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YMCA CAMP LETTS

4003 Camp Letts Rd., Edgewater, MD

Winter /Spring 2017

www.campletts.org

NEWSLETTER FOR YMCA CAMP LETTS' FORMER CAMPERS, COUNSELORS & FRIENDS



GREETINGS FROM CAMP LETTS!

The New Year has gotten off to an exciting start at Camp Letts! Several capital improvements have taken place around camp and we are excited about what the future holds. Changes include a new Dining Hall ceiling and deck, renovated restrooms in Plebe 2 and the replacement of Letts Lodge's roof. Thanks to a generous donation from the Washington D.C. Rotary, we have also been able to renovate the exterior of Quartermaster 2. These improvements are all part of Camp Letts' dedication to preserving Camp for future generations. Renovations such as these would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and donors Annapolis Cars, The Brick Companies and the estate of Steve Justis. Thank you!

In 2017 we are continuing our efforts to grow our Alumni Family. As a part of that effort, Camp Letts has posted thousands of alumni photos dating back to 1940! Visit our [Flickr](#) page to enjoy these historical gems! Help us strengthen our Alumni Family by sharing your own camp memories, reaching out to fellow alums and [visiting our website](#) to update your records.

All the best,

Hannah Jakob
Retreat Center and Alumni Relations Director

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Camp Open Houses
Sunday, April 2 and Sunday,
June 11 from 2-4pm.

Join us for an Open House and see what Camp Letts has to offer in summer 2017! Speak with our staff, tour a cabin, experience camp activities, and roast s'mores! Please contact [Kate Dadourian](#) or call 410.919.1400 for more information.

Alumni Day
Sunday, June 11, 2017

Camp Letts will be hosting its first Alumni Homecoming event on Sunday, June 11, 2017! Return to Camp for the day and enjoy some of your favorite camp activities such as sailing and zip line, reconnect with fellow alumni and meet the 2017 Summer Camp Staff! Stay tuned for additional details and mark your calendars for this exciting event!

If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please email hannah.jakob@ymcadc.org for additional details.

CAMP MEMORIES

Tom Coleman



"My first time visiting and applying for my first real job was the spring of 1971; I was 16yrs old. I met Ambery Butcher and son, 21yr old Pat Butcher at the waterfront. Camp Letts was a magical place for me. I learned so much from Pat and his Dad, and made many lifelong friends. One of the things I learned from the Butchers was what it meant "to be of service". They were great at it! I also learned to do things the right way the first time, to take pride in my work and

to strive to always get better.

I'll never forget my first experience that summer as a counselor, even if it was for just the first session (I was hired as Assistant Waterfront Director and needed there). I was lucky to get Cabin 11 on the point (where you could really get the breeze and hear the waves at night) with the famous Kenny Rasmussen as Village leader. I learned a lot from him as well. I even remember some of the campers in my cabin names, and heck.... that was 46 years ago!

The magic continued as I stayed on for weekend work that fall and following spring. The Butchers encouraged me to go to Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, which I did that spring (HIOBS H58 -I think). That, too, changed me and gave me direction that guides me even today. That experience led me to revamp the Seafarer Program, which Mr. B was proud of calling the best program in Camp! I led that program for the next 2-3 years. I also was privileged to lead the first Camp Letts 2 Week Chesapeake Bay Sailing Trip. I returned to live out my fantasy of returning to work at CL in the mid 1990s."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Bryan—Waterfront Director, 2009



Bryan has a B.A. in Marketing/Psychology and a MEd. in Post-Secondary Education from Salisbury University. Bryan thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, and as a lifeguard, lived in a tent on the beach at Assateague State Park. Bryan has also served as a Park Ranger for Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Park Service, as well as a Counselor/Director/Coordinator of various summer camps in the area. Since Camp Letts, Bryan has worked at Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) in Annapolis. At ORP he is the Education Program Manager teaching oyster education in schools, giving tours of the hatchery, and presenting community outreach events. Bryan lives in Annapolis and enjoys beekeeping, swimming, fishing, paddling, playing ice hockey and moonlights as a DJ.

Robert, Camper/Staffer, 1950s

Following his time at Camp Letts, Robert entered the military. He then served as a systems engineer for the Department of Defense for 55 years. In his retirement he took up art and swimming. In addition to being a Senior Olympic Swimmer, he has maintained the boating skills he learned at Camp Letts. He is currently working with Camp to broaden our science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) programs.

We would love to feature you in our newsletter! Let us know what you have been up to since leaving Camp. Email hannah.jakob@ymcadc.org with your story!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

2017 is shaping up to be another record breaking year at Camp Letts. Summer Camp registration has begun and we are currently on pace to surpass 2016's enrollment numbers. Additionally, plans are under way to continue our ongoing renovations and capital improvements around Camp Letts.

We are grateful for the support and generosity that we have received from alums and I look forward to working together toward Camp's bright future.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mason, Executive Director

MARCH IS THE MONTH OF GIVING

All alumni know that YMCA Camp Letts is a creator of memories and lifelong friendships. Many do not realize, however, that Camp Letts is a charity and about 33% of campers attend Camp with the help of tuition assistance. We firmly believe that every child should have the opportunity to attend camp regardless of circumstance. That opportunity is largely made possible by the generosity of Camp friends and alumni.

When it comes to giving the gift of Camp, no donation is too small and there are many ways in which you can support a child receiving a Campership.

- \$10 can provide one week worth of snacks from the Camp Store
- \$35 can provide a trail ride
- \$50 can provide a Thursday night camp fire and sleepover for a Day Camper
- \$150 can provide the sailing add-on

Every March Camp Letts does a campaign to raise money for our Caring for Communities Scholarship Fund. In honor of the special memories you made at Camp Letts we ask that you consider making a tax deductible donation and help provide a life-changing experience for a camper in need.

You can make your donation online at <http://www.campletts.org/donate>.