

# **Paddy Run Outdoor Ministry Committee: Envisioning a Future at Camp Paddy Run**

On February 14, 2006, Shenandoah Presbytery voted almost unanimously to approve a recommendation brought forth by the Paddy Run Review Group outlining a plan to manage Camp Paddy Run ( see pages 6-7 for full recommendation). In addition to allowing a volunteer committee to oversee daily operations at Paddy Run, this recommendation gave specific objectives for the years 2006-2008. The recommendation, however, did not propose specific actions after the year 2008 other than, 'Propose outlook for years 2009-2011, with applicable budgets.'

Therefore, the Paddy Run Outdoor Ministry Committee (PROM Committee) is once again seeking the blessing of Presbytery to continue the worthwhile mission at Camp Paddy Run through the year 2014. This is a historic year marking Shenandoah Presbytery's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Camp Paddy Run's 50<sup>th</sup> year in operation. Furthermore, we hope Camp Paddy Run can continue to promote outdoor ministry to the presbytery and will be an ideal place to help foster the youth initiative brought forth by the 2008 General Assembly.

We feel that we have proven our abilities as a committee and responsibly managed the camp these past three years. Our accomplishments to date include:

## **1. Created new reservation policies.**

Using other PCCCA camp's contracts as our guide along with information from Church Mutual, the PROM Committee formulated a thorough 2-page rental agreement that details the rules and regulations regarding use of camp. A signed copy is required for all rentals.

## **2. Increased reservation rates.**

Examined other camping and picnic options in the area and decided on a competitive fee structure. The new rates reflect a primary goal: those that use the camp should help pay for it.

## **3. Created a website: [www.CampPaddyRun.org](http://www.CampPaddyRun.org)**

Our website has been our best source for communicating widely with Shenandoah Presbytery. It features an on-line reservations form, our rental rates & policies, property tour with pictures of the camp, information about special events and promotional/marketing resources. We are also receiving a fair amount of rental requests from church groups that find our website on 'Google.'

## **4. Continual marketing efforts.**

Camp Paddy Run has a display at nearly every meeting of Presbytery. In addition, a seasonal newsletter is distributed and made available online. Committee members have also been asked to speak before groups such as the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community.

## **5. Hosted Presbytery-wide events to bring youth and adults out to the camp:**

- a) Kickball Tournament
- b) Spring & Fall Work weekends
- c) Geocache/ GPS Adventure
- d) Family Camping
- e) Youth Outdoor Ministry Workshop

## **6. Created an Outdoor Ministry Youth Curriculum to help leaders plan an outing at Paddy Run.**

## **7. Reduced the Workload on Presbytery**

- a) Manage our own checking account and send in detailed quarterly reports
- b) Handle all aspects of reservations and coordinate work with camp caretakers
- b) Send regular progress reports to Council

## 8. Major upgrades & improvements to the property:

- a) Replaced pump and pipes on the camp's well. Refurbished filtration system to have both an iron and an acid filter for better quality water.
- b) Built a new shed to house the well filters equipped with a special door for easy maintenance. Previously a crane was needed to lift the old shed off the filters. The new shed has electric outlets, lights and extra storage.
- c) Lodge upgrades include:
  - 1. Reinforced outside back deck and re-stained it.
  - 2. Painted entire downstairs: hallway, sleeping quarters, bathrooms
  - 3. Installed new industrial-grade plush carpeting in sleeping quarters
  - 4. Installed new vinyl floors in downstairs hall and bathrooms where previously there was a cement floor.
  - 5. Tiled showers and floors in both bathrooms of the sleeping quarters. Installed new shower fixtures and added individual shut-off valves for future maintenance needs.
  - 6. Replaced gutters and re-graded earth around the lodge to control water run-off and ultimately minimize the dampness problem downstairs.
  - 7. Built six new bunk beds for sleeping area.
  - 8. Purchased dehumidifier and new vacuum to keep the new carpet clean and mildew-free.
  - 9. Installed an answering machine so people calling the camp's number will be able to either leave a message or be re-directed to the camp's website.
- d) Cabin Upgrades:
  - 1. Painted cabins 1 & 2: inside and outside. Applied Rustoleum to roofs.
  - 2. Painted craft hut- inside only
  - 3. Painted Cabins 3 & 4- currently in the process of completion.
  - 4. Wire brushed and applied Rustoleum to cots to look like new.
  - 5. Purchased new mattress covers and increased sleeping capacity.
- e) Pool & Bathhouse
  - 1. Applied Rustoleum to roof- removed rust spots
  - 2. Re-stained pool deck
  - 3. Currently shopping around to replace pump and filter.
  - 4. Purchased and installed ladder for getting into/out of pool.
- f) Filled potholes in dirt road.
- g) Built brick BBQ near picnic shelter.
- h) Erected new wooden cross at worship area.
- i) Cleared trees off septic field and restored view from the lodge's back deck.
- j) Repaired handrail down to lodge along stone path.

