



TRAIL CALL

An annual newsletter from Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

Winter 2011



A Tale of Two Campers

This summer, a new camper, we'll call Sarah, came to resident camp. She had never been to camp before and possibly not even to church. Her mother and grandmother had wonderful experiences at RMMC and wanted her to experience the same thing. Sarah knew no one else at camp and didn't look like she was expecting to have a good time. By Friday night's talent show, she was smiling, laughing, and showing off her singing voice. She had bonded well with her counselor and cabin mates and seemed to enjoy herself, really soaking up all the camp had to offer. Sarah left a different girl than when she arrived.

Another camper, we'll call Annie, attends church regularly, goes to Sunday school, and has come to camp for the past eight summers. The camp experience could be "normal" for her, but it's not. This summer Annie said was the best year yet. Not only were the activities, hikes, and crafts fun, but the chapel times got into the "harder, deeper stuff" which she really enjoyed. Camp for her seems to get better and better.

Regardless of the camper's background, our hope is to create a place where we can grow as Christ-followers, daily living out our faith.



Campers work together to un-knot themselves during the Human Knot exercise. This was part of the "Amazing Race", an all camp activity involving team challenges.



www.rmmc.org

Did you know you can register online for all Resident, Wilderness, Family camps, and select adult retreats? It makes registration fast and easy.



Mennonite Disaster Service Joins Rocky Mountain

While there wasn't a disaster that needed responding to, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and the Hesston College Disaster Management program partnered with Rocky Mountain in creating a month-long youth project site. For the month of June, three youth groups served a

week in providing much needed fire mitigation which was highlighted when a stage 2 fire ban was issued because of extremely dry conditions. As a result, chainsaw use was prohibited so volunteers learned handsaw and ax skills to cut down trees. Other major projects included new roofs for the girls' quonsets, staining the Rocky Ridge log cabin, replacing and building stairs on various trails, as well as digging holes and setting posts for signs and fences. Equally important was the opportunity for participants to experience and learn about what MDS is/does, servant mindedness, and creation care in an ideal setting.

Special thanks to Paul Unruh, MDS Board member & volunteer, who was joined by MDS Volunteers Leah Rittenhouse and Mandy Kanagy (two recent Hesston College disaster management program graduates) and Mark Yoder (Cotapaxi, CO) who coordinated the program. For project logistics, Tom Unruh & Spike Hostetler were instrumental in providing needed project instruction, equipment and supplies.

Leah & Mandy reflected "It was fun as leaders to get to know the youth groups and witness each youth member strengthen relationships with each other as well as with God. Waking up in the midst of the Colorado Rockies made it impossible not to praise God with your first breath." A youth volunteer from Leoti, KS, said of their experience, "It was a great place to work and be close to God!"



Paul Unruh observes as Leah Rittenhouse and Mandy Kanagy use a whip saw to fell a dead tree.

Wilderness Camp Adventures

Colorado is a beautiful place to explore and our Wilderness campers do just that. Campers in grades 6-12 experience the great outdoors all over Colorado. Their excursions take them to:



Great Sand Dunes
Zapata Falls
O'Harve Lake
Arkansas River (whitewater rafting)
Pikes Peak
Bushnell Lakes
Rampart Reservoir
Shelf Lake
Royal Gorge (whitewater rafting)
Lost Creek Wilderness

Each week of Wilderness is uniquely designed for a great adventure. Wilderness campers can experience whitewater rafting, horseback riding, backpacking, and rock climbing. The campers & counselors also cook their own meals over open fires, have daily devotional times, and learn about living in and with nature.

Daniel Graber (Wilderness staff for 2011 & 2012) reflects, "Wilderness Camp was a great experience for me because I have always loved to spend time outdoors and in Wilderness you get to do a variety of fun



activities outside. It also allows you to challenge yourself and face your fears and the small numbers allow you to really get to know everyone in the group. As a camper I hoped to one day be a counselor, and now that I am a counselor I try to make every camper enjoy Wilderness as much as I did."



Curling comes to RMMC!

Playing with snow tubes on the camp pond, the idea to use tubes instead of curling stones was born. Inspired by the real game (and fun) of curling at the MCA bi-national conference in Canada, "Human Curling" or "Full Contact Curling" debuted for campers and guests last February. The rules are the same, except of course for the size and scale. The "bumper car" element of knocking fellow human "stones" around is just an added bonus. See the video of "Human Curling" on our facebook page!



