



A Newsletter From Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Winter 2001

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next summer! In 1952 a group of spiritual leaders and Christian camping enthusiasts, including Jess Kauffman, took steps to establish RMM Camp. And here we are at that 50 year milestone!

Set the dates on your calendar to join the celebration of our camp on July 26, 27, 28, 2002. There will be a special recognition of the camp's new book, *A HISTORY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP - 1952-2002* that is being written by Harlin Unrau. Various activities are being planned for this weekend as we celebrate 50 years of Christian camping in the Rocky Mountains.

- Fannie Thomas



The ballfield and Four-Mile creek as they appeared in 1952

Fabulous 50 Finished!



A well deserved rest after the 50th climb

After 570 miles across and 38 miles up (in elevation), Allan Bartel successfully completed his Fabulous 50 campaign of 50 climbs to Pikes Peak on August 20. This fundraising idea came about as he and the Camp were both looking to celebrate their 50th birthdays.

His efforts were generously supported with more than \$31,000 in donations and pledges that were received. These contributions will help facilitate the next strategic plan for the Camp that is currently being created. You can visit the Rocky Mountain web site (www.rmmc.org/camp) and see Allan's journal & photos from each of his 50 climbs.

2001 RMMCamp Board of Directors & Advocate Retreat

Advocates, Strategic Planning Committee members, 50th Anniversary Program Committee members and the RMMCamp Board of Directors met on October 26-28, 2001. RMMCamp is completing the Vision 2002 project and celebrating its 50th Anniversary in the coming year. We are planning to have a new long-range strategic plan in place when we celebrate next summer. Jerry Kennell, Chairman of the strategic plan committee led the group in the exploration of possibilities and visions for the future of camp.



Worship singing during the Board & Advocate Retreat

The Board/Advocate Retreat focused on planning. We also shared in singing, worship, fellowship, fun, food and a special concert presented by Ray Metzler, Jeff Miller and Justin Powell. These musicians shared their talents in a relaxing concert Saturday evening. Advocates who were not a part of the weekend this year should plan to share in the fellowship and fun next year.

- Arlin Buller

Strategic Plan Committee members

Jerry Kennell, Chair
Dean Leatherman
Audrey Magill
Don Reinheimer
Ed Shirk
Kerry Stutzmen
Ardell Swartzendruber

50th Anniversary Committee members

Fanny Thomas, Chair
Faye Brennehan
Lauren Martin
Howard Stutzman

A Wilderness Experience

I was pumped for a day of rock climbing with my friends. We were in the Rocky Mountains at a Mennonite church camp. I had waited about an hour for my chance to start climbing the “hard crack” in a rock wall with two great climbing cracks in it. After watching many of my friends attempt the difficult crack, none of whom had succeeded, it was finally my turn. I was a little nervous about the climb, but I fastened my harness to the safety rope and tightened my helmet.

I started up the crack. It was easy at first; I was breezing my way up when I got to a large bump that was protruding out about two feet from the rest of the wall and was about four feet wide. There was no way to go around the bump. The crack almost disappeared where the bump was. I tried everything I could think of. Words of encouragement from my friends gave me the strength that I needed to keep going. Many times I fell from the rock and had to use my safety rope to swing around and start climbing again. My legs and arms were sore and very scraped up. Finally, I gathered all the strength I had in me and pushed myself up. I couldn't believe it; I had made it! This gave me strength to go on further up the wall. I had so much new life in me that I knew I could finish this climb that no one had accomplished yet.

Looking back on this experience makes me realize how much this day resembles my life. Many of my days start out easy, with possibly a little bump here and there. Often, this is followed by a much bigger bump that I struggle with greatly to get around. I get frustrated, I cry, and am ready to give up. Just when I get to this point there's always a friend at my side encouraging me to keep moving, keep climbing, and get over this bump. These words of encouragement then encourage me and I know that I cannot give up, that I am stronger than whatever it is that is trying to beat me.

