

Echo Hill Ranch Review

Volume 58, Issue 1

June 28, 2010



Our 58th Anniversary
Summer

Facts About Our Little Green Valley

- Over 400 acres nestled in the Texas Hill Country
- 2,000 ft elevation above sea level
- Founded in 1953 by Uncle Tom and Min Friedman

Ranch Library Opens

Right after lunch, on Saturday afternoon, June 26th, the Children’s Library in the front half of the office was formally opened to a cheering crowd of campers and counselors. Counselors Gwen, Melina, Rosie, Alex R. and Maxie



dressed up in formal gowns as librarians to cut the ribbon and celebrate the opening. Ranch Librarian Emma Singleton showed ranchers how to check out books.

The other Ranch Librarians, Noah Jefferson and Clara Sue Kleine, joined about 25 ranchers who rushed into the library to look over the almost 400 volumes that are available for kids to read or check out. There are also

many board games available in the Library, and two huge chess boards set up for campers and counselors to use any-

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New Pipe Corral Adorns EHR

After a good long life of 58 years, the wooden fences and old cedar posts around the riding ring were replaced this spring with welded steel pipe that counselors painted white before camp. The pipe design looks beautiful and will need little maintenance over the years. Shelly O’Neal, Head Wrangler, says, “The pipe corral and riding ring are safer for horses and for kids, and it looks great.” The Echo Hill triangle brand, cut out of metal and painted white, now sits proudly over the main gate to the corral. Chuck Hart headed

up a two year project and many long weekends with Alumni Work Crews to plan and finish the project. The fence boards from the old corral were recycled and used in repairing the camp pavilion. Chuck says we owe a big 1-2-3- HOW to alumni Cary Robinson and Sam Roosth, who donated all of the steel pipe free of charge and had it delivered at the ranch. See photos of the new riding ring and corral on our Facebook Page, Echo Hill Ranch (Official) Fan Club, and on the Bunk1 Photo Gallery.

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This Week’s Sermon

Abby Eastman and Emma Singleton

People are like shoes. Every shoe is different. Some shoes have straps, or heels, or laces. But each shoe has something special to add to the outfit. During the first couple of days of camp, new ranchers have arrived. Already we can see that the new campers here are going to have a huge impact. For

example, breakfast tacos have to work together to make the best breakfast, like bunks have to work together to get honor bunk. But sometimes ranchers, or tacos, have to work together to overcome bumps in the road. During these times, we have to remember that we are all working towards the

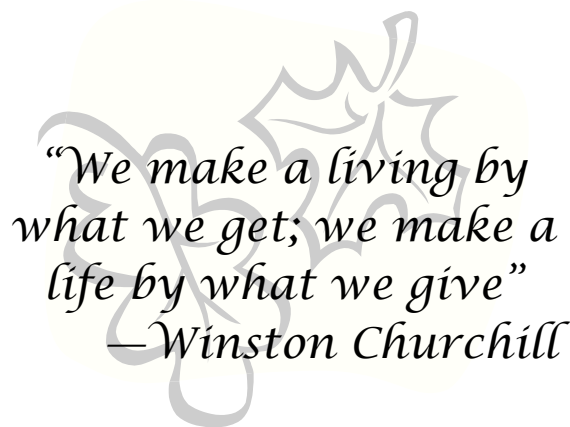
same goal, so we are all teammates. And teammates remember but accept our differences. In the end, whether you are bean and cheese, potato and egg, Keens or Crocs; or from Texas or Florida, when working together you can do anything. Amen!

Staff Sermon— by Jeremy Hantz

So every week, we read a new chapter in the Bible, and this week’s portion has a very well known line that says, “Do not look into your neighbor’s tent.” This has been interpreted hundreds of different ways, but I think a great way for all of us to think of it in relation to camp is like this:

There are endless amounts of decisions in life that need to be made by all of us, everyday. Some are easy, others, not so easy. But they are all ours to make. These decisions that we’re faced with shouldn’t be based on what other people are doing, or aren’t doing, or what other people have or don’t have. Not on the fact that a camper in your bunk shot a bulls-eye in archery, made a great tie-dye in handicrafts, or rode their horse faster with faster or with fewer mistakes than you did, but should be based on what *you* can do, without drawing comparisons to anybody else.

Echo Hill is about trying new things and pushing us to broaden our horizons. The true measure of a person, how we judge ourselves, and how others view us is not by how we ride that horse, nor how well we shoot the rifle— not by any of our talents, but by the goodness of our hearts.



Ranch Officers—Week One
Foreman: Jamie Penn, Max Schein
Mail: Avi Distler, Sawyer Wilson, Nathan Lederman, Max Hofheinz-Montauriol
Camp Council: Jamie Penn, Daylyn Gilbert
Laundry: Olivia and Kathryn MacLeod
Librarian: Clara Sue Klein, Noah Jefferson, Emma Singleton
Ecology: Noah Shaw, Eva Streitz-Block, Michael Davis

Executive Editor: Roger Friedman
Editor: Evan Staff
Head Reporters: Rachel Evans, Daniel Eastman
Special Thanks To: Ben Silverman

NEWS FROM THE BUNKHOUSES (Continued)

Cedars (Remi Clonts)

Yesterday we went on a water hike. The hike was bumpy and rocky. During the hike we found a possum skull and possum hair. We also found clay. There were a lot of fish. On pillowcase skit night, everybody got into groups, then we started making skits. After the funny skits, we did friendship circles. It was a lot of fun.

