

Orca Sounds

September– October 2004



Calendar

September

- 10–26 Puyallup Fair
- 22 Convoy from Yakima

October

- 2 Wohelo Award Ceremony
- 6 Teens in Action Meeting

Coming Soon....

CLUB LEADERS—A first aid class is coming soon! The date and time will be announced shortly. We will also have a Horizon/Wohelo award training in the very near future.

All past Wohelo Award recipients and current Orca Council members are invited to attend the Wohelo Award Ceremony Saturday, October 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. University Place Presbyterian Church 8101 - 27th St. West University Place

Dessert and Dancing Reception will follow downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Past award recipients are encouraged to wear their gowns if possible, and to be the first to congratulate our newest Wohelo recipients.



Times Change

In 1910, when Camp Fire Girls started, the telephone was 34 years old, but most people still communicated regularly by letter. Coast to coast direct dial was introduced in 1951; the Princess Phone in 1959; the Touch-Tone in 1964, and the ubiquitous cell phone went into mass production in 1985.

In 2004, 25% of all homes now have a computer, and 90% of persons 15–24 use computers. Orca Council is getting with the times and sending out its bi-monthly newsletter via e-mail.

There are many benefits to an “e-newsletter.” It will cut down on staff and volunteer time to copy, fold, address and mail the newsletters, save postage costs, save paper, and get the newsletter to you more quickly. It will also allow us to share photos of some of the great activities that clubs are doing, and publish the newsletter in color.

Another advantage to an electronic newsletter is that we will post each new issue on the council’s website (www.campfireusaorca.org). If, by chance, you have changed your e-mail address and do not receive a copy of the newsletter, you can always read it on the website. Older issues will be archived on the website, so you can always refer back to them.

The newsletter is in PDF (portable document format). The newsletter should open up automatically if you have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not, it can be downloaded for free from many websites, including <http://www.adobe.com/>

Crayola Crayons

- 1903 - 8 colors
- 1949 - 48 colors
- 1958 - 64 colors
- 1972 - 72 (fluorescent colors added)
- 1990 - 80 colors
- 1993 - 96 colors
- 1998 - 120 colors

Pass It On!

Do you have an e-mail list for all of your club members? If so, please forward this newsletter on to each of them, just in case we do not have their current e-mail address.

If we do not have your correct e-mail address, please take the time to e-mail it now to info@campfireusaorca.org. If you do not have access to a computer either at home or at a library, please call the office to be put on the list to receive a newsletter via mail.



This year's Wohelo Award recipients include: Kathy Griffin, Courtney Knauss, Chelsea Meints, Christelle Reyes, Victoria Reyes, Kelly Strand, and Jen Wheeler. Watch the council's website for their pictures and biographies following the award ceremony.

Friends for Life—History of a Camp Fire Club

by Claudia Knauss

We began as the Shooting Stars Starflight Club in September, 1992. I have always been the leader. Jo Meints is my co-leader. We then became the Shooting Stars Adventure Club. In 1998, the girls chose Ami Li To to be their Discovery and Horizon Club name because it means Friends Together for Life. Ami Li To just was easier to say than Ami To Li.

We were, for several years, a Blue Ribbon club. We have taken many field trips over the years, from the Aplets & Cotlets Factory to Planned Parenthood.

Among other locations, we have camped out at Odanowe Lodge, Pioneer Farm, Leavenworth, Lake Chelan and 25 Mile Creek.

We have taken trips together to Vancouver, BC, Portland, and Wenatchee, where we marched in the Apple Blossom Parade with a "sister" club we had corresponded with for Project Contact.

We have attended Adventures in Science & Arts and Washington Business Week, both held at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

We have hiked in Pt. Defiance and at Mt. Rainier.

We enjoy photography scavenger hunts and progressive dinners.

We wrote a cookbook together.

Two of our girls attended Camp Fire's National Convention last year in Chicago.

Our main focus has been building friendships and doing community service, which all the girls really enjoy. We have worked for the Phoenix Housing Network, making and serving meals, playing with the children, and raising money and purchasing new bedding, reading lamps, toys, books and stuffed animals for these homeless families with children. We served by leading Christmas crafts for Treasure House. Most recently we served on "Team Up For Sara" to boost enrollment on the National Bone Marrow Registry and raise funds for Sara Shuckhart's cancer treatment.

Of our current members, Courtney is the founding member (kindergarten). Jennifer Wheeler joined in 1st grade. Chelsea Meints and Kelly Strand came in 5th grade. Vicki Reyes joined in 6th, Christelle Reyes in 7th, and Kathy Griffin joined in 10th.

