



Chips 'n Splinters

News from YMCA Camp Hi-Rock 

January 2005

Jessica Speer-Holmes Named Executive Director

José Cabrera, Board Chair of YMCA Camp Hi-Rock, announced that Jessica Speer-Holmes has been appointed as Executive Director. She replaces Mike McElhaney who assumed an executive role at the Southern Illinois YMCA.



Ms. Speer-Holmes attended Camp Hi-Rock as a youth and served in Counselor, Unit Director, and Program Director positions and, for a short time, as the Interim Executive Director in 1997.

She received a B.A. degree from Brown University and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

She most recently served as Associate Executive Director

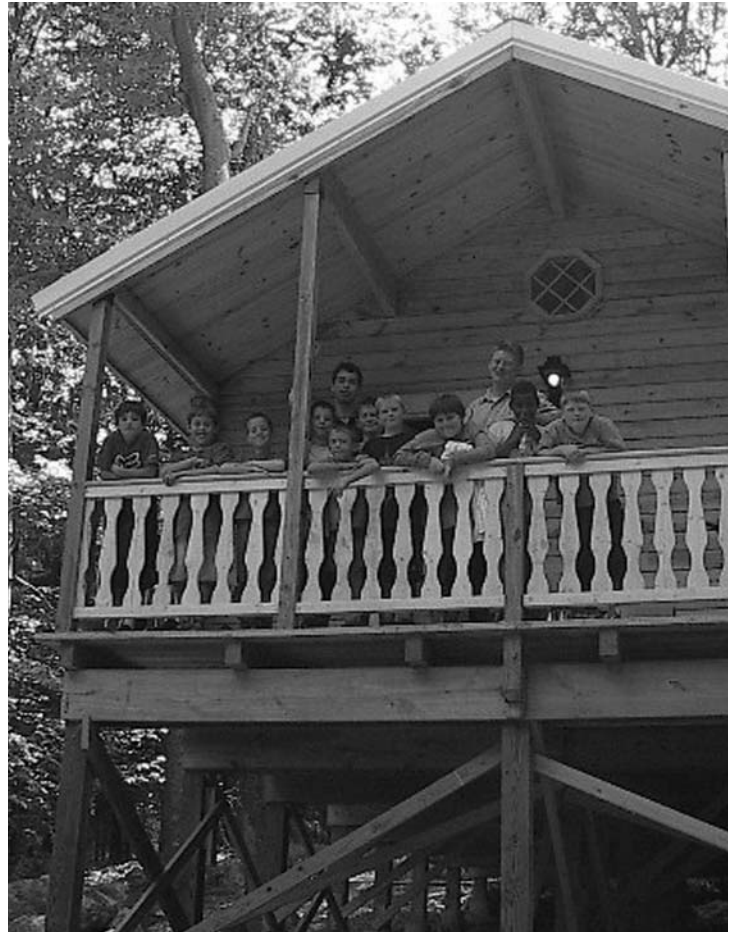
of the Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA, another branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. She held a similar role at the Bridgeport YMCA.

In accepting the appointment, Ms. Speer-Holmes said, "YMCA Camp Hi-Rock has been an important part of my life since I first attended as a child. I look forward to building on Hi-Rock's great tradition of creating special memories for youth."

Ms. Speer-Holmes begins her official duties on January 3, 2005.

Entering upon the successful completion of a \$2.75 million capital campaign, Ms. Speer-Holmes will return to the tradition of providing direct leadership to the resident camp program. As part of that goal, she will move into the Director's House located in the center of camp, opposite the dining hall.

Those interested in contacting the new Executive can reach her at jspeer@cccymca.org or through the Hi-Rock office at 413-528-1227. 🐾



New Frontier Cabins Go Up

As a result of the successful early stages of our Capital Campaign, four new cabins have been constructed in the Frontier unit with a fifth to be completed in the spring.

The new Frontier cabins are of a log cabin design that includes a porch and three partially separated sleeping areas. The log cabins were purchased from Conestoga Log Cabins of Lancaster, PA. After the foundations were poured, volunteers assisted with building each cabin with their "Lincoln Log" type construction. The cabins are already reserved for Family Camp next year and are a pleasing addition to the balance of rustic look and comfort at camp.

