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YMCA CAMP HI-ROCK
162 East Street, Mt. Washington, MA
camphirock.org
Summer 2013

News from YMCA Camp Hi-Rock, a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Parker Seeley Update • New for 2013 • For the Love of Camp • A New Ski Dock • Chapel Gets a Face Lift • Creative Writing • Strong Kids Campaign • Alumni Reunion ... & more!



PAST



PRESENT



FUTURE

IT BEGINS

Thanks to the generosity of many members of the YMCA Camp Hi-Rock community and the hard work of our volunteers, we just took a big step toward rebuilding Parker Seeley Lodge! We have begun the deconstruction to make way for a NEW lodge (incorporating the old chimney!). The new lodge will take its place, once again, as the main lodge and the hub of all camp activity. This step marks the beginning of one of the key projects being undertaken through the Campaign for YMCA Camp Hi-Rock which seeks to raise \$2.8 million to address critical needs at camp. Other goals of the campaign include rebuilding several camper cabins, resurfacing the ball fields, rebuilding shower houses, and repairing staff housing including the Wheel House. Early accomplishments of the campaign included the construction of stone retaining walls on the dining hall hill and installation of drainage on the main ball field.

We want to send a big Hi-Rock style thank you to all who have made this possible. If you have not yet made a commitment to the Campaign for Hi-Rock, please consider doing so this summer to help make it possible to begin building the new lodge this fall. We would love to talk with you about this exciting project and all of our capital development plans. Please call our executive director, Jessica Speer-Holmes, at 413-528-1227 or email her at executive@camphirock.org. For more about ways to give please see pg 7.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR SUMMER 2013

GEOCACHING – A 21ST CENTURY TREASURE HUNT

Hiking is fun, but hunting treasure in the woods is way better! With brand new GPS units in hand, campers are scouring the hills of Hi-Rock looking for caches hidden by the previous session's participants. Once the cache is found, each camper leaves their name for future Hi-Rockers to see who else has discovered the secret location. Our very own Rachael Bamford is teaching the children this lifelong hobby – there are thousands (if not millions) of geocaches hidden around the world – that gets the kids out of the house and into the woods!

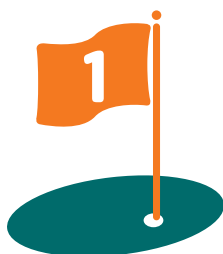


CAMP EDIBLE GARDEN

Throughout the summer of 2013, some Hi-Rock campers will have the opportunity to grow their own food. Don't worry – we will continue to provide three meals a day! Lauren Deutsch, a long time camper who is working as an intern from Hampshire College this summer, will supervise the garden. Campers will cultivate the plants, learn about sustainable farming, and eat the fruits of their labor. Some of the "crops" they will work with include basil, cilantro, potatoes, lettuce, and more.

FRISBEE GOLF IS BACK!

Frisbee golf is back at Camp Hi-Rock. A newly designed course will take campers from the waterfront, to the low road, and even through the Mohawk unit. Campers and staff will hone their



**FRISBEE GOLF COURSE:
RE-VAMPED!**

frisbee skills including accuracy, distance and the ever difficult "touch" that floats the disc into tight spaces! We are excited to RE-introduce this recreational sport to a new generation.

CAMP MENTORS

Camp is a place for kids to grow – we all know this to be true. One of the most important factors in a child's development is to have strong positive role models. At Hi-Rock, we have worked hard to provide the best counselors and staff members possible, but Abnakis and Woodlands also look up to the Mohawk and Algonquin campers. Each session in 2013, the oldest units will work with the youngest units to foster friendships and provide camp mentors.



FOR THE LOVE OF CAMP

About ten years ago, Ian Ruiz Carlile attended Camp Hi-Rock for the first time as a camper. He was fifteen years old and had been to several other camps before but it was not until he got to Hi-Rock that he found his home away from home. He fell in love with the way of life at Hi-Rock – the deeply caring atmosphere, the celebration of silliness, and the diversity of the people. He loved the way camp took him out of what he described as “his bubble” – his life in New York City – and introduced him to a whole new world of friends and perspectives.

A few years later Ian became a counselor and learned during staff training about the Strong Kids Campaign. When asked to recount what happened that summer, he describes how he felt compelled to make a contribution and resolved to do so. He was not yet at the point in his life where he had opened his own checking account so every two weeks on payday he hitched a ride to the local bank to cash his paycheck and the following day would quietly find his way to the camp director and hand her some folded bills. This ritual went on all summer with Ian contributing \$100 every two weeks throughout the eight week summer. Those of you familiar with camp counselor wages will understand that this was no small sacrifice!

In the years that have passed since Ian first became a donor to the campaign, he has continued to contribute significantly to the campaign each year and says he will always do so, no matter where he is in life. Ian explains that as a camper, “Camp was such a big part of my life and was very giving to me. While there, I found out who I was and everything I could be. I felt like I had an obligation to give back to the camp which went beyond just working there.”

