



# The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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## Message from the Chair

### Summer is Here Again!

The 2013 summer session has begun, and that means the staff will begin setting up their areas and putting together lesson plans in the next couple weeks. It is during this time of the year that I remember scraping row boats, canoes, and docks then team-lifting those docks and precariously carrying them into the water.

Even if the new equipment out there is much lighter and doesn't require painting, the camaraderie of those first couple days working together is still out there. I am looking forward to being there soon for the beautiful weather, the clear water, and to see that new equipment and camaraderie in action. See you at the reunion!

- Dave McAlister, Chairman



A view of Emerald Bay from above the Pierce Family Chapel in late spring.

## 24th Annual Reunion at Emerald Bay

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Emerald Bay Association Reunion is scheduled for August 10-11 at Emerald Bay. Alumni and their families are invited to spend the weekend at camp and relive their glory days on staff and reconnect with camp friends. During the day, the waterfront and other program areas will be open. The camp store will be open for souvenirs and snacks. In the evening, there will be a special reception for adults and a campfire with smores for everyone. On Sunday, the Triathlon, the annual Association meeting and the fund raising auction will be held.

Complete Reunion information is contained in an insert in this issue. Join in the fun, sun and friends. See you on the island!

## A Conversation with the Program Director

Jesse Wygonik is the new Program Director at Camp Emerald Bay. Jesse took time from his busy schedule getting ready for camp to respond to a few questions.

### Q: What was your first encounter with camp?

I first heard about Camp from an Illinois State University website for Recreation majors to apply for internships. Kirk [Hetherington] called me one day in February for a phone interview, and then in March I was flown out here for an interview with Lee [Harrison] and Kirk. That was my first time in California let alone on the West Coast. About a week after my semester ended that May, I came to the island after a long day of travel. Four hours in the plane, then a shuttle to the terminal, then a boat ride to Avalon and finally the Grey Ghost to Camp. It was just after the fires on the Island that were at Avalon's doorstep in 2007 and Camp had no power. I quickly became great friends with Kara Taylor, who I hold closely to my heart. That summer I was the new guy when any alumni came to Camp, especially when the EBA showed up. Kara introduced me to Sara Hagerty, a former staff member who I ended up marrying on April 28th, 2012. Kara Taylor stood at our wedding with others while Brad Rothenberg preformed the service. I left the island with a new family to head home to Chicago. I thought I would start a life back there but it seems I was destined to stay here. We were living in Portland, OR and moved back down here for work, which is when I became part of the family again as Program Director.

(See Jesse, page 2)





## Growing Up Emerald Bay (Part 2)

(Part 2 of a two-part memoir written by Dr. Jeremy Hogan, Emerald Bay Staff and Camp Doctor. Part 1 appeared in the Winter 2013 Chronicle and can be found on the Emerald Bay Association Website at [www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org](http://www.EmeraldBayAlumni.org).)

When I was a young staffer, hearing Toby Sharp and Rich Wise talk about “Sounding a barbaric yawp,” and seizing the moment, really hit home. Emerald Bay was for me the real world; pure, without distractions. I came home from camp appreciating my family and friends, our home, the values and skills I had picked up at camp – and I was more confident about who I was and where I was going. I was in a troop back home (and set a record for number of merit badges, thanks to my time at camp), but it didn’t compare to being on the island. I still get a chill when nowadays I hear staffers sounding off a “yawp,” all these years later. What a great tradition.



The years after I was a staffer, when I was in college and then medical school, were more of a challenge to get out to camp; but I made it out, one way or another, every summer. In my last year of medical school, Mike Kelly actually sponsored a “wilderness medicine” course for me at Emerald Bay, which was really just an excuse to get out of the hospital and out on the Island with my dad for a week. Mike told me I must have been “smoking a Gabrielino peace pipe” to think I could get away with it, but I did. Really the camp had become a measuring stick for the rest of my life, a sort of constant – how special it was to come out, see all the familiar faces, sing songs and swim in the

ocean, and realize how much I had changed from the year, or the decade, before.

After twenty years of volunteering as Camp Doctor, my dad in 2001 “retired” and I took over for him. I was fortunate to be invited to serve as Camp Doctor as a young physician still in training in LA. I realized in those early years that to do a good job as a volunteer, it wasn’t really about what I knew; it was about making good decisions. Ironic, isn’t it, that that is exactly what the Camp tries to encourage in its campers and staffers? So, when for example I refused to stitch up the 5-inch laceration on a young man’s face, despite his own father begging me to do so (he got sent to a plastic surgeon in Long Beach), I felt confident I made a good decision. When Old Blackbeard had an irregular heart rhythm, I made a good choice and called his cardiologist to guide me.

