

Bear Tracks

Winter 2005

A busy time of year!

Greetings, Crestridgers!
Believe it or not, there is lots going on this time of year. Despite the fact that it is pretty cold outside, and there are no leaves on the trees, we are busy preparing for the summer of 2005!

Lots of exciting ideas and plans are being tossed around here at camp. The kitchen is getting a pretty good renovation this year.... lots of new equipment will be in place by the summer.

One of the most exciting things that we hope will happen is our new water slide, that will be over on the far side of the lake (where the woods are). It is called a "Wet Willie", and is lots of fun. If all goes well, we'll have it in place by the summer!

Ron and Chris are both busy traveling this time of year.

Ron is doing mostly camper recruitment shows around the Southeast, and Chris is doing both staffer and camper recruitment. Check out our website to see if we will be in your area!

Marva is busy with her basketball team right now, but is also helping us interview and hire our staff for the summer!

Well, that's about it from here. Keep in touch with us, and let us know what is going on with you this winter. We look forward to most of you being back with us next summer!



Check out our
"new and improved"
website at
www.ridgecrestcamps.com



Leading States and Cities

At present, our leading states for campers are:

- 1) Florida
- 2) North Carolina
- 3) South Carolina
- 4) Georgia
- 5) Tennessee
- 6) Virginia
- 6) Alabama

Our leading cities are:

- 1) Orlando, FL area
- 2) Jacksonville, FL area
- 3) Atlanta, GA area
- 4) Hilton Head Island, SC
- 5) Loris, SC
- Alexandria, VA
- Tallahassee, FL
- 6) Ft. Lauderdale, FL area
- Ocala, FL
- Miami, FL

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New Website is Up and Running!

If you haven't checked out our new website, give it a try. There is lots more information on it than we used to have, and some streaming video as well. We're excited about everything that is happening with it, and believe it will be a great asset to us in the future. Many thanks to Chris Maslin for organizing all of the content for the site.

Keep checking the homepage for new surveys, etc., from time to time. Just recently, we had our Bowl Picks contest online, and a poll that asked you about what items you would like to see sold in the clothing store.

There's still time to register for camp!

If you haven't signed up for camp this summer, go ahead and do so soon! Some of our sessions are beginning to fill up for certain age groups. Sign up online at www.ridgecrestcamps.com. Just click on the "online registration" link, and join us!!!

Scholarship Donations

Many thanks to all of those people that have given to our scholarship fund over the years... the following folks gave after our recent mailout, and we'd like to thank them by mentioning them here:

In honor of:

* Andy and Wendy Fletcher, by Landis Stanfield

* Will and Maryanne Henderson by Dr. and Mrs. William G Henderson, Jr.

* Ron Springs, by Pam and Marvin Hardy

* David and Deborah Chapman by Dr. and Mrs. John L. Chapman

* All Sioux Trailblazers by Laree A. Hensley

In memory of:

* Lawton Brown, by Charles R. Dorsey, Jr.

* Mrs. Sharon P. Baker, by Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Brown

Dr. Charles Heard, Jr.

Adrienne Hadder

Chick-Fil-A Inc.

Dorinda Watford

Sara Johnson

Megan and Matthew Brown

Rick and Patty Pepper

Charles L. Prizzia

Ben Guedes

Leslie and Pamela Thompson

Jeff Davis

Howard and Elaine Schmitt

John and Mary Hall

Carla Moody

Andy Gann

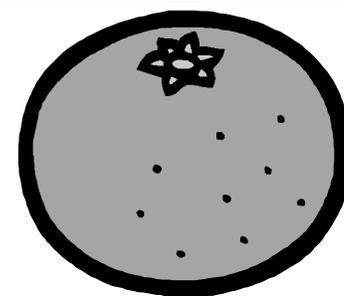
Bootsey Page

Crestridge Staff Reunion

This year our staff had a reunion after Christmas, a tradition that has been going on for three years... the following Crestridgers attended all or part of the reunion:

Ron Springs, Chris and Beth Maslin, Connie Spitzley, Brandi Terry, Erika Shelburne, Joe Holley, Jackie Holley, Jenny Holley, Dan Meyers, Jonathan Dillingham, Christianne Salzer, Ashley Dack, Janie Belue, Christina Rabadan, Ashley Anderson, Anthony Magee, Ashley Temple, Amanda Champion, and Mary Boswell.

It was a great time of fellowship and good eating... After reunion, a number of our staff went to Lee County, Virginia on a mission trip, sharing the spirit of camp with children up there!



“Orange” you coming to camp this summer???