## **Who is the PROM Committee?**

Simply put, we are a dedicated team of volunteers who believe in the mission of outdoor ministry. We have seen with our own eyes the power of God's love and the transformation that can take place in a young person's life while at Paddy Run. Their time at camp builds trust, builds character and allows youth to open themselves up to God and before their peers. We are a diverse group ranging from retirees to nurses, school teachers, electricians and former camp counselors. We have no hidden or personal agendas. Our sole mission as a committee always is to make Paddy Run a safe and beautiful place to inspire souls and to do the Lord's work.

### **Ensuring a successful future at Camp Paddy Run**

#### **1. We offer something *truly* unique.**

Where else can you get 375 acres all to yourself? That's like having a mile of Shenandoah's Sky-line Drive closed off to everyone but you!...

#### **2. We serve the Presbytery.**

Since 2006, almost one third of the Presbytery (roughly 30 churches ) has been involved in the camp in some form: individual or group rentals, PROM Committee events such as Kickball Tournament or Work Days, making donations, committee meetings or participating in the Parish Day Camp.

We continually encourage churches and groups of Shenandoah Presbytery to come to the camp and offer our volunteer services - help in the kitchen, with outdoor recreation or promotion- whenever possible.

#### **3. Churches show us their support.**

Since 2006, \$7,493 in donations have been given to the committee in addition to donated items such as a pick-up truck, the brick BBQ and donated labor on the floor installation.

#### **4. We are seeing an increased usage pattern.**

Rentals have increased every year since 2006 in terms of group numbers, head counts and rental income. We have several groups on an annual rental plan with four reservations for 2009 already. We've also been renting to churches within the National Capital Presbytery and hosted groups coming to Woodstock to work at the Volunteer Farm.

#### **5. We make income to offset our costs.**

Since 2006, rental incomes have more than doubled. We believe this income will continue to increase as we seek to increase mid-week rentals and raise rental rates for groups outside Shenandoah Presbytery. ( Refer to financial information on page 4. )

#### **6. We get the job done.**

We've dealt successfully with difficult issues from a broken well, vandalism, and resistance to new rental policies to a mountain of maintenance work! When Council was seeking an attorney to review the Paddy Run-Presbytery agent relationship, we quickly found an attorney to do the work pro bono.

## Income & Expenses

**Expenses in 2006: \$8,775 total**

\$5,683	Well
\$2,167	Maintenance
\$520	Programs for Shenandoah. Presbytery ( Kickball, Work weekends, etc )
\$405	Committee expenses ( website, marketing, copies, postage)