It’s hard to believe it’s been twelve summers since my dad passed the camp doctor baton. Early-on, I would come with my dog, my father-in-law, my siblings, or often my parents – that sweet boredom and deliberate living still needed some company. In recent years I’ve started bringing my own (reluctant, dirt-fearing) wife, and now our two kids. How sweet it was, to see that same glimmer of interest in my own son’s eyes, when he “assisted” me in the Health Lodge after every dinner last summer. I think it was the first time he understood what “daddy” does in the office back home every day.

Besides volunteering, I’ve tried to donate to projects around camp, and I hope to do more of that in the future. I’m always excited to hear from Brian Pierce and Lee about what new buildings are going up, but also a little sad at the same time to see the changes. After thirty years, it’s an honor to still have a role at a place that has been such an important part of my own coming-of-age. I know everyone reading this has similar memories and sentiments; I look forward to preserving and contributing to Emerald Bay with you; but I hope I don’t see you in the Health Lodge this summer.

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**Jesse** (from page 1)

**Q: What is your vision for camp? Where do you see camp progressing in the next few years?**

My first and most important vision for Camp is making it the best it can be. It is a place with great opportunity for those who visit and has great resources from the staff and the landscape for the individuals who keep a special place in their heart for it. I want Camp to become a nationally known place and a troop’s destination to go for the summer, be it a once in a lifetime trip or every year. I want everyone to know about Camp Emerald Bay and the experience that follows the arrival to our shores.

**Q: What do you hope to accomplish at Emerald Bay?**

I plan on building a great staff and the next generation of staff. I want the people who work at Camp to have the power and knowledge to advance up the ranks and stay with camp for years to come. I want people who want to grow and give their all while they are doing it. I hope

(See Jesse, page 3)



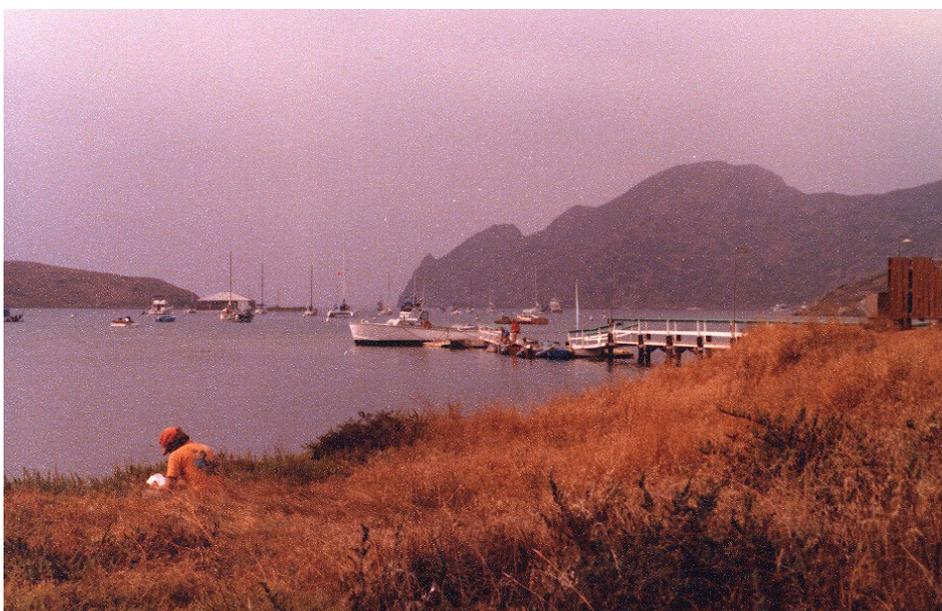
**Jesse** (from page 2)

to achieve all this by selecting the best people and training them for greatness.

**Q: Where does the Association fit into your vision and the future of camp?**

I see the Alumni as a great resource and something that is part of Camp. I will use each and every one of them as best I can. The Alumni are a fierce passionate storm that comes to Camp with the best intention for the Camp and its staff. I hope to tap that energy and knowledge letting the Alumni know that I am with them and to show current staff what this Camp means to others. If nothing else I am an Alumnus married to an Alumnus by an Alumnus, so I won't be forgetting them.

## Where on Catalina Island?



Where is this view on Catalina Island? The view is looking north. Need more hints? The building on the left side of the bay is used by a yacht club and is called Ballast Point. This particular harbor is considered a safe harbor in case of a storm. Give up? This is Catalina Harbor, about a half mile north of Isthmus Cove.



Motor boats secured to the floating dock sections at Emerald Bay.

### Calendar of Events

Jun 09	First Camping Session
Aug 10-11	Emerald Bay Alumni Reunion
Aug 17	End of Last Camping Session
Sept 28	EBA Dive and Barbecue

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)

# Summer Reunion 2012



Dan Bolton winning the 2012 Emerald Bay Triathlon.



Brian and Judy Pierce, center, admire the plaque at the dedication of the Pierce Family Chapel, that honors Brian's contributions to camp.



Lee Harrison addressing the Reunion participants before the memorabilia auction.



John Meyers is contemplating a bid at the memorabilia auction.

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Address Correction Requested