



# CYMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

Fall 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 2



## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion



1940's - 1950's

Back Row: Bill Kanowsky, Howard Miller, Con Keller, Warren Miller  
Front Row: Judy Hicks, Marcia Martin, Leonard Schlamp

Wow, what a day we had! Thanks to the approximately 150 folks who were able attend our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. We had a great turn out with every decade represented. Give a shout out to alum who made the journey from as far away as Colorado, North Carolina, Texas and Florida. The day started with alum and their families participating in all the traditional camp activities – everything was open from horseback to the blob to archery and the water-zipline. It was great to see 2 and 3 generations of camp families enjoy camp together.



1950's - 1960's

Back Row: Mark Fraser, Steve Fritz, Tom Elsner, Karsten "Yogi" Rilying  
Front Row: Terry Yunker, Greg Faith, Bill Kanowsky, Dan DeMuth

Late afternoon, former camp directors, Steve Fritz and Terry Yunker spoke to our alum about camp today. They were able to share that even though some of the buildings and many of the programs have changed the atmosphere and core of camp has remained the same. Relationships between counselor and camper are still the key to what makes camp a success – it was true in 1940 and still rings true in 2009. Alumni were invited to share their camp stories which brought on a lot of laughs and smiles and a reminder that what happens at Camp Carson, stays at Camp Carson. Steve then introduced our "Bridge Builders" Heritage Club. (See additional article in this newsletter.) That brought us to the dinner hour and a traditional camp meal of fried chicken and a smorgasbord of desserts prepared by Jerri Vanpatten – current camp cook who has been keeping us well fed for the past 27 years.



1960's

Back Row: Cathy Schafer Sheets, Gerry Schafer Meyer, Bill Kanowsky, Bob Fenneman  
Front Row: Bill Carson, Leonard Schlamp, Bob Kerney  
Foreground: Barbara Holding

After dinner the remaining group gathered in Eddie Edwards Lodge (air conditioning ☺) for an informal Hootenanny gathering and sharing of camp songs new and old.

Enjoy the comments from a few of our alum who were able to attend.

For more photos and news about the day, visit our website at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) and click on the Alumni tab. Lance Morton has created a fantastic alumni link and Mark Fraser has put together a slide show of his impressions of the day – all worth a look.



1970's

Back Row: Tom Elsner, Gary Toon, Herb Fiester, Lance Morton  
Front Row: Sherry Beth Reed, August Neal, Aggie Kanowsky Waninger, Susie Kollker Bala



1980's

Back Row: Gary Toon, Dan Rausch  
Second Row: Herb Fiester, Lance Morton, Jason McKinney  
Front Row: John Hall, Heather Lejman, Heather Fiester Cullen, James Cullen



1980's-1990's

Left to Right: David Maasberg, Ines Illarramendi Naar, Tony Schnell, Jason McKinney, Summer Harrison



It was great to be able to attend the 70th Reunion at Camp Carson. Camp was in terrific shape. It was fun to see the new things that camp offers and talk about the old things that we remember as campers and staff. The best part was hearing about how much camp meant to everyone - it was always much more than just a summer camp - it was a place to grow as a person. I can't wait for the next one! - **Aggie (Kanowsky) Waninger Camper 1963-1974 Staff 1975-1976**



I had not been back to camp since 1967, and I had not kept up with other staff. So returning was something of an adventure. I drove up from Chapel Hill, NC, on Thursday and arrived in late afternoon on Friday. Couldn't wait for Saturday when the reunion started, and so I drove out to camp and took a peek on Friday night. Although there have been rough times, camp appears to be well cared for.

I had a great time seeing campers and staff that I knew and worked with from the 70's and 80's and meeting some of the staff from many years ago. Seeing Jerri Vanpatten in the dining hall serving meals was a pleasant surprise!! Jerri has been there 20+++++++ years. The story telling at the end of the day was neat. I met some of the culprits in stories I had heard long ago. Many songs were sung in the Eddie Edwards Lodge and people from all generations gave reflections of why camp was special to them. No matter who talked, or what generation, it seemed like I could relate with all the stories. - **Tom Elsner Camper 1973-1977 Staff 1978-1983**

On Saturday, we checked in at the Eddie Edwards Lodge. Eddie would be proud. It is beautiful. It has a small "history" room which houses pictures and memorabilia. There's probably a picture of you. It also houses the Leonard Schlamp Canteen. Without Leonard (who attended the reunion - see the slide show on the website), it is still a hot spot. Sadly, no one takes canoe trips on the Patoka River ... or the White or Wabash for that matter. The camp is now coed. This seems to help the singing in a major way. Staff sang songs from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. They have the same energy and spirit de corps that we had.

