

Founded 1958



Celebrating 50 Years of High Rocks

- edited by Don Gentle

High Rocks Thru the Years...

That's Right! The summer of 2007 will mark the 50th season for Camp High Rocks. Can you believe it's been 50 years since our first summer? Plans are in the making for a wonderful celebration in September, 2007. We need your help to put on this amazing event! We are currently trying to bring our alumni database up to date, so please contact your friends and family and have them send us their news and current location. We would really like to get a good mix of folks from both of the Jane/Sumner and Hank/Townsend eras. Some ideas for events include:

As we soon approach the landmark of 50 years in camping here at High Rocks, it is enjoyable to look back at the time, love, sweat, and energy that has brought High Rocks to where it is today. Through the years many campers and staff have asked me about the history of camp. I thought I would take a moment to share a few of the highlights of the rich history that created this magical place.

My parents, Jane and Sumner Williams, founded High Rocks in 1958. Jane Bell Williams is the daughter of the late Frank Bell ("Chief"), who founded Camps Mondamin and Green Cove in Tuxedo, North Carolina back in 1922. Jane



High Rocks lake in 1959

- Tours and information, hiking, paddling, climbing, and mountain biking trips
- Displays of pictures, letters, memories, and slide shows from various generations. Please bring your stash!
- Information on the current state and future of High Rocks
- Food, fun, and a great celebration...

Again, we need your help to put on this amazing event. If you received this newsletter then we have your address, but there are many past staff and campers that we do not have current information on who would enjoy coming to this event. Please help us out by getting in touch or looking up friends from your years at camp. Send us your alumni information or direct people to the alumni section of the website. More information will follow as we continue to finalize the details. Please let us know if you would like to help.

and Sumner met as counselors at Mondamin and acquired the property when they were married in 1948. Construction was slow in the early years. Jane and Sumner would spend weekends helping with construction and removing trees for the lake. During this time, Sumner was teaching at Westminster School in Atlanta. Imagine taking a raw piece of property and having the vision to plan how you wanted camp to look. There were no buildings and no lake; only simple logging roads, a lot of trees, and a vision. Finally, in 1958, Sumner secured a faculty position at Furman University near Greenville, South Carolina. Now that they were much closer to the property, Jane and Sumner could really get things going on what was to be Camp High Rocks. I believe it was Jane and Sumner's dream to have their own camp and provide such wonderful opportunities to campers and staff alike.

Camp opened for the first summer in 1958. That year they started with six weeks of boys and followed with three

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Campership Fund is Thriving

Just a reminder that we are still building our campership fund and are hoping to have enough to grant a scholarship for the summer of 2007. This scholarship fund enables children to attend camp that would not otherwise be able to do so. It was created in memory of camp founder Sumner M. Williams. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to:

**Community Foundation of
Western North Carolina
PO Box 1888, Asheville, NC 28802**

Please write "Camp High Rocks Campership Fund" in the memo field of your check.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Campership Fund! Contributors since the last newsletter:

Chris Carroll
William and Peggy Randolph
Charles and Kate Frazier
Fran Jackson
Sumner McCallie
Frank and Elizabeth Tindall
Gilchrist Berg
John Gildersleeve
Barrett Norman
Brumley Love and Morrell Memorial Fund
of the Community Foundation for Greater
Atlanta, Inc.

Years (from page 1)

weeks of girls. There were a total of twenty campers and twenty horses that first summer! Jane and Sumner's house served as the office, kitchen, dining hall, and lodge; Connestee and Lakeside were the only cabins. After a very successful first summer, Sumner proceeded to build in preparation for 1959. History created itself as one session of boys was followed by one session of girls each summer for the next 30 years until 1987; that is when Hank and I made the switch to an all boys camp.

Things have changed a lot since that first summer in 1958. Here are some milestones and hurdles that occurred along the way:

- The cabin "Hillside" was originally built where the lodge is today and housed the crafts room and ping pong tables in the early days before the gym. When the lodge was added to the dining hall, Hillside was moved to its current location and turned into a cabin.
- The first barn was located between what is now the soccer field and the current outdoor rifle range. It is now used for storage and maintenance. The new barns were built in 1974 and 3 new riding rings were cleared.
- Chalet was the last cabin built in 1972 until Lookout was added in 2005.
- In 1979 reports came in that the dam had to be reconstructed; this was no small task. There was no water in the lake that summer. Imagine a camp without a lake... The drained lake was nothing but a muddy bottom of tree stumps with a small stream running through it. Leave it to creative counselors to make good out of a rough situation. The annual

whitewater regatta was born. The regatta now takes place over the spillway and is a very exciting event at the end of each session. Fortunately, the dam was completed midsummer so we did have a small pond near the end of the season.

