



CAMP RIVA-LAKE FOR GIRLS.... A NEW BEGINNING
A group of dedicated Riva-Lakers has begun a passionate endeavor of reviving the magical place that was home to us for so many summers. Our goal is to re-open camp during the summer of 2005 for one 3-week session. We are forming a non-profit organization which will manage camp for future generations. We have created a board of directors and developed an operating plan, but we still need you to make our dream come true.

We held the 1st board of director's retreat in Atlanta, GA over a January weekend. The first item on our agenda was to come up with a mission statement to guide the non-profit organization, using inspiration from CRL's past.

Camp Riva Lake, located on the 1st plateau of the Cumberland mountains, will provide a fun-filled, wholesome environment for girls. We are committed to fostering character development and leadership and building physical skills through age-appropriate camping activities.

The vision of the board is to re-create our slice of heaven where girls will learn to appreciate the gifts they possess within themselves, as well as those in others, and in the world around them. Girls will experience the beauty of the great outdoors, make ever-lasting friendships, and cherish memories to be shared with their own daughters and granddaughters.

Why are we creating a non-profit organization? We had several goals in re-opening CRL: 1) to ensure that camp survives any one person or group; 2) to protect those who volunteer their time from liability; and 3) to raise sufficient funds to cover the one-time start-up operation costs. A corporation provided the first two benefits and non-profit status enables us to apply for educational grants which benefit girls and provides a tax advantage to those who make contributions to our fundraising campaign.

Therefore, we are in the process of incorporating CRL and applying for non-profit tax status with the IRS. CRL will be governed by a Board of Directors, operating under a set of By-Laws. We've established these teams, each led by a "captain" (board member), all of which need your help!

Governance: DeSaix Brinkley: Work with lawyer to incorporate and file as non-profit.

Operating: Caroline Jones Silva and Carol Garner-Houston: Operating plans to launch 3 week camping semester in 2005

Reunion/Alumnae: Nonnie Thompson Preuss. Plan reunion 2004 and future activities.

Treasurer: Suzanne Burns Childs: Maintain financial books and records, work with CPA.

Traditions & Programs: Lawrie Canale Peyton. Develop programs and activities for camp.

Advisory: Milbrey Jackson Black: Provide advice and counsel to the board.

Recruiting: Coco Evans Judd: Recruit campers and counselors in key cities.

Fundraising: Need a team captain and city captains to raise start-up funds!!

Communications: Need a captain for this team of volunteers who write newsletters, maintain alumnae directory and update web site

We encourage every one of you to join in and....

Remember, you girls belong to Riva-Lake and Riva-Lake belongs to you.

REUNION 2004.....

July 15-18, 2004 will be a special reunion where Riva-Lakers come together to make camp ready for its 2005 re-opening. Do you remember sitting at the Rock House singing, "If I had a Hammer"? Well now is your time to bring a hammer and other tools as we implement a few special projects to ensure that camp is ready for campers in summer 2005.

Possible projects include: Building a new Marathon meeting place, clean-up at Council Ring and the Olympian meeting place, building a Riva Lake history/ display in the Playhouse, cleaning of debris under Lookout and other cabins, building flower boxes & benches and painting the Counselor's Lodge.

The reunion will also be your chance to talk to the Camp Riva Lake for Girls Board of Directors and ask questions about the re-opening. We will talk about the decision to go non-profit, discuss the business plan and fundraising requirements and let you know all the ways you can become involved in making CRL 2005 and beyond a reality.

Every day, as we play, we're striving....

Yes, this reunion will have a purpose, but it will also be a time to see old friends, and re-live that camp spirit. Fun activities will be planned in addition to a marshmallow roast, singing in the dining hall, team meetings and more. Stay in the cabins if you want to sleep with the sounds of Riva-Lake around you and awaken to the bell! But if you want all the modern conveniences, call the Best Western Inn 931-967-9444 or the Jameson Inn 931-962-0130.

Come earn your Marathon and Olympian alumnae team points at Reunion 2004!

There are many improvements we need to make to re-open camp. Together we can do it, but we need your help during this 4-day reunion so we can all roll up our sleeves and bring Riva-Lake back to life. If you can attend Thursday to Sunday, July 15-18, we will be able to complete many of our projects! Longing to share the Riva-Lake experience with your husband/ significant other? Bring them along- we need strong men too! And don't worry if you can't spare the 4 days- we'd love to have you *anytime* and there will be plenty of fun all weekend long. Look for more details in our May newsletter.

ATTENTION MARATHONS.....

Yes, Marathons, due to persistent flooding, a new meeting place is needed and Nonnie would love to have your ideas & votes for a new location to keep the team spirit burning. Please call her at (404) 364-9409 or email her at aapmat@mindspring.com

FIND YOUR FRIENDS

We've established a CRL directory to help us get the word out about the re-opening. This is **CRITICAL** to our success for recruiting campers and counselors, fundraising and getting the volunteer help we need to start up camp. Please take a moment to look at the attached directory and help fill in missing data or update information for you, your family and friends. Even a CRL sister's name and city would help! If you can help with the search for alums, contact us! Email Emelie at: **CampRivaLake@hotmail.com**

“There’s a dark green canoe for me and for you -, let’s go take a ride, go take a ride- the river’s not wide, but we’re on the side that goes ro-ro-rolling along.....”