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Bowl Pick Winners

Chris Maslin, in his first year of Bowl Picks, went 17-5, tied by only one entry (boy's camp), beaten by none. Ron Springs, in his umpteenth year of Bowl Picks, went a miserable 8-14, and was beaten by many! The best Crestridge score, at 16-6, was a three way tie between Marissa Bolton, Rebecca Maccarone, and

Cristina Gifford. They all win a free item from the clothing store this coming summer! Winners of a free drink and snack from the store were Anna Grace Jarnigan, Glen Hobbs, Becky Eisloeffel, all (15-7); Sara Beth Cockerham, Joanna Wren, Jenny Cox, Katie Pridgen, and Robyn Wilson, all (14-8); Madeline Grendadier, Hannah Swann, Nicole Carida, Susan Lesser, Kathryn Higgs, Debbye Skaggs, Kaitilin Driver, and Emily Darrow, all (13-9); Christianne Salzer, Sarah Beth Rigby, Sara Brown, Erika Shelburne, Madison Bolton, and

Kathleen Hobbs, all (12-10); Meredith Gaffney, Katie McDonald, Debbie Andrews, Liz Kuespert, and Vicki Laher, all (11-11); Caitlin O'Shea, Anthony Magee, Marsha Vining, Hannah Waits, and Katie Beers, all (10-12); Mackenzie Bolton, Tiffany Caren, Ashley Dewling, Mary Katherine Henry, and Katelyn Browne, all (9-13). Congratulations to all of our winners, and thanks for entering!

A Crestridge Christmas...

Christmas is over, but one of our staffers, Liz Kuespert, sent this poem, which I thought you would enjoy:

'Twas the night before Christmas, and throughout the camp, all the girls were preparing to turn off their lamps. When out on the porch there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the screen I flew like a flash, ripped open the door and stepped in some trash. The moon on the breast of the trees without snow gave a new light to all objects below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear but some kitchen boys and VD's drawing near (I mean elves!) With a fake Santa Claus so lively and quick, the rosy-cheeked elves seemed to be very slick. More rapid than eagles his coursers the came, and he whistled and shouted and called them by name: "Now Matt, Christianne, and Tater, go quickly! On Anthony, Dan, Ashley Temple and Kristi! To the top of the porch, but don't hit the wall, now dash away, dash away, dash away all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, (and there's been quite a few, just don't ask me why), So up to the porch-top his coursers they flew, with bags of small candies, and "St. Nicholas" too. And then, in a twinkling, I heard from out back, a deep growling sound and some branches go 'snap'. I pulled them inside, the door slammed with a whack, it was good, for I knew, that the bears had come back. He was dressed all in red, from his head to his belt, and the elves were all clothed with tunics of felt. No bundle of toys had he on his back, so of course that line about looking like a peddler isn't going to work here! His eyes, how they twinkled, his glasses they glared, his cheeks were like roses, his lungs filling with air. His droll little mouth was drawn up in a bow, and he had quite a beard, to be matched with the snow. But there was not a pipe to be held in his teeth, all in all, he was quite a Santa to see. He had a broad face, and a little round belly, that shook like the packets of strawberry jelly. The girls were all screaming, my ears out of health, still I laughed when I saw them, in spite of myself. Once each little girl had received her small gift, he said "Come on now, on to Chickasaw Six!" They spoke not a word, as they had all along, and before you could know it they were out on the lawn. To the road, then next door, where more shrieks were heard, as the girls over there got what they deserved. And as everyone settled into their bunk beds, I lay there just thinking, way back in my head. How blessed we are to see such a sight, of Christmas celebrations at 9 PM, night. What a wonderful time when in summer season, to rejoice over Jesus, for He is the reason! And I said to my counselor, as she hit the light, Merry Christmas to all, and to ya'll a good night!

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From the Prayer Room

A New Year has come, and many of us probably made New Year's resolutions... did you?

What were the ones you made? Did you resolve to lose weight? I make that one almost every year, especially after all the food I have eaten over the holidays! Did you resolve to be nicer to your brothers and sisters? Even though I'm well into middle age, I still have to make that one as well! Did you resolve to give up a bad habit? How about studying more... watching less TV... more

visiting folks face to face, and less instant messaging... any of those sound familiar? And have you broken your resolution yet? New Year's resolutions don't always last very long... we tend to give up or forget them.

Hopefully, many of you made some very meaningful resolutions this year... maybe you resolved to spend more time with God in prayer... maybe you resolved to read the Bible through this year... maybe you resolved to get more involved with the youth group in your church... maybe you resolved to make sure you do something nice for someone each week, without hoping for recognition in return... maybe you resolved

to share your love of Jesus Christ with a friend who is lost or hurting.

If you didn't make any resolutions like that, there's still time! You don't have to wait until the first of the year to start.... Do it now!!!