He feels it is important for all children to have access to camp, especially urban youth who rarely have the opportunity to venture out of the city. Ian fondly remembers a camper named Yarrell who grew up in a city. When Yarrell came to Hi-Rock he was fascinated with the frogs he found around camp – the first frogs he had ever seen in real life! He was thrilled by the frogs and ran around camp showing everyone a frog he had picked up. Ian feels this kind of thing is so important. “Youth in the city would never have an opportunity like that – to catch a frog!”

Ian has several causes that he supports but Hi-Rock will always be the one to which he feels the most compelled to give. When asked how it felt, that first summer, to make such a generous contribution, he responded, “It felt good but that’s not why I did it. It was the right thing to do.” Then he added, “I will bring my check-book this summer to make things easier.”



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Two pairs of Hi-Rock alumni who share both family ties and ties to Hi-Rock set out this year to improve parts of camp that had a big impact on them. Their commitment, passion, and generosity of time, talent and resources resulted in two great gifts that will be enjoyed by Hi-Rock campers for years to come!



BRAND NEW SKI DOCKS!
Thanks Ryan and Lindsey.



NEW SKI DOCKS

Lindsey Hulet and Ryan Terrell are cousins who attended Hi-Rock together as campers and staff when they were kids and have kept in touch with camp over the years. They returned last summer when Ryan drove up from Georgia to bring his children, Jackson and Savannah, to Hi-Rock to be campers themselves. Ryan and Lindsey spent time volunteering at the ski dock, their old stomping grounds, and found the docks to be in need of replacement. The two got together and decided to put together the funds, the time and the talent to make Hi-Rock a set of state-of-the-art docks that would look beautiful and last for a very long time. They split the cost of the materials and Lindsey spent the winter putting the docks together. In May, Ryan, Jackson and Savannah flew up from Georgia to meet up with Lindsey and some friends to launch and install the docks. It was a moving day as volunteers from several generations of Hi-Rockers pitched in and admired the impressive new docks and the alumni who made them possible. Thank you Lindsey and Ryan for this lasting gift!

THE CHAPEL IS REBORN

Dave and Bill Johnson are brothers who became part of the Hi-Rock community as young boys when they first attended as campers. They have been involved ever since in a variety of roles including years spent as summer staff members, several years of service on the Hi-Rock board of managers by Dave, several summers as camper parents, and a decades long tradition of contributing hard labor and good cheer on volunteer work weekends. In the 90s Dave and Bill contributed the materials and labor to refurbish the Hi-Rock chapel and have maintained it each year during spring and fall work weekends. This past year they decided it was time for another renovation! Their work began with a grueling effort to clean up down trees and debris left by Hurricane Sandy last fall. In the spring they returned to rebuild the chapel's stage, podium and all of the benches along with a cadre of volunteers inspired by Bill and Dave's enthusiasm and sense of humor. The result was a beautiful renovation of the man-made parts of the magnificent natural sanctuary. This summer, campers are filling those benches and taking to the stage to offer their reflections on the character values of the YMCA. Thank you Bill and Dave for making this possible!



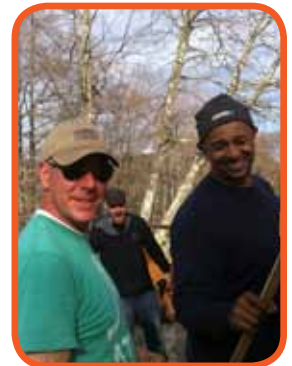
AN AWESOME NEW CHAPEL!
Thanks to the Johnsons.

MAKING THE OLD NEW AGAIN



What do you get when you combine the hard work of devoted Hi-Rock volunteers and industrious pre-season staff with the giving nature of parents who elected to pay an optional higher price for camp this summer and donors to the Hi-Rock Forever Fund and the Campaign for Hi-Rock? You get a long list of improved facilities and new equipment. Improvement projects this spring included the installation of new pine paneling in the dining hall, the acquisition of five new stand-up paddle

boards, a new entrance sign, a log cabin make-over for the Wheel House, the package shed and the two unit director cabins in Abnaki, new long lasting roofs for the Wheel House and two Woodlands cabins, a new industrial outdoor grill, new paint jobs all over camp, and new waterski equipment! Stay tuned to hear about even more projects in the works this summer and fall. Thank you to all who made this possible!!!



FROM THE CREATIVE WRITING NOTEBOOK

From the creative writing coaching period by Bastien Baudry - 11 years-old from France.

MY FIVE SECOND MEMOIR

By Bastien Baudry

It lasted five seconds. It felt like five hours. We were on the overnight, and Matt and I had said we would stay until the fire burned out. Of course, it lasted more than five seconds, but they were five specific seconds where I just felt perfect. Nothing could have been better. This lasted five seconds because it was the 5 seconds before the fire burned out.