(continued on page 2)

New Camp Driveway Wins Approval

The Town of Mount Washington granted approval to construct a new driveway at a meeting of the Selectboard on November 15, 2004. The YMCA has gained access to its camp property over a private driveway owned by the Garrett Farms Trust since opening in 1947. As part of a 2001 agreement with the Trust, the YMCA secured land to construct a new driveway. Curb Cut and Conservation Commission approvals were received in 2002 but two local residents claimed an 1894 Shade Tree Act required prior approval to remove trees in a public right of way before work could start. During the course of various public hearings the local Tree Warden determined the trees needed to be removed to ensure safety, and the Selectboard determined that prior approval for the road in 2002 could not be reversed. The road is scheduled for completion in June 2005. 🌲

Food and Beverage Associates, Inc. to Return in 2005

The food service demands of a resident camp have come a long way since Camp Hi-Rock opened 56 years ago. A report on 1949 food service operations said,

*"I've come to
Camp Hi-Rock
for three seasons
and this was the
best year for food."*

- Mike Grant

"Our food service functioned smoothly under volunteer cooks Tessie Richardson and Grover Adams. Quality was high and quantity was plentiful Canned goods were purchased in Bridgeport and shipped to Copake

Falls for delivery. Morgan Buckley of Mount Washington provides good eggs and chickens." Yes, camp kitchens face more demands today, which is why Food and Beverage Associates, Inc., a professional food service company, was contracted to manage the kitchen in 2004. Frank Ferrara, proprietor, has been in the food service industry for over 23 years. This summer, his staff served campers and staff a variety of healthy and delicious foods while maintaining special dietary needs and keeping a nut-free menu cycle. This successful experience has led the staff and volunteers to bring Food and Beverage Associates, Inc. back for a second season. 🌲

Camp Hi-Rock Capital Budget

Proceeds from the Capital Campaign and The Nature Conservancy will be collected over several years. The following projects have been funded from earlier campaign collections or will be completed as funds are available. Clarke and Green Architects of Great Barrington have been named as official camp architect and will ensure a more consistent design approach for future camp projects.

Abnaki, Frontier & Mohawk camper cabins	\$ 550,000*
Construct replacement Waste Water System	\$ 950,000*
Purchase land and build replacement driveway	\$ 690,000*
Expand financial assistance funds	\$ 150,000
Parker Seeley Lodge and Dining Hall renovations	\$ 400,000
Continue local program efforts in S. Berkshire	\$ 100,000
Construct new playing fields	\$ 125,000
Maintenance / Recycling Center	\$ 75,000
Camp Reception Center and Office	\$ 60,000
Renovations to Sara Cooper Lodge and staff housing	\$ 150,000

* A portion of these costs were funded from proceeds received from The Nature Conservancy agreement.

New Frontier Cabins (cont.)

The old Frontier cabins were built in 1950 and originally did not have roofs and were covered with canvas during the summer. Roofs were added at a later date. The old cabins certainly have served many campers, family campers and groups well for many years.

Special thanks to the **volunteer crew from the CCC/YMCAs** that assisted with this major project: **Ray Perez, Pete Range, Bob Lewis, Dan Hamner, Doug and Matthew Lisk, Phil Dwyer, and Jessica Speer.** We also had special help from former Hi-Rock maintenance director **Fred Cowin** and his son **Spencer.** Thanks also go to **friends of the Y, Jerry Lynch, Terry Benedict, Jeffrey Harvey, Jr., Ali and Warwick Holmes, Luke McKeown, Dave Johnson, Jonathan McElhaney, Jim Frawley, Dave Bjorklund, Anthony Price, Ernst Mohammed and friends, Ty Telihard of the Greenwich YMCA,** and the many **summer staff at Hi-Rock** who spent time helping with the "dirty jobs." 🌲

\$2.75 M Capital Campaign Reaches Goal!

A campaign that started with a working campaign goal of \$1.5 million and grew to the highest goal set by any one branch at the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA - **\$2.75 million** – was achieved in July 2004. How did we do it? Was it . . .