Dear Mark and Debra,

I wanted to thank you again for letting us be a part of Camp Carson this summer. After spending many summers at Camp Carson as a camper and staff member, I was thrilled

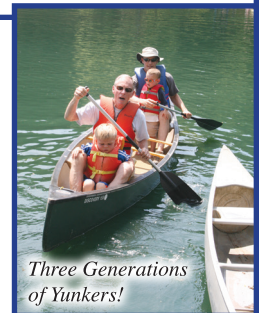


to have my children experience its magic. Working with the staff was amazing and watching them work with my kids was even better still. We all took away something no amount of money could ever buy and no amount of time could ever take away.

For me, the best part of the reunion was hanging out around Edwards Lodge and seeing old friends. What are we like as former staff members? Well, I think that the answer is we are somewhat larger but still mostly in shape for our ages, we have continued to serve the ideals of the Y in one way or another, and we are interesting people. We recall eating fried spam, cleaning the grease trap, rescuing kids during AA swim tests, sailing on the lake before storms, capture the flag games across the lake, and candle-light ceremonies on Friday night. Camp was magic then and the magic continues today. - **Mark Fraser Camper 1956-1960 Staff 1961-1967**

The culmination to our amazing two weeks at camp was the Camp Carson 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion. This definitely was the icing on the cake. Seeing old friends (most of whom I haven't seen in years) made me realize what an impact camp truly does have on our lives. Seeing them was like seeing long-lost family. Nothing between us has really changed. They are still the people I want to sing songs with, the people I feel comfortable being goofy with, the people I want to sit around and share stories with. We all may have a few more wrinkles, but we all are still those crazy camp counselors who (at the time) didn't realize that not only were we changing the lives of the campers, but we were building a bond with each other that would last a lifetime.

I just wanted to say that my family and I had a great time at Camp during the Celebration. All the activities and the food were great. My kids loved the horses and the zip line at the lake. It was nice to see familiar faces after so many years. Working at Camp Carson was one of the most rewarding experiences I ever had living in the States and I'm very thankful that I had the opportunity to share that with my husband and kids. Like my kids will say "Camp Carson Rocks". - **Ines Illarramendi Naar Staff 1992-1993**



It was a rewarding experience, talking with multi-generational staff members and seeing friends from the past reinforced the importance of Camp Carson. Sharing the memories and environment of camp with my children ensures the next generation will understand the meaning of Camp Carson. Thank you for coordinating this event. - **James Cullen Camper 1981- 1984 Staff 1985-1989**

What an honor it was to be part of the new and the old members of the Camp Carson family this summer. Thank you for making that happen. You are both profound at your jobs and true blessings to those who hold Camp Carson so dear to their hearts. Sincerely, **Susie (Kollker) Bala Camper 1971-1978 Staff 1979-1984** Volunteered for 2 weeks summer 2009 as pottery and clay art projects instructor



... Camp looked great. The facilities and property were in great shape and brought back a lot of memories; it was great to see and remember how glorious Camp is in the summer. It was nice to see my friends, many of whom I have not seen in a long time, back with their children enjoying Camp Carson. Hearing all of the stories that were told really let me know that Camp Carson is a very special place to many people for many different reasons. - **Herb Fiester Camper 1973-1981 Staff 1982-1989**

## Become a Bridge Builder

Join the Heritage Club and make an investment in the YMCA Camp Carson General Endowment Fund.

We invite you to become a member of the Bridge Builders Heritage Club and help preserve the legacy of Camp.



The Heritage Club is a group of individuals who have made a *lasting investment* in our camp community through their commitment to the YMCA Camp Carson General Endowment Fund. Becoming a member requires a commitment, *which now, or in the future*, will add to this fund. *Options include outright gifts, life insurance proceeds, will bequests, and charitable trusts.*

The endowment fund functions in the following way.