- Campfire Hill was moved for a short time to a spot up the hill from Pinnacle. Later, it was decided that the old campfire hill was better and campfire is still there every week.
- In the summer of 1963 Ray Eaton and Pat Leverette (Jane's sister) led a group of campers from the girl's session down the Chattooga River in aluminum Grumman canoes. This trip was to be the first ever organized camp group (and one of the first institutional trips) to run the Chattooga. Paddling at High Rocks continues to be a strong program today. The current Canoeing Program Director is Jane and Sumner's grandson, Woody Noland.

After 30 years of directing camp, Jane and Sumner announced their retirement. Jane retired in 1986 and Sumner in 1987. Hank and I decided to leave our jobs in Winston-Salem and move to camp to begin our career as Directors. We are so fortunate to have had a wonderful opportunity. We look forward to sharing the positive impact High Rocks has on past, present, and future campers. The dream lives on in all of us.

In honor of my father, Sumner McBee Williams,
I am sincerely yours,
Townsend W. Birdsong

Staff News

It's always great to hear from current and past staff. Here is what we have heard on the street as of late.

Heath Kaminer is doing well in his second year at Sewanee. He will be joining us for another summer at the canoe docks. He has recently taken up hiking around the vast areas that surround the Sewanee Campus.

Jason Timpson is enjoying his first year at UNC Charlotte. Jason transferred from Fayetteville State last fall and has truly enjoyed his new setup. He has enjoyed meeting up with some of the summer staff during his weekends.

Strickland Parks is doing well at Brevard College. He is currently gearing up for the tennis season and is excited about returning for another summer.

Lewis Lovett has been spotted from time to time this winter. Our last sighting was at the Super Bowl gathering up at the Birdsongs. All is well with Lewis as he finishes up his third year at Wofford College. Lewis has enjoyed working with the local Young Life group and will spend some time with his group from Spartanburg, SC out west late this summer. Lewis will be one of our Head Counselors for the 2006 season. Before the summer begins, however, Lewis, his dad (David Lovett ('67, '69, '70)) and Don Gentle will head off to the British Virgin Islands for a week of sailing in April.

Chris Dorrity just got back from a great climbing trip in Thailand. He is currently doing some work on the tower for us and will be returning as climbing head once again.

Brad Buckelew will be coming back for a second term this summer. He's had a great winter up at the University of Richmond and getting in some snow boarding days whenever possible.

Elise Oren spent the fall with us for LEAP, and has since taken her usual "climbing sabbatical" out west. She will be back for a fourth straight summer at the barn as well as helping us out with some school groups this spring.

Mike Neuman who has been our head of hiking the last two summers has taken a job at Camp Woodson, a state-run juvenile delinquent outdoor program. We will miss his expertise and wish him the best in his new adventure.

Jim Toman is finishing up his last semester at UNC Chapel Hill. Jim worked through last fall and will get his degree in May. His plans for the summer are still up in the air, but he may join Rob Lamb ('99-'05) in Malawi, Africa to help out with HIV/AIDS education, or we may get him back here.

We also had a brief moment to catch up with Scott Veasey, who is also at UNC Chapel Hill. Scott is doing well and will most probably join us in August after he finishes up a few world travels and family commitments.

Jay Smelser stuck around with us this fall then headed out for a brief stint in Oregon. He is now back in Knoxville, getting engaged, and managing a climbing gym. Jay is learning to work through the rigors of managing people and a program that needed a lot of help.

More news from some some staff who have not been here in a year or so...

Rudy Dunlap ('01-'03) is wrapping up his graduate coursework at UGA in Athens, Ga. He should be ready for his comprehensive exams by the end of the summer and then it's on to dissertation. He and his wife Danielle are enjoying their time in the college town and have visited a few times this last winter.

Stuart ('91-'01) and Katie (Crawford) Dodson ('98-'02,'05) who were married last summer, have settled in Brevard, NC once again. Stuart is currently doing marketing at Connestee Falls Property and Katie is teaching at Brevard College. They hosted their second annual Winter Olympic Festival, which brought a few past staff into town.

