

# THE CLOCK TOWER TIME Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the Chimes of our Times

Spring 2011

## **Camp Billings Board of Directors**

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## Greetings from the Alumni Association...

Dear Billings Alumni,

Things are moving ahead for our 105th Billings Reunion. I wouldn't think of doing a reunion without getting some input for a logo and design for our special reunion T-shirts. I wish I could tell you how long Patti Green has been doing this for Billings, but it is as long as I can remember and I know, with her busy schedule, a labor of love. Many of you may have a collection of Billings T's and can look back on them all. I always know I can count on her to come up with something special...something that will mean a lot to all of us. A lot of this goes to pure talent, but also to her love of Billings! I would like to share with you some of the email I received back from her when I asked her to do it for the 2011 reunion.

"We Are Billings" - "We being the operative and all-inclusive word. While the physical place is beautiful - the lake, the grounds, the buildings with architecture so representative of a time and spirit, and the surrounding locales, it's maybe more so the people - campers, counselors, staff, alums, friends and family, that make up who and what Billings really is. It's us ... our love of the place AND each other, our commitment to it and to each other. Secondly, Billings is fun! Even at 105 years old, it's all about fun, and joy, and celebrating each day with your friends in a way that honors the youthful spirit of life. It's a tribute to simply enjoy life at Camp Billings."

Patti has captured Billings in this wonderful paragraph. Maybe as alumni we feel some of this even more now. So please get your registrations in and come soak up some of that "youthful spirit of life" that is uniquely found at Billings. I look forward to seeing you all.

With Warm Regards, Carolyn Sylvester Churchill Co-Chairman Camp Billings Alumni Association

## To send alumni updates:

Elissa Malcolm 24 Wheatley Street Lebanon, NH 03766 USA Anne & John Freitas 57 Hawthorne Avenue Auburndale, MA 02466

annejohnf@aol.com

#### To send address changes:

Marti Warren 5 Carriage Road Amherst, NH 03031 USA

martiwarren@comcast.net

#### To send donations:

Ted Rossi PO Box 3539 Stowe, VT 05672 USA

tedrossi@msn.com

campbillings@gmail.com

## **Greetings from the Board...**

## By Michael Lemme, Board President

By the time this issue of the CTT goes to print, winter should be over and official Mud Season begins in Vermont. It should be a thick one this year after all the snow New England received this winter. I was at camp in February with Bobby Green, Larry Drew, and Ken Payson and luckily Larry brought his snow shoes. He patted down about 3 feet of snow and we followed him around in his footsteps like little ducklings. So what were we doing there?

Well if our resident architect Ken Payson flew all the way out from New Mexico and we dragged Bobby off the tennis courts in Florida you know it had to be an important mission! For a while now your Board has been debating on where to build 2 new cabins on Girls Sr. Row. We decided unanimously that the 3 tents take up way too much of the open green space and also block the view of the lake. So the tents will be gone and two new cabins will be built. One or both may be built behind Cabin 4, or we may have enough room to pass a needed variance from the Thetford Planning Board to build one of the two behind Cabin 1. We're also aware of the fact the only camper Cabin on campus with a porch is our most Sr. Boys Cabin 15. To even up this luxury we are planning on building a lake front facing porch on one of these cabins, hopefully on the one behind Cabin 1, which would become the new most Sr. Girls cabin... the Sr. Girls Annex!

These sort of decisions we do not take lightly as we know any new buildings on campus are major long term changes to camp. It was our former Director Uncle Ralph who wisely sought after Billings Alumni Ken Payson to work with the Board as our architectural consultant. Ken has over 28 years of building experience in Southern California and New Mexico and has keen eye for site planning and



historical design. Ken is also drawing up plans for our Craft Shop expansion which will double its size complete with a center open area with tables and rocking chairs... what a great place for outdoor gimping!

Okay, so now onto CAMP BILLINGS 105TH REUNION! All the info you need to make your plans are inside this issue, including Bobby's Top 10 Reasons why this event needs to be part of your June 17 - 19th weekend. And I'm in charge of the Fireworks, so don't worry. They'll be enough explosive thrust to turn the Clocktower into the Space Ship that Bobby's always wanted. Oh yeah, after we left Vermont Bobby

abandoned all plans to operate a "Winter Camp" at Billings.

From the Board we sincerely hope you can make our 105th Reunion and together we can all recapture that "youthful spirit of life"... WE ARE BILLINGS!!!

Mike Lemme Board President Mgl1001@aol.com (973) 460-1055



Larry Drew at the 100th Reunion showing a younger member of the Billings family how to raise the roof.