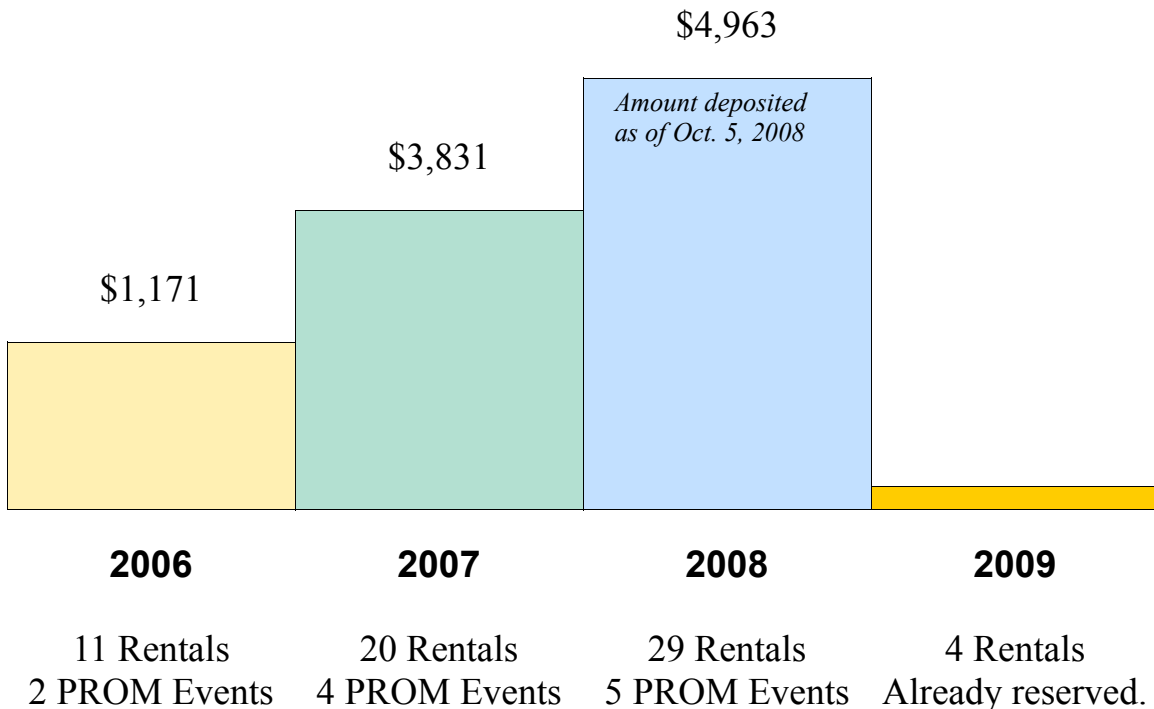
**Expenses in 2007: \$7,343 total**

\$1,042	Well
\$4,594	Maintenance
\$1,309	Programs
\$398	Committee expenses

**Expenses in 2008 \$7,890 total**  
( As of Oct. 5, 2008 )

\$0	Well
\$6,137	Maintenance
\$1,160	Programs
\$593	Committee Expenses

### Income from Rentals:



## Looking Ahead to 2014

1. Continue Volunteer Committee management.
  - a) Continue processes that work; fine-tuning those that need improvement.
  - b) Evaluating rental rates & policies
  - c) Researching adequate insurance for the increase in rentals
  - d) Growing our committee and support network- bringing in new talents and abilities
2. Continue to increase rentals & revenues
  - a) Marketing to more groups and churches; educate members on all the various uses for the property
  - b) Initiate more mid-week rentals: collaboration with Volunteer Farm to house workers, more Monday-Friday camps and retreats, etc.
  - c) Increase rental rates for non-Presbytery groups and individuals
  - d) Look into possible Fundraising efforts: S'mores stand, donation campaign, alumni giving
3. Explore ways to better serve our Presbytery
  - a) Continue to educate youth leaders on the program potential at Paddy Run
  - b) More family camping options: GPS course, letter boxing, overnights
  - c) Explore ways to serve other groups within Shenandoah Presbytery– mission training, meetings, retreats, service projects,
  - d) Continue marketing efforts through website and newsletter
  - e) Examine ways to use Paddy Run to fulfill 2008 General Assembly's youth initiative
4. Continue improvements to the property:
  - a) New pool filter and pump
  - b) Research feasibility of installing RV Hook-ups
  - c) Kitchen & appliance upgrades
  - d) Continue trail maintenance