The early gifts of our campaign chairs **Flip Bodine, Ron Noren** and **Bob Norris**? The leadership of **Dave Bjorklund** and **José Cabrera** that encouraged camp “inner family” **board volunteers** and **YMCA staff** to pledge \$245,000? The anonymous pledge that kicked the campaign into high gear? The effort of Camp Executive **Mike McElhaney** as the chief storyteller? **Carl Sword**, who was a camper in 1948 and remains a board volunteer at camp to this day, who raised over \$40,000 from a

dozen family members? Our friends, the **Plantain Pond Mortgage Club**, who gave \$932,000? The fact that for the first time ever, \$260,000 was raised in the Great Barrington area, the host region of YMCA Camp Hi-Rock? The campaign committee members **Chris Gallo, Dick Durrell** and **Bob Fiscus**? The **Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant** which certainly gave a boost to the campaign and provided added motivation? A 56-year history of year-round service to youth, families and adults?

The list could go on but the real **credit** belongs to all of the **donors** who made pledges. They made sacrificial gifts. And the credit goes to the **storytellers who made calls** on behalf of the camp’s campaign. *A huge thank you, to all those mentioned here, and others who are known to us.*

Pledges to the \$2.75 Million Capital Campaign

Founder

Richard Bodine
The Nature Conservancy
The Kresge Foundation
Robert Norris
Plantain Pond Mortgage Club
Time, Inc.
Quidditch Foundation
The Wahlstrom Family

Benefactor

David Bjorklund
David D’Addario
Richard and Jackie Durrell
Robert Fiscus
The Hughes Foundation
Ronald Noren
Schacter Philanthropic Fund
Ernest Trefz

Patron

Anonymous (1)
Margaret Batista
Becker & Becker Associates
José Cabrera
Stuart Campbell
Christopher Gallo
Marc Romanow

Sustainer

Aquarion, Inc.
Richard Bailer
David Baum
Louis Dreyfus
Philip Dwyer
EEFC Group
Jim Frawley
Fohs Foundation
Alfred Garrett
Phillip Garrett
Thomas Gillon
John Hay
Kurt Herscher
Hersher Foundation
Kreittler Foundation
Lucent Technologies Foundation
Will Madsen
Michael McElhaney
Newtown Savings Bank
Tom Sides

Carl Sword
William H. Pitt Foundation
R.D. Scinto

Builder

Anonymous (7)
Reese Ainsworth
Bank North
Jonathan Baum
Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation
Tony Blair
Tom Doyle
Fischer Grant Foundation
Ryan Freel
Suzanne Friedbacher
Thomas Gilmore
Bobbie Hallig
Leo Hansen
Carol Hay
Nancy and Richard King
H. Parker Lansdale
Larsen Fund
Michael Leone
Douglas Lisk
Mead Westvaco
Tom Moore
Near and Far Aid Association
Irene Olsen
George Raymond
Leonard Romano, Sr.
Jessica and Ali Speer-Holmes
Eric Sword
Byron Sword
Robert Sword
Stephen Van Arden

Friend

Anonymous (2)
George Adams
Harold Anderson
Patricia Bailer
Paul Balsano
Berkshire Bank Foundation
Gina Bolvin
Seth Brody
Camp Hi-Rock Auction
Kate Demetris
T.C. Garrett
Darren Goroski

Karen Graziade
Greylock Savings Bank
Jack Hampford
Weldon Hester
Paul Hickey
Merritt Hopper
Joseph Huffman
Richard Hoyt
Donald Hutchinson
David Johnson
KB Toys
Robert Lyons
Newman Marsillius, IV
John Masters
Michael McTeague
Baron Miller
Ray Murray
Primrose Development
Really Good Stuff
David Reinhart
Marty Ripon
Michael Roberts
Walter Schendel
Bernard Sippon
James Swift
David Sword-Daviau
Margaret Sword
Randell Sword
Roger Sword
Christopher Ward
Wheeler and Taylor Real Estate
Martin Wolf

