



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

*Echoes of the chimes of our time.
Fall 2021*

Time to Come Home!!!

As we pen this introduction to the CTT, we have some holiday music playing in the background. The song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" just started playing. While we agree this time of year is wonderful, we think that next June 17th-19th, 2022 will truly be THE most wonderful time of next year. Please come and join your Camp Billings family for the 115th Camp Billings Reunion. It will be worth the wait! This edition of the CTT will provide some of the weekend details, help us all reminisce about past reunions, see who's looking forward to seeing whom (maybe you?) and hopefully encourage you to register to come home with us. We know that if we're all together...we'll surely have the most wonderful time! As we prepare behind the scenes to welcome you home, enjoy some alumni stories, Q&A and pictures from reunions past.

We also want to congratulate our new Camp Billings Board of Directors President, Andy Schneider! You can get your first peek at Andy's perspective on Camp in his first 'Greetings from the Board' article. We're looking forward to having Andy's regular updates in each edition of the CTT.

Happy Holidays to you and your family, and we hope to see you all in June!

With love,
Amy Cone Glidden & Meredith Cone
CTT Co-Editors



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Greetings from the Board...

By Andy Schneider, Board President

In my time at camp in the 1990s and 2000s, when we would shift programming indoors due to rain, I often found myself walking through the dining hall, spending some time with each photo of past generations, and considering my relationship to those who came before me. I loved picking out landmarks from decades earlier and drawing a straight line from my experience to the experiences of past campers and staff. There were staples like the clocktower and the waterfront, but subtler mainstays like the sign hanging on the lower tennis courts reading, "Park All Autos Here." Recognizing those landmarks left me feeling a sense of connectedness to all who had predated my experience, as if Billings was the same place in 1906 as it was in 2006.



My interest in camp history recently took me to the Clocktower Times archives, where I stumbled upon Emperor Bob's column from early 2010 after my final summer as a Billings counselor. He writes, "While last summer was truly extraordinary and one of the best seasons in 103 years, it would be a mistake to pick up exactly where we left off. Each summer our community gets to redefine what we will be remembered for and create a legacy for generations to come." It's a beautifully simple yet remarkably complex idea to truly appreciate, the idea that no matter how much we want to replicate incredible experiences of past summers, no two summers are the same. Each time we return to Lake Fairlee, we return as slightly different people to a slightly different place. With each new summer comes new people, new programs, new traditions, new possibilities for lifelong friendships, and new opportunities to learn and to grow, one summer at a time.

Billings is certainly not the same place it was in 1906. Camp's growth, in many ways, mirrors that of its campers and staff, and just as campers and staff grow a little bit each summer, so too does our dear old camp. We've built new (Boys John, AnnieX, Cabin 1A, Ropes Course), built up (Infirmary), built out (Craft Shop and Pottery Studio), and built back (Office, Girls Showers). Landmarks have come and gone (and in some cases come back again, shoutout Cabin 12). We are always searching for new and exciting ways to build upon the history, culture, and environment that has nourished so many of us throughout the past 115 summers.

And, we don't just build with our hands. We build with our hearts and with our minds; we build upon the experiences and wisdom of our leaders, on new priorities identified and on new passion projects started. Each summer, we collectively turn the rudder to gently adjust our course towards new and exciting horizons. And, as new generations enter the white gates, they take that rudder with 115 years of Billings history to guide them.



My dear friends Anne and Sean have taken the Camp Billings rudder at perhaps the most unique time in its rich history. Their vision for Camp Billings is one that genuinely encapsulates the best of what we are: a kind, thoughtful, and inclusive community where everyone feels an inexplicable sense of belonging. I could not be more excited to step into the role of President of the Board of Directors of Camp Billings to assist them in pursuit of this vision for our Billings family. The Board is committed to leveraging its time and talents to fully support Anne and Sean as they, as Bob says, "redefine what we will be remembered for and create a legacy for generations to come."

I sincerely hope to see all of our Billings family members back at camp next summer for our much anticipated 115th reunion. Until then, be safe and be well.

Your friend and fellow alumni,
Andy

A Note from CB's Directors, Anne and Sean Collins!

Summer 2021 was an incredibly unique and amazing experience for the campers and staff of the Billings's Family! There was no way to know how Camp would look in the middle of a pandemic, and we are so thrilled and thankful for how it went. After preparing for this summer for two years, we were all so eager to return to our second home and hear that bugle blow. With the **impressive** help from parents, staff, and campers, we were able to have a completely COVID-free summer! While we were all safe, we still managed to have some fun too!

