

# BEYOND THE MAST

## Alumni Event In New York

By Joe Shapiro

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Café Mae Mae in the Tribeca section of New York City was the setting for the first ever YMCA Camp Fuller reunion for those alumni from the Tri-State (NY/NJ/CT) region. Camp Fuller has had a large contingent of campers from the Park Slope, Rye and White Plains areas of New York for many years. While we were all used to camp food (Alice Burke and spam!!!), we were treated to a fantastic NY style dairy brunch of bagels, muffins, fruit, tuna and egg salad, pastries plus juices and hot beverages.

Attending the reunion were 15 hardy alumni who braved the arctic cold front on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Included at the reunion was Ted Ressler (a/k/a the "Snowman"), Camp Director from 1960 -1969 who maintains a close relationship with many of his campers and staff people. Unbeknownst

former campers and staff people. Unbeknownst to Ted, his daughter Annie (Ressler) Gregson drove down from the Lake George region of upper New York to surprise him at the reunion. Alumni Michael Warren, who is the Director of Catering for the new Plaza Hotel in NYC, was able to secure the use of this small cozy café for us through his employer. Joining Michael at the reunion was older brother Jon, who is currently a lawyer. Their younger brother David was also scheduled to be there too, but came down with the flu the night before. We missed you David! Also joining us was Ken White, ex-Sherman DLB and leader of our "J A P A N" cheer during Country Olympics. After leaving Camp Fuller, Ken went on to a long and fulfilling career with the Y of the USA.

*(more on page 3)*

**Have you registered yet?**

**Sessions are still open for the 2008 Summer. But Act Fast!**

**Contact the camp office at (401) 783-5359**



Picture caption: left to right, back row: Michael Warren, Jon Warren, David Avedesian, Ted Ressler, Peter Swain (current Camp Director), Alan Levy, and Joe Shapiro (Chairman of the Board) Seated: Anne Ressler Gregson, Ken White, Debra Abbo Sapp, Greg Sutton  
Absent from the photo was Tim Chezar

## Half Pipes, Rock Walls and Low Ropes, Oh My!

*By Scott Rasmussen, Senior Program Director*

Greetings from the Camp Fuller Program Office! As usual, our little elves are busy all through the year creating new and exciting programs for our campers. The summer of 2008 will have new program areas plus some significant additions that will enhance some old favorites.

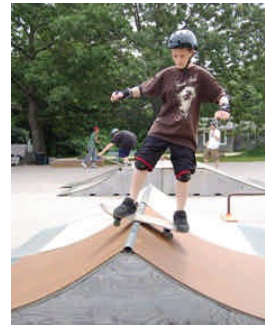
For the skaters and roller bladers; last summer you would have seen some additional ramps along with some resurfacing on our older ones. Thanks to the guys at Ready Ramps, this summer, the skate park will benefit from a new mini half pipe, approximately 24 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 3 feet high. Get ready to rip it up on this mammoth sized ramp! Don't forget to bring your helmet!

For those of you who enjoy climbing in a harness either at our climbing wall or high ropes course, this one's for you! There will be a new lateral climbing wall adjacent to the tower for campers to keep themselves occupied while waiting to be belayed. The wall will only be 8 feet high so

so no harnesses necessary. Additionally, there will be a new high ropes element installed to give some variation to the course. After the campers conquer the main circuit of elements, they can continue down the zip line as usual or now choose to take a leap of faith and jump off a platform onto a trapeze! The high ropes course is limited to 12 years and up.

Finally, Camp Fuller will be adding a new program area to its repertoire; a low ropes course. Approximately 6 elements will be constructed allowing campers 12 years and up to learn about group dynamics, communication, and team building. Both our Leadership Development and Counselor-In-Training programs will also benefit significantly.

For more information on skate parks and ramps, contact Damien at Ready Ramps at 617-763-9028, or at [dami@readyramps.com](mailto:dami@readyramps.com). For challenge course information, contact High 5 Adventure Learning Center at 802-251-7203 or at [www.high5adventure.org](http://www.high5adventure.org). Enjoy!



## Who's Answering the Phone and other Pertinent Questions

*By Shirley Kramer and Diane Traynor*

When you call Camp Fuller, chances are that your call will be answered by one of two friendly and knowledgeable people. Yes, only two people make up our office staff. One is the full-time registrar and the other is the part-time office assistant. Both have been with Camp Fuller for many years, and therefore, have the experience to assist you with any questions you might have. Some of the most asked questions and answers are:

**Q:** How soon should I send in the camper forms?

**A:** Send in all forms together as soon as possible. If you have all forms completed except for the health form (due to scheduling a doctor appointment), send in the other forms with a note explaining why that form is missing.

**Q:** How can I be sure that my camper will be bunked with his/her friend?

**A:** Both your camper and the friend must fill out the Bunk Request Form requesting one another. Please do not

request more than one friend as making new friends is an important part of camp.

**Q:** How can I avoid stopping at the office on incoming day to put money in the store and sign up for the water-ski/tubing program?

**A:** By using your Option Form to sign up for these items before May 1st. This will ensure that your camper has a store account in place upon arrival and that a spot has been reserved for him/her in the water-ski/tubing program.

**Q:** Can I fax in the forms?

**A:** We would prefer that you mail them in as faxed copies are often unclear and incomplete upon arrival.

As the camping season approaches, we are ready to take your calls and offer our help with any questions or problems that you may have. All of us are looking forward to welcoming your children for another wonderful summer at Camp Fuller.

