

High Rocks

Spring 1996

The source for what's happening on the rocks

Edited by Don Gentle

...from the Editor

Let's get excited about the summer!!! I think we had the longest winter in history this year. The winter has left quite a mess behind with several ice and wind storms not to mention the vast amounts of snow we have received this year. It is finally showing signs of warming up!!! As of today there are only 55 days until camp begins. I can't wait to see all of you again. The Internet has been a real thrill this year. Hopefully, we will be able keep your parents up to date with quick news releases on the High Rocks homepage. We'll have to see if time allows.

I have really enjoyed all the news from staff and camper's this year. Please continue to send me any information from new and old campers and staff. I'm still fairly new at all this so if you have any ideas that you would like to see in the newsletter next year be sure to get them to me.

Around the Rocks

Even though camp is over a month away, it has come alive in the last couple of weeks. Before camp even begins we will be hosting our third annual Outdoor Education Workshops. During this two week period we will have over 100 people from more than 20 organizations participating in one of 16 separate training programs.

Several staff members including Hank will be heading to Yosemite the first week of May. Everyone is real excited including Hank, who has been on a rigorous training schedule for about three weeks. It looks to be a great experience.

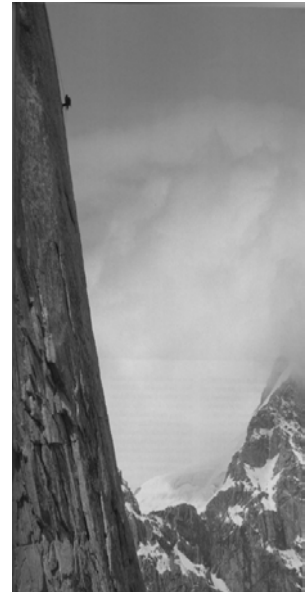
We've been working hard to get all the cabins and activity areas ready to go. A few staff have graciously come aboard to help carry the extra load. Holiday Inn has been revamped inside and out. Dogwood Den is about get some needed repair. Several cabins will receive a new coat of stain and the swim docks has a new cupboard and aluminum ladders. The barn has had a new coat of stain as well as several needed fence repairs. The rough

winter and those beautiful destructive horses, who want to get to the other side, make fence repair a continuing battle. The tower has also be given some much needed maintenance as it approaches its third year of use. We hope to have a route guide for the tower this year for campers to use and follow.

Yosemite Trip

The 1996 High Rocks Yosemite trip will kick off with three days of training in camp and then it's out to the Valley for ten days of climbing in one of the best places on earth. Those who will be attending include:

Carl Myer
Whit Farnum
Roy Young
Doug Esleek
Palmer Straughn
Andrew Moore
Jonathon Gellman
Michael Gellman



We are all very excited about this trip. Those of you who are attending keep up the training. It is sure to be a hit.

We hope to continue these end of the summer expeditions each year. Keep your eyes open for what next year's trip may be. It looks like we may be hosting a backpacking trip but no definite plans about the location yet. Each member must be at least 14 years of age to attend the expeditions. Details will be out this fall.


Staff '96


The moment you have all been waiting for is about to begin. Yes, here is the current list of new and returning staff for the summer of 1996.

 indicates new staff members for 1996

Hank Birdsong- With over twenty years of experience working with children in camp settings, and with outdoor programs, at Outward Bound and Discovery, Hank provides camp with a rich background of knowledge and technical skill. A UNC- Chapel He will graduate with a degree in Recreational Administration, in his free time he enjoys rockclimbing; past ascents include El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite.

Townsend Birdsong- Born and raised at camp (her parents built and ran High Rocks for the first 30 years), Townsend has camping in her blood. A graduate of UNC- Greensboro in Nursing, she has chosen horseback riding as her specialty. This year will mark the ninth summer for the Birdsongs to be running camp.


 **David Aitken-** A rising sophomore at Tulane. David will be a member of our Hiking and Climbing staff this summer. He also has a lot of computer experience that we hope to use. He is real interested in showing the outdoors to children.

 **Judah Bugal-** A rising sophomore at St. Petersburg junior college. Judah will be working as a canoeing and kayaking instructor this year. He has experience leading middle school kids in outdoor experiences.

