



# CHRISTMAS SPARKS



BEST WISHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON  
FROM CAMP KAHDALEA AND CAMP CHOSATONGA

ADVENT SEASON GREETINGS

Vol XXX, No. I

CHRISTMAS 2019

## HOME FRONT

It never fails to impress me. A few nights ago, as I so often do, I stood outside for a while and simply looked up. The stars were like a billion diamonds spread on a black velvet blanket. When I am away from these mountain stars, it is easy to forget how powerful the scene is. I thought about the many nights I camped beneath them and would fall asleep waiting



for the occasional shooting star. I thought about the challenges of being out on a mountain camping trip and about the confidence I got from hundreds of such nights. I thought about the beauty and the joy. There's something about that sight that makes me feel deep gratitude. I always find myself saying a prayer and giving some thankful praise. What a gift. With that in mind, Christmas is in the air and it doesn't take much to get inspired around here. Even the most majestic of mountain views, the highest of summit explorations, the wildest of raging rapids, or a clear and starry night, none of these compare to the treasure that is the person next to us and the gift to us from God on that first Christmas night. Take time to dwell on the real gifts around us and on this wonderful and profound season.



Some Trufant family scoop! Elizabeth and Jake and their 4 children moved 45 minutes from us!!! We are so excited. Jake, a pain management physician is practicing in Asheville. The kids... awesome!

Sarah, her husband Patrick, two Great Danes and precious son Hayes are in Baton Rouge. The grown-ups are attorneys and the young Hayes is a beautiful and fun/funny young man!

Andrew is with BackRoads, an active travel company, as the Senior Operations Expert in Asia. He is fantastically entertaining telling about life's wonderful adventures. We're thrilled that he and Lynda will be here for Christmas! ...ALONG WITH ALL OF THE KIDS!!! We are too happy!

You know what else makes us happy? Adam, Jeffrey and John are working full time for the camp mission. Powerful! Another happy... and Adam and John are getting married this spring. Two terrific young ladies, Teresa and Ana. We love them! We are beside ourselves!

Joe-Joe is great, working away writing songs and getting lots of good attention in the tough music industry. He's making good progress and is standing strong. We are so proud of him.

We are enjoying winter in these intimate and comfortable eastern mountains. The warmth and the holiness that we feel here at our camps is a constant reminder of the grace you bring into the camp family.

God Bless You and Much Love!

*Anne & David*

## News, Notes and SCOOP!

Between counselor sign-ups and camper applications coming in, all the camp elves are busy with many very special projects. We're excited for the summer! Christmas heightens our desire to be with the ones we love, and we love you! We have great camp people here this off season! We get to see Austin Ashcraft, Jenn Pommerenke, Jasmine Ray, Michael Livingston, Tyler Pommerenke, Jennie and Montana (full time office), and Anna Boudreaux!

1) **Spring travel is in the air!** Florida to Texas and nearly anywhere are in the works. Want to host a fun/casual camp visit? Call! We so look forward to these.

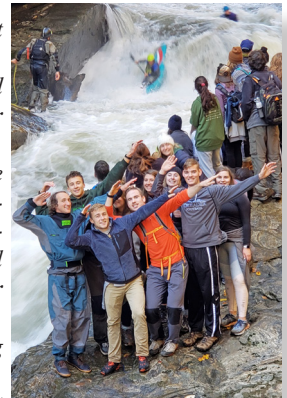
2) We have a **great leadership team** returning! Many, many years of experience. Kahdalea's team includes Adam Trufant, Frances Thompson and Marie Peaslee and at Chos, it's Jeffrey Trufant and Austin Ashcraft. Also, so many of our counselors are returning! What a mature, experienced group and good hearted bunch! We still have some staff openings (i.e., Girls' riding, paddling, & more, Chos cook's apprentice, etc.) so don't give up.

3) Received camp e-mail lately? If not, please send us your new e-mail address and keep in the know.

4) **HOMECOMING 2019** was a total blast! We had about 50 peeps around. We went to mountain tops and river gorges. So many of us enjoyed watching camp paddlers, Robert Fleichel and Richard Lytle, on the renowned Green River Race! We are so proud of them and the program.

5) Michael Livingston is working hard prepping the fleet for another full on summer.

6) During this Advent Season, take a moment to e-mail, call or better yet write (Who does that now? Impressive.) a camp friend. ...just a little holiday gift of time. Try to get together. (Continued on the other side.)



HOMECOMING 2019 at the Green River Races.



And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon, and the stars and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans, and all that lives upon them...and to save us from our foolishness, He came down to earth and gave us Himself. -Sigrid Undset





7) *"The Stairway to Chapel" is getting some need-ed improvement! John Trufant and the maintenance staff are taking good care of that as well as many good things in general.*

8) *Thinking of taking a break or some time away? Call us. Off season at camp's a life-changing place for some introspection and self discovery away from the rat race. We offer some internships because a similar time in Dave's life made a profound difference.*

9) *Enrollment continues to be great! We have so many wonderful campers and staff members returning, as well as new faces coming to join us. Please keep spreading the good word...you are our best ambassadors! Thank you!*

10) *Our first RENDEZVOUS happened in November at the LSU Parade Grounds. A bunch of camp family old and new showed up, played some games, caught up on life, and even sang some classic camp songs. It was such a special day for everyone involved and reminded us of just how wonderful, enriching, and life-giving our camp friendships are!*



## Parents' Corner...

It is so wonderful to be in touch with our campers' parents. If you ever have a suggestion or some feedback, we would love to hear it. Thank you. Mostly, talking to our parents we hear such things as, "I received a letter home from my child's counselor and it said that here at camp he teaches and continues nurturing virtue." At that time she exclaimed, "Nurturing virtue! I haven't heard anything like that in years!" That comment stands out for me illustrating how wonderful the staff is and it points out the difficulty we all have with the culture we're in. I received correspondence from another mom lamenting the culture and she wrote "Peace comes from unplugging, being in nature, true community and friendship, being able to connect with the person that God has created you to be and the ability to hear God speak. While camp cannot 'force' this it provides the opportunity." This is what we live for. First the opportunity and secondly, challenge. All of this is sprinkled with good role models, love, fun in the setting of amazing mountain creation. We commonly hear comments involving terms like confidence, problem solving skills, social growth, career development, leadership, friendship, and not the least, growth in faith. The results in our camp family are so often life-changing and the comments we hear from camper parents warm our hearts and give us strength to carry on with this mission. We are so blessed to have such an encouraging camp family. Thank you for believing in us.

Many of you already know our camp prayer. We say this daily and it is one of the very best prayers we have ever seen. It is a wonderful guide for us all. Let us read this, out loud or in silence during this Christmas Season and meditate on each line for at least a few seconds. It carries great wisdom. Wisdom is something we can find, read about or come to know through grace. Knowing wisdom is important but we need to follow it to have it transform us. Seek wisdom.

## Our Camp Prayer

Oh God Our Father, **GIVE** me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts;

**HELP** me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong;

**SAVE** me from the habits that harm;

**TEACH** me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if all the world saw;

**FORGIVE** me, when I am unkind, and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me;

**KEEP** me ready to help others at some cost to myself;

**SEND** me chances to do a little good every day, and so grow more like Christ.

-Wm. DeWitt Hyde, Bowdoin College



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