A Calliope Hummingbird was spotted this summer around our feeders at the DH/Lodge. Thanks to Byron Grauerholz (Family Camper) for taking this beautiful photo.

Campers Experience God's Creation

The theme for this year's Nature Study was "What Flies in the Forest?". Campers received handouts of the top 10 birds likely to be seen at RMMC with pictures, physical descriptions, and fun facts about them. Did you know that a Hairy Woodpecker's tongue is 4 inches long and wraps



around its skull when not probing trees for insects?

After reviewing each bird and listening to recordings of their songs, campers walked through the forest to see what birds they could see and what birds they could hear. Along the way we observed various food sources for the birds and gathered pinecones to use in making feeders that could possibly attract birds we weren't able to see on our walk.

Back at the BBQ pit area, each camper made a seed feeder from his or her pinecone, first attaching a string to the cone, then spreading vegetable shortening on the scales, and then rolling the cone in a seed mix of millet, milo, and sunflower seed. The last step was to create a hanging mobile of the pinecones. As shown in the photo, campers gathered by cabin groups and attached their cone to a metal ring along with a cabin name tag. We then hung the mobiles on a line strung between two trees near the front entry of the lodge so that campers could see what birds were attracted to their feeders as they stood in line for meals.



Rocky Mountain is blessed each summer with staff members who come from near and far to serve this ministry. Their willingness to share of their time, talents and energy makes the busy summer camping season possible.

Things we overheard this summer that put a smile on our face:

“Can I be on Pacific time?”

- Lauren Weaver, needing an extra hour to finish a project

“Tom to Jenelle, Corbin is up a tree.”

- Tom Unruh, over the radio, giving Corbin’s location

“I have this book and it has a whole bunch of words in it.”

- Megan Leatherman

“It’s like his dad gave him a \$1,000 gift card to American Eagle”

- Resident camper, discussing the Bible story of Joseph and his coat of many colors during afternoon worship.

2011 Summer Staff

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Natalie Anders | Souderton, PA |
| Ellie Barnhart | Rickreall, OR |
| Jessica Betts | Hesston, KS |
| Rebecca Epp | N. Newton, KS |
| Ben Goossen | Topeka, KS |
| Daniel Graber | Hesston, KS |
| Sara Gragg | Topeka, KS |
| Greta Kartika Putri | Indonesia |
| Matthew Layman | Harrisonburg, VA |
| Megan Leatherman | Hesston, KS |
| Jacob Martin | CO Springs, CO |
| Saralyn Mast | Ephrata, PA |
| Indigo Miller | CO Springs, CO |
| Seth Miller | CO Springs, CO |
| Jean Munkombwe | Zambia |
| Joshua Musser | Newport News, VA |
| Shannon Neuenschwander | Dalton, OH |
| Roxanne Reimer | Walton, KS |
| Brad Sandlin | Valley Center, KS |
| Jennifer Shenk | Hamburg, PA |
| Stephanie Shenk | Hamburg, PA |
| Jonathan Shetler | Goshen, IN |
| Jenna Stutzman | Kutztown, PS |
| Kara Stutzman | Hesston, KS |
| Elizabeth Thomas | Boswell, PA |
| Joel Unzicker | Goshen, IN |
| Aaron Voth | Boulder, CO |
| Dorothy Voth | Hesston, KS |
| Dawson Waltner | Freeman, SD |
| Lauren Weaver | Hesston, KS |
| Tyler Yoder | Bay Port, MI |

Staying Connected

The summer season is a busy time of year here at camp. But even when it’s colder and with snow on the ground, we still have a lot of exciting things happening here. From church retreats, to snow camps, and many guest groups, we keep our buildings warm and welcoming for you! Here are some ways to keep up on the news from camp all year!

RMMC’s Website - www.rmmc.org

- Info about camps & retreats
- Available dates to rent the Ridge Cabins and Emmental
- Summer Staff & Volunteer opportunities
- Online Registration & Donate online

Newsletters - mailed or emailed to you

- Annual newsletter “Trail Call” (the one you’re reading right now!) is published & mailed every winter
- Monthly newsletter is on our [website](http://www.rmmc.org) and is published in Mtn. States Mennonite Conf. [monthly newsletter](http://www.rmmc.org)

We’re glad we are able to send you updates about camp. But we don’t want to fill your mailbox if you don’t want our mailings. If you would like to stop receiving our correspondence, please contact us at 719-687-9506 or info@rmmc.org.



