



Around the Rocks

Rich Mountain Conservancy

It feels like we are going to have an early spring this year with the weather suddenly warming and groundhogs not seeing their shadows. After the second cold winter in as many years, no one at camp is complaining! The snow has melted, the sun is out, and camp seems to have come to life after hibernating through



High Rocks enjoying southern California

the winter. Don and Hank just returned from the ACA National Conference in San Diego which sounded like another success. Danny Stewart, Ben Little, and Zach Nichols have been working non-stop on projects before next summer. They first tackled the hefty renovations in the kitchen of the Dining Hall. The huge walk-in refrigerator, the very heart

of camp, has been replaced and moved to a new area, with the new dry storage/pantry taking its place. This opens up an enormous amount of new room in the kitchen, allowing for new lines of sinks, shelves, ice machines, and counter space to make the kitchen flow much more easily and results in a net profit for everyone involved. We can't wait to have our kitchen crew back at camp and see the looks on their faces when they first walk in.

The maintenance guys next shifted their focus to Chalet where the smallest bathrooms in camp got a much-needed growth spurt, along with new fixtures, lights, and a serious coat of fresh paint. Chalet's porch has long been a favorite hang out spot and is one of the best places to watch a good tennis game, so it was given a face lift with sturdy new decking. So the other cabins would not feel slighted, Connestee also got some love from our hammer-wielding wizards. Each bathroom has been redone as well, with fixtures, lightings, floors, and more. The biggest change in the main rooms will be the new shelving walls which make use of every inch of space to create seven individual sets of cubbies and large storage areas for backpacks, tennis rackets, etc. To demonstrate, Ben crawled completely inside and had room to spare!

Somehow, while all of this was going on inside, the guys were also working outside in some fairly bitter conditions. The counselor parking/mountain bike staging area received a sizeable
continued on page 2

Rich Mountain has been saved!! After a two-year fundraising effort, Rich Mountain is now owned by the Rich Mountain Conservancy and the promissory note to the Conservation Fund has been paid off. We were very encouraged with the support from High Rocks alumni and our community since most of the funds for the purchase were raised during a year of severe economic struggle for our country.

The next step that the Rich Mountain Conservancy anticipates is to acquire a five-acre parcel that was exempted from the original purchase. The small parcel was leased to the state of North Carolina for a fire tower in the early 1900's and is today used to base emergency communications equipment and towers owned by the state.

Acquiring this final parcel from the Conservation Fund will complete the preservation of Rich Mountain. The Rich Mountain Conservancy board of directors, under the leadership of High Rocks alumnus Macon Patton is currently negotiating the purchase of the final piece of the Rich Mountain puzzle.

Thanks go out to everyone that donated to this project! We will let you know as progress is made with this final purchase.



The view of Rich Mountain from the High Rocks lake. It is a focal point from nearly everywhere in camp and as such, it is great to have it preserved for High Rocks alumni and future campers alike.

Inside:

- ◆ **Alumni News.....Page 7**
- ◆ **Staff News.....Page 5**
- ◆ **Starter Camp.....Page 6**
- ◆ **High Rocks online.....Page 4**

Campership Fund is Thriving

The gift of camp is not just weeks of fun, adventure, and companionship but can create independence, confidence, leadership, and a sense of community. 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 tax-deductible 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! You have given a lasting gift to camp and several incredible young men so far.

Some recent contributors are:

Drs. Woodrow and Martha McKay
Ms. Bettina B. Hensinger
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey D. Culver
Mr. and Mrs. Jim McDonough

Around the Rocks *(cont from page 1)*

expansion to better accommodate the numbers of cars that now appear every summer. While they were in the neighborhood, two new bathrooms were added under the gym to help the most constantly populated area in camp.

The lake was drained several feet over the winter to allow



The draining flume was thirty feet long for 24 hours!



Plenty of room to work now

projects around the banks.