Donor

Anonymous (1)
Alison Abrams
Karen Akeridge
Helen Barton-Benedict
John Bassett
Leonard Berlin
Stephen Berlin
Antonia Borges
Joan Bowers
Larry Bronstein
Michael Cardone
Deborah Carter
Joseph Clancy
Howard Davidson
Monette DeBaun
Susan Driscoll

Scott Elliott
Melinder Fine
Arlene Foulds
Vistor Gacusan
Richard Geremia
Donald and Mary Lou Hastings
Hollander Foundation
Gregory Huff
Stanley James
Reinhardt Lange
Robert Lindquist
Zachery and Melinda Lockman
Sarah Lubinsky
Denis Lynch
Jerry Lynch
James Maher
Newman Marsillius, Jr.
Vice and Elizabeth Meyer
John Miller
Barbara Mullholland
Munson Builders
Jeno Nyerges
Patricia Olsen
Jane Preston
John Quirk
Robert Reath
Tom Scarduzio
Joseph Sepot
Peg Sheahan
JoAnn Short
Thomas Sirola
Grace Skyer
Joan Sobelewski
Richard and Marilyn Speer
Michael Stern
Michael Stone
Sunwheel Health Foods
Dawn and Eric Sword
Kristen Sword
Warren Street Family Council
Karen Wampler

We have done our best to list all names in the proper giving club and with the proper spelling. We apologize if any mistakes were made. Please contact us at info@cccymca.org with any corrections. Thank you.

People Pages

Special Place ... Special People

Here are some happenings around Camp about some of your favorite Hi-Rock staff members:

Jeff Harvey has been hard at work both in the Hi-Rock Septic System Building as well as taking classes educating him on the biological and engineering aspects of this high tech system. Jeff teams up with Randy Leonard to preserve our environment and provide a healthy water filtration system. *Great work!!*

Paul Duffy has been working hard supervising and building the new Frontier cabins. Combined with a strong team of staff and volunteers, this project was begun last year and continued into this fall. Paul has logged the largest amount of time in building these beautiful new cabins, which will be used by the boys' unit in summer camp and various retreat groups in fall and spring. Please see a picture of the new cabin above the "New Frontier" article. *Thank you for the hard work!*

Special Volunteers

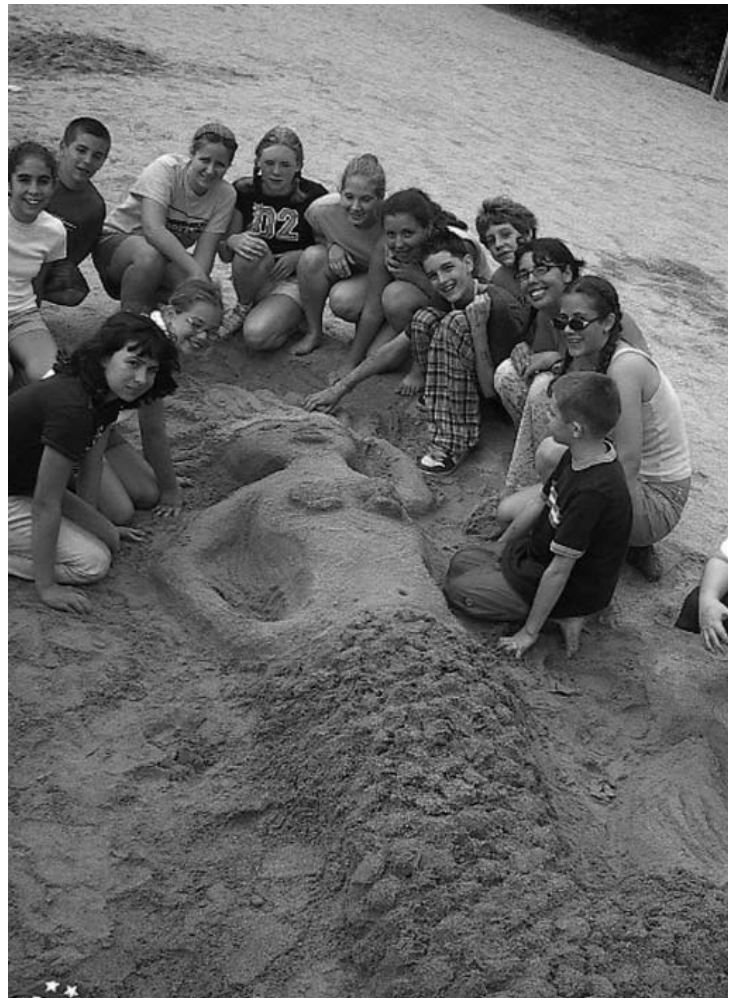
Lars Nielsen spent two months volunteering for full 40-hour weeks. He helped Scott with retreat groups and maintenance projects, as well as setting up the administrative aspects for summer resident camp. Lars returns to Camp from his home in Denmark in late spring to start his position as Assistant Camp Director and will be with us through Summer 2005.