Ryan "Skippy" Gaunt ('99-'04) spent his last summer on the

Yosemite Search and Rescue Team. YOSAR is a group of National Park Rangers and other specialized climbing individuals that help out in the event of an emergency in Yosemite National Park. They are the guys that do all the cool high-angle and other climbing related rescues. YOSAR ranks among the best teams in the world. High Rocks has had three staff Brad Carter ('99-'00, '02-'04), Michael Powell ('96, '98-'00), and now Skippy who have all served on YOSAR. Skippy plans to head back out to Yosemite again this summer.

Travis Herbert ('99-'00) who spent his last few years at the North Carolina Juvenile Justice Department's Camp Woodson, has moved on to pursue a degree in social work at Maine's University of New England. He will finish up his first year in May.

We still keep up with Scott Park ('96-'97, '01-'03) quite a bit. He has just taken a job at Trango Holdings, which is a climbing equipment company. He still spends time helping out his climbing team kids that he worked with while managing a climbing gym. Scott and his wife are expecting their first child this fall.

Brad Carter ('99-'00, '02-'04) is loving life out in Seattle, Washington. He has spent the last few years playing in some Blue Grass bands and walking dogs for a living. Brad sent us some great music a few months ago, and hopes to visit soon. Brad keeps in contact with Aaron Power ('95-'96, '99-'00) and Chad Harding ('94-'98), who are also in Seattle.

Andre Bell ('00-'04) is still sighted from time to time in Brevard. He has just taken an Assistant Manager position at a new upscale whole foods market that will be opening in town. It's great to have Andre around and I'm sure we will see him for a visit our two this summer.

One of our favorite parts about this job is keeping up with all of the great people who make High Rocks such a wonderful place. Thanks for keeping up with us, and continue to let us know where you are and what you are doing.

Alumni News

The Gertner's -An Eagle History

Below is a recent family picture of the Gertner family from Gainesville, Florida. The Gertner's have a strong scouting and High Rocks tradition. Logan ('96, '98) just received his Eagle Scout ranking last year. He joins his brothers Morris ('89-'92, '94, '96) and Harold ('87-'90, '92-'94 S: '95-'97, '99-'02), as well as his father who have all earned their Eagle Scout rank. Jeffrey, who is a Life Scout, is also working toward his Eagle rank.



The Gertners: Cathy, Rudy, Jeffrey, Harold, Morris, and Logan

New Shelter



The New Shelter located at Still Oaks

This past summer we erected a new shelter down in the "Still Oaks" section of camp. The construction was part of our fairly new CT program. CT's are rising seniors who are part of a counselor training program for boys aging out of the traditional camp program. This year's project was the shelter. The shelter will also serve as a memorial to former camper Alex Morrell who died in a plane crash in 2003.

A Canadian Tradition



The 2005 Algonquin group: Hank, Townsend, Terrell Garrard, Nancy Williams, Joe Bankoff, Bradley Williams, Dell Reardon, Jane Williams, Bobby Reardon, Stephanie Howell, Lisa Bankoff, Henry Howell, Alice Gann, Jeff Parks

There has been a long standing tradition of High Rocks heading to Algonquin Park, Canada. Over 20 years ago, Jane and Sumner Williams first went up to Algonquin with Frank Bell. Back then it was considered a canoe camping trip along the miles of canoe trails throughout the park. The people have changed throughout the years, but it always consisted of friends and alums of High Rocks. The group now spends the days out and the evenings in the Arowhon Pines Resort located in the midst of this 5000 square mile wildlife reserve.

Sixth Year Campers

This summer, we will have twenty-seven campers during our July Session who will be returning to camp for, at least, their sixth summer. We sent an e-mail to all of these guys to see what they have been up to and why they like to come back to camp for so many years.

Andrew Magod ('01-'06) from Greensboro, NC, put it quite simply. "It's fun, and I really like the counselors." He is currently busy with basketball and ready for the summer.

Bear Givhan ('01-'06) from Dallas, TX is pretty much psyched about kayaking, and camp is where he learned. Bear is looking at McCallie School as a possibility next year for high school.

Finn Althoff ('01-'06) from Hamburg, Germany keeps coming back because it never gets boring. "Even after five years I still haven't tried every activity...the activities I've been doing for five years don't get boring, because you get to go on longer and more challenging trips every year." Finn is very excited about World Cup 2006 in Germany!

High Rocks, the Next Generation

Following is a list of 2006 campers whose relatives attended High Rocks a long time ago in galaxy far, far away.

