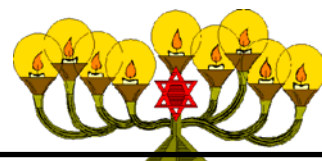




High Rocks News

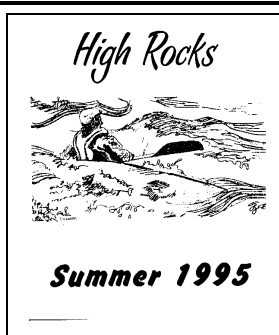


Around the Rocks

Winter is definitely on its way here at camp. The last retreat group that visited was the first weekend in November. Since then we have gone through the process of closing up the dining hall and cabins for the cold winter ahead. It's been rather quiet around camp with the absence of a hundred or so campers running around. But before you know it the weather will change and our first session will be upon us. Even though it may seem that little is happening around camp all of us here are busy preparing, planning, repairing, and doing all those little things that make camp such a wonderful place. Hank and Townsend have finally finished all their video showings for the year. They were very excited to see all of you and would like to extend a special thanks to all the campers and parents that made it so successful.

Year Books

The new year book is out! This year's editors were Jamey Collins and Franklin Sames. Both worked long hours and did a fine job on this year's publication. If you ordered a yearbook and have not yet received it please be sure to contact us so that we may send you one.



What's New at High Rocks

Along with the new horses (see fall newsletter '95) The fall has blessed us with several new and useful items here at Camp. One of the most exciting items is a new computer! Though many of you may not find the excitement in this new item, many of us here at camp really enjoy it. The best thing about the new computer is that **High Rocks is finally on-line!** Yes,



communication of the future has even made it to the mountains of North Carolina. If you have access to the Internet be sure to drop us a line. Unfortunately, our server has already used all the addresses remotely close to High Rocks. So for now our e-mail address is:

hwbirdsong@aol.com

Many of the staff have already responded to our first ever e-mail letter. We are trying to compile a list of e-mail addresses for both campers and staff. So be sure to e-mail us with all your exciting news!

Also new to camp is a killer leaf blower! Most of you probably won't get real excited about this news but if you think of how many trees we have at camp and how many leaves are on each tree, well the task of raking all those leaves to save the grass gets quite enduring. It's really a great tool and Jim Fox, who has done most of the leaf work, has probably enjoyed it the most

...new boats...new boats...new boats...

Yes, we have made a purchase for some new boats in '96. Next summer the canoeing program will have 6 new kayaks. For those of you who follow the sport, here is what we have purchased:

- 3 Dagger Crossfire
- 3 Perception Pirouette S

The new boats will help increase our decked boat paddling program by giving a chance to have more camper's kayaking. Remember, the initial skills still have to be mastered in the canoe.

Something else to look forward to is that the Ropes Course activity will change for the better! Thanks to all you campers that sent letters to Hank, he has decided to make the Ropes Course an all day event for the three and four week sessions. This will allow campers to spend more *real* time on the course and participate in more of the obstacles. The ropes course will still be structured as a cabin group activity.

Staff

Jim Fox, Jamey Collins, Don Gentle, and Franklin Sames all got a house together in Hendersonville. It's quite a place! Jim was real excited to have a place with heat this year.

Jean Capellari is living over at Camp Merrie Woode where she is a full time nanny. John Sites and Brad Carter just returned from their Yosemite climbing trip. Both explained all the details of their adventure (Hank was really excited). And, yes they did manage to find their way up "The Captain (El Cap)." Brad made a continued National Park tour while John hooked up with his friend Cheryl then came back East. Brad is currently in Knoxville and has mentioned an interest in coming back next summer. John is now working at Illahee for the winter.

Jim, Don, Polly, and Rai are all here at High Rocks this winter. Polly runs the office; Rai is at the barn; and, Jim and Don are doing all sorts of interesting tasks one of which includes a focus on off season programming. Rai has recently purchased a new friend. His name is Figment!. He's an Iguana who's only four months old and eats just about anything.

Polly's big news is that she's engaged!