Fishing benefited in several places by dredging the bottom deeper along the shore and removing lake grasses and other obstacles which tend to catch nearly every hook. We also cleared a large section of briars near the CT bridge and removed one of the damaged trees by the fishing dock to create more open space conducive to overhead casting. To balance out the clearances, we've added structure (including old Christmas trees) to keep our fish happy and hungry.

While the lake remained low we also put a geothermal heating/cooling unit in the Gray House, a project that could not happen fast enough with the freezing temperatures at the time. We had to bust through 3-4 inches of ice on the lake in order to sink the apparatus in about 12 feet of water. This depth was key in order to maintain a constant water temperature year-round for the system which even now



Sledgehammer canoeing is the new workout this summer

is heating the house much more efficiently. Come summer, the airconditioning will be felt most keenly in a dry basement and cool staff meeting nights!

On the program side of things changes are afoot, or ahoof,

Activity Programs

down at the barn. Our new Riding Director, Blaire Cannon, has been working throughout the winter on trails, additions for the ring and pastures, and recruiting some new horses. A new trail has been cleared to Lower Pasture, near the bottom of the camp road, to allow for horseback overnights. Another loop has been cut in above the Fern Trail, allowing for even more variety around the property and more cool, shady routes to ride. Blaire, with Zach Nichols' help, has also constructed a bunch of new low jumps and obstacles to challenge our riders. Some have bushes along the top, others are brightly painted or have flower boxes, and one is even made to look like a gnome house. Some of the barn's newest members will amaze riders this summer. One who is prominent on our website, and pretty much wherever else he goes, is our Clydesdale named Buckwheat who stands an impressive 18.2 hands. Despite being able to eat hay out of the second story while he stands in his stall, he is an incredibly gentle guy who loves visitors, especially ones with peppermint snacks. Buckwheat was trained as a fox-hunter and so definitely prefers to be on a trail rather than in the ring. Truman is Buckwheat's sidekick and loves to be with his (much) bigger friend. Truman is a thoroughbred racing horse who will be used by the staff as a lead in classes. He is a descendant of some pretty famous horses with a grandfather named Seattle Slew and his great-grandfather was Secretariat



Buckwheat compared to Calico

continued on page 3

Around the Rocks (cont from page 2)

himself! The most recent arrival to camp is Johnny, a paint who enjoys getting out on trail rides and absolutely loves jumping.



*Top: Truman striking a pose
R: Johnny is young and*



We don't know him as well yet, but Johnny is already settling into the herd comfortably and appears to be a fun, athletic addition.

The barn also has two small critter additions that are just now getting used to their new home. Jack (named for an uncanny resemblance to Captain Jack Sparrow) and Gibbs (his trusty first mate) are rescued cats from town who have taken over the role



Captain Jack on the lookout



Mr. Gibbs is always smiling

of barn security. They are living in the tackroom for now while they become used to their new digs, but soon will be allowed to roam further afield, hopefully convincing any rodent pests that its time to move on. Jack has proved to be the more assertive member of the pair and is quite willing to check out the rest of the barn when given the opportunity. Gibbs, on the other hand, has no problem beating up on Jack in their room but is too scared to go adventuring outside yet. I think he realizes that Buckwheat's hoof is bigger than him and his buddy together!

Both canoeing and sailing activity areas have received new decking for this season as well. The sailing deck has been expanded and allows for an entire class to meet in comfort. It also helps protect all of the sails and equipment from being dragged through the sand. At canoeing, there will be a new surface in front of the office, and a new step-down dock extending towards sailing. Not only will this make the building look much more complete, but will also protect the boats during the frequent entry/exit process every day.

The disc golf course, after last year's breakout success, will be getting an overhaul with new courses laid out, new scorecards, and maybe even some new discs. Every free time saw groups of

campers working their way through the course, focusing on the lowest scores or the most original shots. There were frequent shout outs at meals about someone who had scored a hole in one that day and campers challenging some of the reigning staff members, looking to take them down in head-to-head play. We would love to hear any ideas for new parts of the course or challenging new holes you would like to see.