-Sarah Swartzendruber, Senior High Wilderness Camper



Wilderness Camp Journaling

Special Thanks To The Summer Staff of 2001

Jennifer Avery - Buhler KS
Megan Bartel - Divide CO
Nathan Bartel - Divide CO
Rosalyne Beachy - Hutchinson KS
J. J. Birky - Colorado Springs CO
Emily Classen - Beatrice NE
Will Eichelberger - Colorado Springs CO
Jessica Enns - Mt Vernon IA
Nathan Gillis - Colorado Springs CO
Travis Kinsell - Elbert CO
Briana Meadows - Hutchinson KS
Erika Miller - Bluffton OH
Jacob Miller - Lakewood CO
Nicolas Mosely - Highlands Ranch CO
Rachel Neufeld - Edmonton AB

CANADA

Carlie Roeschley - Graymont IL
Daniel Shetler - Goshen IN
Emily Shirk - Harper KS
Glenn Shirk - Aurora CO (volunteer)
Reberta Shirk - Aurora CO (volunteer)
Sarah Shorthill - Wichita KS
Rachel Slatter - Star ID
Miller Stayrook - Goshen IN
Vernabelle Stayrook - Goshen IN
Chad Stoltzfus - Colorado Springs CO
Jeremy Stoltzfus - Golden CO
Jessica Stoltzfus - Golden CO
Heidi Swartzendruber - Denver CO
Gladys Vespasien - Moissy-Cramayel

FRANCE

Anna Wyse - Archbold OH
Ben Wyse - Archbold OH
Lowell Wyse - Camden MI

Reflections on being the “New Guy”

Since my arrival at the beginning of the summer, there have been many greetings and introductions that have included the reference to being the “new guy.” It’s a great title and one that hasn’t



Natalie & Corbin enjoy a sunny fall day

had much use here at Rocky Mountain, being only the third Director in the last 40 years.

It is clear that Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp plays a fun and meaningful part in serving God’s kingdom. As a previous youth camper and counselor of the Rocky Mountain ministry, I was personally influenced as well. For those reasons, it is a privilege to

serve the many people who love and enjoy this special place. A variety of people including youth and family campers, summer staff and guests bring an abundance of enthusiasm and breathe life into the ministry of the Camp. The generosity in gifts of resources and time by volunteers and constituents offer a tremendous base of support that has made the camp what it is today.

It is an exciting time to be a part of Rocky Mountain looking to celebrate it’s 50th Anniversary this coming summer. What an exciting milestone in the history of the Camp! Additionally, a strategic plan is in the works to help give direction to the future of the programs and facilities that Rocky Mountain offers in years to come.

My family (Tonya & Natalie) and I look forward to our time here in this beautiful setting. While I fully expect to be the “New Guy” for at least a while longer, I trust that in the weeks, months and years ahead we will together continue to work in carrying on the unique mission and ministry of Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp into it’s next 50 years.

- Corbin Graber, Executive Director



*The summer staff enjoy an evening with ice cream
as part of staff orientation week*

PROGRAM CALENDAR 2002

Winter / Spring

February 15-17 MYF Snowcamp I
 February 22-24 Young Adult Snowcamp
 March 1-3 Men's Retreat
 March 15-17 MYF Snowcamp II

Summer

June 2-8 Staff Orientation
 June 9-15 Sr. High Resident
 June 9-15 Grade 8&9 Wilderness
 June 16-22 Grade 8&9 Resident
 June 16-22 Grade 6&7 Wilderness I
 June 23-29 Grade 6&7 Resident
 June 23-29 Grade 8&9 Peak Wilderness
 June 30-July 6 Grade 4&5 Resident
 June 30-July 6 Grade 6&7 Wilderness II
 July 7-17 Sr. High Peak Wilderness
 July 19-21 Grade 3 Resident
 July 21-27 Sr. High Wilderness
 July 22-26 Family Camp I
July 26-28 RMMC 50th Anniversary Celebration
 July 28-August 2 Family Camp II
 August 4-9 Family Camp III

Fall

August 16-18 Emmanuel Mennonite Retreat
 August 30-Sep 2 Peace Mennonite Retreat
 September 7-8 Glennon Heights Mennonite Retreat
 September 13-15 Beth-El Mennonite Retreat
 September 21-22 Mountain Community Mennonite Retreat
 September 27-29 First Mennonite Denver Retreat
 October 5-6 Greeley Mennonite Retreat
 October 25-27 RMMC Annual Board
 & Advocate Retreat



Staff & campers enjoy the view at the top



Rocky Mountain purchased a much needed pickup (seen above) along with a Suburban from generous year-end donations last winter.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rocky Mountain ministry and have a great Christmas!

Trail Call is published each winter by Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.



Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

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Staff Members

Corbin Graber, Executive Director
 Mary Yoder, Head Cook

Board Members

Arlin Buller, Chair
 Ardell Swartzendruber, Vice-Chair
 Loren Unruh, Secretary
 Kay Gusler, Treasurer
 Lynn Horner
 Jeff Miller

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is a ministry of the Mennonite Church with the purpose of providing a place of retreat which encourages wholistic Christian growth by fostering the spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual growth of each guest.