1. Care is given to protect the fund through wise investment overseen by the Endowment Committee.
2. Each year camp will withdraw and utilize a *pre-determined percentage of the interest* earned that year. Percentage criteria is based on the performance of the fund. Years with lower yields will result in smaller withdrawals.
3. Specific criteria is also established for how the proceeds of the endowment fund will be used at camp.

Currently the fund sits at about \$200,000.00. It is our desire to bolster this fund which will enable us to have a permanent means of funding camp's needs now, and more importantly, for decades to come. *It is our belief that this fund is the single most sustainable and reliable source of income on a long term, consistent basis.*

*We invite you to participate in this fund which will help us protect, expand and continue the legacy of camp for the next 70 years and beyond! All gifts are tax deductible.* If you have questions about the YMCA Camp Carson General Endowment Fund, please do not hesitate to contact our office or *visit our website at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) and click on the How to Give tab on the welcome page.*

## The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim –  
That sullen stream had no fears for him,  
But he turned, when he reached the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old Man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“You are wasting strength in building here.  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you the bridge at eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,  
“There followeth after me today,  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”

-Will Allen Dromgoole

## 2009 Kniese Scholarship

Established by camp alum, August Neal, in memory of Mark Kniese and his incredible passion for kids and life, the **Mark Kniese Memorial Scholarship** is a \$4000.00 academic scholarship awarded to one Camp Carson staff member each summer. Our summer counselors are asked to nominate a peer who most exemplifies the core values of the YMCA – Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith. This year it came down to a tie vote. We are pleased to announce the summer of 2009 recipients – **Ryan Spall and Stephen Cowart.**

Ryan ran our summer dirt bike program which involves teaching a new group of 10 campers each week. Riding skills are taught by using the 21 lesson NYPUM curriculum. (See more about NYPUM in the feature article in this newsletter.) Ryan's success as an instructor is demonstrated by the positive results we see in his campers. Each child receives the benefit of his patience, enthusiasm, kindness, and thoroughness. Ryan says his favorite aspect of camp life is seeing how kids change and grow and the progress they make in just one week. He is truly a treasured member of our staff and we are grateful for his gifts in running a fun, safe and exciting dirt bike program. Ryan is currently attending Ivy Tech in Evansville, Indiana to complete his general studies and then plans to continue at USI to obtain a degree in elementary education.

Stephen is quite the outdoorsman with a big heart for kids. He assisted in leading many of our teen leadership programs this summer. His charisma and sense of humor meets well with this age group and many are the lives touched by his giving nature. We see a true reflection of Stephen's personality when he shares his favorite memory - mud hikes and the pure joy on the children's faces as they push their counselor in a mud hole. Stephen's faith is also very important to him and he believes that the camp setting provides the ideal non-threatening environment for open discussion with the campers. He is currently attending Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia with Outdoor Education Leadership as his course of study. When asked about his favorite aspect of camp life, Stephen says he especially appreciates the community and closeness of the staff and the bond developed with the children.

We once again offer our congratulations to these deserving members of our staff. *Learn more about Mark Kniese and the Mark Kniese Scholarship. Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org).*



Back Row Left to Right: Norman Kniese, Stephen Cowart, Ryan Spall, Skip Kniese  
Front Row Left to Right: Marti Kniese, August Neal

## VOLUNTEERS AND FALL WORK PROJECTS AT CAMP



*During the United Way of Southern Indiana Day of Caring, these Payless Shoes employees volunteered by giving much needed attention to the landscaping around Eddie Edwards Lodge. Many thanks for the fantastic results of their hard work.*

Hats off and many thanks to the Toyota Logistics Services (TLS) employees who have taken on many projects here at camp over the past few months. Due to tough economic times early this spring, the Princeton Toyota plant made the decision to slow down production. As a result, the daily services provided by TLS employees were also reduced. Avoiding layoffs, TLS continued to pay their employees' salaries and their man power was made available for work projects in our community. We were blessed to be one of the recipients of their generosity.

