



WINTER ISSUE... 2014

The Cheley **PACK RAT**

CHELEY COLORADO CAMPS
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IN THIS ISSUE...

What is Your Legacy?	1
Camp Dates for 2014.....	2
Flood Update	2
2014 Slide Show and Camper Fairs.....	3
Carrying the Code Kickoff!	3
The Pack Rat Will Still Arrive in Your Mailbox	4
Welcome to Annie Rahn.....	4
2013 Cheley Staff demonstrate their support for the JAC Foundation	4
Introduction of AJ	5
2013 Unit Videos and All-Camp Campfire Skits.....	5
Announcing the 2014 CILTs.....	5
Around the Campfire	6 & 7
Cheley Surveys.....	8

What is Your Legacy?

Over the holidays I saw a poster that was labeled “Things Jean taught us by example” at a children’s center in Denver. The poster included comments like:

Find positive attributes in all those who are part of the school

Be first to arrive and last to leave school

Communicate wisely

Listen

To do your best gives your life meaning

My first thought was “I would love to know Jean”. My second thought was “I wonder if Jean is looking for a job this summer.” My third thought was “What a great idea to think about what I would want my poster to say.” This poster got me thinking about the opportunity each of us has to leave a legacy. For some, it is leading a large organization or consistently participating with non-profit organizations. For others, it is working as a teacher in a career full of impacting lives. For parents, it is raising children that will hopefully grow up to be happy, contributing members of their community. But you don’t have to wait until you grow up to create a legacy. I can still remember friends from elementary school that taught me to be a better teammate, a better student, or a bit nicer to my friends.



At the beginning of the year, many of us take time to set goals and resolutions for the year. Many of us vow to be healthier, more responsible or make more time for our family and friends. Unfortunately, life gets busy and often these goals get forgotten. I love the idea of spending some time thinking about the legacy I want to leave. If a group of people get together and talk about “things Jeff taught us by example”, what do I want on that

Continued on page 3



Trigger Bill says...

Chains of habit are usually too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.



CAMP DATES FOR 2014

Full Season:

Wed. June 18th – Mon. Aug. 11th

First Term:

Wed. June 18th – Mon. July 14th

Second Term:

Wed. July 16th – Mon. Aug. 11th

Family Camp:

Tues. Aug. 12th – Sun. Aug 17th

Omission from the Fall Pack Rat

Lily Brilz received her Riding Patch second term Chipeta, and we apologize for missing this in the last Pack Rat.

PACK RAT PUT TOGETHER BY

Around the Campfire: Cheley Staff
Staff Updates: Jeff Cheley
Camper Information: Jeff Cheley
Layout: Cheley Staff
Editor: Jeff Cheley

**Any news for the Pack Rat?
e-mail to: office@cheley.com**

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Flood Update

When Mother Nature wowed us with her ability to produce a great deal of water during the middle of September, the safe haven that our campers and staff call their second home seemed threatened. We are a 94 year old business and it is part of our legacy to buckle down, plow through, focus on the positive and repair. With the grace of wonderful people, we have taken it one step at a time, just like our fellow neighbors.

An amazing amount of work has been completed. There are some things that might look different this summer: a change in the course of a stream, a little less grass in some areas, some additional trees fallen in the woods or some debris in the river. Some of the clean up will take more time. The evidence of the power of Mother Nature will still be obvious this summer. We continue to be grateful that there was minimal damage to buildings and to camp overall, we cannot say enough about our hard-working facility crew, we are grateful to have the time to repair, and most of all we are happy to be here to provide the Cheley experience for 2014.

Here is an update on where we are and what is next:

- The basements of the staff housing that were flooded have been repaired, re-carpeted and improved.
- We have replaced many culverts throughout camp. They are bigger and better than the previous ones.
- The road into camp has been repaired and just needs some grading in the spring.
- The museum has been cleaned out and many items cleaned and repaired. It will be put back together in due time. We will take this time to re-evaluate and make sure that it is quality work.
- We are happy that our ranch manager and his family are back in their home.
- We have been landscaping the ranch to fill in the gulleys and direct

the stream back into one channel. We have used the excess sediment in other places.

- We will continue to work with the Park and Recreation Department to repair the county's trail along Fish Creek Road.
- We have completed all of the road work in and throughout The Outpost. All three outcamping sites are in good shape and ready for next summer.
- We completed a few weeks of work at Girls' Trail's End to repair the river, some of the road and the barn area. We have scheduled to resume work in mid-April to be ready for the arrival of campers.
- We have fixed some of the damage that was done to the water plant and we are submitting our plans for improvements in the spring.

