Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

Field Trip to Ship Island

By Sierra Price

On September 11, ***Jimmy and Merle Parker*** sponsored a field trip to Ship Island for Sunbelt. They provided meals and covered all of the expenses. This was our first field trip of the 2010 school year.

To get to Ship Island we had to take a ferry, which was a new experience for many of the us. While on the ferry we got to see dolphins and several different kinds of birds.

Ship Island not only had a beach to play on but also had educational benefits. The island has one of the last masonry coastal fortifications to be built in America, Fort Massachusetts. We were able to take a guided tour of the fort, where we learned that it had been built following the War of 1812 and remained in use until 1903. We also learned that during the Civil War the fort was used as the staging area for the Union forces' invasion of New Orleans.

The trip to Ship Island was an amazing field trip and we would like to extend a **Thank You** to Mr. & Mrs. Parker for all their help.

Sunbelt Christian School Happenings

By John Monferdini

August 30th was the first day of the 2010-2011 school year. On September 11th we took our first class field trip to Ship Island.

Our senior this year, Angelique, confirmed she will earn an accredited diploma. To do this she is taking a very challenging course load. We are proud of her decision and we look forward to celebrating at her Graduation on May 28th 2011.

The school has a new Civil War display, complete with authentic ordinance. Additionally, our science students can now get "hands on" learning using our life size, take apart human torso.

How I Got Involved

By Robin Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch Board of Directors

More than twenty years ago, the nicest couple visited New Testament Christian Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. We were so impressed with them; they were so hard-working and dedicated. They told of working as houseparents at a children's home in Lake, Mississippi, run by Cookson Hills. That group had decided to close the home, and this wonderful couple hoped to keep it running as Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch. So began our long and dear friendship with Theron and Linda Harris.

Because Theron and Linda had such a good history working with the kids, and because they had a good, solid plan for the future of the Ranch, we signed up for the "Five Alive Club." We, along with a number of others, pledged to give five dollars to Sunbelt every month. It seemed like a significant commitment back then!

We moved to Baton Rouge for law school from 1992 to 1995 and then returned to Lake Charles. Soon after, one of the board members asked if one of us would like to serve on the board of directors. Jim was driving trucks all over the country at that time, and it would have been difficult for him to attend meetings, so I was the logical choice. The board elected me secretary at my first meeting, and the rest is history.

It is a real privilege to serve with dedicated Christians on the Sunbelt board. We have such wonderful friends in Theron and Linda, Cade and Angie, John and Ginnie Lee and Bel, and we have known some fabulous kids through the years. We have watched the Ranch grow from $5 monthly commitments to a financially sound ministry with workers dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our kids. It's a long drive from Lake Charles, LA to Lake, MS, and we make it four times a year. It's always worth the trip.

Board of Directors

Sunbelt is governed by a Board of Directors made up of individuals who travel from as far away as Texas and Georgia to help guide this ministry. Every October officers are elected from among the current members to serve a one year term. Serving for 2011 are:

- Jack Roebuck, Chairman
- Ron English, Vice-Chairman
- Stony Lockridge, Vice-Chairman
- Robin Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Thank you to all the men and women of our Board.

Gifts In Memory Of

	Given by:
Eric Swisher	Sidney M. Beaver
Lonnie Fontenot	Mr. & Mrs. TJ Fontenot

Ranch Needs

- Style 7 Vacuum Cleaner Bags
- 30 & 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- Zip Lock Bags
- Freezer Paper & Wax Paper
- Size 2 Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Food
- Wheelchair 24” Seat

East Win Christian Church Workgroup

Members of East Win Christian Church, in Memphis TN, came the weekend of October 15th and 16th. Led by ***Harrison Dunn*** they continued work on our newest cottage by finishing drywall and hanging paneling. They also helped with wiring in our shop. Our thanks go out to all the folks who came and gave of their time and efforts.

Our Mission Statement

“Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch is a non-profit ministry committed to the premise that all children have a right to a Christian home and family. Our purpose is to provide at-risk children, regardless of social, religious or ethnic background, that opportunity. Our goal is to nurture them in becoming stable, productive Christian citizens.”

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