

News From the Ridge

Fall 2007

Tim and Elizabeth Van Allen leaving CWR...

A Note from Tim



TIM'S FAVORITE SPOT
Leading on the four wheeler



Ann Marie, Tim, Elizabeth,
Donna Ruth



ELIZABETH'S
FAVORITE SPOT - the
kitchen!!

To all the Friends of Wilderness Ridge:

I have tried and tried to come up with an easy way to share with you all about the decision that Elizabeth and I have made. But it just will not come. So here it is. God is blessing us with another child! This is so wonderful but with it we have found Elizabeth also very ill. So we have made the decision to leave Wilderness Ridge so that we can get insurance for the family.

I have accepted a position as Chaplain for Asera Care Hospice where we will continue to minister to the spiritual needs of others. Our future plans will include Seminary and continuing to volunteer at Wilderness Ridge when and wherever possible. I consider Wilderness Ridge an incredible place to serve and impact people for Christ and I hope and pray that many more people will join the ranks to see this ministry become even stronger and more effective for the Lord. Elizabeth and I have enjoyed serving all of you over the last few years and we look forward to the future as we continue to volunteer. We want to extend our thanks to all of you for your love and support and we hope to see you all again soon.

With much Love and Thanks

The Van Allens

Letter to Tim & Elizabeth from Chairman of CWR Board

Dear Tim & Elizabeth,

In the history of CWR your legacy will be remembered always. Your sacrificial and faithful service to our Lord is a great example to us all. Though your rewards are few on this side of heaven, I can assure you your rewards will be many as young men after young men will testify to your witness in their lives. Tim, I want to thank you personally for your friendship and energy that you brought to camp and your creative touch that has made camp a wonderful place to be summer after summer. Elizabeth, thank you for your faithful service and your wonderful example of being a help-mate to your husband. Your job is so understated but without the way you continue to serve Tim, he would not be as effective. THANK YOU!!!

The Lord is continuing to show his blessing to your family and it is exciting to see Tim soar to new heights. God Bless you and your family... We will miss you. Camp Wilderness Ridge Board of Directors.

Fall Retreats 2007

We appreciate hosting retreats this fall for the following:

Hill Country Bible Church (AWANA) - Northwest Austin
Gateway Church - Austin
Houston Chinese Church - Houston
Windwood Presbyterian Church - Houston
Hill Country Bible Church - Southwest Austin
Hill Country Bible Church - Pflugerville
Bridgepoint Bible Church - Spring Branch
(formerly Spring Branch Community)

LOOKING FOR QUALITY
FAMILY TIME??

Come spend some time at CWR to volunteer as well as take advantage of the facility...bring your tent and spend the night, canoe, fish...and help out!! Contact Ron at ron@wildernessridge.com for calendar and project information.

Zip Line



The zip line is now in place...become a "human trolley" as you speed down the 300 foot cable. You will climb a 30 foot pole, step by step as you move out of your comfort zone.

For those not physically capable (age 10 or under or with limitations) to make the climb their harness is connected to the cable at the end. They are given a rope to hold for the zip line crew to pull them back toward the top until they let go.

Here Anthony Ramos, our certified high ropes expert, assists Board member Steve Davis as they try out the new course.

Video Camp Film Entered in Christian Film Festival

CWR hosted it's first ever Video Camp, July 1-7, 2007. Jeff Buchle created the curriculum and taught with Tim Van Allen the material which included a notebook 500+ pages on Cinematography, Screen-writing, Directing, Editing and Lighting. These campers also learned about what it meant to be REAL...needless to say, they had packed days and nights.

The group was divided into two teams which did two films each. The first was filmed in sequence without any sound or editing and the second, they edited with sound. The whole group then became the crew (scriptwriters, director, cameramen, actors, lighting, & editing) to produce the film "The Judge's Grace".

The campers worked together to formulate the concepts for this film with one camper writing the script. This film has been entered in the San Antonio Christian Film Festival, October 25-27, 2007. We'll keep you up-to-date!! Also, thanks to Jeff & Tim!

