



# The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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## Message from the Chair

The summer came and went with a whirl this year. It seems as though every year passes by faster than the last, perhaps that is because so many things stay the same and are reinforced by the last year. A couple of things were different this year - in a great big way. Before the beginning of the summer, we had a tremendously successful wine tasting event and we were subsequently able to contribute more to the campership program than we have ever been able to. I would like to think that this assisted in the next big milestone, the fact that camp had one of the largest weeks (attendance-wise) it has ever had. This year was also the largest turnout for Alumni weekend that we ever have had. During the alumni weekend we announced our commitment to purchase tents, cots, and mattresses for the camp and the response was tremendous! By the way, if you didn't get a chance to get involved in the tent fundraiser, please do so now. The Morimoto family has generously offered to match everyone's donations until the end of this year, so your contribution will go twice as far! Another big thing for us is our membership. It's GIGANTIC! Every year camp serves more people, there are more people on staff and the membership in our organization is also growing tremendously. As people within our membership generously donate their time, we are able to host more and more events serving our goals of both fostering fellowship and supporting camp. If you haven't done so already, check out the Facebook page for a Colorado ski trip!

Admittedly, some of these big new things come with some growing pains. Our transportation to and from the island this year for Alumni weekend was rough and (See **Chairman**, page 3)



Group photo taken at the 22nd Emerald Bay Alumni Summer Reunion.

## Rousing Run at Reuion

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual EBA Triathlon drew huge crowds to see if Pat McDonald could out-run the youngsters and capture yet another title. As the competitors toed the starting line, Pat graciously pulled out, volunteered to serve as a swim "spotter" and left the field wide open. From start to finish, it was Greg Walther! Known for his terrific swims, Greg was also super fast out of the transitions and never looked back. Hot on his heels was Giancarlo Hammer, followed by 13 year old Matt Marak, who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. As always, Lee "lightning" Harrison came in 5<sup>th</sup>. A couple of staff "teams" put up great numbers and the day's performance was capped off by Greg Misbach, who captured the "64 and older" title.

In the end, all the participants are to be commended for coming out to compete. A special thanks to the volunteers that make the race possible!

You are all invited to come out next year to cheer, volunteer or set your own personal record. Several prior champions are expected to come out for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual race next summer. Will Pat record another championship? Will Greg defend the title? Will some other staffman/woman take them all down? Will Paul Renner come out of retirement to crush them all? I look forward to seeing you all when we get the answer next August!

- Your race director, Rich Wise

## New Tents Needed at Camp

During the summer reunion weekend, we announced that our capital improvement project for this year is the purchase of additional tents. The camp is fortunate to be able to serve more people than it ever has before thanks, in part, to our contributions to the expansion and remodel of the dining hall, kitchen, campfire circle, and other capital improvements around the facility. One of the main limiting factors now is the number of beds available. This giving opportunity is \$800 to cover the cost of the tent, cots, mattresses, and platform that will house two scouts during the week-long stay at camp. These are a new type of tent, not the oiled canvas that has been in use for years. These new tents include

(See **Tents**, page 3)



## A Life Well Lived

It has been a great year for camp and the EBA. Still, we received some bad news that Ken “PeeWee” Wise passed away this summer. Ken was a camper and staffman at EB in the late 20’s through the mid 30’s. He was also an original member of the Islander, and was believed to be the oldest living staffman. He would have been 98 next month.

Ken was a terrific pen pal and often his recollections appeared in these pages. He marveled at the changes that have taken place in the camp and was fond of reminding us that the cost to attend camp in the 20’s, was either “a ton of newspaper or \$10....for a 10 day stay!”

Ken was a grad of the Coast Guard Academy and a naval officer during WWII on a “sub chaser,” engaged in combat in the South Pacific. He was also an Eagle Scout, Sea Scout Quartermaster and true renaissance man. Ken was an avid outdoorsman, wrote poetry, published two books, painted, enjoyed quilting and loved canoeing. During his lifetime he canoed more than 5,000 miles, including a trip down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, from Chicago to New Orleans, with fellow staffman Ercel Hart. The two of them got to their starting point by riding their (single speed) bikes from Santa Monica to Chicago!

