



The Emerald Bay Chronicle

Volume 24 Number 1

Published by the Emerald Bay Association

Fall 2017



Participants in the 2017 Emerald Bay Association Reunion pause for a picture on the EBA Plaza.

Record Breaking Reunion

Over 200 alumni and family attended the 2017 Emerald Bay Association Reunion which set a new attendance record. The weather was perfect, the water warm and the comradery overflowing for the weekend event. At the wine and cheese reception, it was announced that the Association was fund raising for the new Bike Shop. A family friendly campfire organized by John Meyers with smores ended the day.

On Sunday the 16th Annual EBA Triathlon was one for the ages! The top four racers all finishing within 30 seconds of each other. In the end, it was former champ (and newly engaged,) Greg Walther, holding off challengers to regain his 2011 title! Not surprisingly, Greg was the first out of the water with a blistering sub-10 min. swim. Reagan Whitney kept it close, exiting the water 6 seconds back and within a few lengths of Greg on the kayak. Eric Shaphran turned in the fastest kayak, clawing back a few minutes lost on the swim. Several runners looked to reel Greg in on the road back through camp. Running just under 7/min. miles, Michelle Gardenier ran out of real estate and finished 2nd, just behind Greg. Nick Phillips ran the fasted leg, crossing the line just mere seconds after Michelle, taking the last podium spot. Eric finished 6 seconds later, to notch yet another top 5 spot. A strong Team Porter finished just in front of Team (See **Reunion** on page 3)

So Long, It's Been Good to Know You: Camp Director John George Retires

Camp Director John George retired from Camp Emerald Bay at the end of the summer. He leaves behind a legacy of service and leadership that spans generations. He will be missed. The following article appeared in the Chronicle in 2012 when John was promoted to Associate Camp Director and is being reprinted as a tribute to John. Congratulations on a job well done.

Associate Director John George was a young Scout when he visited Emerald Bay for the first time more than a half century ago with Santa Monica Troop 2, led by the legendary Scoutmaster Keith Monroe. Keith's lessons on leadership must have made an impression on young John, as he would return to Emerald Bay many times in various leadership positions including Field Sports (See **John George** on page 2)

Memorabilia Donations

One of the great parts of being involved with the EBA is the chance to connect with old staffers that we've not seen and/or heard from, in many years. Occasionally we hear from folks who can't make the events, but connect by sending a note, check or "care package" to the EBA P.O. Box. This year, Four (4) boxes arrived at the P.O. Box...containing Donations of Staff Memorabilia for the ANNUAL EBA AUCTION.

A special Shout Out to the following:

1. Kevin O'Connor (Staff 1997) - Rangers;
2. Brett Doney (Staff '75, '76 & '78); A/R, Ranger and Ranger Dir.;
3. Bob Cook (Staff mid 80s- early 90s) Ranger, Ranger Dir, Biz Dir, and Program Dir;
- and 4. Ed White (Staff 46-49); EB Staff and Ship 16 Crew.

These 4 donated a trove of neckerchiefs, jackets, patches, t-shirts, slides..etc. Many hundreds of dollars were raised on just their items, for which the EBA is extremely grateful!

If you have (valuable) memorabilia you wish to donate to help us raise funds for EB, package them up and send them to the EBA -P.O. Box 959 Venice, CA 90294. Those items that do not sell at the Annual EBA Auction will be put into future EBA auctions, or given to the EB Program Director for sale at the weekly Auction. Thanks in advance.

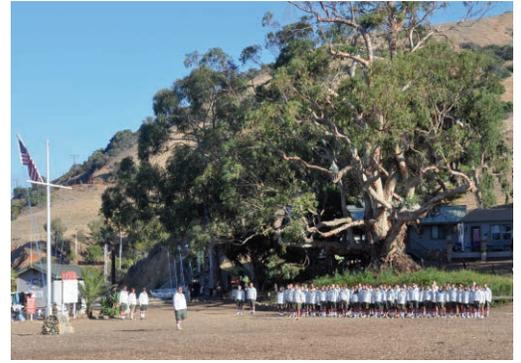
- Rich Wise, Board Member





Requiem for a Tree

The giant Eucalyptus tree that greets visitors as they leave the main pier is iconic. The already large and spreading tree can be seen in the earliest photos of Emerald Bay, predating the camp. It is a landmark that is immediately recognizable by staff and campers. The tree is where campers are told to wait to receive instructions or for a shore boat. Generations of staff have assembled under the shade of its massive branches for colors and meetings. It has stood sentinel on the bluff above the main pier enduring winter storms, summer heat and thousands of kids climbing in its branches. The tree has provided a dramatic backdrop for countless personal, area and staff photos. The tree has been a silent witness to the construction and reconstruction of the buildings on both North and South Hills. The giant eucalyptus is the first thing I notice when I am in a boat and enter the bay. I always thought that this grand tree that is forever linked in my consciousness with Camp Emerald Bay would always be there.



