



HOLIDAY ISSUE... 2011

The Cheley **PACK RAT**

CHELEY COLORADO CAMPS
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Who you will be, you are now becoming

Three different times during the last month, I have come across a study done by Dr. Jay Geidd regarding the teenage brain. I was first informed of Jay during a presentation by Phil Miller, a retired Air Force Chaplain.

Phil was talking to parents about building character and leadership in middle school and high school students. He mentioned that we have a short window to instill these values in young adults (usually in their early teen years). He referenced Dr. Geidd's research as he talked about the importance of the activities that teens chose during this time of their life. Dr. Geidd says, "Those cells and connections that are used will survive and flourish. Those cells and connections that are not used will wither and die".

During the early teen years, the brain has more brain cells that it can retain so in essence, it has to "prune" the cells it doesn't use. It keeps the cells that are being used the most.

"So if a teen is doing music or sports or academics, those are the cells and connections that will be hard-wired. If they're lying on the couch or playing video games or MTV, those are the cells and connections that are going to survive," says Dr. Geidd. Thus productive activities create productive adults and destructive behaviors may create destructive adults.

I thought back to my early teen years and realized I enjoyed skiing, playing sports, and exercising. Even 25 years later, I still enjoy those activities (I don't get to do them as much, but I enjoy them when I can). I also remembered my involvement in charitable organizations in high school. The feeling you get when you help others is something that is so important to instill in young adults.



Continued on page 2



Trigger Bill says...

*Prejudice is a great time saver;
it enables one to form opinions
without bothering to get the facts.*



CAMP DATES FOR 2012!

Full Season:
Wed. June 13th – Mon. Aug. 6th

First Term:
Wed. June 13th – Mon. July 9th

Second Term:
Wed. July 11th – Mon. Aug. 6th

Family Camp:
Tues. Aug. 7th – Sun. Aug 12th

Family Camp 2:
Tues. Aug. 14th – Sun. Aug 19th

**PACK RAT PUT TOGETHER BY**

Around the Campfire: Cheley Staff
Staff Updates: Paul Weidig
Camper Information: Jeff Cheley
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Editor: Jeff Cheley

Any news for the Pack Rat?
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Denver, CO 80206

Summer: 970-586-4244
P. O. Box 1170
Estes Park, CO 80517

CHELEY PRESENTATIONS 2012

Sunday, January 8th, Los Altos Show, 6:30 pm, Home of the Dumanian Family, 840 Parma Way, Los Altos, CA 94024. RSVP 650-533-4414 or elizdumanian@yahoo.com

Monday, January 9th, Marin County Show, 7:00 pm, Home of the Blevins-Bickler Family, 91 Polhemus Way, Larkspur, CA 94939. RSVP 415-927-3869 or alblevins@comcast.net

Wednesday, January 18th, Boulder Area Show, 7:00 pm, Home of the Le Jeal Family, 9610 Avocet Lane, Lafayette, CO 80026. RSVP 303-661-9373 or karen@lejeal.com

Thursday, January 19th, Ft Worth Show, 7:00 pm, Home of the House Family 3920 Potomac Ave, Ft Worth, TX 76107. RSVP 817-732-4908 or ahouse@qrinc.com

Friday, January 20th, Dallas Show, 6:00 pm, Home of the Schorsch Family, 3141 Westminister Ave, Dallas, TX 75205. RSVP 214-987-2522 or Kirsts@aol.com

Saturday, January 21st, Austin Show, 6:00 pm, Home of the van de Zande, 5613 Clarion Cove, Austin, TX 78746. RSVP 512-347-0223 or julievdz@gmail.com

Sunday, January 22nd, Houston Show, 4:00 pm, Home of the Greer Family, 407 Tecumseh Ln, 77057 713-254-0483 marymargaret.greer@kinkaid.org

Friday, January 27th, Kansas City Show, 7:00 pm, The home of the Levinson Family, 12307 Aberdeen Rd, Leawood, KS 66209. RSVP 913-400-3159 or Julie.Levinson@att.net

Saturday, January 28th, St Louis Show, 6:30 pm, Home of the Bingaman Family, 76 Lake Forest Drive, St Louis, MO. 63117. RSVP 314-580-6506.

