



# DEERKILL DAYS

Vol. 54.2

Deerkill Day Camp, 54 Wilder Road, Suffern, NY 10901

Winter 2012

## “Keeping You In Touch With Summer”

**Dear Deerkill Friends,**

What happened to winter? This time last year, we were plowing paths through 3 feet of snow for our animal friends in lower camp. Now, they're lying on the grass sunning themselves until the kids arrive.

This edition of our Deerkill Days newsletter includes: results from our recent **pool club survey**, exciting news about **projects** happening around camp, some changes in our trip program for 2012, a very special **counselor profile** and of course a **Word from Stretch**.

Finally, if you want to see what Deerkill was like in the 80's and 90's, we recently posted old yearbook videos on our Facebook page (link on page 3 below). "Liking" us on Facebook is a great way to keep up with all the developments here at camp.

Enjoy the mild winter and be well,

*Todd, Rebecca, Bob & Karen*



(L to R: Karen, Isaac, Bob, Rebecca, Todd and Henry)

## WEEKEND POOL CLUB SURVEY

Wow! Our parents certainly have an opinion when it comes to our weekend pool club. We were amazed by the overwhelming number of responses to our recent pool club survey. In just one day, we had over 170 responses from our families. We appreciate all your feedback and we're happy to announce that we will be changing some of our policies based on your answers. Let's dig deeper:



- **POOL CLUB HOURS:** When asked if parents would prefer to shift the club's hours (currently Noon to 5) earlier in the day, the majority of surveys indicated they did not want the hours moved. However, since there were a number of families who did prefer an earlier time, we have simply decided to extend our pool club hours on the first weekend of the summer (**June 30 and July 1**) by one hour to **11 to 5** as a courtesy.
- **GUEST DAYS:** In 2011, in an effort to provide our families a day of exclusive access to the club, we changed our policy to only allow guests on Saturdays (and not Sundays). However, most surveys requested the policy revert back to allowing guests on both Saturdays and Sundays. Some parents pointed out that by limiting guests to one day, Saturdays were more crowded making it less attractive for our families. In 2012, we will be reverting back to our old policy of **allowing guests to come on Saturdays AND Sundays**.
- **SIBLINGS AND GRANDPARENTS FEES:** When asked if we should change our current policy of grandparents coming for free and non-camper siblings paying \$10, 65% indicated that the current policy is appropriate.
- **GUEST FEES:** When asked if we should change our current guest fee policy (adults: \$7, children: \$5), 75% indicated that the current policy is appropriate.

Many respondents offered other suggestions to improve the weekend pool club experience. We hope to incorporate some of these ideas this summer. Finally, so many parents expressed appreciation for having access to the pool club as part of their child's camp experience. It was great to hear how many parents were able to share in their child's achievements in the pool by seeing them in action on a Saturday or Sunday at Deerkill. Personally, we love to catch up with our camper families over the weekends and we know how exciting it is for our campers to show off "their camp" to their parents. We assure all of our families that the family weekend pool club will continue to be a Deerkill tradition.

## WHAT'S NEW AT DEERKILL

There are several projects happening around camp:

- **LOWER BUNK EXPANSION (completed in December):** Our lower bunk expansion provides two more groups with private locker rooms. As part of the expansion, we also opened two new entrances to our lower bunks to improve traffic flow.
- **PHOTO STUDIO EXPANSION (mid -March):** Our Photography program will be receiving a make-over this summer in the form of a newly expanded Photo Studio and 3 new computers. Campers will now have more time to edit and manipulate their photos using Photoshop Elements. As an extension of the new Photo Studio, our new Videography Vault will also be expanded and redecorated for this summer.
- **DINING HALL & THEATER ARTS EXTERIOR (April):** The next step in our long-term building renovation plan takes place this spring as our Dining Hall and Theater Arts building receive new siding to match the recently redone summer office. As part of the project, new windows will also be installed in Theater Arts and our popular Photo Board will get a fresh look.
- **LOWER POOL WATER SLIDE (May):** Plans are currently underway to replace the lower pool water slide with a modern "twist." Keep an eye out for updates as summer approaches.



## TRIP PROGRAM CHANGES

We are excited to announce that we have expanded the trip program for our oldest camper groups in 2012. The Seniors and Subseniors will each have 2 additional out-of-camp field trips, including some new offerings for 2012. Also, due to much feedback from parent surveys, we have replaced the traditional out-of-camp field trips for campers age 6 and under (Jr. Camp) with on-site "field trips" at Deerkill. Essentially, we're going to bring the entertainment to the campers instead of bringing the campers to the entertainment. We did this in 2011 with our 3- and 4-year old groups and it was an overwhelming success. Parents were thrilled that their campers had the same opportunity to learn and be entertained without missing their regular swim and specialty periods for that day. Our new on-site trip program will allow us to bring in top-notch entertainment in addition to the traditional camp-wide bi-weekly shows that all of our campers love. Look for coming announcements of highlights from our 2012 schedule soon.



## A WORD FROM STRETCH

Guess who just turned 18? That's right, my birthday was February 19th. From now on, instead of being called a mini-horse, I'd like to be referred as an *adult* mini-horse. I also get a vote now. No more relaxation without representation! Since Little Chief, Baron, and DeWitt are too young to vote, they've asked me to represent them in the coming election. We're tired of all the horsing around and just want to get right to the heart of the issues. Here is our platform:



1. We want ice pops and ice cream during afternoon refreshments. Don't get me wrong, hay is tasty but sometimes you just need a grape popsicle.
2. Since zipline starts at age 6, we want turns too. It's hard watching all the kids zip all around camp while we have to gallop or saunter. DeWitt is only 4 so he still has to wait a few years.
3. Little Chief thinks donkeys should replace the bald eagle on the Seal of the President of the United States (personally, I think it's a "stretch")

## COUNSELOR PROFILES

### MALLORY AND STEVE GREENBERG

Mallory and Steve are the latest Deerkill couple to tie the knot. Steve has been our Senior Boys Group Leader for the past 5 summers while Mallory has been a Waterfront Counselor, a 5-year old boys Group Leader and, most recently, our Bambis Group Leader in 2011. They met in 2007, but we'll let Mallory tell their story: "We met while I was a lifeguard (off duty of course!) and Steve was the senior boys counselor. After three summers working at camp together we got engaged...at camp [Steve surprised Mallory by having some of his co-counselors surround the upper pool with candles]. That summer we celebrated our engagement with a party...at camp. This past summer we got married, and it is only fitting that camp will commence this year on our 1st wedding anniversary, July 2. Steve is a 6th grade math teacher and wrestling coach in Rockland and I teach 5th grade in NYC. We are both very excited to spend this summer at Deerkill."



### Contact Information

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### Deerkill Day Camp Quick Links

Website: [www.deerkilldaycamp.com](http://www.deerkilldaycamp.com)

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/deerkilldaycamp>

Twitter Page: <http://twitter.com/DeerkillDayCamp>

YouTube Page: <http://www.youtube.com/user/deerkilldaycamp>