



# Smoky Mountain Christian Camp Newsletter

August Newsletter

2009

## In This Issue

### Yellowstone Trip

Summer 2009

Big Anniversary for Big Guy

What's Next

Next Board Meeting

### Yellowstone Trip



Our Trip to Yellowstone was absolutely awesome. We saw some beautiful sights and the pictures will not do it justice. You can view pictures of all our wilderness camp weeks by going to the web site. Above is a picture of Devil's Tower. The

## Dear Friends of the Camp

The Summer Camp season is over. I can't even believe it. It has gone by so quickly. Much thanks has to go out to all the volunteers who come and share Christ and all their hearts with campers. They give up time, money, energy, and more, because they love God and want to make a difference... and they do make a difference. Many lives were changed. Many gave their life to Christ for the first time. That is what is most important about summer camp. Beyond that, we managed to have a summer of relatively few and minor injuries, and also many people noticed and appreciated changes and improvements in the camp. We look forward to more progress in this next year, and we will keep you informed of the changes to come.

## Summer 2009 at a Glance

Looking back at this past summer I have to say that I think it was a success. It was not a perfect summer. We had a couple minor injuries. Only one (stitches) I can think of sent a person home. We had a few less campers than last year, but I was happy with how the weeks went and the attendance at most of the weeks. We spent less money, offered a couple of less weeks, but made more out of the weeks we had. We have a lot of planning and more changing to do for next summer. Those plans are already in the works. God blessed us and was with us this summer.

## Big Anniversary for a Big Guy

Dad just turned 60 on July 28, had his 40th anniversary on Aug. 2, and this was his 20th summer at Smoky Mountain Christian Camp. He is deserving of so much praise for where he has brought this camp. It is one of the smallest Christian Camps that is around, yet because of his expertise in building and his willingness to sacrifice and work harder than anyone I've ever known, this camp has had success. You friends of the camp deserve a lot of the praise because your support has enabled Dad to do what he has done, but I can't think of anyone else that could have done the job he has done. His longevity is worthy of a ton of praise, and what he has been able to do in that time is a

top picture is of Upper Falls in the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone (which is nowhere close to where the real Grand Canyon is. Below is a picture of Jordan, my summer long wilderness camper, and Jeff, my driving partner on this eternally long driving trip, they are holding one of the several geocaches we found. Email me if you want me to explain what that is. And the bottom picture is of me overlooking the Grand Tetons, which are absolutely stunning.



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testament to not only what God is able to do, but also what God has gifted my Dad to be able to do. I only hope I can follow in his footsteps and have the willingness to sacrifice and work to take the camp to an even higher level. This camp has been a blessing to so many people, and I want to see it be a blessing to many, many more.

### What Comes Next

Remember to go and look on the web site. We have Fall and Spring events planned. I hope that we can begin to make the camp season more than just a summer camp season. I have tried to create events that will include most age groups at different times with a variety of activities. I love the outdoors and bringing others closer to Christ through the outdoors, so my hope is to create some things that will enable those that can't break away for a whole week to come and experience something different during just a weekend retreat... and going into next summer we are looking at having the lodge opened up to campers as the ranch moves out of the lodge. We will also be going to combine all our regular camp weeks to just one week per age group and combining all our wilderness camp weeks to just one week per age group. Wilderness camp weeks will be done using the regular camp facilities and our wilderness staff will help facilitate the regular camp activities. There is much to brainstorm and organize and plan.

### September Camp Board Meeting

I'm not sure where we decided the September meeting would take place. However it will take place on Sept. 10 (always the 2nd Thursday every 3 months) and will be at 7:30 p.m. I believe we are doing it at West Towne Christian Church again. I have not had time during the summer months to work at getting a lawyer to redraw our lease agreement so we will have to look at calling another special meeting when that gets done. I will work at getting that done now that summer camp season is over.

Thank You Once again for your continued support. I am so thankful for the summer God gave us. I hope it was a blessing to all who came.

Sincerely,



Billy Clark  
Smoky Mountain Christian Camp ([www.smccamp.com](http://www.smccamp.com))