Susan McManus joined the Hi-Rock team in March when her husband started as the Interim Executive Director. She was an enormous support to the office team. Her enthusiasm and work ethic has been a shining star this year.

Thank you to both Susan and Lars for all their quality volunteer time!

Important Hi-Rock Dates

Spring Work Weekend	April 22 - 24
Camp Session 1	June 26 - July 9
Camp Session 2	July 10 - July 23
Camp Session 3	July 24 - August 6
Camp Session 4	August 7 - August 20
Family Camp	August 29th - Sept. 5th
Fall Work Weekend	November 4 - 6



The March issue of Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel included the magazine's list of the 50 Best Family Camps in the United States. The story opened saying, "Today's family camps go way beyond the traditional, with a huge selection of activities to guarantee a week of flat-out fun."

YMCA Camp Hi-Rock's Family Camp was included in the 50 Best Family Camps. Please come find out why we were named as one of the best in the nation. It is an opportunity to bring your family together for quality communication time while participating in a wide variety of activities in the Berkshire Mountains.

It is camping at its best without the tent (but still with a great campfire)!

Heard It from the Chipmunks

Nicole Tracy has returned to Connecticut where she has begun a new career as a Personal Trainer.

JoAnn Kamuf has returned to Brooklyn where she is attending Fordham Law School.

Chris and Susan Coker have relocated from the YMCA of the Ozarks to the YMCA of the Greater Houston Area where Chris has accepted a position as District Vice President and Susan has accepted a position as Director of Marketing.

Ben Frawley graduated from Elmira College and is currently residing in Syracuse, NY where he is working in a group home for young women. **Sara Frawley** is attending Keene State College, Keene, NH, and will graduate in June 2005 with a B.S. in Chemistry.

Scott Elliott has accepted a position as the Director of Camping for the Newton YMCA in Massachusetts. We wish him the best in his new endeavor and thank him for his many years of service to Camp Hi-Rock.

Ryan Freel has relocated from Singapore to Chicago where is now working as an attorney and residing with his wife Katarina.

Fiona Doley and Sean Cassidy recently celebrated the arrival of their baby boy Booth and have moved from Australia to Canada.

While the news isn't new, some of you may not have heard that three other babies have joined the Hi-Rock family. **Sloane (Kleinman) and John Williams** welcomed their son Mitchell, **Monette (DeBaun) and Richard Stransom** welcomed their daughter Eleanor and **Bucky and Aleisha Goroski** welcomed their son Baylor Scott since the last Chips & Splinters was published.

Tim McManus who served as Hi-Rock's Interim Executive Director this year and his wife **Susan** are moving to Connecticut where Tim has accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Stratford branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. Thank you, Tim, for filling in during our time of need!

Betty Banker who has served as Hi-Rock's Enrollment Coordinator since June 2003 has moved to Albany. Thank you, Betty, for your nurturing manner in the office.

***Do you have news
about a member of the Hi-Rock family?***

If so please pass it along to
Jess Speer via email at
jspeer@cccymca.org or by mail or phone
through the Hi-Rock office.

Work Weekend Fellowship

Come to the Berkshires for some fresh air and great exercise – and it is free !!

April 22 – 24, 2005 and November 4 – 6, 2005

Each spring and fall, we invite new and old friends alike to join us in a weekend of work, fun and fellowship. This event welcomes all volunteers interested in helping prepare Camp for the summer (or winter) season. Your meals and lodging (bunk bed rooms with shared bathroom) are complimentary in exchange for a little elbow grease and good humor to ensure Camp is in top form.