## Some Recent Feedback

*"Thank you so much for the opportunity to stay at your facility. It was absolutely perfect for my family. Our only disappointment was that we didn't discover the beautiful creek in the back until our last day there. It was so peaceful to wake Sunday morning and sit by the cross in the field."*

- Renee, Mechanicsville, VA

*"It looks better than it's ever looked!"*

- James, Strasburg, VA

*"I truly feel the camp is not only a glimpse of God's great beauty, but a place of healing. It brings a little peace and serenity to our lives that are normally consumed with material things, video games, television and technology..... The camp has allowed my husband and I to grow even closer as a couple. The time spent at Paddy Run has made our marriage even stronger."*

- Susan, Winchester, VA

## Original Recommendation from February 14, 2006:

The Paddy Run review group has taken the findings of the Task Force Report and has created a short-term plan for years 2006-2008 that requires a minimal investment in monetary resources, while requiring a great deal of personal commitment from the supporters of Paddy Run. Though not an aggressive plan, the PRRG feels this option will garner awareness about the camp and, over time, allow others to learn more about this important asset to outdoor ministry.

1) Requesting Shenandoah Presbytery to adopt the outdoor ministry objective:

*Our outdoor ministry objective is to celebrate Christianity through experiences and fellowship in the natural world.*

*Taking full advantage of the natural setting at Camp Paddy Run, the Camp Committee seeks to enable people to begin or deepen their relationship with God, encourage discipleship through Christian nurture and leadership development, and foster stewardship of the earth's resources.*

2) Employing the natural setting at Paddy Run to host programs that support the outdoor ministry objective— building upon existing and past programs and partially created camping resources.

3) Utilizing a *Paddy Run specific* Camp Committee of dedicated volunteers to oversee management and program functions at Paddy Run, thus relieving presbytery staff of any camp-related work. The Presbytery Council will oversee the work of the Camp Committee.

4) Establish a specialized niche by offering a high degree of customer service through customized program development that capitalizes on the property's unique attributes.

5) Helping groups and churches provide their own outdoor ministry programs at Paddy Run and offering a Paddy Run Curriculum and Resource Staff to help plan and host activities on the property. These types of programs include:

- Weekend Retreats
- Day Outings
- Day Camps
- Vacation Bible Schools
- Special Worship
- Youth Group Activities

6) Requesting Presbytery to continue supporting Paddy Run through paying annual maintenance and insurance costs of approximately \$10,000.

7) Allowing net restricted assets given specifically for Paddy Run to help pay for programs and improvements over the planned period 2006-2008.

8) Forming a support group for Paddy Run to ensure its future success and operation through volunteer work and gifts of money and items.

## **Proposed Timeline from February 14, 2006 Recommendation:**

### **2006 Objectives for Camp Committee:**

- Fill Camp Committee positions and recruit volunteers
- Assess current & potential usage of the property by churches and outside groups ( conduct follow-up surveys )
- Develop a marketing piece for Paddy Run
- Continue development of a Paddy Run Curriculum
- Host at least one all-Presbytery activity at Paddy Run to familiarize members with the property.
- Start a 'Friends of Paddy Run' group to help with volunteerism and support of the camp.
- Perform necessary repair/maintenance on property to meet minimum health/safety standards.
- Evaluate ACA (American Camping Association) site accreditation requirements for health & safety standards
- Open Paddy Run for family camping days/weekends.

### **2007 Objectives:**

- Continue to grow programs at the Camp
- Finalize Paddy Run curriculum for distribution
- Develop a 'Day Camp Action Kit' to help churches host Day Camps or VBS at Paddy Run.
- Widely distribute marketing media (brochures and CD's) to Presbytery churches to encourage use of the property.  
Also target youth groups, and other special interest groups.
- Look toward low-cost ways to improve camp facilities: trail maintenance, cabin refurbishment, recreation equipment,  
etc.
- Schedule ACA site accreditation,
- Continue using Paddy Run for family camping days/weekends.

### **2008 Objectives:**

- Continue program development at the Camp
- Propose outlook for years 2009-2011, with applicable budgets.