In our first session that lasted four weeks, everyone got to know each other very well and spirits stayed tremendously high throughout the practically endless rain. Despite the almost daily precipitation, campers thrived and were able to let loose the pent up energy they'd been harboring since March 2020. We had so much fun. After eating every meal outside under the tent for five days, we all passed our four rounds of COVID testing. While eating under the tent did feel like we were at a New England wedding, it was always raining, and the whole camp had to work together to get all the table settings, food, extra food, trashcans, dish bins, out to the tent three times a day. It was a lot of work, and EVERYONE pitched in—it was quite amazing. After what felt like weeks, we were given the all clear to return to our beloved Dining Hall. Everyone dressed up in their favorite outfits, and we tore the roof off the place with our singing, banging on the tables, and celebration. We danced around the room, Anne cried because it was so cute and beautiful, and had the greatest celebration of being free to feel “normal” again at Camp.

We fought hard at our 4th of July competition, stuffed our faces with Middle Eastern food on International Night, and cried when it was time to go home. We tested out some new Evening Programs...Masked Singer, anyone?, and made new friends.

Our 3-week second session went just as well as our first. Country Fair got heated with our board game theme, with Monopoly beating out Catch to take home the gold. We saw the best Battle of the Bands we've seen in 20 years, making it very difficult for the judges to choose a winner. Our new head chef, Michelle, spoiled us rotten with delicious food and even created an Epcot Night, where we had a Japanese (with hand-rolled sushi), Mediterranean, American, and Mexican food stations on the Clocktower Lawn. We danced it out at the square dance, Anne's calling was no Larry Drew, but she tried. Sadie Jones directed a musical in the normal allotted time of 12 days, and the whole camp got to enjoy the performance of Hercules. While parents were unfortunately not able to join this summer, it did make Dartt Hall just a little less hot.

On top of this being COVID year, Camp also had to undergo its five-year ACA review in which we were evaluated against a set of hundreds of standards. Not only did we pass the review with flying colors but our evaluators noted just how fun Billings looked for all the campers despite the restrictions of Covid. While this summer most camps underwent significant difficulties in operating business as usual, Camp Billings managed to pull off a seamless, energetic, and classically loud summer.

We had so much fun and can't wait to see everyone again in 2022! Sean and Anne will have a new addition to the family and will be joined by their new 5-month-old daughter! She is expected to arrive in January, and we couldn't be more excited to meet her! We will be back to our normal schedule with four, 2 week sessions, and are opening camp up to 100% capacity. We will be hosting the 115-ish Reunion during pre-camp and we hope to see everyone there!



Reminiscing & Ready for the Reunion!

Reunion Flashbacks w/ Sarah Halton

I started going to camp in 1994 as a camper....I returned every year after that until 2007. As an alumni, I continued to return every summer for at least a visit or to attend a board meeting. I got to bring my daughters and my eldest spent her first summer at camp in 2019. Then COVID came along....as a Canadian family, we have not stepped foot in Vermont or anywhere near camp in almost 2 years. So, when I see those white gates in June, I will probably cry and I will be so grateful to be back. The first place I will visit will most definitely be the waterfront. I'm hoping to run into as many familiar faces as possible as I make my way over to the buddy board and who knows, maybe even hug them all! I miss you CB!



Reunion Q&A w/ Henry Lang

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Every Time We Touch, In The Evening, and Leaving On A Jet Plane

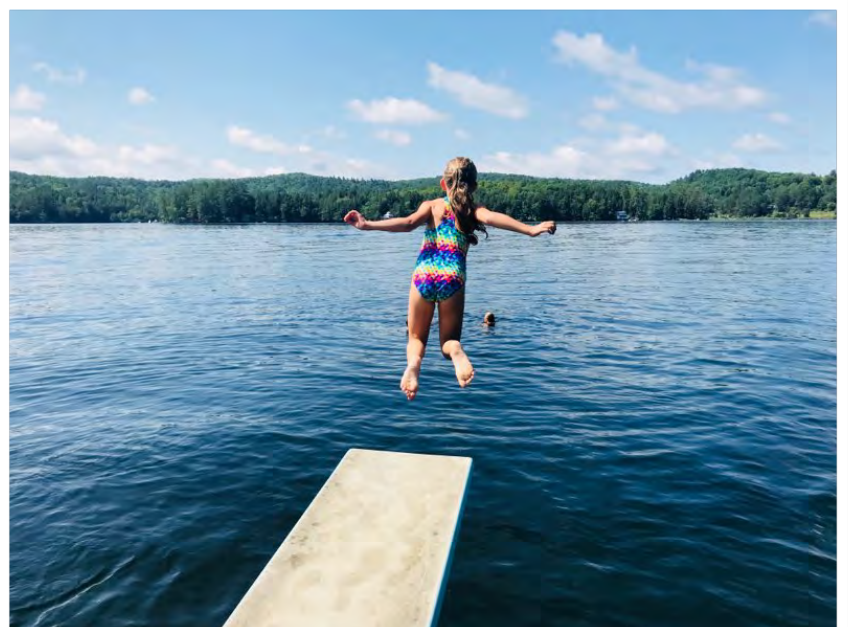
What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

Office Porch

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

Here's a VERY RANDOM list!