The Garden will be back in its third season with several notable improvements. It will remain next to the hiking porch, but we are increasing the size from six beds to nine. The beds will be protected with a permanent wooden fence rather than the chicken wire used previously. We also have a rain barrel installed under the gutters of the hiking porch, providing an easy way to water our plants without tapping into our well water. An exciting new element this year will be our compost bin; a three part system that will let us turn our vegetable and coffee leftovers into dirt to put back in the garden. As always, camper help and interest is very much appreciated. Last year saw a bumper crop of basil and other herbs, with tons of tomatoes, peppers, and squash which were all used in our delicious meals.



Nothing like a hand-picked tomato sandwich on a hot summer day

Father Son Week-

Father-Son Weekend 2010 was a huge success and we are planning another one for May 13-15. It is a great opportunity for new families to get a taste of camp and spend the weekend enjoying the outdoors. Activities will include canoeing, hiking, climbing, ropes course, swimming, fishing, archery, riflery, tennis and a Saturday night campfire. The festivities will begin on Friday evening and go through Sunday lunchtime. We are looking forward to more good times and seeing all the new faces!



Father and son at Hooker Falls overlook, one of the many available in nearby Dupont State Forest.

High Rocks Online

www.highrocks.com

The High Rocks website is a great place to catch up on what is happening at camp. There is a load 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. Find missing forms, look over the parent guide, and get a list of what to pack. All of this and more can be found by clicking on the “Parents Information” link on the left side of the page.

The **Staff Section** is also a great resource for current staff and interested prospects. You can browse all the current job listings and even look up the current staff for the summer of 2011. There is also a great section for current staff that has resources for professional discounts, the staff manual, what to expect and even the hot spots in the area.

The **Alumni Section** is great for those who are looking into camp’s past. There are images and stories dating from 1958 on. If you have information or pictures from years gone by, please send them our way. We would really like to get more information up for all generations of camp, especially pictures from girls camp. Help us out by sending us your old pictures, we’ll get them scanned, and send them back along with digital copies. Just drop us a line if you are interested.

Check out our weekly blog “**Around the Rocks**” for



Dan Noland has been telling campfire stories at High Rocks for over thirty years. Whether it is a tale from greek mythology or of King Arthur’s court, Dan manages



Campers can work their way onto trips all over the North Carolina mountains. From rivers and waterfalls, hiking and biking trails, and gorgeous rock faces, we do it all.



Our Bouldering Cave under the gym offers a great place to practice on rainy days or a cool escape in the afternoons.

great stories about what is happening at camp as well as all of those connected to camp. Send us your pictures and stories. We would love to do a spotlight on what is going on with you. Visit www.highrocks.com/news to read all the current and past posts from “Around the Rocks”.

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 has special sections with information for parents and teachers who are bringing students to camp.

High Rocks can be found on **Facebook!** Check out pictures, lots of videos, catch up with old friends, and let us know what is happening in your life. This is a great way to share pictures and stories with us to pass along on our blog. Just search Camp High Rocks on Facebook. We have a couple group pages as well as a great “fan page.”



Cabin overnights open each session and are the first introduction into camping in the woods.

Staff News

We love hearing from current and past staff, wherever their ventures may take them. Here are a few who have checked in recently. **Will Brechter** is back in Landenberg, PA for the cold months helping coach a school wrestling team while applying to Graduate Programs of Architecture. He's keeping a healthy mix of work and play though with as many ski days as he can fit in. **Andy Glas** and **Liz Walker** were married on September



Congratulations Andy and Liz!!



High Rocks counselors: Davis Crain, Ben Little, Woody Noland, Scott Martin, Zach Nichols

12th at Table Rock State Park. They are spending the year in the area and living in Cedar Mountain which means we get to see them a lot. **Stewart Boss** and **Taylor Timmerman** shown here



Stewart and Taylor showing their mountain spirit

attending an event at the University of North Carolina designed to raise awareness about the effects of mountain top removal coal mining. **Danny and Emily Howell** checked in from home in North Yorkshire where their three part brood is keeping them on their toes. Ana Lena has just begun primary school, Maia



