

Echo Hill Ranch Review

Volume 59 Issue 2

July 5 2011



Our 59th 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

A Look Inside this Issue

<i>Continued Features</i>	2
<i>Ranch Officers</i>	2
<i>Bunkhouse News</i>	3
<i>Boleros Backpacking Trip</i>	4
July 4 Program, Art Gallery	5

2nd Camp Council meets and talks about a trampoline, rope swing and food buffet at socials at camp.

The newly elected Camp Council gathered on the front porch of the Log Cabin on Sunday to talk about new ideas for camp with Roger. Present at the meeting were: Corinne Francois -Wildflowers, Elle Clonts-Boleros, Sophie Ashkanase-Wildflowers, Jamie Penn-Echo Inn, Jimmy Ray- Big Foot, Evan Turner-Mustangs, Mitchell Jacobson- Range Riders, Natty Ashkanase – Crow’s Nest, Debbie Lederman-Happy Hollow, and Natasha Schepps-Stars.

There was lots of talk about how fun this summer is and Council members especially mentioned how they liked: the early morning nature hikes, club night, the Soulcial, archery, riflery, horseback riding, the deeper deep end, and their counselors! Dishes they especially liked included grilled cheese sandwiches, taco salad, breakfast tacos, fried chicken, falafels, peas, biscuits, and spinach lasagna.

New ideas Council members suggested included: having a trampo-

line at camp, longer siestas, longer horseback rides, one hammock for each bunk, have a food buffet for dinner at the socials, have a pizza night, more fudge bars, longer free swims, and putting in a diving board and rope swing at the deep water. What good ideas, and all of them are being considered for the summer of 2012.

At the end of the meeting we noticed that a lot of beautiful birds were coming to the feeders around the Log Cabin. Council members identified a red cardinal, two hummingbirds zooming by, a yellow/red/green painted bunting, and solid blue indigo bunting, a big blue jay, and a few squirrels running around for bird food! Someone said let’s do more bird watching here on the Log Cabin’s porch, and that we will!

NEWS FROM THE BUNKHOUSES

Wildflowers by Corinne Francios and Samara Abrams

On our cookout, we ate yummy Echo Hill hamburgers and we roasted marshmallows. We went to the wishing tree. The wishing tree is over three hundred years old and the Native Americans used to make their wishes on it. It is still standing today. Isn't that cool?

Happy Hollow by Anna Rosenbaum

I am looking forward to going on a trail ride with the horses. My favorite horse is Thunder. Horseback riding is my favorite activity. I usually saddle in the mornings and unsaddle before lunch.

Valley View by Abigail Navon

Valley View all agrees that the first week of camp was awesome. We have had so much fun hanging out after dinner doing things like hikes and marshmallow roasts. We also enjoy sports, swimming, horse-back riding and archery. We admit we love playing with the ranch dogs. We love each other!

Echo Inn by Hallie Bucher

All of the four weekers were excited to get the 3 weekers. We got 2 new campers in our bunk. Everyone had a great time at the Soul-cial and cannot wait for Hoe Down at Saturday!

Boleros by Rachel Bucher

This week was great!!! We really enjoyed Rosie Burnstien returning to us and we loved welcom-

ing Sammie Shipps into our Boleros sisterhood! I feel that we already all have a great bond! But other than the new comers, we had a late night with the Spurs after services. Jacob Wisch was very convinced that there was a monster on the North Flat. We had a great time!

Stars by Arianna Segal

Last night the Stars bunk went on an awesome cookout at the Far Side of the Deep End. We had some Echo Hill burgers and s'mores. After s'mores we played Chubby Bunny. Lauren Herman got 13 marshmallows in her mouth all at once! 1-2-3 HOW!

Big Foot by Micah Burnstein

We had an awesome time our first night at camp. We got to sit in Big Foot Falls and we caught a frog! The next night we went to the South Flat and our counselors told us about the Native Americans that used to live on the land. There were a lot of deer and it was super fun.

Range Riders by Gabriel Lewis

I am looking forward to Hoe Down on Saturday. My favorite part is the Snake at the very beginning of the night to kick off the social. This is when the whole camp holds hands and we walk around in growing and shrinking circles that spiral around the flat. It will be fun!

Mustangs by Evan Turner (El Caballo)

In archery I got past 15 yards so now I am on 20 yards. 20 yards is more difficult so I am working hard to qualify. I went to archery on Club Night and had a lot of fun!

Crows Nest by Jordan Jacobson

This week was so much fun and sad at the same time. It started off when Hunter Smith went home because the one week session ended. But we added 3 more kids to our bunk: Isaac, Natty and Max. Our favorite activity was riflery .22 and .177. We also had a backpacking trip. We went up Mount Baldy, down to Chalks Bluff and stayed there for the night. We did not fall asleep til 4 a.m. Then, we went back up Chalks Bluff and down Baldy.

Spurs by Jonah Levine

This week we had a great time at lots of activities including wresting. We also hung out with the Boleros and saw flying monkey/racoon. We are looking forward to our backpacking trip and the Fourth of July was really fun.

CITs by Lauren Distler

This week we were joined by Ben and Hannah, making our group complete. We had a cookout at the South Flat and sang in the 4th of July Choir. Our meetings this week have been activity oriented and the CITs are all excited to begin work on their CIT projects!

The Ranch Review Interviews New Counselor Jeff Franklin

RR: How did you hear about Echo Hill?

JF: I took a semester in New Zealand for NOLS, on an 80 day backpacking, kayacking, and sailing trip. Ben Meador was on the course and told me about Echo Hill and how great it was.

How does Echo Hill compare to New Zealand?

New Zealand is just short mountains out of the oceans. the main similarity is that there is a lot of farming in both.

What is your biggest surprise about Echo Hill?

The established family atmosphere was a big surprise.

What do you think makes Echo Hill so wonderful?

The landscape is beautiful, but the people are what makes Echo Hill Ranch what it is. A tight knit group of people is a powerful force!



Special Words from Our Favorite Counselors to Campers

The Ranch Review asked a question to some of our long-time counselors at the ranch. This is what they said....

Ranch Officers: Week 2

Foreman: Maya Cortez, Isaac Ableman

KP: Ezra Hackler, Rosie Bernstein and Kathryn MacLeod

Mail: Noah Jefferson and Hunter Hurst

Laundry: Austin Beebe and Chloe Lewis

Librarian: Daylin Gilbert

Ecology: Bryan Sulistiyo and Corinne Francios

Camp Council: Sophie Askanase, Debbie Lederman, Jamie Penn, Natasha Shepps, Nitchell Jacobson, Hudson Morris, Nathaniel Askanse, Nick Kemp, Jimmy Ray, Caterina Parafina, Elle Clonts, Evan Turner

Based on your experiences as a counselor, what advice would you give to campers?

“Try out every activity and give each an open mind. Try something new every day! I love Pottery and Fossil Hunting!” —David Friedman

“Go out and have lots of fun! Meet new people! Go to Nature Study! Pour juice on yourself.” —Phillip Brush

“Don’t be scared to try new activities that seem difficult.” —CIT Claire Burrus