TLS employees have volunteered literally hundreds of hours since the spring. They built exterior stairways on the Grandview Cabins, painted buildings, reroofed the Dining Hall, spent hours mowing, painted the inside of the cabins, remodeled the NYPUM classroom/shop, built a mountain board storage shed, renovated and relocated the athletic shed, cleared trails and built bridges, supervised the LIT bridge-building project,

gave the Chapel a complete facelift, added a storage rack to the canoe dock and painted a mural from one end of the game room to the other. They are currently assisting Lyn, our Property Manager, with building steps, a retaining wall and a new beach and deck area between the bottom of the zip line and the canoe dock. This will be their final project at Camp before returning to their previous workplace. Thank you TLS!



*One of our fall work projects included giving the chapel a facelift. TLS employees assisted our Property Manager, Lyn DeLozier, in making the following improvements: new concrete steps to replace the concrete ramps, new YMCA Body, Mind, Spirit sign, spot lights, handrails all around with rope lights, a new roof and siding and everything pressure washed and stained for a fresh new look.*



*Gibson County United Way Volunteers stain stairway built by TLS employees*



*TLS employees attach a storage rack to the canoe dock enabling canoes to be flipped and stored at the end of each day eliminating water-filled canoes!*



*Randy Guillian of TLS provided the artistic talent which transformed the plain white walls of our game room into a mural stretching from one end of the room to the other. Visit our website for photos of all the murals completed.*



*Toyota Logistics Services (TLS) employees from top step down: RobWatkins, Richard Smithhart, Jeremy Wilkins and Mike Wright.*



*To prevent further erosion of the beach area at the bottom of the zip line, a sea wall is being built. Stairs will also be added at the zip line to make it easier to exit. Decking will be added at the sea wall and canoe dock area to provide "meeting" space and ease in entering the activity area.*

# Motivating & Encouraging Youth in our Community Through NYPUM

## (National Youth Project Using Minibikes)



**ITS NOT ABOUT THE DIRT BIKES, IT'S ABOUT OUTREACH** Many of our families are familiar with our summer dirt-bike program but may not realize the program is actually part of a much larger, year round **youth outreach**. To understand the NYPUM (National Youth Project Using Minibikes) program, the first thing to recognize is this - it's not about the bikes. It's about using the bikes as a tool to help children/teens reach their full potential and design their own success story.

**HISTORY & HONDA SPONSORSHIP** The program began in 1969 when American Honda Motor Co., Inc. donated 10,000 minibikes to the YMCA. They recognized that some children were not interested in traditional sports and didn't respond to other youth services, but the lure of the outdoors and the experience of riding minibikes generated significant

interest. NYPUM presently operates 46 programs in urban, suburban and rural communities from Los Angeles to Boston.

**PROGRAM DESIGN** One of our user group leaders, **Greg Allen, at Impact Ministries in downtown Evansville** explains how it works. *"NYPUM is committed to safely and methodically using the dirt bike training and riding experience to engage children, to provide opportunities for mentor relationships, and to actively cause the child to adjust his behavior by committing to a mutually-agreed-upon contract of acceptable behavior—at home and at school."* Each young person meets with their leader to set specific goals and deadlines to meet those goals. These goals can be anything from attending school, completing school classwork and homework, refraining from engaging in negative or self-destructive behaviors in and out of school, to showing respect towards their peers, teachers, parents or authority figures. A progression of steps is set in place to enable them to meet their goals in measurable ways. **When they meet their goals, by keeping up their end of the contract, they are rewarded with riding time in the dirt bike program.**

**RESULTS** We believe this self designed contract process is vital to the success of the participants as they strengthen their character and confidence. As a result of improving their decision making skills, learning self control and being accountable for their own actions, they are able to build positive conduct and relationships in all aspects of their lives. Greg at Impact Ministries adds, *"there is tremendous potential to influence the behavior of a child (or an adult male apparently) when using the bike riding experience as leverage. This experience has allowed us to form a bond at a deeper level than our typical after-school activities. On the way home from riding one afternoon, a street bike passed us and Brennon said, 'Hey Mister Greg, we could do that! Let's go on a trip. You, me, Javion, and Traquin.' The fact that he included me in 'the group' indicated we had become a band of friends. Our unofficial group leader was the first to find out what happens when someone doesn't keep their part of the contract. He misbehaved in school and was not allowed to go on a riding trip. He and the other boys learned that day where the boundaries were. I don't believe he'll cross them again."*



