21 year old and over Alumni and guests. A bus has been chartered so participants can focus on the beer tasting. Visit www.emeraldbayalumni.org for more information, including the cost of the trip.

Where in Emerald Bay?



This building was used for various different functions over the years. The building was divided into two sections with the left part used as the Trading Post and the right part used as the Handicraft Lodge. Later, the Trading Post was moved to the other side of the road and the space was utilized as the Staff Lounge. The building was torn down and replaced with the current building that houses the Bike Shop and Handicraft lodge.

Thoughts

(From Page 1)

sea life. It was transcendent; I realized how fortunate I was to be able to experience this. When we finished our swim, we lingered in Doctor's Cove, not wanting to leave our perfect world.

"Uh, Mr. Fenton, I think that was the dismissal bell," my errant student spoke and brought me back from my revelry to my current reality. I admonished him one last time, grabbed my umbrella and went out to supervise dismissal. I wish it were summer.

- Bob Fenton, Editor

Calendar of Events

- May 30 - Beer Tasting
- Jun 7-13 - Pre-Week
- Jun 14 - First Session Begins
- Aug 15-16 - Alumni Reunion and Dedication of the Campfire Circle
- Aug 28 - Last Session Ends

Yes, I want to help the program 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.EmeraldBayAlumni.org.



Leeward

www.emeraldbayalumni.org

Images of Winter 2009 Construction



The beginning of the paved walkway to the new dining pavillion and plaza.



Rick Hawkins fits the stones in place in the campfire circle.



The site of the new dining pavillion behind the dining hall.



Emerald Bay in winter on a perfect day. Construction supplies are stacked on the beach.

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Address Correction Requested