2006 Camper	Relationship	Alumnus
Parker Alison	son of	James Alison
	nephew of	Fontaine Alison
Jason Arias	nephew of	Neil Stallings
Francis Beach	nephew of	Andrew Christian
Daniel Blewer	son of	Ed Blewer, Jr
	grandson of	Ed Blewer, III
Rob Bruce	son of	Bob Bruce
Jack Carmichael	nephew of	Nell Goddin
Robert Corey	nephew of	Kathryn Wilson Corey
Allen Corey	son of	Kathryn Wilson Corey
Joseph and Walter Cornwell	sons of	Missy Cornwell
Fletcher Cox	nephew of	Jim Kissel
William Crichton	son of	Ginger Munsch Crichton
Reid Cunningham	nephew of	Fleming Cunningham Lunsford
Gardner Davis	nephew of	Don Cousar
Cody Fox	son of	Cynthia Fox
Sam Gale	son of	Ginny White Gale
Allen Jones	son of	Ray Jones
Jack and Matthew Jones	sons of	Mark Jones
Andrew and Bradley King	nephews of	Strickland Parks
Reeves Kissel	son of	Jim Kissel
Carter Little	son of	Nevan Little
	cousin of	Ben Little
	nephew of	Gray Little
Andrew and Ben Magod	cousins of	Alex Morrell
Hill Martin	son of	Hill Martin
Austin and Jack Monaghan	sons of	Jamey Monaghan
Will McDonough	son of	Lindsay McDonough
Jack Norman	son of	Dick Norman
Garner Nottingham	son of	Catherine Casey Nottingham
John Null	son of	Lulu Wilson Null
William Poole	son of	Shepherd McMillian Poole
James Roberts	son of	Lynn Williams Roberts
Ian Robbins	son of	Jamey Robbins
Duncan and Taylor Rule	nephews of	Brumley Smith and Warner Smith
Will Russ	cousin of	Fontaine Alison
Luke Schmidt	son of	Luke Schmidt
Jack Sewell	son of	Banks Sewell
Alex Stevens	son of	Beth Franke Stevens
Zach Shaykin	son of	Gabrielle Egger
Tommy Smart	son of	Libby Ward Smart
Wilson Tyndal	son of	Cumbee Wilson Tyndall
Chris Wasden	son of	Wiley Wasden, III
John Edward Wickham	sons of	Charlotte Hill Wickham
Ashby Wickham	sons of	Charlotte Hill Wickham
Jake and Wilson West	sons of	Ann Tutwiler West
Ben Whedon	son of	William Whedon
Sumner Williams	son of	Betsy Williams

Visit the High Rocks Website

www.highrocks.com

The High rocks website is a great place to catch up on what is happening at camp. There is loads of information for campers, staff, parents, and alumni.

Our Parent Section has a lot of information to help out with your decision about camp and also resources for those already enrolled. The Staff Sections are also a great resource for interested staff as well as those currently working at camp.

The new "staff" section is just starting to makes in debut. This area is specifically designed for current staff with information, resources, and forms that will help them with their job this summer. There is also an extensive professional discount section.

The Alumni Section is great for those who are looking into the past. We are currently looking to expand this section of the website. If you have information or pictures from the past, please send them our way. We would really like to get more information up for all generations of camp.

And don't forget about our LEAP "school group" Section. This is a special area specifically designed for those interested in bringing their school to camp. The LEAP area also special sections with information for parents and teachers who are bringing a group up to camp.

There are several sections of our website that are password protected. Drop us a line or give us a call to get access to these areas.

If you or your son were accidentally omitted from this list we apologize. Please let us know so that we can include it in the next newsletter.

High Rocks

PO Box 210
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718
www.highrocks.com

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Where are they now?



Former High Rocks counselor Allysa Pinkerton Adams ('95-'96) with her husband Andy, son Otis, and new daughter Lulu. Alyssa and Andy are about to start their third season as directors of Camp Staunton Meadows in Virginia.

Bradley ('93-94) & Meda Barnes are currently living in Cambridge Massachusetts where Bradley is the campus chaplain for Harvard University. We are looking forward to the possibility of Benjamin (their oldest) attending camp in 2007 and having Bradley and Meda on staff again.



Session availability

We currently have a few spaces available in the first three week session and the last two week session. Enrollment in the four week session has been very strong with 47 campers returning for their fifth summer or longer.