We feel truly blessed to have such amazing support from our Cheley community. We appreciate your concern and for your offers to help. The volunteer work weekend will be Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th. Volunteers must be 18 or older, we will provide food and housing, and we will send out sign up information at a later time. Please save the date if you are interested in helping. This date has changed since our Flood Update in December after looking at the calendar. Keep in mind that this weekend is dependent on good weather.



CHELEY PACK RAT is published three 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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2014 Slide Show and Camper Fairs

**Friday, January 31st, 6:00 pm,
Kansas City Show,** The home of the
Cook Family, 3700 Shawnee Mission
Pkwy Fairway, KS 66205

**Saturday, February 1st, 5:00 pm, St
Louis Show,** Home of the Bingaman
Family, 76 Lake Forest Drive, St Louis,
MO. 63117. RSVP 314-644-2465 or
deannbingaman@gmail.com

**Tuesday, February 4th, 6:30 pm,
Atlanta Show,** Home of the McCollum
Family, 456 Peachtree Battle Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30305. RSVP 404-964-7778
or yanceymccollum@yahoo.com

**Wednesday, February 19th,
Washington DC, 6:30 pm,** The
Columbia Country Club, Party Room
in Family Activities Building, 7900
Connecticut Ave. Chevy Chase, MD
20815. 301-951-5000 (Park on East
West Highway side, enter through pool
entrance)

**Thursday, February 20th, Boston
area show, 6:30 pm,** The home of the
Hoffman Family, 1075 Concord Rd,
Sudbury, MA 01776 RSVP to Judy at
judyhoffman10@aol.com or
978-771-4126

**Friday, February 21st, New York
City, 6:30 pm,** The home of the
Sussman Family, 1230 Park Avenue 5D,
New York, NY. 10128. RSVP to Jane at
jhsussman@me.com or 917-531-7532

**Sunday, February 23rd, 4:00 pm,
Winnetka Show,** Winnetka Community
House, East Garden Room, 620 Lincoln
Avenue, Winnetka, IL 60093.
847-446-0537

**Sunday, February 23rd, 7:00 pm,
Chicago Show,** Home of the Walker-
Rudnick Family, 60 East Elm Street,
Chicago, IL 60611. RSVP 312-972-0580
or llwalker2@yahoo.com



Carrying the Code Kickoff!

This is exciting news! This is the start of our recognition of Carrying the Code. We love the camp community created by the Code of Living during the summer. We hear campers say that they are their best selves while at camp and we feel so fortunate to witness this success. We feel a sense of responsibility to provide a safe place for campers to be able find themselves, gain more confidence in their independence, and strengthen the skills needed to positively contribute to this ever-changing world. Our hope is that our campers carry the code into



Carrying the Code

their everyday lives at home. AND we want to hear about it! Please drop us an email or give us a call when your child, your camp friend, a staff member, an alumnus has done something that you feel represents the Code of Living. We will send them a note from the office and may put a little something on Facebook. Wahoo! Let's hear it. We can't wait!

What is Your Legacy?

Continued from page 1

list? It probably won't be that I tried to squeeze every last minute out of my workday or that I could answer emails while listening to a webinar. If I had to choose the legacy I want to leave, it would be about being a good father, a good husband, a good friend, and someone who dedicated himself to the development of others. I know my legacy will always be developing and changing, but each day I strive to lead by example.

As you start 2014, what are you teaching by example? What is your legacy?

– Jeff Cheley



*Think like a person of
action, and act like a
person of thought.*





*A little more
determination, a little
more pluck, a little more
work – that's luck.*



The Pack Rat Will Still Arrive in Your Mailbox

Our alumni spoke loud and clear that you still enjoy receiving your Cheley Pack Rat in your mailbox and not just in your Inbox. We received over 80 emails, 5 letters, and numerous phone calls from people who still enjoy their paper copy. Emails were still arriving over a month after we mailed the Pack Rat. We will also post the Pack Rat online after it is mailed. Some of the comments included:

"I give 'two thumbs' up to keeping a printed version of the Pack Rat at least 2 - 3 times per year. I love getting mine, always read it cover to cover, and like the format." **Melissa Walker**

Delta Ruby called the office to let us know she loves receiving her Pack Rat.

"I was on staff with Cheley Camps from 1963 thru 1971. What a GREAT experience those 9 summers were. And will NEVER forget working with Jack and Ernie, and of course as a "gofor" with Jimmy Wilson..... 3 wonderful men." **Daryl Johnson**

"Since my Cheley years were from 1940 to 1952 (and my parents were involved much longer), I enjoy news of my contemporaries and how the past ties in with the present." **Sally Altick Keller**

"Thank you, also, for the amazing job that Cheley has done

for young people since my dad and uncle were some of the first Cheley campers at Bear Lake Trail School. I fondly remember my years at Cheley, and happily reflect on them daily. If I want to go to a happy place in my mind, it is definitely Trails End Ranch for Girls. You are helping the world by helping the young people in it. You certainly change lives for the better." **Judy Coombs Schreiber**

Welcome to Annie Rahn

Chris and Amber Rahn welcomed their second daughter, Annie Celeste Rahn, to the world on September 10th, 2013. She had two days of our full attention before the flood hit. Annie and her older sister Trinity were our little beacons of bright light and happiness during the months following the flood. Annie has the sweetest demeanor and is overall just an incredibly happy baby. She sleeps through the night and loves watching her big sister.