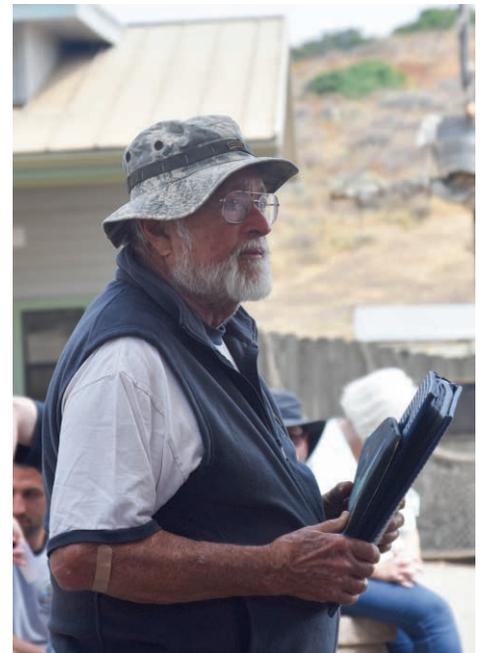
An old camp friend, Oscar Sanchez, who is an arborist, told me years ago that the tree was troubled. He told me that trees have a life cycle, like dogs and cats and human beings. He thought that the tree was reaching the end of its life cycle. I remember seeing some dead branches and noticed that there seemed to be fewer leaves, but the tree seemed to persevere. There always seemed to be some green on its extensive canopy. I assumed, even if it was somewhat diminished, it would be there for hundreds of years, at least through my lifetime.

I learned this past summer that I was wrong. When we arrived for the reunion in August, the tree was brown and seemed lifeless. Recent pruning had left it with fewer branches and a truncated canopy. The enormous trunk was still firmly implanted in the hillside and the main branches still extended from that trunk, but the thick green canopy was gone. I asked what was going to happen with the tree. There was talk about cutting it down and making things with the wood. I wonder if they might plant another tree in its place. The new tree, over time, could become a place to meet or a background for pictures. For me, a new tree will never replace the giant eucalyptus that I thought would always be there.

- Bob Fenton, Editor

John George (from page 1)

Director and Camp Director. In 1981, John's son Peter was working in the Handicraft lodge and John came to camp to volunteer. The next summer he was asked to be the Camp Director and would serve in that position for three years. He took a break overtown and then returned in 1990 to run the Rifle Range. In 2002, John returned as the Assistant Camp Director. In 2007, John was elevated to the position of Associate Director of Ethics and Leadership, a year-round position. John graciously took some time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions about Emerald Bay for the Chronicle.



Q: What keeps bringing you back to Emerald Bay?

A: The reward of watching people grow is huge. Sometimes a kid that goes 'Oh...' and shoots better at the range or a staff member who thinks he will not make it, doing a good job leading other Scouts... knowing I put a little water on the tree.

Q: What is your vision for the future?

A: I know we can do more to teach leadership. [I want to see] full weeks of Scouts receiving high quality instruction where we teach more leadership. I want people to believe in responsibility and in freedom and in what we say when we recite the Oath and Law. I am dedicated to learning and living to a much higher degree the values of Scouting expressed in the Oath and Law.

Q: What is the importance of the Alumni for the future of camp?

A: I've watched the [Emerald Bay Association] grow from a few guys who were dedicated to camp and supported camp to the best of their ability to be a huge organization that now does wonderful things that a large group can do. The Association helps keep Camp together emotionally and spiritually as well as physically. The Alumni seems to keep the spirit of Emerald Bay alive. Thousands of candles that are the individual memories of camp are pulled together by the Alumni into a great flame, bringing those candles together into a much brighter flame. These are people who love camp and are good for the camp.



Reunion (From page 1)

Schemer/Porter II, with Team Bauman/Hudson taking the 3rd Team spot. David Craig settled the issue against brother Matthew in the “sibling division” and Lee Harrison finished 7th, after being stomped by Peter Bauman and EBA President, Andrew Kilgore. A special thanks to BFF Photography, our official timekeeper Greg Weinstein, and all the volunteers who make the race possible!

You are all invited to come out next year to cheer, volunteer or set your own personal record. Several past champions are expected to toe the line for the 17th Annual EBA Triathlon. Will Greg defend his title? Will Kenneth (aka “Axe”), Eric, or one of the current staff run him down? Will Paul Renner make good on his threat to “tie one arm behind his back and crush them all?” We look forward to seeing you all when we get the answer next August!

-Your Race Director, Rich Wise



Bowled Over for Bowling

Emerald Bay Bowling was a great success. Around 20 current and former staff joined us for a rumpus time at the lanes of Bowlero Mar Vista on September 30. Clint, aka Mike's dad, won the day with a 165. But it was not the scores that mattered but rather the fellowship (and comrades lasting?) that were enjoyed throughout the event. Rich Wise remarked that it was "really fun" and "a good mix of older and younger staff." More Emerald Bay bowling is sure to be planned.

Where in Emerald Bay?



Where was this wall full of graffiti? If you look closely, the graffiti is the names of staff and dates they served at camp. There are names and dates from the 1940s to the early 2000s. This was part of an interior wall in the Program Shed which was a bunk room and later a storage room until it was torn down to make space for the Pavillion between the Dining Hall and Handicraft Lodge.

Calendar of Events

- June 10, 2018 First Camping Session
- August 18 End of Last Camping Session
- August 18-19 Emerald Bay Alumni Reunion



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 EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate.



Scenes from the 2017 Summer Reunion



Reunion participants enjoy snorkeling, swimming and sunning on a perfect day at Doctor's Cove.



Greg Walther, the first place finisher in the 2017 Emerald Bay Triathlon, exits his kayak to begin the run portion of the race.



2017 Emerald Bay Triathlon participants are tired but happy with their athletic achievement.



Former camp directors from left to right: Kirk Hetherington, Lee Harrison, John George, Rich Wise and Lane Calvert

Emerald Bay Association
P.O. Box 959
Venice, CA 90294

Address Correction Requested