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# A New Look



You have probably noticed a new look to the Smoke Signal. One reason is to emphasize a change to The Old Kia Kima Preservation Association. In September the board unanimously approved a change to better reflect what is going on at camp. The legal name is still The Old Kia Kima Preservation Association, however we will be doing business as Old Kia Kima. The Banner at the top of page one now only contains a bigger round Old Kia Kima logo and does not contain the OKKPA logo.

Also a new look is taking place at Old Kia Kima. As you may know there has been a drive to restore the old camp infirmary (hospital) and to build an auxiliary rest room at the northern end of the camp.

We are happy to announce that both projects are now funded and should be completed by the spring work weekend. As of now the roof has been ordered, the concrete floor poured, and the conduit put in place at the infirmary. In addition a deck has been built to increase the size of the back porch overlooking the river.

A third approved project has not yet been fully

funded. That project is to purchase a gasoline cart to use in transporting people and equipment to various remote parts of the camp. We still have some funds to raise in order to complete this project.

Another change that will warm the hearts of many members will be completed by the end of the year. We are obtaining five acres and the dining old hall building. The board will be looking into how to repair and utilize the building. The land surrounding it will be very useful as well.

One last bit of news - Stephen O'Neal of the Arkansas Stream Team is applying on our behalf for a \$20,000 WHIP grant in order to stabilize the bank of the South Fork on our side of the river. It will pay for 75% of the cost with the rest furnished by Old Kia Kima. We have almost all of that \$5,000 available from a previous Arkansas grant. This should greatly improve the north banks of the river. The owners of the south side of the river are going to be contacted to determine if their side can also be stabilized.



## A TALE OF TWO WEEKENDS

It was the best of times. The weather was perfect, warm during the day, cool at night and three days of sun, sun, sun. Miramichée girls had returned to the banks of the South Fork for a reunion at Old Kia Kima. It was like being back at camp with the old screened-in stone cabins, the dining hall, the office and store and the Miramichée bell that rang out over the camp to call us to each gathering. We were back in the old routine.

We ate together remembering those delicious “start from scratch” meals prepared by the Memphis cooks. We laughed together watching a slide show featuring pictures of us in our youth, We laughed over hairstyles and bathing suit style and spent hours trying to recognize those slim youthful girls that use to be us. Each picture held another story, another memory.

We canoed together. When Miramichée girls canoe we have a style of our own. It was taught to us by generations of waterfront directors: *elbows straight, knees down, thumb and fingers on the same side of the paddle, feather the paddle parallel to the water and don't change sides.* With these skills engrained in us so many years ago, we put in below dam three on the Spring River and enjoyed the early morning run down to Saddler Falls. We shot every fall with perfection and felt duty bound to offer advice to all the beginning canoeists on the river. Did you know that some of us still have the ability to balance on the stern and bob the canoe (Chi Chi L and Suzanne H.)? Some of us don't, of course. When we reached the take out point a small rebellion occurred, we refused to come out of the river.

We sang together. At Miramichée we sang when we walked; we sang when we worked; we sang when we rode, and we sang when we played. To support this singing habit we knew hundreds of songs. I think we sang them all, but it required staying up half the night around the glowing campfire to do it.

We worshiped together. In OKK's chapel in the woods, we came together to remember and be thankful for the opportunities that God had provided us: for the wonderful camp where we had spent our formative years for the leaders and friends that helped form us into the

women we are today and for the opportunity to once again revisit those wonderful years.

To those Scouts who have worked so faithfully to restore this camp, thanks for allowing us to be a part of it.



*This group of Miramichée Girls Consists Only of Sisters*



*Anne and Lynn Preside Over the Only Floral Arrangement to Ever Appear in the OKK Dining Pavilion*



*Rebecca and Oliver Out Past Curfew  
Miss Julia would be Scandalized*

## Our Core Values

**INTEGRITY - ACHIEVEMENT - RESPONSIBILITY - COURAGE**

# A TALE OF TWO WEEKENDS

(It rained like the dickens)

**The NEXT Weekend, the OKKPA Reunion; It was the worst of times! Noah would have built an ark.**



The 2006 OKKPA Reunion started out fairly well. Many had arrived by Wednesday to attend the OKKPA Board Meeting. The weather was cool and pleasant. (See separate article on results of the Board Meeting).

By Thursday afternoon, the skies were graying up and there were concerns that the ESPN® coverage of the OKKPA Annual Golf Tournament might be cancelled due to rain. But the serious rain held off for most of the day.

After a great opening dinner at **Clyde's** consisting of a delicious Fish and Shrimp Fry, we were treated to one of Rev. Jim Bottrell's truly inspirational vesper services. When Jimmy prays, things happen. Little did we realize that he had accidentally packed his 'Rain Prayer Shawl' instead of his 'Bless these Scouts Shawl'.

With a timely reply to Jim's Prayer, the Lord opened the heavens and by the time we all got back to camp it was raining HARD. But still, we all slept pretty well that night as torrential rain beat down during several severe thunderstorms on our tin roof cabins.

Surely after all that rain, Friday would be fair. Well, not quite. It rained off and on all day on Friday, but by Friday night, we were all to learn a new definition of the word "torrential". I always thought torrential means 'in torrents', i.e., lots and lots of rain. This OKK rain provided us with the real meaning. Torrential = all night and 'all consuming'. 13 ½ inches fell in just a few hours that Friday night and early Saturday morning.

When we awoke that fateful Saturday, at least six feet of water covered the low water bridge below camp. The high water bridge going into Cherokee Village was also completely under water. The creek through Miramichiee and Kiwani was running like the Mississippi in April.

People who had spent the night on the Cherokee Village side of the river had to drive through Ash Flat to come into camp the back way. This is a trip of over 25 miles just to go the couple of miles the crow could have flown. But the crow was not flying. There was a lot of washout damage around the camp including making the beach road behind the bathhouse totally impassable. The water almost reached the Rats Nest carrying away our dock and all the sand that the beach committee put in. We did get a lot of mud in exchange, though.

The road to Memphis was closed all day Saturday between Hardy and Imboden. Nobody went home that day.

By the way, since I hear that Rev. Bottrell's praying again next September, I'm going to the *Miramichiee Weekend* instead.



*Tree downed by lightning behind Cabin 1*

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## The September 2006 Board Meeting and General Meeting

There were a number of important decisions made at the 2006 Board Meeting. We would like to recap two of the key ones:

1. For sometime your officers had been negotiating with the Suburban Improvement District (SID) agency of Cherokee Village to do a land swap with them. SID owns approximately five acres along Kolo Rd which includes the former OKK dining hall. Much of this land extends down past our Pioneer Pole Barn almost reaching our new Campfire Ring. The Board approved swapping 12 of our unused acres across Kolo Rd with SID for their 5 acres and building. The legalities of this swap are being worked out. Our April BOD meeting and work weekend will revolve around making decisions about usage of and sprucing up of the dining hall building.
2. The directors voted unanimously to change the name of our association from Old Kia Kima Preservation Association to simply Old Kia Kima.\* Our mission has become much larger than just preserving the physical facilities of the old camp. Our youth outreach and core values efforts combined with our desire to ensure the transmission of our three camp heritage to future generations makes the new name more appropriate.

At the general meeting your new officers and directors were elected.

Be sure and visit [www.oldkiakima.org](http://www.oldkiakima.org) and read the latest annual report for full biographies of the people you've elected. We wish them well in continuing our important work.

*\*The Legal Name of the organization is still "The Old Kia Kima Preservation Association" but we will be doing business as simply "Old Kia Kima".*



*High Water on the South Fork*

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