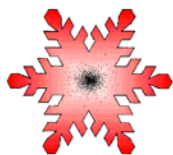
That right, she's getting married!!!

Plans are in the making for a wedding the first weekend in May.

Congratulations Polly!!!

Word is that Stuart Dodson is still living with Rob Cleveland in Atlanta. He's currently

working at Tech Law, a legal research service, but he's got his eye on the mountains (yea!). Jamey Collins is working at a group home in Hendersonville that serves as an independent living program for troubled teens. He says it's rough, but an all right job. Currently, his plans are to come back to High Rocks next summer then head off to Medical School. Franklin is working with a land surveyor; he seems to like it. The best part is that he gets to go hiking a lot. Chris Sheehan and Dan Myers are both traveling Europe. We also got a letter from Aaron Power. He's having a wonderful time in Montana. His plans are to stay there for the winter then come back to High Rocks in the summer. If everything goes as planned he will be joining the Peace Corps at summers end. David McLean is still in the area. He, John Lovett, Jeff Holland, and Franklin all helped out with the Christ Church backpacking weekend. David

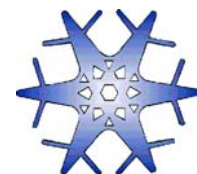


is still at Warren Wilson College and, as of now, may be back for the summer.

Andy Howell has finally got his mission destination. His mission will send him to the country of Brazil for two years. He leaves for the mission training center in January. While at the training center he will learn the ways of a missionary and study Portuguese, the native language of Brazil. Although he doesn't sound too excited, he realizes it something he has to do. He just can't understand why it has to be so far away. Try to drop him a line before he leaves.

Good luck Andy!!!

Anne Luck is currently working for a caterer in Ashland, Virginia. She has been spending most of her time applying to Veterinarian Schools. Luckily, she still has found some time to ride. Perry Johnson is recovering from a broken arm. She sustained the injury during a riding lesson while jumping a fence. Don't worry, she's doing fine and is back in the saddle again! Cathy Thacker is helping some of our horses by bettering their education at Averett College. The horses that she is currently schooling are Raider, Phantom, Thumper, Pongo, Toby, and Kerry. Cathy placed second in the "Hunter Pace" competition on Toby. She and Toby also won the green division, a show class of novice horses. Also, Thumper placed second in his dressage class. Speaking of Averett College, Rai and Townsend went to Danville to join Cathy in a Fox Hunt. Cathy rode Toby, Rai and rode Phantom. They all had a wonderful time! Terrell recently went on a trip to Canada with Hank and Townsend. She, Hank and Townsend, Jane and Sumner Williams, Alice Chalmers, and Perry Patterson all spent a week at Algonquin Park in Ontario, Canada. It sounds as if everyone had a great time!



We also had a visit from Alyssa over Thanksgiving weekend. She had a wonderful time and even climbed on the tower with Hank. She's still in school at Presbyterian and has interests in returning next summer.

What about Sumner? Yes, he's still around (sort of). For those of you who do not know, Sumner is currently studying for his Masters in Education at Vanderbilt. He's been quite busy with his studies, but has managed to make a couple of visits our way. He says he loves what he's doing and can't wait to start teaching.

We just recently had a visit from Jamie O'Donnell, Chris Curtin, and Matt Hutcherson. They

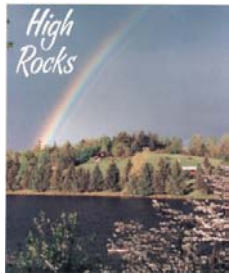
came up last weekend to go climbing over at Looking Glass. The weather was perfect and they all had a great time. Chris, Jamie, and Matt are planning to return next summer and work with the climbing program. The three also plan to join Hank in May for a special trip to Yosemite for a week of climbing.

High Rocks Home Page

Not only has our new computer put us on-line, but it has also helped move us right into the 21st century. Hank and Don spent several long hours producing the High Rocks home page. For those of you unsure about what a home page is let me explain. A home page is a sort of "information billboard." It allows anyone with Internet access the ability to produce a data page for anyone to browse. Each home page starts with an index page that links to other pages.

