

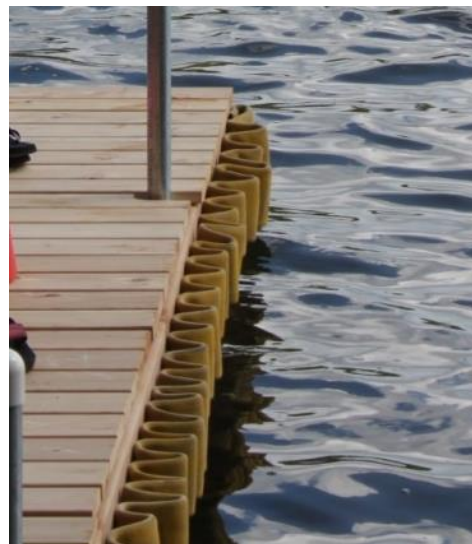
October 2013

Gary's Camping Newsletter

Continuous Improvement for Great Camp Leaders

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." -- *Thomas Edison*

JD's Boating Bumpers – "It's the NH Native in me and the influence of my grandparents... How do we protect your boats better? Get old/used fire hose from your local fire department and screw it in 'accordion' around the sides of your dock. It makes a great bumper and your local EMS personnel will love that the old hoses (that get rotated out frequently) are being put to good use!" - *contact Jennifer "JD" Deasy at jen@coniston.org*



Website of the Month – "360 degree" photos are all the rage, but too often they show your good side plus 270 degrees of boring. Here's the best new facility tour I've seen; (way better than the "click the cute icons on the map without knowing what they mean" route, which is too popular, too). Click on the arrow and it duplicates the walking tour you'd get if you actually visited camp with a director during the summer; but at your own pace: <http://www.campதாகajo.com/walking-tour.php> -- (Website by <http://websitesthatdostuff.com>).

All Aboard! – Mark Pooler writes "This was our new feature for the summer, called **The Sloper Express**, We used it as a specialty activity for our youngest campers and carted them around camp. Great way from them to see all areas of camp that they would not normally see and give them a sneak peak at what is to come as they get older (i.e. camper retention). Very well received by the campers and we are booming with train birthday parties, requests for special events and it's making its debut in the local parade this fall (i.e. off-season promotion). We got the train from www.roundhousecompany.com if others are interested!" – *reach Mark at mpooler@sccymca.org*



Educating Parents – Camp Sewataro (MA) has an great pitch to parents on "Why summer camp" and "Why *our* camp," the first flowing right into the next with an arrow on the bottom of the page. (All camp websites should guide parents to the next logical page like this!): <http://www.sewataro.com/about-us/why-camp>

Props, Poop, and Program – Catalog of replica skulls, rubber animal feet for track making, even rubber scat to pass around! Nature-center posters and activities, too:

<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/ACORN-NATURALISTS-2013-CATALOG-P8582C2046.aspx>

“For me, it wasn't just a job, it was a way of life, a passion. It was where I wanted to be.” – So said Gene Clark III at the retirement celebration marking Gene and Caryn's 28 years as directors of Camp Belknap, ME. Here's the nice news story on the event:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20131022/NEWHAMPSHIRE03/131029846>

Collaborate – Yeah, we all know we should do more of it. Here's an example of a great community clearinghouse called the “Meet Me Outdoors Network” <http://meetmeoutdoors.com/home> that covers the greater Cincinnati (OH and KY) area. Camp Joy is a member, and had 900 people attend their recent “Harvest Fest” community/family celebration at camp as a result. <http://camp-joy.org/>

America's Top Camp Nurse Writes – “Great to read your newsletter again, Gary. The rock clearing idea was great! (Sept 2013). I was also delighted to discover your comments about **Norovirus**. I fully concur; it's the bane of camp when it breaks out! I'm glad you also referred folks to CDC's website. They consistently provide evidence-based information. With that in mind, also consider using ACN's Practice Commentary about communicable disease control at camp. The document is available online at http://www.acn.org/edcenter/selected_articles/communicable_disease_management.” -- Linda Ebner Erceg, RN, MS, PHN Erceg@cord.edu

From Noro Ground Zero – Scotty Jackson (just promoted from Camp Director to Executive Director of YMCA Camp Seymour on Puget Sound, WA, writes: “My two lessons (hindsight= 20/20) were...

1. Don't use healthy staff to support the cleanup of camp.
Camp went down in the 24 hours between Wed. and Thurs. professional cleaning began on Thursday afternoon. On Friday, many of the healthy staff helped move clothing out of cabins for the professional, treat props, clean out the fridge/freezers and bleach and wipe program equipment, all to support the professional crews. (This likely caused more staff to get infected, and thus the camp couldn't open for the next session.)
2. Watch your products. In conversations with facilities staff, we had been using “Vindicator,” and the ads said – “It kills everything.” Post-event we learned... it doesn't. Health department recommendations are bleach, at a strong ratio.
Just sharing, Scotty.” – sjackson@ymcapkc.org

In Case You Haven't Heard – A Connecticut summer camp is being sued for \$41.7 million over a Lyme disease case involving a camper from 2011. The suit alleges that the camper was “never told to wear tick protective clothing nor was she consistently instructed to use insect repellent when she and other campers left the immediate camp space for areas likely to have the infectious deer ticks.” -- more at [Summer Camp Culture](#).

Clear Protection From the Rain – Everybody wants a pavilion “for rainy day space.” But if you ask anyone WITH a pavilion you'll find out that even a little breeze blows rain, making half of it wet, slippery, and basically unusable. George DeTellis at Camp Woodhaven is using these clear vinyl tarps to

roll down when it rains. Still feels like being outdoors, but regains all that space (for not much money)
<http://www.mytarp.com/clear-vinyl-tarps-18-oz.aspx>

Impact Video – Chuck Steinfurth writes, “Here is a link to a video we made about camp at the Central Florida Y. We recorded data every week from all of our camps and measured the **impact** of our activities. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZOtZSpxNsw> The music is by Rob Simonson, called ‘Blue’” -- csteinfurth@cfymca.org. (Gary’s note: You’ll go crazy trying to think of where you’ve heard the music before! It’s beautiful.)

Women’s Adventure Weekend -- at Camp Gorham, NY, described first-person in the news: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/WebsterBlog/2013/10/03/my-weekend-adventure/2913691/>. And the brochure: <https://rochesterymca.org/sites/default/files/WAW%20Brochure%202014.pdf>

Fundraising Help – “Lack of money is no obstacle. Lack of an idea is an obstacle.” (*Ken Hakuta*). Here’s the only free resource on camp fundraising that I know of. Tons of stuff:
<http://www.donorbydesign.com/smores/>

“Nothing is impossible; the word itself says ‘I’m possible’!” –
Audrey Hepburn

“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take” – *Wayne Gretzky*

“Just because you got the monkey off your back doesn’t mean the circus has left town.” -- *George Carlin*.

Best wishes,

Gary

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