The girls formed a teen investment club, and were featured in *Better Investing*, NAIC's monthly magazine. They are using the proceeds of their investments to fund their senior trip in February 2005. They will be traveling to the Western Caribbean (Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Cozumel and Labadee) onboard Royal Caribbean's Navigator of the Seas. We are ALL very excited about that!

Leaders—*Claudia Knauss is an exceptionally organized and dedicated leader. Horizon level training for mere mortals is coming soon. Watch the website for details.*

Ami Li To Club

Honors We Earned

- Blue Ribbon Club
- Colgate Youth For Tomorrow Awards (2)
- God & Country Awards

Community Service Projects

- UPPC Coat & Blanket Drive
- Phoenix Housing Network
- YWCA Battered Women's Shelter
- Treasure Box - Holiday crafts
- PC Humane Society - Pets with a Purpose & Bath Brigade
- Blanket project—Community Bank
- All Services Ball
- Cookies for Firefighters
- Festival of Trees—made ornaments
- Mary Bridge Children's Hospital—made laminated books for patient library

Camp Fire Events We Attended or Sponsored

- National CFUSA Convention, Chicago
- Hidden Beach Day Camp
- Leavenworth Tree Lighting
- Family Bike Hike
- Council Fire
- Daffodil, Junior Daffodil, Gig Harbor & Wenatchee Apple Blossom Parades
- Luau
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Self-defense course
- Hiking Mt. Rainier National Park & Pt. Defiance
- Sleepless at Sealth
- Self-reliance Course

Activities We Enjoyed Together

- Auburn Dinner Theater
- Portland Theater
- Melting Pot
- Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC
- Aquacenter, Bellingham
- Sleigh ride
- Victorian Tea Party, Pt. Orchard
- Rafting
- Horseback Riding
- Harry Potter Opening Nights at the movies
- High Tea
- Missoula Children's Theater
- Snake Lake
- Feast with the Beasts, Pt. Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

National Projects We Completed

- Save The Bluebirds
- Project Contact
- Camp Fire's Birthday
- Valentines for Veterans
- Arbor Day
- Earth Day
- National Art Competition
- Candy Sale
- Hands Across The Border
- Camporee 2000, 2003
- Absolutely Incredible Kids Day

You can get a lot done in 13 years, eh?

TEENS IN ACTION



KICKOFF OCTOBER 6th

Attention all Teens! The Teens in Action Kickoff meeting is coming up on October 6th, 2004.

Teens in Action is for teens who want to make a difference in their communities and the world at large. We will be meeting every Wednesday evening throughout the school year.

Our teens will identify issues that are facing their communities and design service projects to address these issues. It will be a time of community building as well as personal growth. There will also be several retreats and fun celebrations throughout the year.

Youth leadership is necessary to build healthy communities. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to use your time and talents to make our world a better place to live!

Check the website for more information, or contact Trystin Street at (253) 597-6234 or tstreet@campfireusaorca.org.

Three Orca Council Counselors Volunteer at Port Angeles Camp by Bethie Combs

This summer Megan Doherty, Desiree Dapping and I were asked to volunteer at Camp Wolochee, the resident camp run by Camp Fire's Juan de Fuca Council. Much like our usual resident camp, Camp Smokey, we all thoroughly enjoyed our stay and were welcomed by other kind Camp Fire faces.

Like a typical camp there were prank wars between the boys and girls cabins, the all-camp dance, in addition to many of the other all camp activities that the kids come back to enjoy year after year.

I enjoyed it so much and made good friends during my short stay at the beautiful lake side site that I fully intend on returning next year.



Beginning in September, Puyallup School District students will experience a new school schedule on Wednesdays. All students will be dismissed early every Wednesday afternoon. This new schedule, called the Learning Improvement Calendar, does not reduce the total amount of time students are in class.

The new calendar puts these random half days into a regular schedule. Last year, for instance, Puyallup elementary students were dismissed early on 22 days for parent conferences and required teacher training, sometimes on Tuesdays, sometimes on Thursdays, sometimes on Wednesdays.

This year parents of children at Waller Road and Riverside elementaries have another option. Orca Council is offering activities in those schools on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year.

The program will be a combination of club and self reliance, with a time for kids to finish homework and be tutored.



Thursday Activities at Tahoma View Apartments

There is a brand new Community Family Club starting up at the Tahoma View Apartments at 156 112th Street in Tacoma. The club will be meeting on Thursday afternoons throughout the school year.

The Community Family Club offers parents a unique opportunity to find a community support group for raising their children and provides for positive family interaction, built around experiences and activities that are structured, educational and fun.