Facebook - “Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp”

- “Like” us to get our news feed
- View photos (you don’t need a facebook account to see these)
- Great way to interact with other camp “fans”

Did You Know...?

(A 5 year average)

OPERATIONS

- 114 water samples taken annually for water system
- 12,000 gallons of propane annually for stoves, furnaces and hot water heaters

PROGRAM

- 21 camps and retreats offered annually with 930 participants
- 21 states & 1 province represented at camps & retreats in 2011



The Colorado Roots Music Camp (bluegrass instruments, etc.) has been an annual event held at RMMC since 2006.

2011 VOLUNTEERS

- 220 volunteers
- 3,296 hours of service
- \$28,000 value of volunteer hours

GUEST GROUPS

- 45 weeks/weekends throughout the year with guests & campers
- 2 weddings per year

FOOD SERVICE

- 23,300 meals served annually
- 2,000 cinnamon rolls made annually (all are consumed!)



Volunteer Spike Hostetler (Harper, KS) works the concrete mixer with help from summer staffer Jon Shetler (Goshen, IN). Spike & his wife Gloria have volunteered at RMMC for an amazing 9 summers. Apparently, it's a great opportunity to avoid the summer heat of Kansas.

HOUSEKEEPING

- 43 toilets to keep cleaning & 4 outhouses (one in Staffville affectionately referred to as "The Mennonite Relief Center")

MAINTENANCE

- 52 buildings/structures to maintain
- 43 toilets to keep working/plunging

CAMP BOARD MEMBERS

- 8 board members' children are/were campers/volunteers
- 5 board members' children served as past summer staff members (the other members' children are still campers)



Summer staff housekeepers, Jessica Betts & Shannon Neuenchwander, kept camp looking it's best during the summer along with the assistance of all staff members.

Meet the Camp Board

As camp boards go, Rocky Mountain has been blessed over the years to have great people representing a variety of gifts, skills, tenure and passion to guide its ministry. The group pictured here represents an incredible 67 cumulative years of board member experience.

Camp is currently in the process of identifying a new board member to replace Mark Bechler who after 10 years of service is stepping down. As a contractor, Mark was instrumental in the aggressive pace of capital campaign projects which include but are not limited to the DH/Lodge addition, new Eagles Nest cabin, Chalet Emmental renovation, Chapel renovation and Eiger Bathhouse renovation.

Mark first came in the summer of 1990 after hearing stories from Jess Kaufman about how wonderful RMMC was. By the end of the summer, he left with a new lease on life in that God did what God does....change lives if given the chance.

Ten years later with a wife and three children, Mark wanted to be closer to RMMC than Chicago. In reflect-

ing on his time as board member Mark reflects, "What a joy that was to help serve at a place I love so much. Camp is my Ebenezer... here is a spot where God met me. I am so grateful for camp and all that it means in my life and my family's life."



Left to Right: Dave Miller, Jean Spicher (Secretary), Ardell Swartzendruber (President), Jodi Miller (Vice President), Mark Bechler, Diane Fowler, Dennis LeFeyre (Treasurer), Lisa Longacher

PROGRAM CALENDAR 2012

WINTER / SPRING

January 13-15	Scrapbook Retreat
January 20-22	Jr. High Snow Camp
February 17-19	Senior High Snow Camp I
February 24-26	Young Adult Snow Camp
March 2-4	Men's Retreat
March 16-18	Senior High Snow Camp II
April 19-22	Mennonite Quilter's Retreat
May 25-28	Memorial Day Work & Play Retreat

SUMMER

June 3-9	Staff Orientation
June 10-16	Sr. High Resident
June 10-16	Grade 6&7 Wilderness I
June 17-23	Grade 8&9 Resident
June 17-23	Grade 6&7 Wilderness II
June 24-30	Grade 6&7 Resident
June 24-30	Grade 8&9 Wilderness I
July 1-7	Grade 4&5 Resident
July 1-7	Grade 8&9 Wilderness II
July 8-14	Custom Wilderness & Camp Rocky
July 14-20	Camp Pike
July 20-22	Grade 3 Resident
July 22-27	Family Camp I
July 22-28	Sr. High Wilderness I
July 29-August 3	Family Camp II
July 29-August 4	Sr. High Wilderness II

