



The Sentinel

*The Official Publication of
The Friends of Camp Whitsett Alumni Association*

Volume 6, Issue 1

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

Spring/Summer 2005



Gateway to Whitsett



Sentinal Peak



Welcome to Camp Whitsett



Waterfront



Waterfront



Lake Ida



Indian Lore



Eva's Equestrian Center



Campfire Renovation Plaque



Old Dining Hall



Sentinal Peak



Nature & Science area



Eva's Equestrian Center



Nature & Science area



New Dining Area



Eva's Equestrian Center



Eva's Equestrian Center



Field Sports



C.O.P.E. Course



Dam Bridge



Campfire Area



Eva's Equestrian Center



Mountainman

The 7th Annual
FRIENDS OF CAMP WHITSETT
 Alumni Reunion Weekend
July 15 – 17, 2005

Please join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship at Camp Whitsett. Highlights of weekend will include:

SWIMMING AND BOATING
FIELD SPORTS AND HANDICRAFT
HORSEBACK RIDING
HIKING

C.O.P.E. COURSE
CAMPFIRE
MEMORABILIA AUCTION
HEARTY CAMP MEALS

The fee for the weekend is \$35.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children 4-10 years old. Children 3 and under are FREE. This fee covers Saturday Lunch and Dinner and Sunday Breakfast, and all in-camp activities.

River rafting can be arranged for an additional fee.

THIS IS THE ONLY MAILING THAT WILL BE SENT FOR THIS EVENT

Registration forms must be received by July 8, 2005



Field Sports



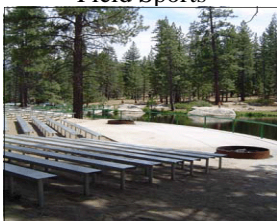
Mountainman



Old Dining Hall



Mountainman



Campfire Area



Indian Lore



Sentinel Peak



Nature & Science Area

What We've done ...

2001

Headdress for O/A program
Flagpoles
Dutch ovens
Ice cream makers

2002

Weather station for Nature Area
New patch collection displays

2003

Campfire Circle Renovation
Additional ice cream makers
Hot fudge machine for Staff

2004

File Cabinet for business office

What We Plan To Do...

2005

Handicraft Supplies & Benches
Staff lounge rental of trailers & furnishings
Polaris Ranger 4x4 Off-road Utility Vehicle

2006

Handicraft Area Renovation

Camp Whitsett Wish List

- \$5 to \$50 Handicraft - tools - various (hammers, pliers, saws, snips, etc., \$5 - \$50)
- \$10 & up Nature - books (eg. Reptiles and Amphibians, Spider identification, up-to-date Peterson's guides)
- \$21 Nature - Soil Sampling Tube LaMotte, 3 (Forestry-suppliers.com, -76024)
- \$40 each Campsite - Flagpoles
- \$50 to \$300 Program - Climbing Equipment (various ropes and hardware)
- \$10 to \$500 Aquatics - equipment (life jackets, paddles, oars, [leathers & buttons], boats
- \$50 & up Nature - Books - Slide Sets --- Displays for the John Reeve Nature Center
- \$52 Nature - Pondwater Tour, kit (Forestry-suppliers.com, -76620)
- \$52 Nature - Topsoil Tour, kit (Forestry-suppliers.com, -76603)
- \$100 each Camp - Ice Cream freezer - 4qt., hand cranked (White Mountain, MD -74304)
- \$100 each Campsite - Picnic tables (at least 20)
- \$100 Indian Lore - Drum, large
- \$50 to \$150 Camp - Bulletin boards-outdoor-weather protected, white boards other display
- \$5 to \$125 Shooting Sports - Archery equipment (misc. bows, arrows, arm guards, finger tabs)
- \$1,200 Camp - Latrine, Pumpable vault type (check with camp)
- \$335 and up Aquatics - Kayaks, Canoes, Row Boats
- \$500 Campfire circle - lighting & sound wiring
- \$1,000 Camp - LARGE chess/checker pieces for LARGE scale Chess Checker board
- \$1,200 Camp - Siren, LOUD, (110v)
- \$2,500 Campfire circle - light & sound equipment
- \$3,500 Camp - Electric gate - lower parking lot
- \$5,000 Nature - Area expansion - Enclose Nature Lodge, add covered instruction areas
- \$15,000 each Camp - Cabins, Senior Staff/Family
- \$15,000 Office - Leader Lounge/Office facility and Program Office
- \$25,000 Camp - Leader/Scout Showers with flush toilets - facility set up near central camp
- \$25,000 Camp - Staff Shower/Lounge Building - for use off-season
- \$100,000 Dining - Solid Roof over the dining hall, open sided
- various Camp - General needs (axes, knives, rope, Merit Badge Pamphlets, arrows, targets)
- various Camp - Pipe for water system
- various Health - Medical equipment
- various Scoutcraft - Cooking area refurbishing
- various Chapel - enhance with gate, etc.

