



# The Wolf's Howl

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The Voice of Camp Timberwolf—Home of Troop 212

Summer 2009

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## History of Camp Timberwolf

by Cliff De Lacy



Cliff De Lacy

I received a call from Don Drennan asking me for information on Camp Timberwolf for the newsletter. This camp site was sought after by a parents club that helped sponsor Boy Scout Troop 64 of Vallejo, California in the 1940s.

It was the dream of several adults in the first ever parents club to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. It was in 1947 that a group of men from the parents club along with Scoutmaster Vernon Flegge and Assistant Scoutmaster Raymond Keay gave birth to the creation of the camp site at Lower Bucks Lake. The site was thought to be a former Indian ceremonial ground that was used in the 1930s by the CCC to help build a dam. [Editor's Note: Information from PG&E shows that the construction camp for the dams (not by CCC) was in a different location.] The only evidence of occupation was the remainder of an A-frame

at the end of where the mess hall now stands and a 30 gallon drum.

All the equipment to build the camp came from Mare Island Naval Station in Vallejo. Several officers were also members of the parents club and arranged to obtain cooking equipment, generators, 60 man tents, 30 man life rafts, and life rafts from PBYS (aircraft), balsa wood rafts for the waterfront. Most of the material was from a government disposal site for equipment no longer needed after World War II.

What the Improvement Committee has done is truly amazing. I congratulate you on a marvelous effort in keeping the spirit of youth alive. In my days, scouting was geared to the outdoors to teach our youths how to live as our founding fathers did in the westward movement across the United States.

The California Timberwolf lives on. I know that as factual evidence of seeing three together in the Bucks Lake Wilderness area when I used to bow hunt and actually heard one howl once late evening in the back country. While I was working with the California Dept. of Fish & Game in 1959 in Markleville, CA, I met with several game wardens and biologists. One of the biologists saw one about 75 yards away from him on the Rubicon River. He was counting deer herds while moving north on the Pacific Crest Trail. Also, in the 1930s it was reported that a wolf was seen in

the Bucks Lake area. They had called him "Three Legs" – apparently he lost a leg in a trap or someone took a shot at him (her?). But that is not how the camp got its name. While we were at the campfire one evening, Assistant Scoutmaster Ray Keay asked us what we should name the camp. At that point we heard a couple of coyotes yapping in the distance and someone said, "Let's call it Camp Timberwolf." That is how the name came to be.

*Editor's Note: Cliff De Lacy achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 64, Vallejo, California in 1951. He earned 38 merit badges and 2 bronze palms. He became a member of the Camp Timberwolf Improvement Committee after leaving the U. S. Marine Corps in 1956. His love for the outdoors was inspired by the beauty of the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area. He was an avid bow hunter and fly fisherman. He was involved with Scouting for more than 22 years and became a Scoutmaster for Troop 78 in American Canyon, California and later for Troop 64 in Vallejo, California. Teaching his Boy Scouts how to live in the outdoors was his goal to help build their character and appreciate the beauty of the unspoiled wilderness areas.*

*Cliff currently teaches and promotes astronomy as "The Star Guide". More information is available at his web site at <http://www.thestarguide.com>.*

## 2009 Work Parties

Work parties performed several important annual tasks and camp improvements. The water system was initiated for the season. The fallen tree branches and other debris were cleaned up by scouts from Troop 212 and a group from Reno. The most noticeable improvement was to the bathroom building. Tile floors, fiberglass reinforced panel walls, and new partitions were installed in both the men's and women's rooms. Thank you to all of the hard working volunteers for this great improvement.



**Floor Tile, FRP Walls, and Partitions in Men's Room**

Diseased trees were cut down and new tree seedlings from the Forest Service were planted to serve as future replacements. Campers are asked to please water the new trees once or twice a week during your stay.



**Large Diseased Trees Cut Down**

Other projects included a new horseshoe pit, sewer improvements, and a memorial bench in honor of Marilyn Drennan, who died in January 2009 and was the wife of Don Drennan.

## Lake Usage

Please leave the raft anchored in place in deep water. If you find it in shallow water, move it out where it belongs. We have had damage to the ladder and deck when the raft was moved closer to shore, and then ran aground when the lake level dropped. Another time the raft anchors were removed and the raft floated to the other end of the lake. Please leave it in deep water.

The canoes need be chain locked at the beach to a tree when not in use. Life jackets must be worn by everyone in the canoe. Life jackets are available and must be returned to the storage container. All other boats are privately owned and not available to renters without prior arrangement.



**Canoe with Raft in Background (in Deep Water)**

## Camp Timberwolf on Facebook

Camp Timberwolf now has a page on Facebook with a link to our web site. To find it type "Camp Timberwolf" in search box in the upper right corner of any Facebook page.

## Fire Safety and Reporting

This is another dry year in the forest. Please exercise extreme care regarding fire safety. **The only location allowed for a fire is our campfire area** and it should be used carefully with small campfires that are continually watched and completely extinguished. For any fire incident get help immediately by going to the nearest telephone and dialing 911. Always notify us at Camp Timberwolf and the proper authorities as required. To notify campers of danger, there is an alarm bell on the mess hall that is turned on by the red switch inside near the front door.

Also be aware of regional fires. In 2008, there were lightning caused fires throughout much of the state including areas a few miles away from the camp in the Feather River Canyon.

## Garbage Dumpsters

The garbage dumpsters are picked up on Wednesdays, so please show courtesy to the next camping group by leaving space in the dumpsters at the end of your stay. If you generate so much garbage that you would fill the dumpsters at the end of your stay, then please take some of it with you to dispose at home or at a local landfill. If your group expects to generate extra garbage, please let Rich Holden know when you are confirming your reservation, so that an extra dumpster can be ordered.