Orca Council is always open to starting new clubs in areas of interest so please contact Trystin at 253-597-6234, ext. 18 if you'd like to be involved. The council also has an existing club at the Fircrest United Methodist Church.



CLUB LEADERS!

A first aid class is coming soon!
The date and time will be announced shortly. Watch the website for details.

Camp Fire—It's What's Happening Wednesday Afternoons at Waller Road and Riverside Elementaries

We are looking for volunteers to commit 3 hours a week to building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

Please contact Trystin at (253) 597-6234 to volunteer, or to sign up your child for the after-school program.

Camp!

by Trystin Street

Our 2004 camp season has come to a close. We had a fantastic year serving over 500 youth at our six camps. This summer we ran the following five day camps and one resident camp:

Camp Peace is a partnership between Camp Fire USA Orca Council, Peace Community Center, TEACH, and the Hilltop Learning Center. Together, we provide a five week day camp for youth in the Hilltop neighborhood, and youth from the local shelters. Over 50 campers participated.

Every day included an educational component with help in math and reading, and also a Bible Study. On Tuesdays, the kids went swimming at the Peoples Center in Tacoma. Every Thursday was field trip day with excursions to the zoo, the skating rink, even Wild Waves! On Mondays and Wednesdays, guest speakers were invited. Campers got a chance to meet and ask questions of Tacoma Mayor Bill Barsma.

Camp Peace ran from June 28th to July 29th.

Wildwood Day Camp in Puyallup is directed by sisters Johna Noble and Jaimie Ping.

This year Camp was back at its original Wildwood Park site and the theme was "Let's Go Nut's" with Chip the squirrel/chipmunk as the mascot. Wildwood campers had a great week that included an overnight for the older campers. Wildwood is one of our only day camps that can still offer archery as an activity.

Wildwood is VERY tentatively scheduled for the last week in June next summer.

Kopachuck Day Camp, located in the beautiful Kopachuck State Park in Gig Harbor, is always a favorite among campers and youth staff. It is directed by Camp Fire leader and volunteer Judy Holt.

This year, Kopachuck had an international theme that included traditional food and crafts from all over the world.

Kopachuck is an energetic, fun filled camp that always includes some great beach exploration and a big water fight at the end of the week.

Hidden Beach Day Camp in Tacoma was directed by council staff member Trystin Oeljen Street. The theme was "Passport to Adventure." Campers collected stamps in their passports that represented the part of the world they explored each day.

Campers learned crafts and games from different cultures and ate international foods each day. They listened to stories from a Native American Storyteller, played African drums, and even broke some Piñatas from Mexico.



High-Flying Camp Director DiDi Monroe arrived via helicopter on opening day.

Wohelo Day Camp, directed by DiDi Monroe, is one of our largest day camps. This year's theme was "The Cat in the Hat."

All week long, fun and amazing things happened in Whoville, from the "Cat" arriving by helicopter on the first day of camp, to the Thursday night parent production and overnighiter.



Camp Smokey was a huge hit this summer. The theme was "Survivor."

Campers belonged to one of nine tribes that faced each other every day in head to head competitions during Trooper's Challenge. The challenges were difficult, (and sometimes a little gross), but the competitors gave it their all. ultimate survivors!

One of the elements that made Camp

Smokey so successful this year was the caring, nurturing staff. I've worked at various camps for over 10 years and I know it takes more than good programming to make a good camp.

Camp is about the experience. It's about feeling safe enough to be who you are. It's about making new friends, and strengthening old friendships. It's about learning new skills, having fun, and making memories that last a lifetime. Only at camp could an orange ceramic pig become the most coveted item at dinner, and putting on a play for small children about fairies become fun for high school boys. It's always been amazing to see how campers are transformed from scared, shy kids to confident, secure young adults within one short week.

I recall one of our SIT 1 (Staff in Training) girls who was attending Camp Smokey for the first time and came by herself. She was absolutely terrified on the first day of camp and felt shy and alone. As the week progressed she became a more confident, outgoing young woman who was making friends, interacting with younger campers, and succeeding in her many SIT duties. On the last day of camp she had a hard time saying goodbye to all of her new friends.

Parents: please plan ahead to give your kids the experience of a lifetime next summer. Camp Smokey will be held August 14-20, 2005. More information and registrations will be out in just a few months.

Finally, I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered at camp this summer. It's because of people like you that our organization and our camps are so successful.

THANK YOU!



Do you have photos to share?

We'd love to show them off in our next newsletter. E-mail digital photos directly to francesr@nwlinc.com.

Regular photos should be sent to the council office.