We start the weekend Friday evening with light refreshments and fellowship (please have dinner before arriving) and end the weekend as late as Sunday after lunch. Come for the whole weekend or one day!

To register for a Work Weekend:

Call 413-528-1227 or e-mail at retreats@camphirock.com. Please let us know your name, phone number, number of people attending, arrival & departure dates and any special skills you might bring to the table like carpentry.

(Note: special skills not required to help make these weekends a success!)

Hi-Rock Recognizes Some Special People

On April 28, 2004 at the Grassy Hill Country Club, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA held their Annual Dinner to recognize the hard work of a few outstanding volunteers. YMCA Camp Hi-Rock presented three awards in the following categories: Strong Kid Builder, Strong Family Builder, and Strong Community Builder.

Mark Maloof from Stockbridge, MA was the recipient of the Strong Kid Builder award. Mark has been invaluable to our Southern Berkshire YMCA branch. At a moment's notice, camera in hand, he volunteers at our after-school program, vacation camps, and youth outreach programs. He has a special connection with our children and makes our programs stronger. In addition to his volunteering with children, he has worked hard to upgrade and improve the computer technology in the Great Barrington Office. Mark always makes time when he is home from the sea. He is a merchant marine who sails all over the world.

The Whitbeck Family was awarded the Strong Family Builder award in memory of **James P. Whitbeck** (passed on February 18, 2004). The Whitbeck family has been an intricate part of Hi-Rock since its founding in 1947. James P. Whitbeck supported, nurtured, and cared for Hi-Rock in many ways. A great deal of "Jim's" time was spent in the 70's and 80's maintaining the camp road. Jim was second to none when it came to operating a tractor and had an especially keen eye for grading road. His legacy of caring and family values flows through his family, the Mt. Washington community and the Hi-Rock family as well.

Richard "Flip" Bodine was the recipient of the Strong Community Builder award. Flip served as the inspirational chairman for the "ONE STORY AT A TIME" Hi-Rock Capital Campaign. During his leadership, the campaign raised \$2.75 million and the Camp has received significant new pledges from new donors. Flip traveled to Troy, MI and successfully presented the Hi-Rock campaign plan that resulted in our YMCA obtaining a Kresge Challenge Grant.

Flip has also served the CCC/YMCA as the branch president of the Bridgeport YMCA, the chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors and as the vice chair of the CCC/YMCA Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Melissa, provided the inspiration and leadership for many years of the successful "Star Night" program.

YMCA Camp Hi-Rock sends a special thank you to these caring people who have made a difference at Hi-Rock. Your time and thoughtful actions will be remembered for many years to come. 🐾

Camp Hi-Rock Hosts Group from Jerusalem

On October 4th twelve young people from Jerusalem and surrounding areas took up residence at Bear Rock Lodge to begin building relationships between Arabs and Jews and among the three faiths represented – Christian, Jewish and Muslim. They were part of a YMCA sponsored program called Moderate Voices for Progress: Preparing People for Peace. The group discussions were facilitated by Jack Zaccaro and Brenda Payne-Cogswell.

Prior to their formal discussions they visited the lawn sculptures at Ms. Bobbie Hallig's home, which included a full size section of the Berlin Wall and a 15' sculpture of a Native American. This provided a good backdrop for the ensuing discussions on diversity, justice and peaceful dialogue that occurred while the group was in residence at Camp Hi-Rock.

The MVP program goals are to help participants understand each other's struggles and build strong relationships through facilitated dialogue; to develop and practice conflict resolution skills, to learn and understand the religious, cultural and social background of participants and to learn how Americans address the challenges of inter-group relations.