Come to the 105th Reunion and celebrate with Mike Lemme while relaxin' on a pontoon boat ride.



## **Greetings from the Director...**

The Top 10 Reasons Why "It's Time To Come Home Again" By Bob Green, Director

Hopefully by now most of you have made plans to attend our 105th Anniversary Celebration at Billings the weekend of June 17-19. But if by some chance it may have slipped your mind, or you are wavering on whether to join us for the festivities, please consider each and every one of the following reasons why you need to be there!

10. The 100th Anniversary Celebration never ended! Some people just went home for a few years for a quick shower and change of clothes.

- 9. Larry Drew claims this will be his last Billings reunion. He's been saying that since the 85th!
- 8. We've got new stuff! An adventure challenge program across the road includes a zip line, giant swing, and high ropes. Help us break it in!
- 7. Dudley!
- 6. The menu will include shrimp cocktail, filet mignon, lobster tails, and baked Alaska... wait, that's only DURING the camp season.
- 5. You just never know when some random arsonist may burn down the Clock Tower and replace it with a chrome and glass structure with wrap-around stock ticker.
- 4. The lake is now heated to 80 degrees!
- 3. Board President Mike Lemme is renting two party boats AND a 200 foot yacht with a crew of 12 to entertain over the weekend.



- 2. To honor the memory of Ralph and Elaine, who would both want all of us to raise a glass and cherish these moments.
- 1. Because there's NO PLACE LIKE HOME...

## Upload your camp photos...

We now have an online Camp Billings Alumni Room. Like our real alumni room located in Dartt Hall on our campus, this virtual room is home to the visual memories of our camp. Our goal is to collect as many pictures of camp life over our 100 plus years as we can. If you would like to contribute to the project, please contact our website administrator at: webmaster@campbillings.org. To see the photos that have already been posted, please visit the Camp Billings Alumni Room in the alumni section of the Camp Billings website.



## We Are Billings - Reunion 2011

### How Do I Register?

Read over all the information on the registration form and decide which plan will work the best for you. Remember that if the weekend is too much, we would love to have you come in on Saturday for the reunion ceremony and lunch. There is limited room on campus and it will fill up quickly. It is on a first come first serve basis. Remember that we need to have you register for Saturday only so that we can plan on meals. There are lots of nice places to stay in the area... from cabins, cottages, hotels, to camping. You can check out the Camp Billings web site for more info on that.



Maybe you have friends who would like to share these arrangements with you. Now is the time to get in touch with them and proceed with the registration form. You may email Marti Warren (martiwarren@comcast.net) for addresses of friends, we do not keep email addresses in the database. If you have any registration questions, check with Laura Bussey (dearoldcamp@gmail.com).

Laura has designed an easy to follow registration form... make your selections and send it in with your deposit. Don't forget to fill in the volunteer section. We have all sorts of jobs we will need help doing. In order for the weekend to run smoothly there are lots of camp duties that have to get done!!! Jasmine St. Laurent is coordinating all the volunteers and would love to hear from you. (jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com).

The registration info is also on the Camp Billings website (www.campbillings.org) and can be downloaded for your use. All registrations must be mailed.



Extra points if you can figure out who in this photo is related!

A reminder to please not bring glass containers into camp. There will be a time and place to get together for a drink and visit with friends during the evening hours.

#### Weekend Activities

Anne and John Freitas are planning a great weekend for you, filled with the things you loved to do at Billings. There will be lots of singing, swimming, fishing, sports, crafts and those great pontoon rides we enjoyed during the 100th. We are always open to new ideas. Just email or call Carolyn Churchill at shlseekr@aol.com or 603-988-9397. The weekend activities will start Friday afternoon following lunch and go until Sunday afternoon after lunch.

We have the best cook in Vermont and beyond planning and cooking for us...Casey Huling and his great group of assistants.

REUNION PRICE CHANGE - Please notice that because of the economy AND we want as many alumni to come to the reunion as possible, we have lowered the prices. The prices are listed in the reunion information and registration in this newsletter and on the Camp Billings website (www.campbillings.org).

## **ALUMNI NOTES**

Jen Ciarmoli Popovich (C & S 80's-90's) and her husband, Donald, just welcomed Elizabeth Jeanne in January. "Lizzie" joins her brother, Michael, as a future Billings camper.

Jaye Macumber (S 00's) and Marie Claude welcomed Eva Louise Macumber in February.

Ben Bettinger (C&S 90's) was nominated for Food & Wine's "The People's Best New Chef: Northwest". He was also the winner of the 2010 Portland Chef Face Off.

