



The Capon Weekly

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Saturday, July 18, 2009

CAPON SPRINGS, WV

Front Porch Chatter...



With over 60 family members here, the Lamb family made their presence known from Sunday to Wednesday this week. After a brief orientation to learn the Capon basics, the clan spread out around the grounds to enjoy all the recreational fun. Family organizer Peter Lamb kept the activities moving, including a sing-a-long Monday night on the hill and a Tuesday family photo and DVD presentation. Most of the gang wore their reunion T-shirts with the nod to their animal roots: "We're B-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-C-K!"

Kids of all ages love coming back to Capon. Teenagers Claire and Andrew Ravenscroft had to make an extra effort to return their usual week. By getting jobs earlier in the year, they intentionally saved up enough money to be able to come for the entire week and not miss time with their Capon friends.

Two year old Sally Haggard received an additional blessing this trip. Tuesday after dinner, she was baptized in the creek behind the play yard. Mom Sara had the idea after meeting the minister who officiated last year at Chris Woodard's & Daryl Louder's wedding. Through a series of e-mails, she set things up with Mike Funkhouser to come over from Wardensville and douse young Sally's head. "She did great," remarked Sara.



Bryan and Ashley Cox can trace their Capon trips, back through three generations to when their great grandparents first came for their 50th wedding anniversary in 1944. Their grandparents came a few times after that, but it was their parents Shannon & Dotty who started the regular visits. That first trip was in 1982 shortly after they married and they returned every summer for 20 years.

DINING DRESS DO-OVER

For the first time in Capon's history, the waitress staff was not decked out all in white this week. And all because of a wedding earlier this year. When serving the Zimmerman wedding at Sunset Lodge in May, waitresses Christy Copeland and Samantha Pappas asked dining room supervisors Lydia Hott and Dorothy Walker about wearing Capon collared shirts for the event. Both Lydia and Dorothy liked the idea—one that had been floating around for years, but had not been attempted, because it was assumed it would make them too hot. However, with the new light weight material now used in clothing, they decided to give it a try. At first they used the bright pink shirts already available in the food shop. When Food Service manager Carolyn Budnyk made the decision to make the experiment permanent, the pink color was no longer available. Food shop "queen" Ginny Brill suggested a light green tone. So at dinner Tuesday night, guests were treated to a sea of pastel mint Capon polo shirts.



The complete white outfits have been the staple since the 1930s, sparking some guests to affectionately refer to the wait staff as "nurses". The new uniform look provides both a common style of dress and keeps Capon's informal atmosphere intact. Even though it was a significant departure from past Capon tradition, Lydia reported receiving guest praise about the new look.



RETRO RATES: Since you have already made at LEAST one visit this year, just return anytime between **Sunday, August 23 and Friday, September 4** when all rooms with private bath are just \$99 per person per night. You are welcome to include any of your family and friends when you make the reservations for them to join you!



FALL FEATURES: **Labor Day** weekend still has some excellent room openings for 2 and 3 night reservations. If you can only join us for one night over a weekend, consider a **Saturday** night this Fall. Come **September 12th OR September 19th** and enjoy the Spring tour, campfire sing-a-long & doggie roast and Sunday morning sticky buns. Looking for just a **Sunday** night? Come **October 11** and enjoy the annual Film Festival.



Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 7/13 Jennell DeFrancis
7/18 Bob Herndon
7/19 Lee Windle
7/19 Jonathan Bellingham

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/15 Harold & Barbara Lamb-
60th celebration
7/15 John & Eileen O'Hagan-
50th celebration
7/17 Phil & Nancy Booth-
50th celebration
7/19 Daryl & Chris Louder -
1st celebration

Ping Pong Affair



A large crowd of participants and spectators filled the upper ping pong house on a hot humid Thursday afternoon for the all comers tourney. In the fifteen and under league, all the kids thought that Chris Neyhart was going to win, but that theory quickly died when Ladd Jones took him out in the quarterfinals. Ladd's next target was cousin John Tregellas who had been blazing through some tough competition. Ladd defeated John and moved on to play Stuart Crinkley in the finals. Ladd lead start to finish to take the championship title.

Although there was some good play in the younger league, it was nothing compared to the elder league. For the 16 and overs, Rob and his wife Jenna were both great players, but they got eliminated in the semi-finals. Jenna was defeated by Mike Larson, who was last year's champion. Rob lost to Doug Amtsberg who said, "I almost flunked out of college playing this game." Doug and Mike faced off in the final just as they had last year. Doug worked his way into a strong lead of 11 to 5, but Mike was far from out of it. Mike came back after having some long rallies eventually land in his favor. Mike took that momentum all the way to a 21 to 15 title win.

Road Mile Record



Since his wife was out with an injury, Mike Larson thought he would defend the fastest in family title by besting all male and female runners and clocking the quickest time of the year to boot. His 5:19 easily eclipsed last year's champion Jeff Bratz who ran 10 seconds faster than that winning effort, but still wound up second in 5:40. Katie Kallmyer took the top female spot crossing the line in 7:51. Jake Lamb, John Bolster, Lillia Larson, Kathy Ramos, Kristy Jones and Joe Napier all earned first in their age groups. A large number of dads ran with their under 5 year old children in this week's race, including Kevin Schmidt and Mike Joncas. Jack Joncas, at 4 years old earned the best effort award for his ability to keep going in the Tuesday afternoon heat.

