MR. MOON SHINES ON ...

Exciting things are happening this summer, with the addition of some new waterfront “toys”.

**WATER TRAMPOLINE**

Jump, splash, and get soaked on this incredible bouncing water-version of a trampoline.

**NEW SAILBOATS**

Six new sailboats are joining the other water craft at the waterfront this summer. Imagine a warm and sunny lazy day floating Sunnen Lake in a sailboat across the sparkling water and blue sky overhead. What a perfect day...

**ZORB BALLS®**

Talk about walking on water! These huge balls allows a person to climb inside and “walk” around on the lake. Sure to be a hit down at the waterfront, you’ll have to come down and try one out!

A few waterfront-international summer staff with new sailboats and instructors (above)

Not only do we have an amazing staff at Camp Lakewood this summer, we also have some great new activities! SNAG Golf kicked off this week and the campers are having a great time learning the basics of this classic game. Our expanded Digital Animation program is now being offered for Explorer aged campers, and it is proving to be very popular. The waterfront added a brand new trampoline with a slide and the ever popular balance beam! Also, YMCA Trout Lodge has added a paintball course, and Camp Lakewood may get to experiment with it from time to time this summer before we add our own paintball program in the summer of 2015!

Sitting out in the sun, I smiled from ear to ear as a 6’4” counselor strode by dressed as a faerie godmother with a pack of Raptor girls hot on his heels, anxious to earn the next clue in the “all camp game” and I thought, “Welcome to Camp!” There’s no place like it, and I know I am blessed because I get to be a part of this family every summer. And if you’re reading this, so do you. So don’t miss out on this magic thing we call camp. We’ll be here all summer, and we hope you’ll come join us “around the campfire”!

**AROUND THE CAMPFIRE**

Camp... IS... HERE! Laughter rolled across the grounds as the first session of the 2014 summer camp season got underway. All of the old camp traditions like the Wacky Campfire and “no utensils” spaghetti dinner got a breath of new life as this year’s staff and campers made them their own. The chorus of “My Camp!” rings out loud and proud once again as each camper makes Lakewood their special home away from home. It’s a good time to be at camp.

Summer Camp Director, Jill ‘KC’ Sells, spent many months diligently recruiting the staff for the summer 2014, and the results of her hard work are obvious. Many of the campers’ favorite staff members are back, and we have also added some great new counselors recruited from here at home and around the world. KC ran the staff through a rigorous training program that produced an incredibly creative, child-focused and safety conscious group of young people, and the 2014 waterfront team is proud to have set a new record for the number of registered lifeguards on staff.

**Matt “Mufasa” Garcia**
Camp Director, YMCA Camp Lakewood
This year’s Alumni Reunion & Service Weekend was held on May 16–18, 2014. Former staff from around the country returned home for the weekend of May 16–18. Us “old” counselors stayed across Sunnen Lake in our “old” cabins at East Camp. For some folks, the reunion is an annual event, while for others this may have been their first trip back to Lakewood since their days as a counselor. As such, hugs were shared and introductions made around an evening campfire, with s’mores and stories filling the night. Saturday morning started early, with Paul Pfeiffer briefing us on the work projects scheduled for the day and Jeff Lot stressing concern for safety. The major project focused on three Lakewood cabins that no longer had that WOW appeal from the outside. For the next seven hours, leaves were raked and burned that had accumulated around the cabin, the outside of the cabins were stained with redwood color, and the bathrooms/living area/bunk beds were painted. Window and door trim, along with the porches, received green paint, and the finishing touch came with the repainting of the cabin signs! New skirting was cut and attached by the Y staff, and was painted as well. A second work project involved the painting of the entryway to Lakewood Lodge. BBQ dinner was on Saturday over at East Camp, with four different Dutch oven desserts to sample. There was another campfire and then the traditional lighting of the Chinese lanterns and launching from the dam. These lanterns represent our time spent at Lakewood, our departure, and the glow we leave behind.

-Marty Pliske, Alum and Alumni Committee Member
Thank you Alumni for giving up your weekend to help Camp Lakewood get ready for summer. You are greatly appreciated!

- YMCA

The Y so appreciates all of the effort put into the service weekends by all of the alumni, and we want to take this opportunity to give a special “thank you” to Alum Eric Work (middle picture above, standing on right in a blue hoodie). In addition to heavily promoting the start (hopefully of many) of these service weekends, he has also been volunteering his time and talents at Trout Lodge when an extra hand was needed (last winter during our Pioneer Christmas Village event; this Spring/Summer helping out at the boathouse and more). Eric truly has a big heart for the Y, and we certainly have a big heart for Eric! As a benefit to Eric, CenturyLink will make a donation to the Y as the result of volunteer hours put in by their employees.

With no fanfare or accolades, Alum Paul Pfeiffer (pictured to left dressed in white on a ladder) also visits Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood on a volunteer basis to help with various projects including cutting firewood this past fall and other jobs, and came down a week early prior to the service weekend to prepare the East Camp cabins for updating. We want to thank Paul for all he does for the Y. He truly makes a difference with his time and talents and we are most appreciative for all his hard work.

Beginning in June, the Y’s new paintball course will be open and ready for the “warriors” to come out and play. This natural, rustic and wooded course was some time in the planning and making, and has finally become a reality. Located at the Ranch/Camp Lakewood end of the property near the Camp Lakewood archery area, this course will include all of the equipment needed to let your family and friends “have it”! Come on down and check out our awesome paintball experience—all part of the continuing expansion of activities at the Y.
UPCOMING EVENTS

May 24

**TROUT LODGE WATERFRONT OPENED**
The sun was bright and bouncing off the water – the perfect time to enjoy swimming, the water slide, rope swing, Zorb balls, Banana boat, water trampoline and all of the other waterfront activities at Trout Lodge. Bring the whole family for a fantastic summer vacation.

June 1

**CAMP LAKEWOOD SUMMER CAMP BEGAN**
Session 1 began on June 1st, and along with mini-camp, tween-camp, pre-teen camp, ranch camp, main camp, east camp and more – Camp Lakewood is the place to be. If you have children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, let them experience the joy of Camp Lakewood. Continue the legacy of coming to Camp Lakewood.

June 11

**22ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**
The annual charity golf tournament & auction supports sending children to Camp Lakewood. This event was held at Tapawingo Golf Club, and the Y was able to raise enough donations to send 60-80 more children to camp! (Side note: Even at the Tapawingo golf club, we met a staff person who had gone to Camp Lakewood as a camper years ago and still has many fond memories!).

If you don’t already receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact us at bcampbell@ymcastlouis.org, and we will add your name to our e-mail list. You will then get the full experience of reading this publication in color. You may also visit our website at www.ymcaoftheozarks.org, click on the Alumni tab at the top of the home page, scroll down until you find the most recent newsletter, click and enjoy.