On top of it all, Ken had a keen sense of humor and a huge love for EB. He often said his years at Camp were among his best. Ken leaves behind an extensive family, including his wife Marian. He will be sorely missed by his family, folks he met and those of us in the EBA. - Rich Wise

## Roll With It

There are many different opinions concerning how to correctly fold and roll up the tents in the backcountry. The goal is to take down the tent, store the poles and prepare it for winter storage. My way is to fold the tent in sections first with the ridgepole in place, place the uprights in the center of the folds and then roll the whole thing up. This method was taught to me by camp legends such as Bob Henszey and Jon Erickson and perfected over many years of practice.

Lee Harrison champions a different method that involves laying the tent flat with the ridge on one side and the bottom of the flaps on the other side, placing the poles on the inside of the ridge and rolling the whole thing up. Lee’s method is more popular, perhaps because he is the COO and in charge. However, I have noted that his method can result in a sloppy roll, with the poles prone to slip out.

Rolling tents is dusty, dirty, hard work no matter how it is done. It is not easy to ensure a tight, secure roll. Despite the effort, there is something satisfying in taking down a campsite and putting it away for the winter, returning the backcountry to a somewhat more natural state. I think it signals the end of the summer camp cycle and a somewhat slower “offseason” that allows both the environment and the staff to regenerate and prepare for a new season.

Newer tents are put up over a freestanding metal frame, replacing the older tents that relied on poles. When these tents are taken down for winter storage, they are pulled off the frames and simply folded up like bed sheets or towels. No fancy folding and rolling required. I fear that the art of tent rolling may go the way of eight-track tape players and pay phones, obsolete and not needed. I am saddened by the thought that I have this skill and knowledge that may no longer be needed or relevant. I am comforted, however, that this means that the camp is evolving and changing so that it will remain fresh and meaningful for the next generation.

- Bob Fenton, Editor



Lee Harrison demonstrates the proper way to roll a tent.



## Tents (from page 1)

ventilation, zippers for privacy, and a metal frame that makes them free-standing, more sturdy, and easier to maintain.

During the summer reunion, there was a tremendous response and many people

stepped up cover the costs of purchasing a tent including the Morimoto family who generously committed to match everyone's donations up to \$5,000! If you didn't get a chance to donate or pledge a donation, do so now before the end of the year and your money will go twice as far!

- Dave McAlister

## Where on Catalina Island?



This is the highest place on the west end of Catalina Island. Mike Craig is standing on the summit after a morning hike. The actual benchmark for the peak is on the east side of the hill, nestled against a rock. The trek to the peak is a great hike, offering views of both sides of the island the mainland, San Clemente and Santa Barbara Islands. What is the name of this high place? If you don't know, ask a ranger. No ranger handy? Silver Peak!

**Chairman** (from page 1) not what we were expecting. We learned our lesson with that one and won't be using that boat again. We now have multiple opportunities for financial contributions throughout the year. We formerly only did one big ask per year or every couple of years. We don't expect everyone to respond to every ask, rather we are hoping that the multiple opportunities to give will allow you to choose the cause that resonates with you the most, on a personal level. I enjoy donating to capital improvement projects such as the tent campaign, others have informed me that they get the most satisfaction from donating to the campership program, and others make larger gifts and have been very happy to contribute to the endowment and the long-term support that it represents. Please let me know what resonates with you, even if it is something that we aren't currently doing and I'm looking forward to another big year full of great big things!

- Dave McAlister

### Calendar of Events

Spring 2012	Wine Tasting
Jun 10	First Camping Session
Aug 11-12	Emerald Bay Alumni Reunion
Aug 18	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 [www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate](http://www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate).



*Leeward*

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

# Spring at Emerald Bay



Greg Walther, winner of the 2011 triathlon, is presented with the winners' plaque by Rich Wise, Race Director



Reunion participants Dave Lerew, Bob Fenton and Greg Weinstein in front of the Silver Mine and Bat Refuge.



Participants in the 2011 Triathlon



Dave McAlister, Chairman of the Emerald Bay Association, addresses alumni at the annual meeting.

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Address Correction Requested