Jean Capellari- A graduate of Randolph Macon Women's College with a major in biology, Jean will be joining us for her second year on our horseback riding staff. She comes with years of experience in all sorts of riding styles, and with a "passion to share her experiences with children."


Brad Carter- A UT-Knoxville graduate in theater, Brad is looking towards a career in outdoor education. He joins us on our climbing staff to share his skills and experience gained from several trips

out west to Yosemite and the Rocky Mountains. This will be Brad's second year on the high rocks staff.

 **Vera Cohen-** Refereed to us by the great Audrey Dawson, Vera comes to us from Charleston, South Carolina. She has many years of experience with children. Most recently she worked with the Charleston County Parks and Rec. summer lunch program.

Chris Curtin- A rising junior at NC State University in a Parks and Recreation major, Chris will be on our climbing staff for the second year. He has had extensive outdoor experience in our local region, having grown up two hours away. At school, Chris has been working as a supervisor for an indoor climbing wall at his school.

Rai Curtis- For two years, Rai has worked year round at High Rocks, helping train the new horses that were born and others that have been purchased. A graduate of Presbyterian College in psychology, Rai will instruct horseback riding for her third summer.

 **Bond Dillard-** A rising senior at the University of the South. Bond has a lot of experience in the outdoors and with children. She will be on our support staff this year helping out with soccer, tennis, ropes course, hiking, and crafts.

Audrey Dawson- Once again, we'll have some amazing food from our super cook Audrey. Known for her breads, her lasagna, and her wonderful good nature, Audrey will lead up our kitchen staff for her fifth year in a row.

Jim Fox- Back for his fifth summer, Jim brings a multitude of talents to High Rocks. He is skilled in canoeing, rockclimbing, ropes courses, mountain biking to name a few. His vast experience from Western Carolina Univ.'s outdoor program, ranging from biking to paddling to climbing, has been an invaluable source of ideas and experience. It is great to have him back.

☀️ **Jason Frayer-** A rising sophomore from Georgia College, Jason will be instructing hiking and climbing this summer. He has traveled extensively in the states and abroad.

Terrell Garrard- Terrell is one of those steady camp folk; we count on her year after year for her humor, her love of working with kids, and her relaxed nature. She'll be heading up a super barn staff, taking time out from her life down in Madison, Ga. Terrell began coming to Camp as a camper in 1958- the first year of camp.

Don Gentle- Coming back for his third summer, Don has spent the in-between year working at a nearby therapeutic camp, and climbing and paddling with the year-round staff. He'll be running our canoe program again this summer. His background includes a Master's degree from Ohio Univ. in Physical Education with a Recreational Studies focus.

Elizabeth Griffith- Back for her third summer, Elizabeth will be heading up our swim docks. A graduate of Presbyterian College (she majored in physics and math), her being here makes it 8 straight years that we've had a Griffith on staff- her brother began on staff in 1988, she carries on the Griffith tradition.

Chad Harding- Chad looks to return for his third summer at High Rocks . He will be heading up our mountain biking staff. He is graduating this year from UT Knoxville with a degree in architecture.

Matt Hutcherson- A rising senior at NC State Univ. majoring in Textile Management, Matt joins us for his second year on our rock climbing staff. Experienced in both scouting (an Eagle scout) and as a former camper, Matt has been working as a supervisor for an indoor climbing wall at his school.

☀️ **Jack Ingelman-** A graduate from Clemson and Montana State. Jack has currently been working at the Charlotte Outdoor Center working with youth groups as well as leading and building high ropes courses.

Perry Johnson- A rising junior at Randolph Macon's Women College majoring in Political Science/

Economics, Perry has grown up with a love for horses. A camper herself for many years, Perry looks forward to passing on her skills and knowledge to our young riders. 1996 is Perry's second year at High Rocks. After the summer she is planning on studying abroad in England for the fall.

Katie Jones skipped a summer and will be returning this year. She is currently in graduate school at the University of Georgia. Katie will be on our horseback riding staff again.

Kelly Large- Living in Maine during the winter, Kelly and her family spend a lot of time out in the mountains when they're white and covered in snow. We're glad to have her family back as she returns to be our camp nurse during the three week session. Kelly attended High Rocks as a youth.

Mark Lattin- A graduate of Univ. of Kentucky having majored in Biology, Mark re-joins our mountaineering staff for his second year on staff. Mark's previous experience includes being a counselor at a YMCA camp in Owensboro, Ky.