Bigfoot (Simon Jerden)

Yesterday we had a marshmallow roast and hamburgers. We like shooting .177's and going to see the horses. Swimming is really great, too. Our first activity today was wallball and we really liked it. We went up Echo Hill and put up our flag—well, actually it's a shoe, because we are Bigfoot. One of my favorite things about Echo Hill is when you're on the ground and you see the hills around you. It's beautiful.

Bronco Busters (Daniel Eastman)

After services we went for a marshmallow roast at Bigfoot. We collected sticks and lit a one-match fire! Then we walked through the river and saw the snake pit where we saw that it was really deep and that there were actually no snakes around. During swim lessons, our counselor Jeremy did a cannonball and splashed all of us. We are looking forward to our hill climb tomorrow!

Range Riders (Morgan Rosenbaum)

The Range Riders have particularly enjoyed archery and riflery. In riflery (.177) we learned correct technique and that we have to aim a

little to the left because the guns aim was a little off. Morgan and Jordan got perfect bullseyes and earned special recognition, and Jake got to 20 yards in three rounds. On our trip to the Echo Hill tree in the South Flat we found an old baseball, and when we got back to the bunk we unraveled it and found that inside was a bouncy-ball type thingy-bobber. Our bunk has also enjoyed water balloons and water guns, courtesy of a care package. We have enjoyed our time here so far, and everyone is really doing great.

Valley View (Rachel Evans)

Last night, our counselor Bess read us a story called The Giving Tree. That is one reason why my bunk is awesome. One night, we had a dance party and the boys came and joined us. Yesterday, my bunk and I climbed the face of Echo Hill. It was very hard and everybody got very hungry, but it was fun.

Mavericks (Baeren Rubenstein)

The Mavericks took a wild hike to the blackberry bushes, picking blackberries and saving some for later. Wildflowers came and three of us helped and showed them where some good berries were. They didn't know where to go to get out, so me and Scissorman (Michael Davis) showed them the way out. Scissorman cut the thorns and I lead the way. I feel this year will be great.

Wildflowers (Mary Nell Disman)

Wildflowers are the awesomest bunk ever! One of the best times was on bunk activity night. We went on a hike. They did not tell us where it was until we got there. The walk was not long. It ended up

that we went to blackberry bushes with the Mavericks. It was really fun.

Boleros (Natasha Schepps)

On Bunk Activity Night our bunk had a marshmallow roast at Chalk Bluff. It was a very interesting experience. For some reason we couldn't find any cedar, so we couldn't start the fire. After three of us searched for cedar for a very long time in the dark, we got scared that a creature of the night would attack us. Fortunately, our awesome counselors had started a fire with the little cedar that we had collected. We roasted marshmallows while talking and laughing. It was an awesome night! Lauran Hermann helped out by helping us put our s'mores together. She was really awesome at it!

Stars (Claire Burrus)

Yesterday, we went on an extreme nature hike and it was really intense. We found a really big centipede with orange legs that was pretty cool. My favorite part of camp is archery and just hanging out with the bunk because we all get along so well. I can tell this is going to be a great session at Echo Hill!

Spurs (Lyle Markman)

The best part of camp is being in an awesome bunk with great counselors. Whenever we win honor bunk we have an epic funky dance party. It makes the camp experience so much better. I also loved going on a marshmallow roast with the Stars bunk. I can't wait for the rest of the session!

Camp Council discusses volleyball, longer siestas and zip lines!

After lunch on Sunday, the Camp Council met with Roger on the porch of the Log Cabin to discuss how camp is progressing. Present at the meeting were: Jamie Penn (Valley View), Lauren Weinberger (Boloros), Zack Willenzik (Range Riders), Mitchell Jacobson (Bronco Busters), and Baeren Rubenstein (Mavericks). Council members said camp was great this summer, and that their favorite activities so far were archery, handicrafts, dance, riflery, horseback riding, and climbing Echo

Hill. Because it was so much fun during free swim, it was recommended that volleyball be scheduled as a regular activity with Katie and Gwynn; that there be salsa dancing like last summer, and more softball, baseball, soccer and kickball scheduled. One Councilmember wanted a longer siesta, but most wanted a shorter one. Several Council members suggested we have a zip line going from the top of Echo Hill to the flag ring, but then some said that would be too dangerous.

Everybody liked the food this summer, especially the Tex-Mex casserole and the Fried Chicken, and some suggested we add butter, grape jelly, and maybe lox to the bagels and cream cheese at Continental Breakfast! They loved the bagels. Another new thought was to have a different bunk be assigned to running ECHO Radio each day, playing the music they like and making announcements. It was a great meeting, with a plethora of good ideas shared by all.

EHR Library (Continued)

time. The Library was built by staff member and carpenter Kevin MacLeod, who repaired and built 8 book cases into the old walls, installed a ceiling fan, moved in easy chairs, a small sofa, a soft rug and reading lamps. It's a great place to cool your heels and read during free time, and we'll be scheduling Storybook Reading Hours with counselors for the youngest bunks. Thanks to all the alumni, campers and counselors who donated used books to the Library---it's a place to let your imagination go into the world of literature! The idea to build a real children's library was the recommendation of the Camp Council from 2009 and it's exciting to see it come to life. Photos of the Library Opening Ceremony and kids using the library are on the Bunk1 Photo Gallery. We have room for many more books, so please send books to the ranch this summer, c/o Children's Library.



*To all of our one
week ranchers:*

Green Trees

From all of us

at Echo Hill.

(See you next summer!)