Zach Nichols and Blaire Cannon

camp improvement crew. Both will be back at camp with Blaire in charge of the barn and Zach returning to the canoe docks as one of our trip leaders. **Chris Hampson** has worked the winter at Breckenridge enjoying the Colorado snows but is looking forward to returning to camp as our Assistant Head of paddling. **John Carpenter** also checked in from Aspen, CO where he drives a bus for the town of Snowmass as a day job, and is spending most of his time snowboarding on the 5,300 acres of terrain the four mountains offer. From leading dive trips in Hawaii to spending time at one of the premier ski resorts, John is making a good effort to not miss camp too much. **Julianna Day** and her brother Hunter visited for a weekend to enjoy the few days of beautiful weather we had in January. JD is in her junior year at Hollins University where she is studying Environmental Science. She is excited about returning as a member of the riding staff this summer. **Peter Kleinhenz** is submitting a blog article for Jeff Corwin's website on the Javan Rhinoceros, his favorite animal

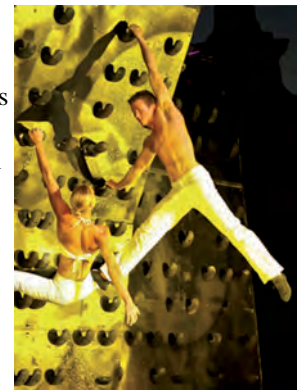


John Carpenter (right) and brother Chris standing on top of the world



Peter loving life Down Under

for all you who would have guessed a hellbender. He has spent this spring semester studying and traveling around Australia. His time in Queensland so far has consisted of hiking in a eucalyptus rainforest, finding aboriginal art, holding a koala, catching water dragons, watching rainbow lorikeets and cockatoos play in the trees, making a kookaburra call twice to entertain a crowd, and petting an emu. **Ryan Skippy Gaunt** is living in California as a member of the AscenDance Project, as shown on America's Got Talent! For those who have not seen their performances check them out, it is a remarkable combination of rock wall climbing in time to music creating a dance that is also an aerial performance. **Leslie Hefner** checked in from Portland, OR where she is loving the lack of sunshine and consistent rainfall this time of year, but remains steadfast in her decision to stay a west coaster. We will reconcile ourselves to that idea eventually. **Camille Noland** will be returning this summer from Oregon to help instruct in our riding program. Camille grew up



Skippy performing with fiancée Isabelle von Rittberg

continued on page 6

Staff News *(cont from page 5)*

working with horses and it will be nice to again have her experience added to our equestrian staff. **Bryan Ham** made a brief appearance last summer and recently checked in from Charleston, SC where he has some crazy stories working a hotel's night shift. He has been studying at the Art Institute of Charleston and will graduate with a degree in graphic design this year. He has just passed an FBI background check, the last hurdle before he is accepted to a teaching position in Seoul, South Korea for this coming school year. **Trey and Jessica Harris** and their son, Granger, are doing well in Batesville, AR and send their best to the High Rocks family. **Alex Gregor** is in production for a series on the national debt for PBS based on individual experiences. Although this means he will not return this summer, it sounds like he is enjoying himself and the challenge, we look forward to seeing the finished result.



Papa Harris and son Granger

Heather and Jayson Delisle send greetings from Hillsborough, NC along with their one year old son Grayson. Jayson is an educational program consultant specializing in autism and spends free time keeping up with his son and exposing him to the natural wonders along the Eno River. **Ryan Donovan**, when not leading our mountain biking program, works for Brevard College in their Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education program.



Heather, Grayson, and Jayson Delisle

As Operations Manager, he is charged with supplying all the College's outdoor tripping needs, making him the perfect person to keep our biking program up and running. In his spare time, he enjoys climbing, biking, paddling and just about any outdoor activity except for hiking.



Ryan showing off a rainbow trout prize

Starter Camp



The Rock-It was a popular addition to the lake last summer

Our Starter Camp is an introductory one week experience built for a younger group of boys that are attending camp for the first time. Camper are exposed to a range of activities designed to spark their interest and enjoyment in each, but do not spend time building deeper skill levels as in the longer sessions. The week is packed full of activity rotations, special events, cabin overnights, and campfire. This



Fun on the zipline!! Everyone gets an opportunity to participate in the ropes course and zipping.