All you have to do is point to a given topic and click the mouse. Our High Rocks page is very informative and fun. It has lots of information about camp including a page for parents and a page especially for campers! We are still working on a few links as well as adding information daily.

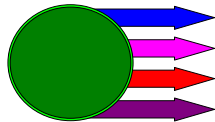
To visit our home page access the Internet and use this address:



<http://members.gnn.com/highrocks/camp.htm>

As of right now you need to type in the exact address. Later, certain search commands will help you find us. After surfing the home page be sure to e-mail us to let us know what you think. We'll even put in a color copy of the newsletter. See how great our newsletters look in full color!

To the right is a list of staff e-mail addresses that we have. We will soon be compiling a camper list as they come into the office.



Yosemite Trip

Several people have already signed up for the special climbing adventure in Yosemite National Park. The trip will begin at the end of the summer right after the two week session.



Yosemite National Park, Half Dome in the Winter

Some of those who are definitely attending include:

Roy Young
Whit Farnum
Doug Esleek
and Carl Myer

If you are interested in the trip, you need to be at least 14 years of age and a previous camper of High Rocks. You do not have to attend camp this summer to participate. For more information about registration be sure to get in touch with Hank.

Staff e-mail addresses

Camp High Rocks	Hwbirdsong@aol.com
Will Medford	Wam8@columbia.edu
Amy Pitts	Apitts@cs1.Presby.edu
Alyssa Pinkerton	abspink@cs1.presby.edu
Kevin Gaunt	Kegaunt@Davidson.edu
Ryan Trump	Rpt3s@virginia.edu
Massie Ritsch	Meritsch@princeton.edu
Anthony Kirincich	Kirincar@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu
Jamie O'Donnell	Jdodonne@unity.ncsu.edu
Becca Taylor	Taylorlo@seraph1.sewanee.edu
Scott Kollins	Kollish@mail.auburn.edu
Dan Noland	Nolandd@uncwil.edu
Sumner McCallie	Mccallsd@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu
Martin Schmidt	Mschmidt@gl.umbc.edu
Polly White	Pwnc2@aol.com

Wishing you all the best
during this holiday season and upcoming New Year...



Happy Holidays

from all of us at

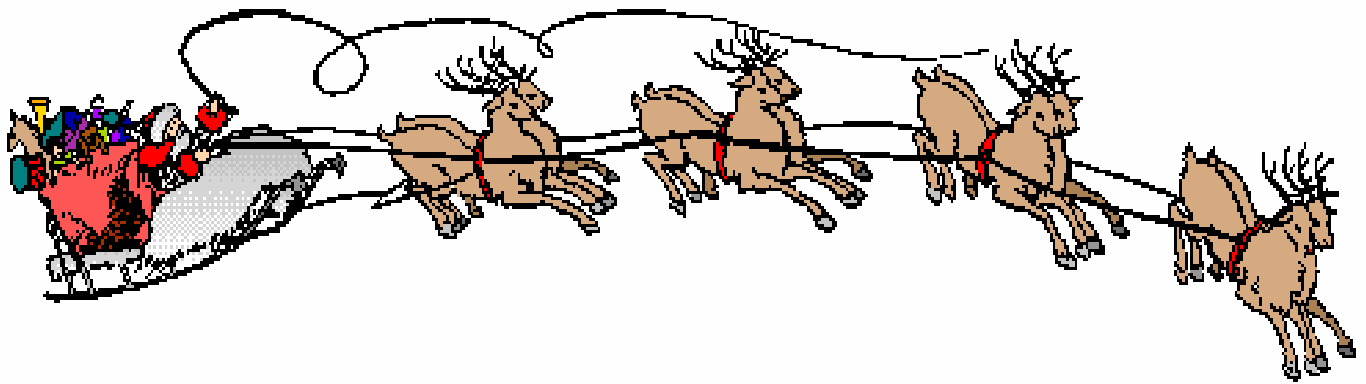
Camp High Rocks



Hank, Townsend, Mark, and Benjamin Birdsong

D. C. Stanley Jim Fox

Rai Curtis Polly White and Don Gentle



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