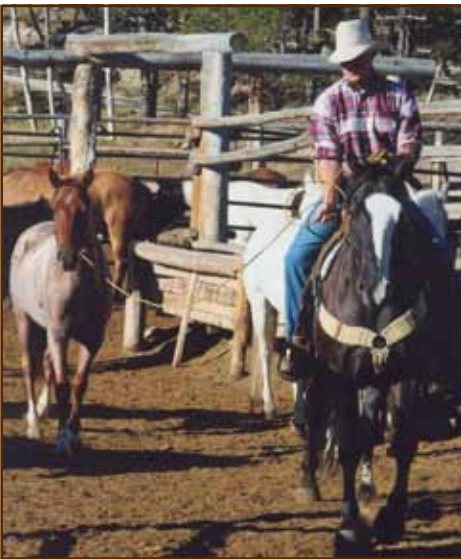
2013 Cheley Staff demonstrate their support for the John Austin Cheley Foundation

For the fifth summer, we challenged our staff to donate money to the John Austin Cheley Foundation from their final paychecks. This summer they donated more than \$5,000. 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 impact of four weeks at camp. We are humbled by their support. Each of the Cheley families (Jeff & Erika Cheley, Kurt & Brooke Cheley-Klebe, and Don & Carole Cheley) along with Microsoft Corporation agreed to match the donations from the staff. With all the matches, the John Austin Cheley Foundation received over \$25,000 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. The JAC Foundation has a goal of sending over 110 campers to 6 camps around the country during the summer of 2014. To learn more about the Foundation, check out www.cheleyfoundation.org



Introduction of AJ

We are excited to introduce you to AJ Burke, the new Assistant Ranch Manager. Chris Schrader and his family moved to Arizona this fall to be closer to Taylor's family which meant we needed some help. After reviewing over 60 resumes and conducting 10 phone interviews, the group decided that AJ was the best guy for the job. Before he came to Cheley he was working for dude ranches, packing outfits and cattle ranches across the western US. He was also in the US Army and served 5 years as an infantryman. AJ impressed Jeff and Chris Rahn during his phone interview when he talked about the demands of supporting hunting trips in Glacier National Park. In his free time he likes to work with horses, play pool and go hiking/camping. AJ is excited to join the Cheley team.



2013 Unit Videos and All-Camp Campfire Skits

In case you didn't receive the email in December, we have posted all the unit videos from 2013. 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 provide these videos with the 2013 DVD that is sent out in early March. We have also posted all of the 2013 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.

Announcing CILTs for Summer 2014

We are excited to announce the CILTs for the summer of 2014. Last summer, we had 57 campers apply for the CILT program. We are excited that we have this many campers who are still dedicated to attending camp during their junior and senior years of high school. It is always a very challenging decision since we have watched many of the applicants grow up at camp. 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 – Meredith Bower, Alicia Comer, Courtney Greer, Griffith Greer, Sierra Johnson-Golding, Rosemary Krudewig, Amanda McDonald, and Maggie Mullins.

Senior Chipeta 2nd Term – Suraya Foster, Ashley Jones, Jennifer Laidlaw, Amanda Markoe, Grace McCamy-Miller, Madison Nardi, and Jessica Savage

GTE 1st Term – Danielle Golub, Meredith Manda, Abigail Nadler, Gretchen Price, Annie Laurie Vann, Liesel Woollett, and Maggie Zeidwig.

GTE 2nd Term – Kelsey Critin, Lindsay Daniels, Emma Jenevein, and Wittney Skigen.

Haiyaha 1st Term – Ross Ackerman, Josh Copito, Austin Krueger, Evan LeJeal, Josh Levinson, Kai Lindsay, Spencer Papay, Hank Perkins, and Peter Rosston.

Haiyaha 2nd Term – Max Bucksbaum, Sam Gillespie, Dylan Lederer, and Alex Roederer

BTE 2nd Term – Jackson Burow, Drake DiAngelo, and Theo Ubben



Going around in circles doesn't make you a big wheel.





Anger is only
one letter short of
danger.



Around the Campfire ... with Cheley Friends

1940s

Cora (Coke) Altick Petrocine (staff 1941 -1942) celebrated her 90th birthday in May 2013. The Petrocine, Walton and Keller families gathered in Estes Park to honor her. They said it was definitely FUN +.