If you were not able to attend last year’s reunion, we’d like to share the experience with you, through the eyes of Lawrie Canale Peyton.....

The trip to Falls Mills and the canoe trip down the Elk River were both tremendous walks down memory lane and those who participated had a blast!

We had so much fun at Falls Mills where we used to go many summers ago! There was always a dog with just 3 legs who used to greet us, but not this year. I guess it had been so long since he had seen us that he gave up on us coming back. But back we were! We watched a video about the history of the mills and then went to inspect it. There was definitely more moss growing on the blades of the mill than in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s, but just as pretty as ever. We ventured down to dip our feet into the falls and they were just as FREEZING cold as we remembered. Some of us sat on the rocks while the more adventurous ones went and actually got under the falls! Great fun was had by all.

The following day, about 16 of us got into the canoes and ventured out for a nostalgic 3 hour trip down the Elk River. We stopped twice- once at the island in the fork about half-way through where we had refreshments, shared camp experiences, and swam with our families and friends in the “it’s SO COLD it turned our lips blue” water. We loaded into the canoes (bowing in and out properly, of course) and started back down the river. Thankfully, the rains had filled the river so much that we had no dry places where we sometimes had to pick up the canoes and carry them til our arms were tired. The bellies of our canoes did not scrape the bottom once! We feathered, we “pulled to”, we switched sides, we watched for the V’s in the rapids and we sang as we paddled. We did stop one more time at the rope swing and some of us dared to bow out the canoes, climb the rocks and pretend to be Tarzan and Jane swinging out over the water and dropping in the water, only to have our breath taken away by the crisp chill of the Elk. We quickly bowed in and raced our canoes to the take-out point at the bridge. We knew that our arm muscles would be sore, and wondered if we’d see those bruises on our thighs the next day, but we didn’t care. What a treat it was to be back re-living those fond memories on the wonderful river that we all have known and loved.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEB SITE:

We are pleased that our camp website is coming on-line this month! Many thanks to Dodson Randolph and Lesley Grant for making this happen. Please look for more news and information on-line at www.camprivalake.com

We are hoping to add new content, photos and other news to the site leading up to the reunion and camp opening. If you are interested in helping with the web, please email DeSaix at desaixb@sbcglobal.net !!

HOW CAN I HELP?

Camp would not have been Riva-Lake without the enduring principles of sisterhood and teamwork. The current board of directors can't do this alone. If you are wondering how to be part of this adventure, here are just a few ways you can help. Your others ideas and talents are welcome!

Services/Volunteer Help:

If you are interested in the board committees, here are some specific tasks we need help with in the next few months.

- Maintaining the web site & updates (articles, photos, etc.)
- Writing the Quarterly CRL Newsletters
- Providing CPA assistance- if any CPAs out there are familiar with non-profits, we need your help
- Providing legal services- if there are any lawyers that can provide pro bono general services to CRL (lease agreements, etc), we need your help too!
- Putting together a nice photo collage for an album or display at Riva Lake with captions, etc
- Volunteering to be a Recruiting Captain- we need one in each major city to locate interested campers and counselors and host recruiting parties for summer 2005
- Volunteering to be a Fundraising Captain- we need one in each major city to coordinate local fundraising
- Helping with Traditions to assist with program design, buy awards for year 1, etc
- Taking existing songbooks and combining them into a new "master" songbook for camp
- Coordinating the location of old campers/alumnae – names, addresses, etc.
- Coordinating in-kind donations from alumnae

Items we need donated for Reunion 2004 or the re-opening 2005:

- used computers and/or printer for the rock house
- used digital camera for camp photos to be posted to web
- Sailboats (4 needed)
- Canoes (5 needed)
- Used- but reliable- motor boat
- Used- but reliable- van or truck
- Crafts supplies (paint, brushes, markers, glue, glitter, jewelry making kits, etc)
- Scrapbook materials/excess
- Athletic equipment/sporting goods (basketballs, soccer balls, tennis balls)
- Used Halloween costumes, bridesmaids dresses, uniforms for use in productions/parties
- Large Trunks to store costumes, etc. in playhouse
- Medical supplies for KK- bandages, supplies, etc.
- Commercial grade stove- used or new
- LARGE pots, pans, pitchers, measuring cups, mixers, large platters
- Large BBQ Grills (2 needed)
- Trailer (to carry trunks to cabins)
- Filing cabinet for office, or office supplies
- 2-way radio, walkie-talkies (6 needed)
- Dumpster or hauling services for debris from reunion clean-up
- 30 Railroad ties w/cement blocks (for benches and walkways)
- Lumber for camp repairs or flower boxes

We would love to have any of the smaller items brought to the reunion. For larger items, please contact any of the board members to make arrangements.