FALL

August 17-19	Emmanuel Mennonite Retreat
August 31-Sept 2	Peace Community Mennonite Retreat
August 31-Sept 3	Labor Day Work & Play Retreat
September 7-9	Glennon Heights Mennonite Retreat
September 14-16	Beth-El Mennonite Retreat
September 21-23	First Mennonite Denver Retreat
September 28-30	Mountain Community Mennonite Retreat
October 5-7	Greeley Mennonite Retreat
November 1-4	Mennonite Quilter's Retreat
November 9-11	Pastor's Retreat



Llamas grazed on our hillside in late July & August to help with fire prevention. Family Campers helped with the care of the llamas.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP

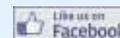
709 County Rd 62
Divide, Colorado 80814

phone: 719-687-9506

fax: 719-687-2582

email: info@rmmc.org

online: www.rmmc.org



STAFF MEMBERS

Corbin Graber, Executive Director

Mary Yoder, Head Cook

Jenelle Roynon, Program Director

Tom Unruh, Facilities/Special Projects Dir.

Jill White, Nature/Special Projects Dir.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ardell Swartzendruber, President

Jodi Miller, Vice President

Jean Spicher, Secretary

Dennis LeFevre, Treasurer

Diane Fowler

Lisa Longacher

Dave Miller

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is a ministry of the Mennonite Church with the purpose of providing a place of retreat which encourages holistic Christian growth by fostering the spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual growth of each guest.



Member
Christian Camp and
Conference Association



Member
Mennonite
Camping
Association



The Magill family paddles around the pond during Memorial Day Work & Play Retreat. As part of this free weekend, guests help out with projects around camp for a day and then have a day to play (hiking, climbing, rappelling & boating).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



RENEWAL AND RESTORATION

GIFTS FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO CONCLUDE 2011 PROJECTS

Wow! It is hard to believe that next year will be the conclusion to our current VISION 2012 campaign. Till then, your help is needed to cover the listed 2011 projects that required "heavy equipment" to get the job done. Please give as you are able/motivated for the following needs of the Rocky Mountain ministry. Receipt of the \$27,500 listed below will pay the bills and help keep Rocky Mountain debt free!



\$6,000 - Pond Dredging (amount remaining from \$12,000 cost)

For a short time, a hired excavator replaced the water in the pond which needed to be dredged. Sediment had filled in over the years leaving the pond only one foot deep in places. Now the pond is full of water again and ready to provide habitat for fish year-around and the variety of pond activities enjoyed by campers and guests of all ages. Additionally, the pond serves a vital water source for fire defense of the camp. What was dug out is now on the ball field and will require significant leveling, landscaping and seeding work next spring.



\$6,500 - Convection Oven

Averaging an amazing 23,000 meals per year over the last five years has understandably taken its toll on kitchen equipment. When oven capacity was lost last summer due to breakdowns, the need to replace and increase oven capacity was clear. So please help Mary Yoder and the kitchen crew keep baking great food (including but not limited to cinnamon rolls) for many years to come.



\$15,000 - Well Drilling

In our continuing effort to secure the water necessary for camp to keep the "doors" open, more wells need to be dug to serve as additional sources to the springs that have served camp since 1952. In dry years, their production is greatly diminished.

CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT VISION 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

Acquire 3 Acre Feet of Water Rights

Purchased 2003

New roof for Eiger, Jungfrau & Heidi

Completed 2003

Water truck

Purchased 2003

Wilderness Vehicle

Purchased 2005

New Eagles Nest Cabin

Completed 2005

Chapel Roof

Completed 2006

Chalet Emmental Renovation

Completed 2006

Well Drilled on Chapel side

Completed 2006

Eiger Bathhouse Renovation

Completed 2008

Chapel Renovations

Completed 2009

Surprise Septic System for Main Camp

Completed 2010

Pond Dredging

Completed 2011

ONE DAY AT A TIME, SWEET JESUS

The song lyrics above have been helpful for me in keeping perspective on the ups and downs that faith, life and camping ministry have to offer. The words from Matthew 6:33-34 say it well. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

This wisdom certainly applies to capital campaigns. As I reflect on ten years of privileged service here at RMMC (and the addition of grey hair), I am humbled by God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of God's people. In the face of countless "worries" (i.e. meeting project deadlines, financial gifts received to pay bills, etc.) that could easily overwhelm, projects get done when they need to and financial gifts arrive just in time.

Thanks be to God and God's people for providing this ministry the opportunity to be a place of retreat to all who come!

- Corbin Graber, Executive Director