



# CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXIII No. 9 August 21, 2015 *Discover the Spirit!*

## Howdy Pardners!

What a final last week we had! Campers arrived on Monday full of anticipation and curiosity as to when Olympics would break out. With the flags missing since Thursday, speculation had been circling The Ranch. Suspicions rose when the whole camp was called to the Grand Playhouse by Ross.

Campers counted down from ten for this mysterious event to begin! The room went dark and the spotlight shone down on Ross as he welcomed everyone to the “Battle of the DJ’s—” DJ Torto vs. DJ Bekro. Different categories for the competition flashed up on the screen, including “Best Fist Pump Song,” “Best Ed Song,” and “Best Sing-along Song.” Favorites such as “Sweet Caroline,” “I Love CCDC,” and “Guacamole” were chosen by the DJs as campers belted out the familiar tunes. When they got to “Freestyle,” all the speakers in the house blared the Olympics theme song, signifying the beginning of the games. Each DJ grabbed Olympic flags and waved them in the air and banners dropped, revealing the *Tan Tropics* and *Red Retro* teams for the 2015 Olympics. Roars of excitement filled the air.

The Marshals, Sheriffs, Deputies, and Rangers (campers) of Tan Tropics entered the GPH in an electric blue Wrangler Jeep, leaping out with surfboards, leis, beach balls, and bubbles in their intricately designed matching team shirts. “Surfin’ USA” and “California Girls” were among the numbers in their synchronized dance.

The leaders of Red Retro next emerged from a black limousine, performing highly choreographed dances with “throwback” songs— from Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” to “Ain’t Nothing But A Hound Dog” and “Single Ladies.” Their shirts also were adorned, and they carried props such as wigs, gloves, and more to complete the “retro” look.

Both sets of team leaders had been practicing in secret during the recent evenings and weekends, and their hard work was evident.

Representatives of each team shook hands, with team flags in tow, marking the official opening of the Games which would continue for the next three days.

And wow, did everyone get into the spirit – decked out from head to toe in tan and red, everyone was sporting a matching bandana; creativity and spirit were the rage. Friendly competition, teamwork, and personal best were the watchwords as campers and counselors

demonstrated good sportsmanship on the fields and courts as scores were announced throughout the day.

The Assistant Counselors’ Face-Off took place in the Grand Playhouse: this Apache-style race began with each team being given three minutes to build the tallest tower they could with the building blocks from Imagination Station.

Other events included a balloon walk, a Jacob deGrom-style throw, and climbers who headed to the top of Macho’s Mountain. Chants of “Let’s Go Tan” and “Let’s Go Red” filled the air, as the lead switched many times. The competition continued on the fields during the first day’s events: the *Gallop* featured group athletic events. From GaGa to newcomb to soccer, Olympic spirit was in the air.



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At the start of the second day of competition, the difference between the two teams was only 15 points – out of thousands! The entire camp gathered on the Field of Dreams by team on Wednesday to watch the CITs and Rangers (8th grade campers) compete in their Face-Off. They ran the bases, kicked a field goal, and filled a pitcher with water from the water cannons. During the *Showdown* and the *Splash*, campers displayed individual skills on the fields and at the pool. A soccer, hockey, and team handball shootout and a homerun derby were a few of the athletic endeavors showcased. Up at the Swimmin’ Holes, campers enjoyed good laughs along with solid competition with all different wacky relays that utilized equipment such as barbells and noodles.

On the concluding day of Olympics, the counselors participated in the Face-Off to start the day. Chants of “Let’s Go Tan” and “Let’s Go Red” reverberated throughout the entire Grand Playhouse as campers and counselors cheered on their respective team. Counselors put on a great show consisting of a three-legged race, a wheelbarrow race, a basketball shootout, plus so much more!

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# Tan Tropics



The last round of activities featured the *Stampede*, a day full of relays, from three-legged races to tug-of-war. Campers and counselors cheered, face and body paint had carefully been applied, eye-black (or eye-red and eye-tan to be specific!) and bandanas were worn strategically and creatively, and every ounce of effort was given by each and every person.

Both teams gathered on the soccer field for Olympic Closing Ceremonies 2015 on Thursday afternoon. The Plaque Presentation, Counselor Tug-of-War, and Rope Burn took place. During the plaque presentation, each team presented a narrative about this summer's H.E.R.O. theme (Help Everyone/ Respect Others). The team plaques will join the others that hang in the Chow Hall as a reminder of good times and good fun from years past.

The *Hoedown* (song competition) consisted of each team singing their original alma mater and novelty song as well as their rendition of the Coleman Country song. Teams had been practicing all week, and the presentations reflected their hard work and spirit. Red edged out tan by 15 points out of more than 8,000 points awarded. In the end, we all celebrated what we had learned throughout the competition: the importance of good sportsmanship, personal best, and teamwork as well as winning graciously and losing gracefully.



# Rodeo Rocks The Ranch

The Ranch was transformed today with Rodeo, a carnival extravaganza that mesmerized campers as they walked through the gates. The courts and fields were replaced with rides and games, from swings to inflatables to game booths with prizes to dunk tanks to cotton candy machines, too! Among the highlights were an obstacle courses and an Old West Playland, along with derby races and the football toss, two all-time favorites. Video screens, two giant photo graffiti walls, a prize crane, and a giant Pac Man game were a few of the activities that filled the Grand Playhouse. A Jeopardy-style game show helped to complete the festivities.

Among the traditions on The Ranch, the Chow Hall was rocking - with pizza and lots of dancing! Campers and counselors were signing each others' shirts, preserving the memories, which also included a long-sleeved Coleman Country hoodie t-shirt, velvety soft to remind us of camp throughout the next 10 months. After all, we all know "we live 10 for 2" - 10 months for the two precious months of camp.

With the burndown of the numbers 2015 and the presentation of special honors, we said our farewells for now. At Coleman Country, we never say "Goodbye;" we say "Until We Meet Again... Happy Trails!"



## ON THE HORIZON

Sunday, October 25th: Fall Harvest Festival  
 Sunday, May 15th: Spring Fling



**BEARY NICE...** The Pioneers-in-Training were invited to the Teddy Bear Picnic, where checkered tablecloths and helium balloons set the stage for their farewell party. Supervisor Ed led them in some of their favorite songs as he strummed his guitar to "Teddy Bear" and "Mail Myself to You." They each took home their own Coleman Country teddy bear as a memento of their P-I-T summer.



**HOLDING ON TO MEMORIES...** Olympic plaques representing Tan Tropics and Red Retro will join past plaques as they hang in the Chow Hall as part of Coleman Country history.

