

The Hai Lights

May 2005

Camp welcomes new Facilities Manager

We are happy to announce the recent hiring of Richard DeVore for the position of Facilities Manager at Tel Hai Camp. Rick comes to us from Camp Manatawny in Berks County, where he has served in the same capacity for the past five years. Rick also has experience in food service, new home construction and child care. He is a certified aquatic facility operator and also has a PA pesticide handlers certificate. Rick says his hobby is his work, but we know that he also enjoys caring for and watching fish in his 90 gallon aquarium. He also enjoys deep sea fishing. Rick attends Conestoga Valley Church of Christ in Lancaster. He is looking forward to working here and meeting our volunteers and summer staff. If you are in the area stop in and say hello to Rick.



Newsletter gets overhaul

You may have noticed that "The Hai Lights" has a new look. Good for you! We have decided to give it a more contemporary look and change the format somewhat. We are planning to include more articles in the newsletter in future editions, including trends in the Christian camping industry. We plan to share more personal information with you about our staff, board and volunteers. Also new to the newsletter will be an article by our Program Director Bruce Gregory called "Between the Lines". "Words from the Administrator" will now become "Steps Forward" and will address current and future Christian camping issues and trends, among other topics. We welcome your input! If you would like to see an article on something in particular or would even like to submit something for the newsletter please call the office and talk to Mike.

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Our purpose is to provide an atmosphere where the Spirit of God can convict, encourage and nourish all who enter. This is done by providing warm, clean accommodations and a friendly, caring staff; as well as numerous opportunities for physical refreshment.



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What's Happening . . .

Benefit Spaghetti Supper . . . May 13, 4:00-7:30 P.M.

16th Annual Golf Tournament . . . June 2, 8:00 A.M.

Family Fun Day . . . June 18, all day

Dad & Lad Camp . . . June 22-25



(call camp for details on any of these upcoming activities)

Between the lines . . .

by Bruce Gregory

As Program Director, I have been blessed to see thousands of children and youth come through camp. Running the programs and facilitating the summer camps is a big responsibility, yet what a humbling privilege it is to serve the LORD and be used in this way; especially knowing how important these little ones are to Him. Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me," and "unless we have faith like a child we cannot enter the kingdom of God." What a great ministry we have here to reach these young ones for Christ and help them to grow in the Lord.

One of the ways we have done this is through our Dad and Lad Camp. Now going on its 11th summer, this has become a special time of the year for many dads and their sons. Some dads have been here many years with 2 or more sons. This is more than just a fun time of doing all the activities around camp like horses, archery, and the swimming pool.

For the dads it has become a time away from the busyness of life to spend quality time with their son, fellowship with other dads, be encouraged, and to be challenged spiritually. The sons also make great memories with their dads, make new friends, hear from God's Word, and maybe see their dad in a whole new light. Along the way, they all have a fun time playing water polo or street hockey, singing silly songs around the campfire like "Baby Shark," or going on a wagon ride. Some have even become notorious like the "guys from Pine A" (you know who you are).

Last year was especially meaningful as an impromptu sharing time turned into 30 minutes of testimonies from dads and sons expressing how much they loved each other and needed each other. They also shared how much they had learned about each other during the week and how valuable this week was to their relationship. We also had one son share that he received Christ as his Savior while here. Praise the Lord! What an awesome privilege to see God at work using Dad & Lad Camp to further His kingdom and bring glory and honor to Himself. Dads come and discover this for yourselves.

fort n. 1 an enclosed place or fortified building for military defense... **2** a permanent army post, as distinguished from a temporary camp

One of my fondest memories of growing up at Tel Hai Camp is one I think I share with many who spent at least a portion of their childhood in rural America – the memory of building forts in the woods. It can start with anything from a few pieces of discarded sheet metal to a steep creek bed. Ours started with a giant oak that had at some unknown date been toppled by wind, ice or time. The thick trunk remained intact; it was the root system that had lost its hold. This left us with several key features for fort construction: a sturdy horizontal beam several feet off the ground, a vertical wall of roots, dirt, and rocks, and of course a hole in the ground. It was about everything you could ask for in a fort, offering a place of defense should we be ambushed by Indians, shelter in case of a buffalo stampede, or, if necessary, a place to hide things from Mom.

But a fort needs keeping, and when ours was left unmanned for a week or two it took on a new host. Bees somehow found a way to start a nest in the fallen tree's exposed root system.

It's amazing how fast something like that can go from being a place of refuge to being a forbidden zone. All it takes is a bit of neglect for a marriage to grow sour, a child to feel unloved by her family, or a church to slip off its foundation. For hundreds of the kids who return year after year Tel Hai Camp is a place of refuge – a fort that shuts its gates against their worldly vices and keeps their burdens from chasing them past the stone sign at the entrance.

As friends and supporters of the camp, our job is to keep the fort. This includes diligent prayer, giving financial support, and offering our time and services. It's a vital job, and one that I hope we will never neglect.

Bryan is a former summer staffer and the son of Mike & Marcella Willoughby.



Congratulations to Richie Barclay who was recently chosen to be "Young David" in Sight & Sound's new production "Psalms of David"! Richie is the son of Tel Hai Camp staffers Rick & Bonnie Barclay.



For more information about the ministries of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat:

_____ summer staff opportunities

_____ volunteer opportunities

_____ camp sponsored programs

_____ rental information for your group

**Clip and mail to Tel Hai Camp & Retreat
31 Lasso Drive, Honey Brook, PA. 19344-9261**

Steps forward . . .

by: Mike Willoughby

It's hard to believe that I have been at Tel Hai Camp almost 20 years! I sometimes wonder where the years went. During that time I have seen a lot of changes, not only to the camp itself, but in the attitudes and expectations of our guests. For instance, campers now expect services and facilities that 20 years ago we would have thought bizarre. Although there are exceptions, "rustic" is out and "modern" is now in. Guests now go to camps and retreat centers where internet access, televisions and other amenities are the norm. As you can imagine this generates a lot of discussion at camping conventions. What things are really needed and what are simply luxuries? What things take away from one's experience with God and what things are needed to enhance one's experience? I will be the first to admit that it is nice to have one's own private room and bath. But does this thwart the camaraderie one gains in a "group" setting? At Tel Hai Camp we try to provide a variety of facilities and programs. Not that we are trying to be all things to all people, but we are continually looking for that balance. The bottom line is this: if we don't provide what people want and expect, they won't come back! We would love to have your thoughts, especially if you are or have been a guest of the camp. Tell us what you think. To a large degree the input of guests determine what upgrades and changes we make to our facilities and programs. Pray for our staff and board as they wrestle with these tough issues.

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