John Lovett- A former High Rocks camper and staff member, John returns for his ninth summer in these mountains. Once again, he'll instruct on our climbing staff. John is currently a rising junior at Wake Forest; it is super to have him back.

David MacLean- From just over the hill in Swannanoa where he attends Warren Wilson College as a rising senior majoring in English, David once again joins us on the swimming and hiking staffs. This past semester, David spent some time in Chile with a service group from his school. This will be David's third year on the High Rocks staff.




Sumner McCallie has had quite a busy year at Vanderbilt studying for his masters degree in

education. Having been a High Rocks camper for seven years and a staff member throughout his college years gives Sumner a wealth of knowledge to use as our program director. Sumner's Father and brother were also High Rocks campers & counselors.

Lorraine McNamara- For her sixth year in a row, Lorraine and her two sons will join us for our four week session where Lorraine will be our resident camp nurse. During the year she works as a head nurse in Saxpawah, NC.

Kathleen Moore- Having spent the past year teaching at Virginia Episcopal School, Kathleen is ready for spending a summer in the outdoors sharing her love of horses and riding with the campers. This will be her third summer here; she took last summer to bike across the U.S.


 **Andrew Moreman-** another fine staff member from Sewanee. A rising junior majoring in natural resources Andrew will be working in the hiking and swimming activity areas this summer.

Elmyra Morris- Living in Jacksonville, FL during the year, Elmyra, with her son Daniel, joins us for the two week session as our camp nurse. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in neuromuscular disorders. 1996 is Elmyra's second summer at High Rocks.


Kenny Nichols- Returning for a third year on our riflery and archery staff, Kenny currently is teaching secondary school math in the Asheville area. He originally hails from Robbinsville, just west of us in the high mountains of North Carolina.

Dan Noland- Currently teaching English and linguistics at UNC-Wilmington, Dan will be back for his 25th summer. A brother in-law to Townsend, Dan has been an integral part of shaping camp's philosophy and activity.


Jamie O'Donnell - a graduate of NC State University, Jamie will head up our rockclimbing area. This summer will be Jamie's third summer working at High Rocks. Last year he spent his summer interning at the Nature Conservancy.


 **Scott Park** is a new staff member this year. He comes to us from Boulder, Colorado and will be working as a climbing staff member.

Alyssa Pinkerton is finishing up her senior year at Presbyterian College and will be joining us again for the summer. In addition to her talents as an artist, Alyssa brings many additional talents to our staff, including rock climbing and ropes course facilitation.


 **Chris Phillips-** A rising Senior at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, Chris has taken several courses in outdoor education. He will be working in the Hiking and Mountain Biking areas this summer.

Ami Pitts is a graduate of Presbyterian College and will be returning on our support staff during the three week session.

 **Clare Pofahl-** A graduate from Presbyterian College, Clare will be working in the office this summer. She has a great way with people and is a roommate of Zoob Griffith where she has heard years of stories about High Rocks.

 **Micheal Powell-** A rising sophomore at Southwestern University in Texas, Micheal brings with him years of outdoor experience including a semester course with NOLS. He will be working in the hiking and mountain biking areas this summer.

Aaron Power will be in for the three week session and then he's off to South America. He received his acceptance to the Peace Corps a lot sooner than expected and is real excited to start his two year commitment. Aaron is a second year staff member in the crafts area.

 **Scott Ray**, a new staff member this year, will be working in the mountain biking area. He comes to us from the University of Kentucky where he is a second year student studying Natural Resources.

Franklin Sames- A recent graduate of The University of the South (Sewanee), Franklin returns for his third summer to share his knowledge of geology and his love of the outdoors as the head of

our hiking staff. In the past years, Franklin has been active in the outdoor program, leading caving and hiking trips.

Martin Schmidt- Another one of the long-timers, Martin returns for his 31st or so summer to help as assistant/program director for the four week session. Currently, he teaches physics, astronomy, and geology at the McDonough School in Maryland.

☀️ **Kevin Steiner-** A graduate of Furman University, Kevin is a competitive mountain bike racer. He will be working in the mountain biking area and assist teaching soccer.

