

# Virginia Elks Association News

July 29, 2012



**Virginia Elks Association Youth Camp  
Millboro, Virginia**

## **Virginia Elks Youth Camp**

August Newsletter

By Jay Bonnell, President

August is upon us, and it is the last week of camp. The last week of boys arrived on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July and will return home on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. It's been a pretty wild ride this season. The first week of camp for the girl's ended with a terrific storm on Friday night that knocked out power and downed several trees. I drove through the storm and arrived at camp around 1 o'clock in the morning. I literally had to get out several times and cut my way through fallen trees. Mike the Ranger heard of the approaching storm and warned Susie. Together they rounded everyone up and took them into the dining hall. When I arrived at camp the girl's along with the staff were asleep in the hall. By noon Saturday morning, all the girl's had been picked and were on there way home. Because of the power being out and not having any water, the decision was made to cancel week 2 of girl's camp and combine week 2 with week 3. We almost had to cancel week 3 also, but around 9:30 Saturday morning Mike Journell called me with the good news that the power was restored. With a lot of hasty calls and emails we were able to round up 101 girls for week 3. During the closed week of camp, Mike and Susie, along with several staff members started the cleanup around the camp and assess the damage. Aside from trees and debris, there was minor damage to the office roof and the roof on two cabins. Because of having no power, we lost all perishable food in the freezer and coolers. To make matters worse, there was a report of a fire on top of the mountain. The forest rangers camped out in the field by the rope bridge to give them easy access to the mountain. Luckily they got to it soon enough and had it extinguished in a couple of days. The insurance adjustor came to the camp on the 16<sup>th</sup> to assess the damage done by the storm and to talk with Mike and Susie. After several hours he left with all the info to take to the insurance company. He said because of all the damage in the area that it would take several weeks to get a report back from the insurance company. After all this I would like to thank Mike, Susie and the crew for working through these conditions and getting the camp in good shape to open for week 3.

I would like to remind the Executive Committee of our work session meeting at the camp on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM. We have several things that need to be done before the October meeting in Va. Beach. Hoping to see all of you there.

**"Remember, *YOU* can make a difference."**

Submitted by Jay Bonnell