*Operation: Stay Afloat
The strategy is be absolutely still... thus the*

is a great experience for campers (and parents!) who would like to sample what camp has to offer while building a comfort level for living away from home. We currently have space in our Starter Camp for boys 7-10 years old but register now as spaces are filling up!



This is our house!

Alumni News

Here is some news from past and current campers. We love to hear from all High Rocks alumni, let us know what you are up to these days. **Finn Althoff (01-09)** reports in from the Rotterdam School of Management where he was just wrapping up exams for his first semester. While stressed at the time, Finn loves living with two good friends from Hamburg and is enjoying the international flavor of the port city.



Finn on the open ocean

It looks like he will be in Chicago for an internship this summer which makes a visit more hopeful. **Fritz Orr (66-67,07-11)** and Missy Norris were married November 13th in Highlands, NC. The wedding was well attended by a host of Merrie-Woode and High Rocks alumni with a great reception at the Cornucopia

Restaurant in Cashiers. Congratulations to the happy couple and we look forward to having Fritz back this summer. Fritz has



Top: Generations of High Rocks at the wedding

Bottom Left: the happy couple

Bottom Right: Fritz Orr Canoe product



also been named as a winner in *Garden & Gun Magazine's* Made In the South Awards for his hand crafted canoe paddles. With hundreds of entries, Fritz is among the top in



the country for designing and creating these wooden works of art. **Austin (07-11)**, **Mitchell (09-11)**, and **Matthew Duke (09-**



The Dukes with Deangelo

10) sent in this great picture taken with Deangelo Williams of the Carolina Panthers. **Will Medford (85-91, 94-95)** and his wife Amy and their daughter Lucy send greetings from Cambridge, MA. **Rob Bruce (02-08, 10)** reports in from Atlanta that he is finishing his senior year of high school and will

be attending Duke University in the fall. Johnny and **Helen Warren** with their grandchildren **James (03-05,07), Warren (05,07)**, and Chantler spending time together in Colorado. Helen and Johnny have been longtime camp friends and supporters, especially of the equestrian program. Their daughter **Weesie Newton (77,79,81,89)** was a camper and staff member and her two sons, James and Warren, also attended several summers making the third generation at



Rob Bruce with mother

High Rocks. **Troy (00-04,07-11)** and **Massey Zie-**



First and third generations of High Rocks

man(00-04,07-08) are both spending the winter living it up in Jackson Hole, WY. Every time they touch base with us they are getting on or off a chairlift with snow falling heavily, more than 29 feet this year already! Somehow Troy is tearing himself away to return this summer to the canoe docks.

Andrew Frame (98-99, 07) called from Scotland where

he is finishing a biotechnology with management degree at the University of Edinburgh. While he is working hard and surviving the Scottish winter, his stories of new year celebrations while skiing in Switzerland keep us from feeling too badly for him. **Chris Bankoff (89-95,01-04)** is still loving life in Santa Monica, CA and just informed us that he has proposed to Ananda Reavis on the shores of Lake Taupo in the north island of New Zealand. Chris is a



Andrew: Europeans are always setting trends



Chris and fiance Ananda, congratulations you two and keep us

second generation High Rocks alum and spent many years as both camper and counselor. Congratulations Chris! **Wyatt (04-10)** and **Cole Eck (08-11)** send greetings from the ski slopes, yet another part of the camp family spending time outdoors, no matter what season.

High Rocks

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

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From the Kitchen

Mrs. Debbie's Delicious Fruit Cobbler

- 1 Stick of Butter
- 1 C Sugar
- 1 C Milk
- 1 C Self-Rising Flour
- 4+ C of Fruit (peaches, blueberries, and pineapple are common, but it can be any variation)

Melt butter in a dish.

Combine next three ingredients and then add them to the dish.

Pour fruit over the mixture, it will settle in while cooking.

Bake at 350° until golden brown on top and enjoy!