☀️ **David Sugarman-** A rising sophomore at Washington and Lee, David brings with him many years of organizational experience. Along with being a former High Rocks camper, he has also completed a NOLS course which has given him extensive outdoor experience in climbing and mountaineering. He will be working in the hiking activity and assist with tennis and soccer.

☀️ **Michael Sweitzer-** A rising junior at NCSU majoring in Parks and Recreation, Micheal will be working on the canoe docks and helping out with climbing and ropes course.

Becca Taylor- A rising junior at Sewanee, Becca returns to our riding staff with years of experience with horses while growing up in Arkansas. She currently rides for her university's equestrian team. 1996 is Becca's second year at High Rocks.

Cathy Thacker- A rising senior at Averett College in Danville, VA, Cathy returns for her third year on our riding staff in our two week session. She

continues to make a life of equestrian studies and will spend most of her time riding this summer at school before coming to High Rocks.

☀️ **Allen Todd-** A graduate of Duke Univesity, Allen brings with him many years of camping experience. He spent the winter in Jackson, Wyoming with Jamie O'Donnell. He has lots of outdoor experience including Eagle Scout recognition. Allen will be working as a mountain biking instructor.

☀️ **Elliot Tucker-** A graduate of Guilford College, Elliot will be working in the pottery studio this summer. He has several years of experience as a camper and has worked at near by Gwynn Valley.

☀️ **Jacklyn Waddey-** A rising sophomore at Sewanee, Jack brings with her years of swimming experience. She will be working in the crafts and swimming areas this summer.

☀️ **Corey Wall-** A first year student at Georgia College, Corey brings with him a strong background in outdoor education and ropes course leadership. Corey has worked along side his father who directs the Georgia College Outdoor Center and builds ropes courses. Corey will be working on the ropes course and helping out with climbing.

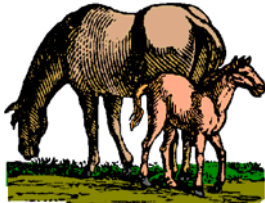


The Barn

This just in for all you equestrian types... **Rai Curtis** has finally finished the bridles and saddles!!! In case your wondering, let me explain. Each year Rai has the tedious task of washing, drying, and oiling (or "oling" as Rai says it) all the bridles and saddles. Anyway, the last one is finished. Be sure to congratulate her on a great job.

Also making horse news are our expecting mothers. April gave birth to a brown filly on April 17th.

Everything went really well without complication and April has turned out



to be a wonderful mother. The first night April had to jump the fences of two paddocks to protect her fowl who wandered into trouble. Pumpkin is due May 15th and appears to be a little jealous of April at the moment.

Jane Williams, who had three expecting mama's, has also experienced success. Tobin who is a five year old Connemara had a beautiful tan colt who is now two weeks old and doing studdly. Also, Mac, another Connemara, had a silver colt on the same day as April.

Internet News

If you have not had a chance to see our Internet site lately try and do so. We have just added some new pictures from the snow storm and we add new stuff to the Neat Internet Sites each week. To access our site you can type in the exact address or just go to one of many search engines like WebCrawler search, Yahoo etc. Once you get to the keyword page type in Camp High Rocks. You will then get a listing of all that apply. Look for our page in the list and click on the one that says Camp High Rocks. If you feel more comfortable typing in the address here it is:



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

Hank and Townsend have really appreciated all the e-mail over the winter. It has made it so easy to

keep in touch with everyone. If you would like to e-mail us here at High Rocks our address is hwbirdsong@aol.com We would love to here from you all.

Parent Information Packs are out! Be sure to read all the information carefully. There is a lot of new stuff for old and new families. If you have not received your pack please give us a call so that we can get it out to you.



Visiting

Jamie O'Donnell has come in early to help out. He will be here until he leaves for Yosemite in May. Heather Parks also paid us a visit. She traveled to Ireland this winter and had a wonderful time. She is unsure of her plans as of now. Sumner McCallie also visited a few weeks ago. He has to finish up his student teaching, but will be here most of the summer. He has just accepted an offer at The McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He will begin this fall. Congratulations Sumner!!! High Rocks is hosting an orientation meeting this weekend to work out some new ideas and concerns. We will have a lot of returning staff coming up to visit. It looks to be real productive and fun!

That's about all for this issue. I will see you all in the fall with more exciting news. Have a safe trip to the mounatins and a great summer!

Take Care, -Don