



CHRONICLE

Vol. XXVII No. 11 August 7, 2009 *Discover the Spirit!*

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU...

Big Top Fun Fills The Ranch



Howdy Pardners!

The Ranch was bursting with energy this week from the moment buses arrived on Monday, and it won't stop until the moon is out tonight, with our Friday evening performance of Circus of the Kids. Rehearsals took place all week for the circus stars of tomorrow, and today's show was a blockbuster from triple trapeze to six-man bicycles to globes and more.

Our turf soccer field saw lots of action on Tuesday with the culminating games of the Robbie Levine Lightning World Cup. Later that night, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys had their Boys' Night Out. Venturing to CitiField after dinner on The Ranch, they saw the Mets play the St. Louis Cardinals – what better way to see a baseball game than with the guys from your division?!

The girls sure weren't left out – on Wednesday, the fifth graders and G6-2 left the dock for the high seas aboard the "Miss Freeport." Not only did they have lunch on the bay, but they brought home a lot of filleted fluke for dinner! The 7th and 8th graders also visited Fun Zone on Thursday and had a grand time at the video arcade!

Back on The Ranch, the Scouts Super Showcase was a blast, with great musical numbers enhanced by terrific costumes – everything from body paint to pom poms. Thanks to creative group staff who coordinated outfits and the dance staff who choreographed steps! The Pioneer Unbirthday celebration was so much fun with every Pioneer sporting a personally decorated birthday hat and enjoying ice cream sundaes. It was a giant birthday party to remember.

Tournaments were everywhere with the P.I.T. (Paul Invitational Tennis) getting underway and the D.I.T. (Dimitri Invitational Tournament) concluding. Those "Nothing Could Be Finer Than To Be a 49er" tee shirts are being worn with pride all around The Ranch.

The excitement is far from over, so Pardners, rest up this weekend, because next week is jam-packed with still more fun!

Until we meet again, Happy Trails!



SMILE AND STYLE...was the drumbeat in Coleman Country as "Circus of the Kids" kids showed us what we could accomplish with courage and hard work. "Lean on Me" came to life in yet another way today as Pardners literally leaned on each other!

SEE YOU TONIGHT!

Showtime: 6:30p.m.

Location: Grand Playhouse

CIRCUS OF THE KIDS

Filthy Friday

Next Friday, wear your whitest clothes and see just how dirty you can get them by the end of the camp day! (Kinfolk, just make sure not to count on stain-remover to plan on reusing any of those clothes!) It's that simple! And the most fun you can possibly have – don't worry, we'll make it easy for you to get dirty. Trust us to come up with filthy ways to be kids – from eating lunch without utensils to swimming in spaghetti... this is a day like none other!

Habits of the Heart

Habits of the Heart continue to sweep The Ranch – this time, we're putting our efforts into swimming laps to raise money to send underprivileged children to camp. Next Monday, Pardners will harness their swimming skills and swim laps for the Morry's Project Swim-a-thon. For every lap swum by campers and counselors during their regular swim period, the Coleman Family will contribute ten cents to Morry's Camp. Last year, the Coleman Family contributed more than \$5,000 for Morry's kids who otherwise would not have the opportunity to benefit from a camp experience.

This summer, Pardners got to see first-hand what their good will can do, having gotten to know Simphewe, Tanjiwe, Masentle, Lello, Martha, and Tshepo. Today we said farewell to our friends from South Africa and thanked them for the memories and learning experiences we will carry with us forever. Last year, we collected needed toiletries for their village of Soweto, and this year many staff and camper families are sending them back home with clothing to distribute to their own families. As a camp community, we feel good about the difference we have made and we thank those who helped.

ON THE HORIZON

Monday, August 10th:

- *Broadway Productions*
2 p.m. - Parents are Invited
- *Deep Sea Fishing B6's and G6-1*
- *Morry's Camp Swim-a-Thon*

Tuesday, August 11th:

- *"Under the Sea" Pioneer Counselor Show*

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11th-12th:

- *Optional Overnight trip to Dorney Park & Hershey Park for B7/8 & G7/8*
- *Scouts Mini-Murals*

Thursday, August 13th:

- *Michaels B5's & G5's*

Friday, August 14th:

- *Filthy Friday - get as messy as you can!*

On the Level

Wondering about levels at the Swimmin' Holes? Here's your guide:

- Frogs, Penguins, and Alligators all are incremental for the Pioneers in their introduction to water skills
- Seals, Sharks, and Dolphins progressively qualify as levels towards fundamental aquatics skills for the Pioneers

Scouts, Explorers, and 49ers work to achieve these stages as part of the American Red Cross program:

- Level 2 – fundamental aquatics skills
- Level 3 – stroke development
- Level 4 – stroke improvement
- Levels 5 & 6 – stroke refinement

Stroke levels are continuously assessed, and flexible grouping is part of our program so that children may progress at their own levels of comfort and challenge. A very visible achievement is, of course, the "red bracelet" which designates a deep-water swimmer; campers who are striving for their bracelets get lots of encouragement from the swim staff, their own counselors, and their group-mates. "Picture success" is the mantra at the pool and everywhere else on The Ranch!

COOOOOOOOL-MANIA...

...is coming. Sometime next week! Colemania is an extravaganza not to be missed, because your favorite staff members will be costumed to face off in a ring of JELL-O! Yes, that's what we said – nonstop laughs await as one act after another plays out their story in a ringful of cold, wet slime! You'll laugh so hard that you'll shake like a ring-ful of JELL-O!

History buffs on the subject of Colemania might like to know, by the way, how MACHO got his name. Many summers ago, when he first came to The Ranch, Scott started dreaming big, saying "You bet I can," and building his self-confidence, until one day he realized he had reinvented himself! MACHO actually stands for "My Actions Can Help Others."

Hershey Overnight

Whether it's a preview of next summer's Cross Country travel program or a capstone overnight experience for this year's 7th and 8th graders, the oldest 49ers are off on an optional overnight to Pennsylvania next week! Their first stop is Hershey Park where they will spend the day in the theme park and end it with a picnic dinner there. The next morning, after recharging their batteries in a hotel, the travelers will head out for a day at Dorney Park, where they will go on rides and have lunch in the park. Can you imagine more fun than two back-to-back days of amusement parks with a sleepover inbetween?! The happy but undoubtedly exhausted campers will return to Coleman Country at 9:30p.m. Wednesday evening after their Tuesday morning departure.