59 Years and Counting....

BY CHUCK SMITH

The 2005 season . . . TWO THOUSAND FIVE!!!! Amazing! Remember when we were talking about the 1984 season and how weird that would be (1984? The George Orwell book?) Oh, well. The article . . .

The 2005 season is our 59th year of operation. The camp is almost fully booked for the summer, with an average of 500+ Scouts and leaders per week. Some major and some minor changes are taking place that will affect the camp and program. Staff is being hired, and we're anxious to go. Jon Mackenzie, the WLACC Council's Director of Facilities, and a long-term Whitsett staff man will be in camp as the on-site director, going back to the tradition of having Council employees as the Camp Director. Jon has spent many summers supporting camp, now will do so on the premises. I (Chuck Smith) will get the title "Camp Administrator" and will have the job of the day-to-day operation of Whitsett (something I have done for a couple of years). Pat Smith, Chuck's patient wife, will continue as the Business Manager. Eddie Macaulay, 7 years on staff, will come back again as Program Director. Jim Uny will continue his outstanding stint at Camp Ranger. So, the "Big 4" becomes the "Big 5", and camp goes on.

The Rifle Range is undergoing a major facelift and expansion. Once complete, there will be 20 positions from which to shoot, allowing more Scouts than ever to earn the Merit Badge. Eight new Staff cabins are being assembled and will enable Staff to spread out somewhat and not be so crowded in the cabins. A Staff lounge will be in place to get the staff off of lawn chairs outside the laundry building (the old staff showers) at night for some inside activities. A high-speed internet link is being set up to allow Scout leaders and staff to check E-mail and keep in touch with the world. WOW! What's next? A cell tower on Sentinel? (Ooops, now that I've started the rumor, let's see how many actually believe it.). The Staff Reunion weekend has been moved into the middle of the camp season rather than the end. This will help tired, drained, current staff members to actually get to enjoy the weekend, and to get it away from the August Busy Times. Save the weekend of July 16th and 17th for the 2005 staff get together. Start saving the same weekend next year for the 60th year Grand Reunion, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of July 15th and 16th. I don't know if anything will ever match the amazing 50th reunion when over 350 staff and families, from the 40s through the 80s, converged on Whitsett for a superb good time.

Keep checking the web page (www.whitsett.org). I try to update the site regularly. I have some great scans and photos of staff memorabilia that has been sent to me by you, to put up on the site and will do so once I'm not busy (WHAT!???) Well, I won't wait until then. A new face will be in Whitsett this summer. Matt (Chuck's and Pat's son) and his wife Christine are expecting a new Scout. Simon David is tentatively schedule to appear in the middle of May. Remember when Matt was a "centerpiece" on the tables in the dining area when he was new in camp at five days old? Hope to see many of you this summer. If not, E-mail or at least check on the website. See you in July.

Chuck

"Our New Fundraising Project"

The "Buy A Bench" fundraising campaign for renovating the Campfire Circle was hugely successful. We were able to raise \$7,350.00, which covered half of the cost of renovating the site (the Council contributed the other half), and leaves money set aside for Phase 2, which will include additional seating, storage and sound and lighting. We want to thank everyone who contributed to this campaign.

Now, we are ready to begin fundraising for our second major improvement project: renovating the Handicraft Area in 2006. We hope to raise enough monies to cover the cost of replacing the existing buildings and workbenches, and add additional workspace for the many summer programs carried out in the area.

Anyone who has ever been to summer camp knows how popular the Handicraft Area is with campers and adults alike. The existing facility is in serious need of replacement and upgrading.

We hope you will want to continue supporting our efforts in adding to the camp and improving the programs for the Scouts. Thank you for your generosity.

MEMBER REPLY FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Save Our Postage Costs

Please indicate below your preference for remaining on our mailing list.

- Yes, I wish to continue receiving the newsletter
- No, please remove my name from the mailing list

Alumni Reunion Weekend REGISTRATION

_____ Adults, and Children 11 and older, will be attending @ \$35.00 each = \$ _____

_____ Children between 4-10 will be attending @ \$25.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Ages of the children attending _____

CAMP WHITSETT ALUMNI TRACKING

Please complete the information below so that we can update our records and keep you informed about future events. This information may also be published in future mailings.

Years Served on Staff _____ Areas Worked in _____

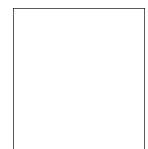
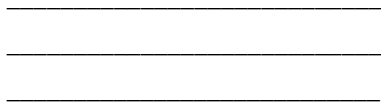
Profession _____

Martial Status _____ Children?/Ages _____

Favorite Camp Memories _____

Names and addresses of Staff members that you have stayed in touch with _____

Please return this form to the Association at the address indicated on the reverse by July 8, 2005.



Friends of Camp Whitsett
Camp Whitsett Alumni Association
P O Box 9153
Calabasas, California 91302

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of Camp Whitsett:

This year is a year of change. There are changes in the senior staff at Camp, with the departure of Hoss McNutt as Camp Director. There are changes in the management of the Camp, with the creation of the Camp Whitsett Property and Program Committee. With your help, changes will also take place within the association.