Remember to empty all garbage cans at the camp every night and lock the dumpsters to keep the garbage away from the bears.

## Camp Timberwolf 2009 Board Elections

Elections for officers and directors were held at the January meeting of The Camp Timberwolf Improvement Committee Board of Directors. The following officers were elected:

- President – Jeff Koester
- Vice-President – Don Drennan
- Secretary – Bob Green
- CFO – Joe Cunningham

Existing Directors Burt Benson, Don Drennan, and Don Bonander were reelected and Troop 212 Scoutmaster Rainer Del Valle was elected for 3-year terms ending in 2011. Nellie Wilkerson and Dick Ayres were elected to replace Directors Frank Jackson and Bob Merson, whose terms expire in 2009.

## Check-In/Check-Out Procedures

In order to keep the camp in top condition, we are continuing the check-in and check-out procedure to track any damage or repairs needed for the camp. Each camper group will fill in a checklist noting the condition of the facilities when starting and ending their stay at the camp. One of the camper groups this year immediately reported on damage to the camp and evidence of unsafe activities from the previous group. This allowed the Board to act and get the damage repaired and cleaned up by the group that caused it. That group is currently on probation with a larger deposit for next year. Failure to follow rules and damage to the camp could result in loss of use of the camp.

## Camp Expenses and Fees

In 2006, the camp fees were raised to cover increased costs to run the camp including insurance and utilities. Since then, fuel and garbage costs have increased significantly. Due to some gracious rates and discounts from Suburban Propane and Feather River Disposal, we are holding the user fees for 2009 about the same rates as 2006 through 2008.

### President's Club\*

Jerry Bellows  
Admiral Burt Benson  
Ken and Joan Cole  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conkling  
William and Janet Cronk  
Phil and Dana Damask  
Don Denton  
Don Drennan  
Chuck Finwick  
First Blackhawk Financial Corp.  
Elizabeth Gantz  
Russ Harvey  
Rich Holden  
Walt and Alta Johnson  
Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley  
Bill Lind  
Ken Lyons  
Glenn and Lea Martin  
Don Matthews  
Tom McIntosh  
Rudi Metzner  
Jim Stoutamore  
Troop 212, BSA  
Marv Wiegman  
Bob Wilson representing Food  
and Beverage Trade Association  
Chet and Wave Wittenborn  
Rick and Charlene Zalesky  
Anonymous

\*Donors of a cumulative of  
\$1,000 or more as July 31.

## Camp Timberwolf 2008-2009 Donors

Alpha Group  
Barbara Bocheff  
Don and Evelyn Bonander  
Boy Scouts of America Mt.  
Diablo Council  
Rick and Lucy Carter  
Ken and Joan Cole  
Kendall Cole  
Joe and Pam Cunningham  
Phil and Dana Damask  
Don Drennan and Family  
Stuart & Marilyn Eberhardt  
Lori & Leich French  
Russ Harvey  
Rich Holden  
Bob and Mitzi Jackson  
Walt and Alta Johnson  
Raymond & May Kan  
Eric & Michelle Karver  
Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley  
Bill and Elaine Lind  
Larry Litke  
Ken Lyons  
Glenn and Lea Martin  
Don and Bev Matthews  
Tom McIntosh  
Moraga Womens Society  
George & Nelia Mori  
Bob and Robin Merritt  
Stan and Sue Oberg  
Jim and Carole Owens  
John & Nilda Rego  
William & Karl Ross  
Dave and Ann Smith  
Ken & Flossie Smith  
Dick and Marcy Terry  
Dayton and Margo Thorne  
Chet Wittenborn  
Rick Zalesky

Many of these donations were  
made to the Marilyn Drennan  
Memorial Fund.

## 2009 Reservation Schedule

Date	Group	Contact
May 20 – 22 (Fri)	Open water system	Rich Holden
May 23 – 25 (Mon)	BSA Troop 212 work party	Don Stephens
May 27 – Jun 2 (Tue)	Opening work party	Rich Holden/Don Drennan
Jun 6 – 13	Grace Community Church – Sr Hi	Jim R.
Jun 13 – 20	Grace Community Church – Jr Hi	Nathan Jr.
Jun 20 – 27	McHugh Family	Cheryl McCarthy
Jun 27 – Jul 4	Bay Area Rescue Mission	Bill Jones
Jul 4-10 (Fri)	Harbor House	Matt Thomas
Jul 10 – 16 (Thu)	MVPC Family Camp	John and Staci Drennan
Jul 16 – 18	MVPC Dads' Adventure	Dave Ricketts
Jul 18 – 24 (Fri)	Robak Family	Laurie Blackstone
Jul 24 – Aug 1	BSA Troop 212	Eric Andresen
Aug 1 – 8	Graves Family	John Graves
Aug 8 – 15	Travis Air Force Base Youth Center	Sandra Latchford
Aug 15 – 22	World Impact	Hendrik de Boer
Aug 22 – 29	Van Nostrand Family	Fred Van Nostrand
Aug 29 – Sep 4	Bay Area Rescue Mission	Bill Jones
Sep 4 – 7	Robinson Family	Tim & Heidi Kinsinger
Sep 12 – 19	Camp Timberwolf Directors & Friends	Rich Holden
Sep 19 – 12	World Impact	Hendrik de Boer
Sep 21 – 26(Wed)	Closing work party	Jeff Koester



Camp Timberwolf  
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 Moraga, CA 94556