Sunday, January 29th, Winnetka Show, 4:00 pm, Winnetka Community House, East Garden Room, 620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka, IL 60093. (847) 446-0537

Sunday, January 29th, Chicago Show, 7:00 pm, Home of the Walker-Rudnick Family, 60 East Elm Street, Chicago, IL 60611. RSVP 312-972-0580 or llwalker2@yahoo.com

Wednesday, February 22nd, Atlanta Show, 7:00 pm, Home of the McCollum Family, 456 Peachtree Battle Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30305. RSVP 404-964-7778 or yanceymccollum@yahoo.com

Who you will be, you are now becoming

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This is not only important for teens but for all of us. We all get into grooves or ruts (it matters how you define it) in our lives. Before I was married with two children, I used to love going out for a bike ride. As life has become busier, it has been tougher to get out for a ride. Recently, I purchased a new road bike and it has re-energized my passion for riding. We had a beautiful Thanksgiving Day in Denver, and I had a chance to get out for a ride in the morning. During part of the ride, I couldn't help but to yell out with excitement to be out on the road. Now I just need to keep it up.

So what brain cells are you supporting in your life? What habits are you forming that are forming you? We are all a work in progress (even after our teenage years). Enjoy the journey.

– Jeff Cheley

CHELEY PACK RAT

is published four times a year by Cheley Colorado Camps to keep the Camp Family informed – send us news and information about you and your friends. The PACK RAT is mailed free of charge to all current campers and staff, as well as to lifetime and annual members of "Cheley Friends." Others who are interested may get an annual subscription by sending their name and address with a check for \$15 to PACK RAT Editor, Cheley Colorado Camps, 601 Steele Street, P.O. Box 6525, Denver, CO 80206.

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2011 Cheley Staff show overwhelming support for the John Austin Cheley Foundation

For the third summer, we challenged our staff to donate money to the John Austin Cheley Foundation from their final paychecks. This summer they donated more than \$7,600. Many of these staff members need their checks to pay rent or tuition at school. With that said, they have seen the impact of a camp experience and realize the value of four weeks at camp. We are honored by their generosity. Each of the Cheley families (Jeff & Erika Cheley, Kurt & Brooke Cheley-Klebe, and Don & Carole Cheley), along with Microsoft Corporation and Enterprise Rent-A-Car, agreed to match the donations from the staff. With all the matches, the John Austin Cheley Foundation received over \$40,000 to be used for camperships. Each year we are amazed by the growth and dedication of the Foundation as it helps those who would otherwise not be able to attend a mountain camp experience. To learn more about the Foundation, check out www.cheleyfoundation.org

FRIENDSHIP CANDLE

Remember during the holidays, Cheley campers, staff, and alumni rekindle their camp memories by lighting a Friendship Candle – or a special candle they keep at home – to remember their good times at Cheley.



Announcing CILTs for Summer 2012

We are excited to announce the CILTs for the summer of 2012. We were very humbled by the number of campers who applied for the CILT program last summer. It is always a very challenging decision as most of the applicants have been at Cheley for numerous years. The CILTs will spend time in leadership orientations, consistent follow-up, a week of an exchange to a different unit, and support from Smitty and their assistant director. In addition, they are asked to do some work during the spring in preparation of their final summer at Cheley. The following individuals have been selected based on their past involvement at camp, the quality of their application, the vote of their peers and the staff in the unit, and the recommendation of their director.

Senior Chipeta 1st Term – Kelly Dulin, Brindley House, Barbara McDonald, Taylor Meneley, Emily Page, and Kate Woodward.

Senior Chipeta 2nd Term – Marion Ahearne, Mary Dumm, Sarah Kubly, Michela Nardi, Kaitlyn Stafford, and Tess Starshak.

GTE 1st Term – Emily Gast, Eliot Meade, Allison Radcliff, and Addie Wilkins.

GTE 2nd Term – Elena Bird, Brittany Glassberg, Meg Herr, and Charlie Sinkula.