## Alumni Event *(from page 1)-*

Other alumni who traveled to the Café were David Avedesian, Alan Levy, Debra Abbo Sapp, Greg Sutton and Tim Chezar. Dave was sailing master back in the early 70's and is brother of Haig, Ted and Anahid and son of Avedis. Alan Levy was a camper also during the 70's and has made an effort over the past few years to come back to camp and help the waterfront staff with our boats and engines before camp starts and then to winterize them once camp ends. Deb, also a lawyer and Tim, a financial analyst were our most current alumni, having attended camp in the 90's. Greg, currently working for a Public TV station, was a swimmer extraordinaire back in his day (70's)

Current Camp Fuller Executive Director Peter Swain and Joe Shapiro, Chairman of the Board, drove to NYC to facilitate the reunion. Together, they presented the current status of camp, including the purchase of new Vanguard sailboats, another Cape Dory sailboat, reviewed the prior year's enrollment and annual report. Peter also brought along numerous photo albums of pictures, letters and other memorabilia as put together by Chris Rasmussen, prior Senior Program Director (and brother of Scott and son of Ned & Sue!). Joe brought along his many camp staff

shirts going back to 1966 along with many of the Camp Fuller Recalls, the official yearbooks from 1965 – 1977. Joe and Peter also showed off the new 2007 Camp Fuller Collectible, fashioned after the recently purchased Fuller Bell. They talked about the upcoming SunProd 2008 reunion on July 19, 2008, which will include a Regatta, Dedication of the Fuller Bell, Induction of Frederick Fuller (posthumously) and Joe Frisella into the Legends of Camp Fuller Hall of Fame and then ending with an alumni SunProd to bring back all of the musical memories from the first SunProd in 1971 until today.

Lastly, Peter and Joe spoke about the status of the new Boathouse. At this point, they discussed the architectural drawings that they have, along with the various Town and State requirements that need to be approved prior to construction and taking the project to the next step.

Although only 15 people came to this inaugural event, we hope to continue this "tradition" in the future and plan on welcoming more and more "Tri-State" alumni to this mid-winter event. Thanks to everyone who attended and certainly had a great time!

## Upcoming Events At YCF

### **\* YMCA Camp Fuller Annual Support Campaign (February/March 2008):**

Camp Fuller's Annual Support Campaign provided an opportunity for almost 70 campers to come to camp last year. We send out literature to past donors, camper's families and alumni to ask for pledges. If you are considering a gift towards the campaign, please contact the camp office at (401) 783-5359.

### **\* The 14th Annual Women's Wellness Weekend (May 2-4, 2008):**

Co-sponsored with Women and Infants Hospital, this event is designed for women 21 years or older to relax, rejuvenate and recharge. Participants will have an opportunity to get away, have fun, learn something new, make connections and commune with nature in a safe and substance free environment. The weekend will consist of an opening ceremony and special guests on Friday night, workshops

and crafts throughout the weekend. Optional Services are available including body and foot massages, intuitive readings and tarot readings. The brochure of the weekend will be available online by March 5th on [www.ymcacampfuller.org/NewsEvents](http://www.ymcacampfuller.org/NewsEvents).

### **\* SunProd Alumni Reunion (July 19, 2008):**

Come celebrate summer at YCF ! The day will include: an alumni regatta, dedication of the Fuller bell, induction of 2 people into the "Legends of Camp Fuller Hall of Fame", traditional camp BBQ and the Alumni SunProd 2008. watch your mail or the camp web site for additional information in the months ahead.

### **\* Family Kayaking and Recreational Weekend (September 12-14, 2008) :**

YMCA Camp Fuller welcomes families to a weekend filled with some of camp's most popular activities that educated, entertain and challenge you to get out and have fun. More information about the weekend will be available after June 1.

## 2008 Camp Dates

- First Timers Sessions (ages 7-11)- \$535
- June 22- June 28
- June 29- July 5
- One Week Bonus Session (ages 12-15)- \$535
- June 29-July 5
- Two Week Sessions (ages 7-15) -\$1060
- June 22- July 5
- July 6- July 19
- July 20- August 2
- August 3- August 16
- Four Week Special (7-15)-\$2050
- June 22- July 19
- July 20-August 16
- Leadership Development Program (7-15)- \$2080
- June 22-July 19
- July 20- August 16
- Specialty Camp- (pricing and ages varies to different camps- please call registrar)
- August 17-August 22

Any questions? Call the Camp Registrar at (401) 783 5359

## Want to work at YMCA Camp Fuller?

We are looking for mature, experienced counselors for the 2008 Summer. Interested?

If you are 19 years or older, with experience working with children and would love to spend the summer at Camp Fuller, please download a new staff application form from our web site, [www.ymcacampfuller.org](http://www.ymcacampfuller.org) (under Fuller Forms/Staff Forms). We ask that you fill out the application, including three reference forms, and send it in to Jaime O'Connor, Operations Director. In January, we will look at new staff applications and will contact you for an interview. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaime O'Connor at (401) 783-5359 or by email at [joconnor@gpymca.org](mailto:joconnor@gpymca.org).

### Correction

In the November Newsletter we announced the Junior Camper of the summer incorrectly. Austin Miller was the Junior Camper of the Summer and we would like to apologize for the error.

**Congrats Austin!**

YMCA Camp Fuller  
121 Years of camping Excellence

619 Camp Fuller Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
401-783-5359  
800-521-1470  
4010782-6950 (fax)  
Email - [info@gpymca.org](mailto:info@gpymca.org)  
Web site - [www.ymcacampfuller.org](http://www.ymcacampfuller.org)



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strong families, strong communities.