Henry Meyer is playing on the Duke University lacross team that won the NCAA Championship in 2010.

#### In Memoriam

Lester James: Lester was a foreign counselor back in the 60's. He was from Guernsey Channel Isles, UK. Recently his wife wrote to say he had passed away. When Ralph was alive he and Lester corresponded over the years. Lester was in Cabin 15 and taught sailing that summer.



## The Ol' Camp Billings Store - Online!

Get all your Billings gear before the reunion! Visit the Camp Billings website and check out the newest way to add to your CB paraphernalia - Camp Store Online! We're starting with t-shirts and cozy sweatshirts in sizes 2T to XXL and plan to expand to include a broad selection of CB items. Payment can be made by check or Paypal. Email cbcampstore@gmail.com for more info. Jon Cone, who is on the Board of Directors, is managing the store.

#### **DONORS**

The Camp Billings Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who has donated to Camp Billings. Below is a list of those who have contributed to Camp Billings since the last newsletter was prepared.

The Uncle Ralph Memorial Fund Joan Mason Bertram Rowley Art Yandow

Camperships
Diane Levine
Christopher Mathews
Helen Wallstrom
In memory of Jack Wallstrom

#### **General Donations**

Donald Carmichael

In memory of Albert Fletcher Jenifer Dismukes & Lucien Blakemore

M 1 F' 1

Mark Fischer

Mariele Forte

Robert & Jean Gilpin William Harley with Chevron Match

ing Gift Program

Fagan & Austin Hart

In honor of AJ & Reeves Hart James Hughes

Douglas & Linda Kennedy

Marshall Kidder

In memory of Dad Hurd

Henry Meyer

Jolene Picard

In recognition of Bob Green

Marilyn Renfrew

Jane Rogers

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sawyer Ed & Michele von Turkovich

William & Melissa Zackoff

#### In Memory of Everett Smith

Dorothy Campbell Sue & Dennis Kaufman Jane Rogers Priscilla & David Smith

## Registration Form Camp Billings Alumni Reunion 2011

June 17- 19, 2011

Primary Conta Address	ct Name				
Email	0	Phone	2		
Options	Time	What's Included	Price per Adult	Price per Child*	
Full weekend with camp accommodations	Friday after lunch through Sunday lunch	All activities, camp duties, meals and accommodations in our rustic cabins	\$125	\$95	
Full weekend without accommodations	Friday after lunch through Sunday lunch	All activities, camp duties, and meals	\$90	\$60	
Saturday only	Saturday	All meals and activities	\$35	\$20	
	o help out. Please ask  Deca	x your volunteer coo	ordinator to contact i		
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Total Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Camp Billings Reunion 2011

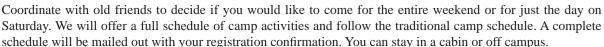
Please send this form along with a deposit of 50% to:

Laura Bussey 116 English Street Petaluma, CA 94952

Payment in full is due by April 30, 2011. Please note change in prices. Questions: Call Laura at (707) 765-1962 or email dearoldcamp@gmail.com

## Camp Billings 105th Reunion Information

Camp Billings is hosting a weekend of fun Billings-style on June 17, 18 and 19, 2011. **Registration is available on a first come – first served basis.\*** 





Fill out the registration form in this newsletter (or available on www.campbillings.org), include your deposit (payable in US funds only, please) and send to: Laura Bussey, 116 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Feel free to contact Laura with any questions at dearoldcamp@gmail.com or 707-765-1962.

Option	Times	What's Included	Price per Adult	Price per Child*
Full weekend with accommodations	Friday after lunch through Sunday lunch	All activities, camp duties, meals, and accommodations in our rustic cabins.	\$125	\$95
Full weekend without accommodations	Friday after lunch through Sunday lunch	All activities, camp duties, and meals	\$90	\$60
Saturday only	Saturday	All Saturday activites and meals	\$35	\$20

<sup>\*</sup>Children 8-18. Children 7 and under are free. Please register your children, even if you're not being charged.

## A few reminders

- Camp Billings is a smoke-free campus.
- We want everyone who attends the reunion to celebrate joyfully and safely. To this end, there is a strict no alcohol policy, with the exception of the Billings-sponsored cocktail party. Please be considerate of everyone's good time by making plans to indulge off campus. And please, no special recipe in your Nalgene bottle.
- Unfortunately, we must limit participation at the reunion to Billings alumni and their families. Families interested in visiting Billings may call the office during the summer season to arrange a visit.
- All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- The number of registrations we can accept is limited both by cabin and dining room space. Please plan early.
- A 50% deposit is requested to hold your reservation. Payment in US funds.
- Payment in full is due by April 30.