**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTOR TRAINING** The dirt bike riding instruction was designed by the Motor Cycle Safety Foundation and NYPUM. Each participant is required to complete the **21 riding lessons** outlined in the NYPUM curriculum. This curriculum focuses on safety and riding skills specific to off-road riding. **Students begin with basics of bike mechanics and move through to riding clutch control bikes, balance, counterbalance, hillside maneuvers, crossing obstacles and more.** Once the 21 steps are covered and a certain set of skills are demonstrated, students are taken out on the **forest trails at camp**. As their riding skills increase, the level of difficulty is raised. (We're **not** teaching **motocross** so we never get into teaching, nor do we permit, students to do jumps or wheelies!) The program also engages the young people in **trail maintenance and community service projects**. Our lead instructor (CNI –Certified NYPUM Instructor) is required to attend a 6 day, 40+ hour NYPUM training course. Assistant instructors (TSS – Track Safety Supervisor) must complete the 21 lessons and then are able to supervise trail rides.



*Greg Allen, Executive Director at Impact Ministries, with his NYPUM guys.*

**BIKE, HELMET & STORAGE SUPPLIERS** Honda provides the dirt bikes on a 3-4 year rotating basis. Helmets are supplied by camp and must meet specific safety criteria set by NYPUM. We are blessed to have a **partner in Evansville's West Side Honda Kawasaki** dealership who graciously made these costs as well as the **bike repair costs manageable**. When our program had the unexpected opportunity to expand late this spring, we had not budgeted to buy 15-20 new bike helmets, goggles etc., **West Side Honda Kawasaki** stepped up to the plate and **saved us close to a \$1000 in helmet and goggle purchases alone**. Thanks to their staff for helping with this outreach to the youth of southern Indiana. We have also placed two large pod-like storage containers at camp so that the bikes are secure when not in use. **Thanks to Kent and Clint Harrison at Harrison Storage Solutions for their help in securing the storage containers.**

**CURRENT AND POTENTIAL GROUPS AT CAMP** In addition to our **summer program and Impact Ministries** already mentioned, the **YMCA of Southern Indiana** also began their NYPUM program this summer using our site for the riding portion. The **Outreach Branch** our own association, the **YMCA of Southwestern Indiana**, have already put their instructors through the necessary training and will be utilizing this program in the near future. We are also in discussion with **Sheriffs' Departments, school systems and other YMCA's** to see how this program may benefit their youth outreach efforts. All have expressed interest and we look forward to serving the community in partnership with these organizations.

**COSTS INVOLVED** The summer fees not only cover summer operational costs, but also help cover the year round insurance fees and annual dues. **The operational costs for the program during the rest of the year are raised through donations and grants as the intent of the outreach work is that kids do not pay to ride.** It costs approximately \$350.00 to sponsor 1 student for the 10 weeks of the initial program.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- **Take the 21 lessons to become a Track Safety Supervisor (TSS)** and be available to **chaperone trail rides** at camp.
- If you live within 1-2 hours of camp, **share this opportunity with youth organizations in your community**. Building strong kids, strong families and strong communities is the core of the YMCA mission.
- If you have any **bike mechanical background** and would be interested in volunteering to help on the mechanical end of the program upkeep, there's a lot to do keeping 25+ bikes running safely.
- **Sponsor a student** through the program. **\$350.00** will cover the costs of 1 student to participate for 10 weeks – the length of the initial program.
- Become an **annual "Bike Sponsor"** – we'll place your family/company name as a sponsor on a bike for a year.
- **Sponsor Riding Shirts** – we'll place your family/company name as the sponsor on the shirts purchased.
- **Sponsor a 7' x 16' enclosed bike trailer** that will enable us to more effectively bring the program to communities around the tri-state when they can't come to us. Cost \$5,000 - \$6,000 (Sponsor recognition will also be placed on trailer.)
- **Sponsor an advertising wrap** for the trailer. Cost approx \$3,000.00. (Sponsor recognition will also be placed on trailer.)

# YMCA Camp Carson

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## Executive Director

Mr. Mark Scoular

## Another Successful Summer 2009

With everything else going on, we don't want to forget about summer camp 2009! It just gets better every year. Forever memories are made as campers and staff nurture new and old friendships. We could never cover a whole summer in this newsletter, but visit our website for an inside look! Go to [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) and click on the News tab on the welcome page.



*Registrations are  
already rolling in  
for 2010!*