YES, Video Camp will happen again in Summer 2008 plus an Advanced Video Camp is being planned.

Volunteer Opportunities

As you know, there is always a lot to do here at camp. **Would you like to help?** There are workdays to help out with the facility, (September 22 was the last one) but there are a host of other opportunities that can be done from your home as well as here at the camp. Please look over this list and consider where you might be interested in serving.

Mailbox Club Follow-up -	Looking over completed lessons and mailing out the next one.
Camper Birthday Ministry -	Sending out birthday cards to campers.
Historian -	Gathering, looking through and organizing the history of CWR.
Video & PhotoOrganization -	Organizing and preserving the videos & pictures taken here at CWR.
Brochure Production -	Assisting in creating and reproducing CWR camp brochures.
Photographer -	Taking digital photographs of the group and their activities during weekend retreats and to help create a slide presentation with sound track to be shown on Sunday morning and burn CDs for distribution on Sunday morning.
Video Editing -	Editing the digital video shot during weekend retreats so it can be shown on Sunday morning and making copies of the DVD for distribution for the retreat participants on Sunday.
Data Entry & Web Research -	Update mailing lists with current campers and churches.
Retreat Help -	Cook Assistants, Servant Crew, Program Crew, Lifeguards
Canteen & Apparel	Designing the layout and estimate the material cost.
Store Area Project -	Completing the construction project per the design layout.

E-mail sandy@wildernessridge.com for more information.



NEW LOOK FOR THE CHAPEL

A second story deck has been added to the Chapel to take advantage of the view of the CWR Lake and the Lost Pines Forest. Not only does this new deck serve as additional small group meeting space and times with God, it has allowed us to access storage space upstairs and eliminate paying monthly storage fees. Several adult and student volunteers arrived, worked together as a team in the heat, and completed this project on July 6th. A generous donor contributed funds for the materials. As you can see in the final picture, Board member Greg Shoup is already enjoying a quiet moment on the new deck.

Once again, volunteers have served CWR well. Thank you.

CAMP WILDERNESS RIDGE

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Do you rely on e-mail news?

Periodically we send CWR updates, alerts and other information by e-mail. Let us add your e-mail address to our list by notifying sandy@wildernessridge.com and you will receive our next update.

Note from Camp Director

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12b

...those who PRAY ...those who GIVE ...those who GO

Camp has been blessed this year. The greatest blessing was participating in the salvation and spiritual growth of the campers that God directed to summer camp. Staff, volunteers, facilities, and financial supporters all work together to develop an environment for campers to meet the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

CWR was chartered to provide "low cost" camping. Our registration fee is half of other camps even when you adjust for their higher expenses for ski boats, horses, etc. It is essential to maintain the "low cost" element of CWR, because this summer even with the "low cost" of \$190 for the week we gave over \$9700 in scholarships.

Camper registration fees and scholarships cover less than half of the camp's annual operating costs (excluding staff support - all Camp Wilderness Ridge staff raise their own financial support which includes living expenses, health and life insurance, and retirement).

General fund contributions are needed to make up the shortfall between registration fees and some extra income from retreats and the annual costs. Our prayer is that God will move in the hearts of His people to give to the general fund - both to meet the immediate need and to regularly give to this critical element of CWR. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We are thankful that our sovereign Lord and Savior has blessed this ministry for twenty years - and has chosen to work through all of us - His servants. Thank you for your participation - whether it be "hands-on", financial or in prayer.

Seize Eternity,

Ron & Sandy Hunt

Board of Directors

Don Owens	Chairman
Neil Kenagy	Vice Chairman
Greg Shoup	Secretary
David Pope	Treasurer
Steve Davis	Member
Isaac Pape	Member

Staff

Ron Hunt	Camp Director
Mark VerMilyea	Facilities Director
Sandy Hunt	Food Mgmt. Administrator
Anthony Ramos	Retreat Leader
Fred Fredette	Facilities Maintenance



Anthony Ramos Joining CWR Staff

Anthony Ramos is joining the CWR staff, initially to lead retreat services and activities this fall as he begins raising support. The target is for him to be at least 80% funded by January 2008 so he can be full time staff. He will then also lead our SALT (Servant And Leadership Training), recruiting candidates and taking them through a qualifying process. Once qualified, he will take those candidates through a training process and direct and mentor them during the Summer Camps.