We recently reduced the charge for the reunion. All proceeds in excess of costs will be donated to Camp Billings on behalf of the Alumni Association. If the rates to attend represent a problem for you, please do not hesitate to contact the reunion registrar to make special arrangements. All inquiries will be handled confidentially. We do not wish anyone to miss out due to expense.

Please be sure to let us know about any special arrangements you will require during the reunion including dietary restrictions, health concerns, etc. Be sure to indicate cabin mate requests.

## **Nearby Accommodations**

The Lake House Inn, Route 244, Post Mills – 802-333-4025 Silver Maple Lodge & Cottages, Route 5, Fairlee – 802-333-4326 The Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee- 802-333-4311 The White Goose Inn, Route 10, Orford, NH – 603-353-4812 Dowd's Country Inn, Lyme, NH – 603-795-4712 Many others, including vacation home rentals in the area can be found on the internet.



Fishin' out behind Dartt Hall.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are welcome and needed! See the back page of the newsletter for information or indicate on the registration form that you would like to help out. Contact Jasmine at **jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com or** (416) 520-8390. Thanks!

## Meet the Camp Billings Board of Directors!

Ever wondered about the folks are who listed in the Board of Directors column on the front of the newsletter? In each issue we will give brief bios of several board members so you can learn a little about the people who volunteer their time to keep camp running! We are going to start with the Executive Committee.

#### Mike Lemme - Board President

My 1st year was 1968. I was your typical 8 year old home sick camper in Cabin 7. I had so much fun I came back 5 years later and spent '73 in Annex and '74 in Cabin 15. I loved the dividing wall in Annex that separated our two Councelors from our area and I loved that Cabin 15 had a porch and Cabin 1 had nothing.

I was a CIT for two years, then the former Councelors Aid position for a year, then a Sr. Councelor up until 1980. My last year may have been 1979, but to be sure ask Chip Henderson. Most of the time I was in Sailing but I did a stint in Rowing... My claim to fame was we "tried" to institute Sailing Overnights and I taught Mary Considine how to row... I was muti talented except I never got out of Fying Fish, so I never was a part of that stuck up, snooty swim staff.

I currently live in Historic Paterson NJ. I say Historic definitely to jazz up my address. It's sort of a step up from Newark or Trenton, and way better than Camden. I'm planning on leaving NJ this year and moving into my apt. in the West Village in NYC or maybe moving to New Hope, PA. I'm really going to miss paying NJ property taxes.

I'm presently a senior 1st Officer for Continental Airlines (A.K.A United) but by the time you read this I will have upgraded to Captain. I am so looking forward to spending the month of April training in Houston. I'll be staying on the Boeing 767 but instead of being a senior 1st going to Honolulu and Rome, Im going to be a Jr. Captain going to Lima Peru.



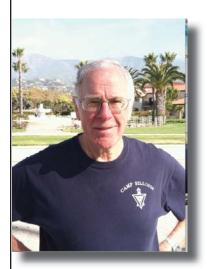
This is where I get to brag about my Mom. If it wasn't for Virginia Nelson Lemme I'd never have been a CB'er. My Mom went to Billings from 1938 - 1941 and she won an award every year! She was even there when the Guest House had it's original cupola before the Hurricane of 1938 blew it off. Two of my sisters, Sue and Pam also went to camp.

My favorite camp memory, if you want to call it that, took place during International Supper, which back then was affectionaltely known as "Internash Bash". About 12 of us piled into my 1969 Lincoln Contiental that we turned into a Spacetower float. So we were all aliens from Planet Norway and we painted the Clocktower sideways with flames shooting out the end. It was a big hit, and eventually became one of the reasons I was nominated President of the Board.

I've been on the Board for 9 years.

It is exciting to be on the Board beacuse you become part of a team of people who help ensure that Camp will be around forever and improving as time goes on. Just wait until you see our new Ropes Challenge Course this summer!

It ws also the perfect excuse to get me up to Vermont 3 times a year.



#### Ted Rossi: Board Treasurer

Years camper: 1949 - 1953 Years staff: 1961-1963

Currently live: We divide our time between Stowe, VT and Santa Barbara, CA

Current job: Retired business person having spent forty years in the trucking industry. Currently a student of cooking, foreign language, and woodworking at Santa Barbara City College, and CB treasurer. Family: Happily married 45 years to Nancy, an artist of many talents.

Vivid Camp Memories: Scout & Sentinel war games, early morning fishing expeditions up Wyoda creek, swimming lessons in frigid temperatures, Dad Hurd's interminable post meal monologues.