Stacey Wagner (Australia), Robbie Baranov, Tori Lancaster (Australia), Wade Payson-Denney, Gaz Smith, Clio Ruiz, Adele Tremblay, Adele Loaiza, Brian Kaufman, Trey Goggins, Elyse Lindahl, David Kunin, Katherine Scotnicki, Lauren Lougee, Jane Manby, Andy Schneider, Helen Dunlop, Emily Clarke, Anna Golden-Dukes, Keith Kelly, Ben Stewart, Tizzy Ernstoff and Theo Lance



Sarah's daughter Lia, 2018



Reminiscing & Ready for the Reunion!

Reunion Q&A w/ Perrin Cothran Chick

Favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

Back in 2006, I was newly pregnant with our daughter..... that June/ camp reunion was the first time we told anyone that we were expecting. It was so fun to wrap our head around being parents by thinking about our daughter as a future camper. Needless to say we bought our first baby gift for our daughter at that reunion (a Billings stuffed animal).

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Umm, I want to linger here makes me tear up every time. The CB reunion isn't complete without Green Grow the Rushes....

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

It may not be the first place I visit when I'm at camp but it is a place I always sneak to when at camp. I love sitting in the nook in a rock that exists behind the big rock, nestled in the tress and overlooks the waterfront. I love listening to camp from that zen space. I used to watch sunrise from there as a staff person.

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

Never any one specific person....

Reunion Q&A w/ Cheryl Mote Chafos

Favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

My favorite camp billings reunion memory is when campers came back with all their babies to experience our dear old camp.

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

I'm hoping to sing Country Roads and Ship Titanic.

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

The first place I will visit is the waterfront.

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

I'm most hoping to see my Cabin 1 girls and CITs Amy, Beth, Jenn, Perrin and the rest of our crew.



Reunion Q&A w/ Beth Freitas Crocker

Favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

The square dance at the 105th reunion. Everyone was having such a fun time and there were a great group of next generation campers joining in.

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Both Sides Now, Country Roads, Ship Titanic, Let It Be, Rise and Shine

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

Clock Tower lawn and then the Lake!!

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

Cheryl Mote Chafos, Amy Cone Glidden, Jenn Bradley, Kate Kellogg, Perrin Cothran, Ceci Stashwich Fleming, Elissa Malcolm, Nina Bettinger, Jen Ciarmoli, Jenn Terhune Mullix, Charley Bradley, Carol Miller, Jeanne Arbuckle, Marie Bernanchez, Paul & Kyle Strode, Sean Kiley, Nanette Van Vliet, Jen Holm Frederick, Jasmine St-Laurent, Wendy Biddle Bendle, Christina Batch-Lee, Babbie McComb Lester and MANY MANY MORE!

Where to Stay?

It's time to pull out your Camp Billings t-shirts, dust off your trunk, and sign up for the 115th Camp Billings Alumni Reunion! Former campers, former staff, parents of campers and long-time Billings supporters, you are all part of the family and we are calling you home! No matter how many years you've been away, it's time to sign up for the reunion. Come back to the place where you always belong! There are three ways to participate in the Reunion:

Option 1. For the most authentic camp experience you will want to stay in one of the fine Billings cabins. Hear the gentle lapping sounds of Lake Fairlee as you fall asleep in your bunk and awake early to the sound of the bugle. Spend the entire weekend immersed in the sights and sounds and smells of summer at the camp we all love so well!

Option 2. If you have reached the point in your life where you desire a little more in the way of creature comforts, or if your young babies need a silent place to sleep, you may make your own arrangements for overnight accommodations, while spending the rest of the weekend at Billings. This includes access to all reunion activities and meals except breakfast.

Option 3. You also have the option of joining us for Saturday afternoon and evening only, still plenty of time to rekindle wonderful memories and celebrate the remarkable 115th anniversary of our Dear Old Camp!