Following their team-building experience at Camp Hi-Rock the MVP attended further training in New Haven and Bridgeport and met with community groups in those two cities. They returned to their Middle East homes at the end of October. 🐾

“ On returning home, our MVP group continued meeting and held an intensive workshop at the Jerusalem International YMCA. Our whole group waited with great anticipation for this workshop to re-experience the intensity and intimacy at Camp Hi-Rock . . . The group ended the weekend with a feeling of unity and strong desire to continue the dialogue between them. ”

– MVP Group Report

— Wish List 2004 —

You can help Hi-Rock with the donation of items used around Camp. Here's what we need currently:

Barely used or new items needed for programming:
Tennis racquets • Tennis balls • Sports goals • Basketballs • Rowboats • Canoes • Office paper and supplies

Barely used or new items needed for maintenance:
Rakes • Hammers • Shovels • Screwdrivers • Wrenches • Wheelbarrows

Thank you!

In Memory

Robert Sword

Robert Sword turned 65 years old on September 23, 2003 and passed in October, 2003.

"Bob" Sword saw Camp through all of its years. In 1947, Bob and brother Carl toured Camp, then, when it opened in 1948, Bob attended camp as a nine-year-old camper. He continued his camper years into his high school years.

As a family man, his family regularly stayed at Bear Rock. His children continued building the Sword Family and Hi-Rock relationship and were employees for many years. Bob and his brother Carl helped build the Sara Cooper Chimney – you can see their initials carved in the chimney's cement cap!

Mr. Sword was a strong annual giver and capital campaign supporter. His efforts and enthusiasm have been a blessing over the years. He will be greatly missed.



Michael Stern

Mike Stern was a staff member at Hi-Rock and was a trip leader in the 1960's, taking teens abroad for summer adventure trips while Ray Jacoby was the camp director. His specialty at camp was teaching sailing. In fact, one of his sailing students was Dave Bjorklund, who rose through the staff ranks and became president of the YMCA Camp Hi-Rock Board of Managers.

Mike succumbed to his two-year bout with cancer. He served as a board member for 15 years. His family had a brief, solemn memorial service for him at camp last October, as his ashes were dispersed over Bear Rock Falls and in Plantain Pond, as his daughter read a poem.

Mike was a teacher who always treasured his memories of camp as a counselor and with his family during Family Camp.

James P. Whitbeck

James (Jim) P. Whitbeck passed on February 18, 2004 at Fairfield Hospital, where he had been born seventy-three years earlier. He is survived by his wife Peggy – March 21, 2004 was their 45th wedding anniversary. He has two sons, Dale and David, a daughter Linda, four grandchildren and two sisters.

Jim grew up on Mt. Washington with his parents in a house behind Hunt House near the Alander stream now owned by the state. Jim walked to school where he attended a one-room schoolhouse. He was the last and only Mt. Washington student when it closed.

Jim received the Korean Service Medal with four Bronze Stars while in the Army and was the recipient of the United Nations Service Meritorious Unit Commendation. He was a life member of the James A. Modolo VFW #8348 in Great Barrington.

His career included selectman, town constable, and chief of police for the Town of Mt. Washington. Jim was park superintendent of the Mt. Everett reservation and worked for the state highway department. More recently, he operated his own caretaking and mowing business.

Jim was a nature lover and experienced outdoor guide, knowing his way around the Mt. Washington woods as well as anyone and better than most. He was an avid deer hunter and third generation snake hunter – legend has it he caught as many as nineteen in one day! Jim was just a boy when his father Merv hosted Babe Ruth at their house for hunting. The Babe gave Jim five autographed baseballs all signed a different way, which he eventually gave away to friends.

He will be missed through out the Mt. Washington and Hi-Rock communities.



Mission Statement of YMCA Camp Hi-Rock:

YMCA Camp Hi-Rock is a self-sustaining residential camp community providing overnight, wilderness and day camping experiences that build an awareness of our Berkshire Mountain environment. We serve all individuals, families and groups, catering to the needs of children. Led by quality staff, we provide year-round recreational facilities with enriching traditional and contemporary programs focusing on outdoor activities in a natural woodland setting. Our goal is to challenge and nurture the individual, build self-esteem, instill leadership and social skills, strengthen the body, lift the spirit and sharpen the mind.

YMCA Camp Hi-Rock



www.camphirock.com



*We build
strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.*



Phone: (413) 528-1227 📞 Fax: (413) 528-4234

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Mt. Washington MA 01258

*Bust-a-move
to the conserving
groove!*