Haiyaha 1st Term – Gaddis House, Thomas House, Ted Kornish, Ryan LeJeal, Hilyard Nichols, JJ Perkins, Aidan Schorsch, Nick Vann, and Bryson Ware.

Haiyaha 2nd Term – Alex Beane, Tommy Herr, Tyler Humphrey, Will Schmidt, and Bruno Zicarelli.

BTE 1st Term – Dimitri Culpepper, Otto Jose, and Warren Smith.

BTE 2nd Term – Chris Beavers, Hawk Hammer, Harris Lummis, Conor McKenna, and Randy Slocum

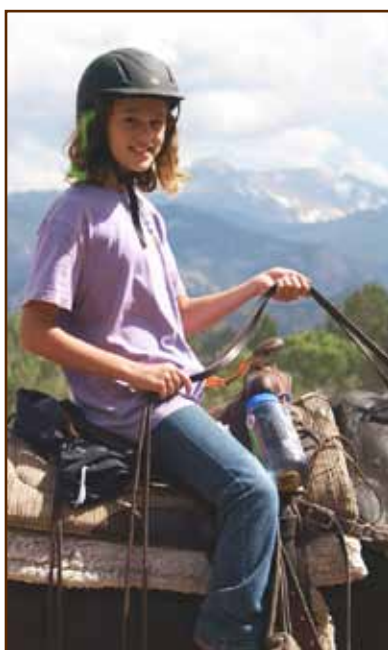


Kindness is the oil that takes friction out of life.





*The world turns aside
to let people pass
who knows where
they're going.*



2011 Unit Videos and All-Camp Campfire Skits

In case you didn't receive the email in October, we have posted all the unit videos from 2011. These are the videos that were played during the final campfire for each term and each unit. Some of them are very large files so we have provided a HD version and a smaller version. We will also provide these videos with the 2011 DVD that is sent out in early March. To view the videos, go

to www.cheley.com/online-fun/unit-slideshows-2011.php

We have also posted all of the 2011 All-Camp Campfire Skits on YouTube. To view them, go to www.cheley.com and click on the YouTube icon in the top right corner to view the skits and the rest of our videos.



Cheley Surveys

Thank you to those parents who completed the parent/camper online survey regarding the summer of 2011. As with so many of our activities, we have to take time and evaluate where we are so we can move ahead. Even after 91 years, we fully accept we have areas for improvement. This is the time of the year to look back at 2011 and prepare for the summer of 2012. We received over 115 completed surveys. We held a drawing for three \$50 gift certificates to the Cheley store for those families who completed the survey. The winners were: Cory Gentner, Jacob Alcott, and Ian Stanford

If you didn't complete the survey and would like to, please email the office at office@cheley.com and we will reply with the link.

Cheley Camps and Social Media

We continue to embrace the opportunities available with the Internet and Social Media. Brooke is doing a great job of providing content on our Facebook Page and writing articles for the Cheley Blog. She updates the Facebook page three to five times a week and provides a Blog post at least once a week. Our Facebook page is a great way to keep updated on some of the fun happenings throughout the year.

Trigger Bill is also joining the Social Media Craze. Every few days, Trigger Bill will tweet a saying for his followers. Follow Trigger Bill on Twitter to receive his tweets.

Go to www.cheley.com and click on the appropriate icon in the top right corner to check out our Facebook Page, our YouTube Page, or to follow us on Twitter.

We are also working on a full update to www.cheley.com. There are some great new features and a completely new look to the website. We will keep you posted when we "go live".





Around the Campfire

... with Cheley Friends

1940s

Chuck Schaff (1940s) Julie-Annabel Schaaf-Bailey sent us this update: "Just wanted to report that Charles "Chuck" Schaaf (Camper in the 1940s!) and his wife, Gail Schaaf of 55 years, relocated from the Chicago area to just north of Seattle, in April 2011. The former Cheley camper and his wife relocated to be closer to 3 out of their 4 daughters (with 1 daughter in the mid-west). Although the move was quite stressful, and it was very hard for them to say goodbye to dear friends. They are excited about the mountains to be climbed and all of the adventures that await them in this new chapter!"