Laura Woodworth was going through her Grandma's photos and came across a photo that was taken at Cheley Camp in the Rocky Mountains in 1943. She thought she would share! The blonde in the center is her grandma Maxine Todd. Her name was Maxine Leinweber when the photo was taken.



1960s

Michael Pointer (camper 1967 - 1969) writes that he continues to work on humanitarian projects in Afghanistan, mostly with the Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan as an advisory board member. He just moved to Overland Park, KS. He is looking forward to the work weekend so that he can give back some of what Cheley gave to him.

Sheridan Evans (camper 1967 - 1969) writes that he is a Physician in private practice in McKinney, TX. He is married with 2 boys.

1970s

Van Grotenhuis (camper 1974, staff - 1908) and his wife **Kathy Moore**

(camper 1976 - 1979) celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary hiking in the Jungfrau Region of Switzerland in September 2013.

2000s

Alice Hodgkins Courtright (1999 - 2006) was ordained as a deacon in October 2013.

In Passing

Dorothy Deitchler (staff 1981 - 1998) passed away at 88 years old. She was a cook at BTE. Dorothy loved her summers at camp and the highlight for her was the friends that she made. Her sense of humor, big heart, sparkling spirit and amazing baked rolls touched so many people.

Elizabeth "Betty" Chamberlin passed away on Dec 23rd in Estes Park. Betty and her husband Bob were on Frank's Staff in the late 30s. They remained involved for the next three decades in numerous administrative roles. Bob was the first Principle of Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver in 1961. They had three sons Jim, Tom and Rob. When they retired they moved to Estes Park and built a house on some land that was promised to them by Muriel McGregor.

They both were very active in Estes Park and Betty continued to be a ray of sunshine for the remainder of her life.

Vivien Ragsdale passed away at 100 years old in Arcadia, CA. Her love for nature was fostered by Cheley. In 1926 when she was thirteen Vivien became a camper when camp first opened to girls. When she outgrew her role as a camper, she worked as a counselor until 1938. She was an avid hiker and credited the mountain air for her strong constitution.

Linda Lucille Pigg Schroeder (camper - 1951- 60; staff - 1961- 63) passed away at age 72. She grew up spending her summers at Cheley with

her parents who were counselors. She loved the mountains. Linda was a former John Austin Cheley Foundation Board member.

Janet Clark McCoy passed away at 88 years old. She was born in Kansas. Janet was a buyer for Macy's. Janet and her husband were very involved in fund raising, travel and meeting new people.

Sally Fitzpatrick Postma (camper in the 30's) Rosalea Carter wrote us to say that Sally passed away and she sent us a decal from the 30's that she found in her mother's things.

Ethan Greenberg (camper 2002 - 2009) passed away this past December due to complications from Type 1 Diabetes.

Wedding Bells

Laura Edwards (staff 2007-2008) and **Brian Hatesohl** (staff 2008, 2011) were married in the Cheley Chapel this past September. Linda Hanick shared that "the sun broke through the clouds at the close of the service, and the folks who had never had a "Cheley Experience" became believers."



Future Campers

Congrats to **Jenny Keller Brown** (staff 1997-2000) and her husband Roger who welcomed twins on January 14. Sydney was 6 lb. 3 oz and Mickey was 5 lb 6 oz. We hope to see you out on the slopes and on the hiking trails with those little ones soon.

Alumni Spotlight

Kristin Knight (was a camper from 1996 to 2001 and on staff in 2004 at GTE. We recently received the following update from Kristin.

Hi Cheleys! I wanted to write and let you know that we just ran our first Iditarod qualifying race this past weekend and the dogs did awesome! We came in 23rd out of 44 teams in the Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog Race,



which has a reputation for being the toughest 300 miles in Alaska. Throughout the whole race, I relied on lessons I learned at camp. Always stay positive. Take on challenges one step at a time. Never fail to help others who need you. In this race we climbed huge mountains and dropped steeply down the other side. We crossed major flowing rivers up to my knees. We ran 96 miles a day. It was spectacular, and I know I never would have had the courage to live this adventurous life if not for camp. THANK YOU! I love and miss you all!!
Kristin Knight Pace



Character is not made in a crisis; it is only exhibited then.





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Cheley Surveys

Thank you to those parents who completed the parent/camper online survey regarding the summer of 2013. We received over 150 responses to the online survey. As with so many of our activities, we have to take time and evaluate where we are so we can move ahead. We felt that the summer of 2013 was a huge success but we also realize there are always areas for improvement. We spend much of our off-season evaluating our program and exploring improvements for the future. We held a drawing for three \$50 gift certificates to the Cheley store for those families who completed the survey. The winners were:

- Isabel Horst
- Eliza Howard
- Thomas Rames

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.



There are extraordinary possibilities in most ordinary people.

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