Options include the following:

Option 1. Staying at camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two nights cabin lodging • Friday evening welcome reception and dinner • Friday night Square Dance & Grab Bag • Saturday morning full breakfast • Scheduled morning camp open program areas • Saturday lunch & Reunion ceremony • Afternoon COUNTRY FAIR booths and games!!! • Saturday cookout (outdoors) • Saturday campfire - Talent Show, mini Jack's Alive followed by Triangle Candlelight Ceremony. • Sunday morning full breakfast • Sunday morning open program areas and nondenominational chapel • Sunday farewell lunch and sad goodbyes on the Clocktower Lawn
Option 2. Full weekend, not staying at camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything included in Option 1 except lodging and breakfasts
Option 3. Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive any time after breakfast and stay through the campfire • See scheduled Saturday activities above • Lunch before the formal Reunion ceremony will start at 12:15 pm



CAMP STORE INFO

A Reunion t-shirt is included with each guest registration. Additional Reunion t-shirts (and other merchandise) will be available for purchase at camp over the Reunion weekend.

For other CB merchandise, visit the online camp store at www.campbillings.org now. Reunion t-shirts to be available online after the Reunion weekend.



Official Registration Form

Camp Billings 115th Reunion June 17-19, 2022

You can also register online at www.campbillings.org. Please use the online registration if you would like to pay by credit card or PayPal.

Primary Contact Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	

Rates

Option	Included	Price per adult	Price per child*
Option 1	Full weekend with accommodations	\$125	\$75
Option 2	Full weekend (except accommodations and breakfasts)	\$80	\$40
Option 3	Saturday afternoon/evening	\$40	\$25

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

Registrants

Name	Decade(s) at camp	Adult	Adult over 21?	Child (include age)	Option (circle one)	Fee (\$)
					1 2 3	
					1 2 3	
					1 2 3	
					1 2 3	
					1 2 3	

Total Due _____

Special dietary, medical needs, etc.	
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Cabin mate requests	
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Would you like to volunteer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for a program/activity (Arts & Crafts, athletics, etc) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for a specific camp duty (bathrooms, campus right) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for Country Fair Booth (Kissing booth, Dunk tank, balloon darts, etc) _____
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Do you want to perform at the campfire? Songs! Skits! Readings!	
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What do you most look forward to doing at the reunion?	
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Please make checks payable to: Camp Billings

If you wish to pay with a credit card or PayPal, please register online at www.campbillings.org, or

If paying by check, please send this form along with payment to:

Elissa Malcolm
20 Cream Pot Road
Hartland, VT 05048

Questions: Contact Elissa at elissa.malcolm@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you at the reunion!

Emperor Bob's Reunion 'Top Nine'

The Top Nine People (or Groups) That I Would Love to See at the Camp Billings 115th Alumni Reunion

9. "The Cabin 15 Show" - still the only cabin group in Billings history to singularly put on an evening program. Gerd Lutter, Michael Klein, Richie Haft, Bobby Harrison, Newton Bacon, Jed Betts, Kenny Payson and others from 1968.

8. The Jolly Coachmen - Bruce Ostrander, Mark Powers, Jay Shortsleeves and Mark Quinn.

7. All the Quebecois from those who attended the wedding of Sarah and Russell, to Josie and Sabrina, through the O'Carrolls and Izzy. It all started with the Ducketts.

6. Everyone who used to come to Happy Hour above Dartt Hall each day at 3:30pm during the years I was Program Director. Michael Hayes, Ferd Connors, James D'Amico, the 70s gang, and John Freitas among the many.

5. All the Aussies and Kiwis I had the privilege of working with starting in 2001 with Alice Still.

4. Summit, New Jersey. Half the town came to Billings, beginning in the 60s with the Colsons and Wendell Bray right through the entire Feeney family.

3. Everyone who ever got kicked out of camp, including Adrian Doyle and Jerry Wilford, hopefully with their clothes on.

2. Unforgettable European staff including those who came to Jesus Camp, We Are the World, the Batting Cage Girls, and of course Ting (Gaz).

...drumroll...

1. The Survivors: staff who made it to the other side of Marc the Narc, the years of bad cooks, Jason Kubota, the German girl who did not speak, Slapsgiving, and Brian the Security Guard.



Reminiscing & Ready for the Reunion!

Reunion Q&A w/ Anna Pond

What is your favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

Getting to stay in 6A with a huge group of girls - from my year and the years one up and one down from me. It was so so fun to feel like a camper and just be able to be in the same space with everyone!

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Ship Titanic, Green Grow the Rushes, Jamaica Farewell, Little Brown Jug, Lemon Tree.

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

Probably the dining hall and then the waterfront! I love the cozy and welcoming feeling of the dining hall, but I also spent most of my camp time on the docks so I love to be out there. I'd swim out to the high dive first!