Anthony has volunteered at CWR for the past year, taking four vacation days from work for training to be certified as a High & Low Ropes Challenge Courses instructor and another week from work to be a Servant-Leader at our summer Teen Challenge Camp in June 2007. He has unselfishly served the camp with his mechanic and carpenter skills on several occasions.

Nine years ago he became a Believer. Anthony lives in Del Valle and drove over 30 miles one-way to Hill Country Bible Church (HCBC) in northwest Austin for eight years. HCBC is where he accepted Christ as his Savior and experienced spiritual growth through the Men's Ministry's Journeymen and serving in Children's and AWANA Ministries plus ministering to children and families in East Austin. About a year ago God laid on his heart to reach people with the Gospel in the Bastrop area.

Please lift Anthony up in your prayers and consider a commitment to financially support him monthly. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please complete the donor information and return with your support donation.

Stephen Hauffe Memorial Fund

Stephen Hauffe had been coming to CWR since he was 3 years old, accompanying his dad for workdays, Father/Son campouts, and other events. When he was old enough he came to summer camp as a camper and then as a teenager became a part of the Summer Camp - Servant Crew. Stephen was deeply missed this summer. Last October he took his own life at the age of 17. Because of his love for CWR his family buried him in a cemetery at Smithville so he would be close to CWR. Only the Lord knows what led him to that decision because he confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and spent time in studying the Bible and serving others.

The Hauffe family asked that in lieu of flowers people give to CWR as a memorial. Over \$3200 was received. That money was enough to pay for the construction of the Zip Line.

LIKE OUR NEW CWR CAPS??

For more information go to



www.wildernessridge.com

Camp Wish List

MANY DONATIONS IN THE PAST HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR CWR TO OFFER A HIGH QUALITY CAMPING EXPERIENCE at an affordable price. Here are a few of the items we are praying for the Lord to provide through donations of time, money and items:

- Digital Projector (minimum 1200 Lumens and 1600x1 ratio) \$1000
 - Lay a concrete floor in the dining Pavillion \$1300
 - Contracted Construction Projects:
 - High Ropes Elements:
 - Pamper Pole \$3500
 - Cat Walk and Crossover \$6500
 - Low Ropes Elements:
 - Total of 10 Low Ropes Elements \$5800
 - Rental of a portable sawmill with operator \$ 700
- Note:** About 30 pine trees were downed while clearing the area for the Zip line and clearing in the RV area. We have an opportunity to cut those trees into rough lumber for future building projects. Rental of a portable sawmill with an operator for this job is \$700 which should

Camper (and Parent) Testimonies Say It All!!

"I would not think about going to a different summer camp"

"It's the middle of September, and Mark's testimony still strikes me as amazing"

"He felt very loved at this camp and as I am a single mom, it was good for him to glean from the men at this camp."

These are some of our favorite quotes from campers and parents about summer camp. We had a great time and all campers learned about being REAL —

Reproducing Disciples ... Matt. 28:18-20

Esteeming god Above All ... Mark 12:30

Announcing the Good News ... Luke 24:46-47

Living for Others ... Mark 10:45

Over 170 campers spent 124 hours of wilderness fun, worship, Bible study, canoeing, fishing, swimming, and so much more. 60+ Servant-Leaders and SALT (Servant And Leadership Trainees) served those campers and God as His Word was revealed through our Get REAL activities ... and 24 campers came to know their Lord and Savior during this time ... PRAISE GOD!

PS - This is also the largest number of campers as well as the largest number of volunteers for any summer camp at CWR.

BE REAL!!



Summer Camp 2007



DON'T FORGET THE OTHER STAFF ...
cooks, nurses, life guards, maintenance
A SUPER BIG THANK YOU!!