STRONG KIDS CAMPAIGN & HI-ROCK FOREVER FUND:

Hi-Rock is truly a special place to grow up. It could not function without the support of our community. Every year, 1 in 5 campers attend Hi-Rock because of generous donations from people like you. The support from our community is what allows Hi-Rock to be such a special place, where children from all walks of life can grow, play and learn together. The Strong Kids Campaign is essential to Hi-Rock's program and also provides general subsidy for youth camp programs. Below is a list of 2012 donors. THANK YOU!

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Gail Indeglia

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In Honor of The Coulombe Family
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In Honor of The McVicker/Provencal Wedding
Gabrielle McVicker

In Honor of the Sikdar Summers at Hi-Rock
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PLANTAIN POND MORTGAGE CLUB

For over 60 years, a group of community leaders have gathered for lunch over the holidays to raise money for capital improvements at YMCA Camp Hi-Rock. We thank them for the recent resurfacing of the ball field. Below is a list of club members.

David Bjorklund, Jr.	Don Hutchinson	Meredith Reuben, CEO
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Thank you to those who donated special in-kind gifts or services in 2012.

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The Honorable & Mrs. John P. Chiota	Pam & Tommy Hearn	Phyllis McMahon	George Raymond	Ira Wurcel and Lisa May
Chris Clark	Merritt Hopper	Caitlyn Mc Nerney	Pam Rhiel	Tim Young
Erik & Andrea Daubert	Richard Hoyt		Heather & David Sanford	
Deutsche Bank Americas	Joe Huffman		Mark Schonbeck	
	Alan Hurst		The Seeley Family	

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CAMPAIGNS

Make a Gift By Phone

You can make a gift, pledge or credit card payment by phone: Call camp at (413) 528-1227

Give By Email

You can make a pledge or request additional info by email: executive@camphirock.org.

Give By Mail

You can make your gift by mail, with checks payable to: YMCA Camp Hi-Rock
162 East Street
Mount Washington, MA 01258

HI-ROCK'S WISH LIST

You can give back to Hi-Rock, too! Below is a list of the top 5 donations that would be a great benefit to programming for campers and overall camp maintenance.

1. All-wheel drive SUV, station wagon or truck
2. Sunfish or Sailfish boats
3. Mugs or silverware
4. Sports equipment
5. Paddle board equipment

For more ideas & ways to give online, please check out: camphirock.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/

HEARD IT FROM THE CHIPMUNKS:

There are lots of future Hi-Rockers to report: **Mat Brown** is the proud father of baby girl Bebe! **Vicki (Iddles) Giggins** welcomed baby boy Fraser. **Meg (Ballard) George** welcomed baby girl Sarah. **Gabrielle (Provencal) McVicker** is expecting her first child. **Merritt Hopper** is expecting his third child. • **Jake Pinkston & Caitlyn Mc-Nerney**, old Hi-Rock sweethearts, are engaged to be married. • **Jamie (Miller) Bosworth** was married in 2011 and recently accepted a position as an administrator at a private school in New York. • **Brad Merenstein** is back at Hi-Rock this summer as the water-ski director after a fifteen year hiatus. • **Phil Zogran** returned to camp this summer to train the 2013 ski staff offering wisdom gleaned from years of experience at the helm of the water-ski program. Thank you Phil! • **Lars Godthaab Nielsen** writes that he followed a fellow Camp Hi-Rock staff member to Hong Kong where experiences & attitudes gained at “the Rock” enabled him to serve 5 1/2 years with Outward Bound Hong Kong as an Instructor, Course Coordinator, Senior Course Coordinator, Staff Manager & Scheduler. Now Lars is a permanent resident of Hong Kong & serves as the Hong Kong Program Manager at Dragonfly Outdoors. His new companion is another Hi-Rock friend’s sister. Thank you Camp Hi-Rock! • **Shea Watson** just finished an internship working with EqualityMaine, an LGBT activism group in Maine that led the campaign to legalize marriage equality. Shea writes “We saw great success this past year and I am really proud to have been a part of it! Now, I’m beginning an internship with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME). Upon completion of this year long internship, I’ll graduate from the University of Southern Maine with a dual Bachelor’s degree in Social Work & Women and Gender Studies!”

YMCA CAMP HI-ROCK
162 East Street
Mt. Washington, MA 01258

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ALUMNI REUNION

Picture this: Labor Day Weekend 2013 (August 30 - September 2): you, your friends, your campers, your counselors, in the cool water of Plantain Pond, on the steamy asphalt of the blacktop, feeling the breeze on the top of the ropes course, laying in the top bunk of a Mohawk cabin, feeling the refreshing spray off the back of the water ski boat, all while reminiscing about the time you spent at YMCA Camp Hi-Rock.

This could be reality, not just a bunch of words on the back of a newsletter!

Register today and reconnect with each other & reconnect with camp.

Registration is available in the “Alumni Gatherings” section of camphirock.org.

If you have any questions or would like a registration form sent to you, please contact Charles Hirsch at seniorcampdirector@camphirock.org or by phone: 413 528 1227.

SEE YOU SOON!