Served on the board: Eighteen years

Enjoy about being on the board: Working with dedicated, honest, congenial individuals all who have a similar objective of making Camp a better place and insuring it's longevity.

Meet the Camp Billings Board of Directors continued on the next page...

Meet the Camp Billings Board of Directors continued...

#### **Penny Rich Smith: Board Secretary**

I was a camper from 1954 - 1961, having been honored with the Senior Camper award in both 1960 and 1961. Then I was a Counselor, first a CIT under the guidance of Anne Freitas in what was Cabin 4 (youngest girls) and then a Senior Counselor from 1962-1966.

I currently live in Bennington, Vermont.

I am an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ and serve two churches and two different states - The Congregational Church of North Bennington, VT and The Second Congregational Church of Williamstown, MA.



My mom and dad are both gone now, but oh how they both loved Camp Billings dearly and made sure that my sister, Diane and I attended camp every summer that we possibly could. My son, Tim Smith, attended Camp Billings for one summer and now his daughter, Emily Smith and step-son, Delaney Pudvar both attend and love it. I am so pleased that my grandchildren are enjoying this wonderful and extraordinary experience at camp - the benefits and blessings last a lifetime.

One of my many, many wonderful camp memories is an evening program that is still a highlight for campers & counselors alike - sitting in a circle around a campfire and playing "Jack's Alive." I will never forget those times and the excitement waiting and watching for the last spark to go out on that cork. I even remember when it was Dad Hurd holding that olive stick with the cork on the end and how strict he was about hitting that stick good and hard. Then came the crazy and fun forfeits the next day for all those caught putting out the spark.

I have been on the Board for 15 years, near as I can tell. I really enjoy being part of the teamwork on the Board of Directors because it keeps me close to the happenings at Billings, keeps me involved in preserving this beautiful spot and wonderful camp experience for so many young people, and I just love going back to camp to delight in that "home away from home" feeling I always get when I go through that gate and smell those pines and see that clock tower. I am so grateful for the opportunity.



Vicki Smith: Board Vice President

Years as a camper: 1968-70 Years as a staff member: 1971

Home: Lyme Center of the Universe, NH

Current job/role: Senior Planner for Hanover NH, also assistant to Ben Kilham, Black

Bear naturalist

Family: I have three children. Sam (21), Miles (19), Riley (16) Sam was a camper and staff member also. He taught guitar at camp and now has a great life as a college student studying music at Johnson State College in northern VT. Check out his band's Facebook: JamFace Fan Space.

Quick favorite camp memory: Climbing Mount Washington as a 12 year old. Camp provided what is now considered primitive gear. We had wood frame back packs and boy scout canvas-covered canteens with a chain that connected the top to the canteen. I cut myself on the chain and still have the scar. I remember how delicious chocolate tasted on the top and how enraged I was to find that the toilets at the top were pay toilets! We campers had no money of course, so I remember crawling on my belly under the stall walls. I still don't believe pay toilets should be at the top of any mountain! That trip began a life-long love of hiking and backpacking that has taken me to the top of all 4000 footers in VT and NH, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Rainier and Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Time on the board: Over 20 years.

Enjoys about serving on the board: I serve on the board to give back to the camp. I make donations of money for building projects but also like to give my time to the camp to ensure kids can continue to have a great summer on the shores of Lake Fairlee.

Camp Billings, Inc. 1452 Route 244 Fairlee, Vermont 05045-9620

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## MORE VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 105TH ANNIVERSARY By Jasmine St-Laurent, Volunteer Chairman

Registration is open and people are rushing to their local post office to secure their spot for the upcoming Camp Billings reunion. However, other than a few of my dear friends, I have not received nearly as many emails about helping out at the next reunion as I did in 2006. Was it the clipboard? Is it the scary blow horn? Is it me? Please email me or my invisible twin to let me know or to volunteer: jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com or call 416-520-8390.

How can you help? Would you like to... Run the camp store for an hour? Blow the bugle? Help with maintenance? Lead a program area for a period? Drive a boat? Help with cooking? Help with the registration desk at camp? Be a song leader for a meal? Participate in the reunion ceremony, the final campfire, the Sunday Chapel? Perhaps, you would like to volunteer with anything that needs to be done?



To become an official Camp Billings 105th anniversary volunteer contact Jasmine St-Laurent, the Volunteer Chairman: jasminestlaurent@yahoo.com or call her home anytime in Toronto at (416) 520-8390. If you would like to volunteer, but are unsure of how you can help, just sign up... there is something for everyone.



Time To Register: Camp Billings 105<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 17-19, 2011