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

It's always such a blast to see my friends from my year at camp, as well as the surrounding years because we've all stayed close over the years. But it would be so fun if some foreign staff could make it over!! Gaz, Simon and Lydia might be my top 3, followed closely by too many others to name!

Reunion Q&A w/ Jeff Cantin

What is your favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

1991 was great to go after the same year as my last as a camper with Canac and MA, We slept in a tent on the Rainshadow. :)

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

BROUILLARD SUR LE CIMÉTIÈRE.

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

CABIN 15 PORCH.

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

EVERYONE.



Reunion Q&A w/ Elissa Malcolm

What is your favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

When Kate Freitas caught a tiny dog that leapt off the deck of the office into the swim area! I'll see if I can find the photo.

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Jamaica Farewell.

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

The registration table (hint hint)!

Who are you most hoping to see at the Reunion?

Every single one of you.

Reminiscing & Ready for the Reunion!

Reunion Q&A w/ Jasmine St-Laurent

What is your favorite Camp Billings Reunion memory?

Truthfully, I worked my butt off during the last three reunions so most of my memories are about planning!!!

What songs are you most hoping to sing in the Dining Hall at the Reunion?

Country Roads!

What is the first place at Camp you will visit?

I would go see the new office and infirmary. But, I will be happy to be on the CT lawn, sitting on a green bench with old friends!



Reunion Flashbacks w/ Jenn and John Lisak

For Jenn and I, the reunions hold special places in our CB heart. We thoroughly enjoy meeting anyone from the late 70's and/or the early 80's. It is amazing to me that it will have been 40 years ago this coming summer that I (Sak) arrived at Camp Billings.

My first year was also Billings 75th Anniversary...."Jack's Alive We're 75!"

I don't remember much about it except playing Jack's Alive for the first time with Uncle John (Freitas) passing the stick around with the burning cork on it and handing out "challenges" to the unlucky few who tapped the stick and knocked off the last spark. The challenges were unique. I remember a few...



- Fireman, the person walked around the next day with a Fireman's hat, raincoat, bucket of water and a ladle. If someone yelled FIRE, the person had to scoop a ladle of water and pour it over his/her head.

- Measuring the circumference of the lower courts (not with a ruler) but with one tongue depressor!

- Another person had to count all the windows in camp! Wow, that only took most of the morning.

When Jenn and I come back to camp we like to go to a few places that are meaningful to us. We stop by all the different cabins we were assigned to, Cabin 5, Cabin 3, Cabin 7 and the old Annex.

We always visit the coffee/tea table in the Dining Hall....before anyone knew we were a couple (probably before we knew we were a couple) we used to meet there during breakfast and chit chat. We make another stop at the "Rainbow Dock." It was the dock off the back of the Guest House that each wood plank was painted a different color. We used to sit on the Rainbow dock many nights to watch the moon rise over the lake (wink, wink). Then, we head across the road to Rainshadow Field to reminiscence going over there after "taps" when it was all woods and the B-B shed and the 22 rifle range were there (yes we had a riflery program). Both programs had mattresses that you would lay down on to shot from....but at night they were used for.....hummm, I'll leave it at that!

I think the best memory for both of us is coming around the bend on Rt. 244 and seeing the lake and then Camp Billings! It brings on a deep heartfelt feeling of joy each and every time!

—Jenn and John Lisak

NEW

TO THE REUNION!

CAMP BILLINGS ALUMNI REUNION INAUGURAL SILENT AUCTION

Help us...help camp!

We are looking for donations to the first ever Camp Billings Silent Auction. No item is too big or too small. We are so lucky to have such diverse and talented alumni, and we are so excited to see what comes rolling in from you. Some helpful examples...a cooking lesson on Zoom, tickets to a performance, weekend property rental, or gift cards. Be creative or be practical.

Contact alumni@campbillings.org with your donation information. Deadline for entries is March 30th. The Camp Billings Silent Auction will take place at the 115th Camp Billings Reunion in June.



TALKING 'BOUT MY GENERATION

A theme initiative for the Silent Auction

Who: Designated 'Generation Leads' are needed to help choose a theme for a Silent Auction basket and coordinate donations.

What: Each generation of alumni will be responsible for putting together a themed basket that will be auctioned off during the 115th Reunion's Silent Auction.

Where: 115th Camp Billing Reunion.

When: June 17th-19th, 2022.

Why: No, you don't win anything! But the generation whose basket brings in the largest bid will earn major bragging rights until the next reunion!



WISH LIST
 If you would like to support
 Camp Billings with a donation,
 check out the latest Wish List
 on our Facebook page:
facebook.com/campbillingssummer/

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