1960s

Jackie Jenkins Dodson (1966-1967) gave us this update on her life: "I'm living in Amarillo, TX and am an artist with a studio/gallery. <http://www.amarilloartists.com>. I'm married to Ed Dodson (Cheley staff - Ski Hi '67) We have four kids and 7 grandkids."

Janet Whitehill McCauley (1969) said, "Still have fond memories of the summer I worked at Cheley!!"

William Shackelford (1968-1984) sent us this news: "I am married to Donna for 25 years and have lived in Bangor, ME most of that time except for a few years in Loveland. I have worked in retail for over 20 years where I presently continue. I am very active in the local astronomy club and remember the dark sky at Boys' Trail's End."



Michael Pointer (1967-1970) wrote, "I work on various humanitarian projects, am on advisory boards and am an American liaison and instructor in Afghanistan. Although my last summer at Cheley ended in my own adolescent idiocy, I count my times at Cheley as some of the most important events in my life. I have carried the lessons and great memories with me all over the world."

Dee Smith (1966-1976) wrote with this news: "I retired from Meridian School District in Meridian, Idaho in June of 2010 and moved to Helena, Montana to spend my retirement years."

Charlene Phillips Balfour (1960-1970) had this adventure to share with us: "When traveling to Denali National Park in August, I met three Cheley Alumni. After reading in the Pack Rat that Kristin Knight (1996-2001) was working there, I decided I would look her up. I did locate her, and we had a nice visit, comparing experiences and talking about how much Cheley meant to us. Then Doug and I spent three nights at a wonderful place called Camp Denali (I would highly recommend it if you ever go to Alaska!) which is 90

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*A person does evil
when he does
nothing good.*





*It is not how much
we have,
but how much
we enjoy
that determines
our happiness.*



Around the Campfire... with Cheley Friends

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miles inside the park. During our introductions the first night, I told everybody how I fell in love with the mountains while a camper in Estes Park, CO. After dinner, two people came up to me and asked if I had gone to Cheley Camps. One was Patricia Berman (1975), a former backpacking counselor at GTE who told me what a great experience it was for her. The other was Katie Mahoney, one of the Naturalist Guides on staff. Katie shared that she was a camper for only one summer in Chipeta, but that it shaped her life. She went home and told her mom and dad (a former camper) that she was going to go to the University of Colorado, get a degree, and work in the outdoors. And she has. It was so great meeting these people and hearing about their Cheley experiences, different from my own, yet the same in so many ways."

Richard Wasem (1962-1964) wrote us with this update and aspiration: "Now retired with grandchildren that I will eventually want to attend Trail's End as I did a few years ago."

1970s

Adam Radzinski (1977) voiced a similar aspiration of many an ex-camper, "The 4 weeks I spent at Cheley have never been forgotten. Wish I was young enough to participate again.."

Nancy Stratton Taylor (1976-1977) commented, "Cheley was a great experience! Our 9 year-old daughter is just starting to talk about "sleepover camps"! She has been going to a terrific day camp here in Chicago for the past 7 summer, and we will begin thinking about Cheley in the next couple of years!"



Kenneth Raley (1975 to 1978) said, "I always think kindly about Cheley - and my Sliver Coup from Lower Ski Hi...."

1980s

Ashley Rock (1989-1994) let us know that she's "Married to a non-Cheley alum with two future campers, Jack age 6 and Henry age 4! Jack is already excited and counting down the years!"

Mark Earl (1985-1990) gave us this update: "Just moved to Portland where I am a transplant surgeon at Oregon Health and Science University. Got a 7, 5, and 2 year-old...hoping to send them all to Cheley in the not so distant future."

Cindy Stadler Mohr (1981-1989) writes, "I am married with three children. We have twin 9 year-old boys and a 12 year-old daughter. This is the first year we have sent all three to Cheley! :) I would love to reconnect with friends from my summers at Cheley."