At the alumni association's Spring Board Meeting, I initiated a discussion with your directors about the purpose of our association, accomplishments, and goals for the future. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of our accomplishments so far. The most impressive of these accomplishments is the complete renovation of the newly dedicated Chuck Smith Campfire Circle on the shore of Lake Ida, which was financed in partnership by the Friends of Camp Whitsett and the Council. To that end, the association raised \$7,350.00. We have also supported the camp program and staff with smaller contributions of supplies and extras. This summer, we are donating funds to purchase additional supplies for the Handicraft program, and rent trailer space and furnishings for a new Staff Lounge. One of our directors, Chandy Russell, is working on prototype designs for new workbenches for the Handicraft Area.

The Camp Whitsett Property and Program Committee (CWPPC) has been created and empowered by the Council's Executive Board to develop a realistic master plan for the Camp's facilities and program, and see that plan implemented. Jeff Feldman, co-founder with myself and others of our association, has taken on the role of getting this committee off the ground.

The creation of the CWPPC is an exciting development, and one that, I hope, will effect real change at Camp, with much needed improvement or replacement of existing buildings and utilities, as well as the development of new and exciting programs for both summer and shoulder season participants. The CWPPC will, I expect, concentrate its fundraising efforts on large donations, able to finance very large improvements in Camp.

In the meantime, the association will continue to concentrate on raising funds for smaller projects. With this newsletter we are kicking off our Handicraft Area campaign, aimed at raising enough funds to completely renovate the Handicraft Area in 2006. With your help, we can be as successful in this venture as we were with the Campfire Circle.

The Friends of Camp Whitsett has now been in existence for just over 5 years. During that time, we have tested the waters, and taken small but significant steps toward fulfilling our mission of supporting Camp Whitsett. As I told the Board of Directors at our Spring meeting, if we are to continue as a viable organization, it is now time for us to "kick it into gear" and increase our momentum. With all of the changes happening at and around Camp Whitsett, we have an opportunity to be a partner in the process, but to do that we need to grow and change to keep up with the needs of the camp. We need to "kick it into gear." With your continued support, we can do just that.

FRIENDS OF CAMP WHITSETT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 9153
Calabasas, CA 91302

<http://www.whitsett.org>

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stevep1313@earthlink.net

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Director	Chandy Russell
Director	Chuck Smith

The Sentinel
EDITOR
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rfordis@aol.com

Regards,

Steve

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we report the death earlier this year of Jake Murphy, 15-year old son of "Mr. Bob" Murphy and Janet Murphy. Bob has been a volunteer and a Commissioner at Camp Whitsett for many years. He met his wife, Janet at Camp Whitsett in the 1980's when she was Waterfront Director. Jake grew up during the summers at Camp Whitsett, and worked in Scoutcraft and on the Waterfront.

This sadness is made even more profound by the death just before press time, of Janet Murphy. She died in her sleep on the night of June 2nd.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for contributions to the Jake & Janet Murphy Scholarship Fund at Kern Valley High School, Lake Isabella.

Camp Whitsett Under the Microscope

Over the next 6 months, the Camp Whitsett Property and Program committee will be developing a Long Range Plan for Camp Whitsett, with a 50 year horizon. One purpose of the plan is to set goals and develop strategies to meet the goals. Another purpose is to develop a report that can be presented to the Board of Directors of Foundations and wealthy individuals in order to solicit support of our camp.

The starting point of this project is to take a close look at every area of the camp. The focus will be to answer the following questions:

*What do we have now?
What needs replacing?*

*What needs expanding?
What do we need new?*

*What are we doing well?
What can we do better?*

The next step is to determine what we need to do to accommodate more Scouts in camp. The camp has been sold out early over the past few years. The question is, what will be required in order to accommodate 25-50% more campers? We will focus on both program and facility needs.

The first meeting of the committee was very exciting. In attendance were representatives of the W.P. Whitsett Foundation, including his granddaughter, who will be playing an active role in preparing the plan.

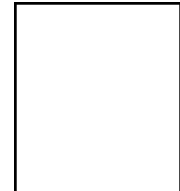
The committee is scheduled to meet monthly through August, with the July and August meetings taking place at camp. If you have ideas or would like to be a part of this exciting project, please e-mail Jeff Feldman, Committee Chairman, at jfbf@ix.netcom.com.

Postage Is Hurting Our Efforts

The FOCW has no regular operating costs, aside from the publishing of our newsletters. With a mailing list of over 700, the cost of each mailing is over \$500.00, with the money to cover these costs coming from donations. We would prefer to spend that money on improvements to Camp.

Accordingly, we are asking you to indicate on the enclosed Member Reply Form whether or not you wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Please return the form by the July 8th deadline with your preference. If we don't receive a response, we will assume that you wish to be removed from the mailing list, and act accordingly.

FRIENDS OF  **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
A CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT
 UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION
 REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
**P.O. Box 9153
 CALABASAS, CA 91302**



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100% of donations go to Camp Whitsett

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