Lindsay Haynes Blake (1984-1994) brought us up to date with this message, "I was a camper and CILT at Cheley from 1984-1994. Since then I have moved from Colorado to Georgia, received my Masters in Library and Information Science and gotten married. I am now a Clinical

Librarian at Georgia Health Sciences University, and my husband Brad and I have an 18 month old daughter, Taylor Morgan Blake. I miss my summers at Cheley and can't wait for my daughter to attend."

1990s

Douglas Perkins (1991-2001) emailed us that, "Douglas Perkins and Sarah (Slyker) Perkins, staff 2001, welcomed a son, William Morrow, on July 18, 2011. William joins his big sister, Margaret."

2000s

Sam Faktorow (2007-2009) We recently got this update: Sam is finishing up his sophomore year at Colorado College by studying abroad in London. In the fall, he will be abroad again, this time with the Institute for Shipboard Education's Semester at Sea, sponsored by the University of Virginia. In just under four months, he will be circumnavigating the globe. He hopes to share the Cheley experience during his travels with all those around him, knowing that it absolutely will serve him well on his adventures, and can't wait to spend starlit nights on the ocean, much like the ones he fondly remembers in the mountains.

Katie Prekup (2011) who just spent her first summer at Cheley in GTE said, "This was the BEST summer!!! I'm so happy to be a second generation camper starting my freshman year of high school!!"

IN PASSING

Betty Rowden Holt (1936-1942) passed away September 10, 2011. She was a five summer camper and a two summer counselor. At Family Camp campfire, she told the assembled families that the best years of her life were the years she spent at Cheley Camps!

Caroline Harsant Whitley (2001) passed away in her Fayetteville, NC home on September 26, 2011.

Margaret (Margo) Wiese (1934-42, 1954-1958) died October 24, 2011 at age 92. She moved to Eugene, OR in 1947 to join the faculty at the University of Oregon in the Home Economics Department. She retired from the University as Associate Professor of Health Education in June 1981. She was granted status as Professor Emeritus June 15, 1981. Margo was a GTE camper and her mother, Helen, was the first director of GTE.

WEDDING BELLS

Jeff Penoyer (2000-2005) and Kathryn "Kat" Wulf said their vows on October 9, 2011.

Sarah Ronan (1998-2000 and 2005-2008) and Stuart Pohl (1999-2002 and 2005-2008) were married on September 3, 2011. They reside in Denver, Colorado.

Liz Marshall (1996-2001) exchanged rings with Justin Figgins on October 1, 2011 in Silverthorne, Colorado. Kristin Knight (1996-2001 and 2004) was the Maid of Honor. The newlyweds reside in Idaho.

FUTURE CAMPERS

Carl Amerine (2007-2008) and Amanda are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Suzannah Alice Amerine on August 9, 2011. Welcome to the world, baby girl!

Allison Street Dickey (1984-1994) and her husband Charlie welcomed twin boys William "Wyatt" and "Simms" Street Dickey on May 14, 2011.



*Hold your head high,
but keep your nose
at a friendly level.*



**Cheley Colorado Camps**

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The End of an Era – Thanks Pete and Thelma Gabel for almost 50 years of service

The 2011 Holiday Packrat marks the first newsletter since 1993 that has not been published and edited by Pete Gabel. Pete has been instrumental in the Cheley newsletter from 1963 to 1979 and from 1993 to 2011. Pete and Thelma have been associated with Cheley Colorado Camps since 1962 when Pete served as the assistant director of Ski Hi and Thelma managed the camp store. Pete has served as the assistant director in multiple units, worked full-time with Jack and Don Cheley from 1964 to 1979, and has been a huge support system for the Cheley organization. During his tenure, Pete represented Cheley on regional and national boards. In addition to his work with Cheley, Pete has worked

with many other youth organizations including multiple locations of the YMCA. Summer camping and Cheley Camps have benefitted for over 60 years because of Pete and Thelma's commitment to children and youth development.



Cheley Camps can't thank Pete and Thelma enough for their dedication to and passion for the Cheley Experience.



KEEPING IN TOUCH...

We'd like to be able to keep in touch – but we can only if you keep us up-to-date with your **address and other current information**. Please take a minute now to send us an update.

And – we also want to hear from you with your news for the next PACK RAT.

Just send an email to: office@cheley.com