Caponchase Codecrackers



Eight teams started out with great enthusiasm on Wednesday afternoon, hoping to be the first squad to solve all three clues and discover the final answer in the code cracking hunt. After trying unsuccessfully to get any of the answers individually, two sets of teams morphed into one squad. The first team across the line, "Oldies but Goodies" used some good old fashioned deduction to save themselves some time and effort to crack the third clue and reach the finish line first. Ronnie DeFrancis, Suzie Morris, Jennell DeFrancis and Michelle Simmons used great teamwork to complete the puzzle a mere 15 minutes ahead of the Neyhart family. Two other teams followed suit with their answers with assistance from gamemaster Jonathan Bellingham. The last team limped in just under the four hour time limit to solve one of Capon's biggest mysteries.

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Golf news

One of the first teams to finish won the Pot Luck Best Ball Golf Tourney this Tuesday. Rob Preston, Daryl Louder, Jason Spencer, Sarah Crinkley, and Sara Haggard shot a score of 4 under par. There was a three way tie for second as many golfers claimed their prizes. Jim Tatano, Jerry Alms, Wendy Bratz, Joe Napier, and Missy Lauber; Ty Joncas, Chuck Morris, Lynn Hersey, Mike Napier, and Ilene McCaffrey; and Jim Crinkley, Ken Kennedy, Alan Boxley, Jim Grim, and Colleen Tatano all completed the nine hole course one stroke behind the leaders. Three of teams were within striking distance only 2 shots back.

During Friday morning's tourney, the fivesomes only got about half way through the course when Golf Tourney Director Pete Budnyk called it off due to pouring rain. Play resumed where it left off on Saturday morning at 9:30am.

John Joncas, Tim Schuler, Chuck Morris, Sarah Crinkley and Eliza Botti used a strong finish, going eagle-birdie to claim a two shot victory as they completed the course at 6 under par. The highlight of their round was Sara Crinkley's chip in for 3 on hole #9. That meant Jack Pickler, Erik Napier, Ken Kennedy, Missy Lauber and Jenna Preston had to settle for the runners up honors in second place. A competitive field produced a tight bunching in the third position as eight of the remaining fivesomes finished within two strokes of the prizes.

Talented Stage Show

The Capon chorus led all the singing Friday night at the Talent Show with "This Little Light of Mine" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy". A couple of duets also lifted their voices on the stage. Sisters Wesley & Carson Barnes shared a tune early, while Anna & Callie Williams offered "Skinnamarink" with dramatic motions. Later Kylie Logan accompanied a tape of the "Little Mermaid" song.



Piano player Lauren Barker put forth her best Beethoven and Jeralyn Tatano stylized a dramatic ivory piece about the erupting volcano "Vesuvius". Meanwhile, Jack, Jane and Callie Joncas delighted the audience with under 5 year old humor. Then Riley Joncas read a few poems to entertain the crowd. Several musicians made their mark including Callan Logan who not only played his recorder the old fashioned way, but added a twist when he replayed the same tune through his nose. Garrett Tatano returned to the stage from previous trips to share "The Newberry Polka" on his accordion.



Dancers Katie Bellingham and Emily Neyhart each graced the stage with their stylized ballet moves. George Guffey offered a few yo-yo tricks including the difficult: "Walking the Dog". To keep the drama going Jason Dvorscak, Garrett & Tristan Boyd, Chris Neyhart, Stuart Crinkley and Mikey Reese demonstrated a sports newscast of the Capon Mile. (Tristan Boyd also reprised his belly dance from last year.) Tim Ravenscroft showed off his dexterity by reciting the 50 states in order of entering the union while juggling three balls. He also provided some instrumental blues tunes on the guitar. The show ended with a photo and musical tribute to this week's guests captured by Patty Austin.

BINGO BANQUET



Jacqui Barnes not only won her first Capon Bingo prize during the first game of the evening, but a short time later she also won her second. Her dad Robbie, sister Carson and her Aunt Sarah Adams also won that night to load up their table with food shop goodies. The O'Hagan family also had multiple winners. However, the grand prize Bingo champion was Claire Ravenscroft, who not only won the next to last game with the worst card in the house, but she took the final game of "X" in which the prize was the coveted strawberry preserves!

Earlier in the evening, both Jeff Bratz and Chris Schuler delighted their teenage groupies with their manly voices in special calling roles. While Jeff took a long time to get a winner with the "T" game, Chris was done after only announcing nine numbers, when the excited Callan Logan yelled "Screwball". Chris's grandmother Le Rowell took the biggest gamble of the night choosing the surprise box and ending up with a "Trip to Hog Heaven".

Tennis: All in the Family



An even three flights of four teams meant all three courts were occupied in Wednesday's mixed doubles tennis tournament. On the har-tru court, Robert and Dottie DeFrancis were a powerful mother and son combination that worked their way through the competition by winning 10 of their 12 matches. On the lower all-weather court, Mike and Courtney Joncas became the victors by winning one more game than Chuck Morris and Ilene McCaffrey.

The upper all-weather court had the closest contest when Ron Hedges and Suzie Morris edged out Ronnie DeFrancis and Michelle Simmons by one game. The wild card final position in the semis went to Ronnie & Michelle who defeated Chuck and Ilene in a 7-point tie-breaker.

In the semi-finals, the family feuds began when Dottie and her son Robert won a very close match against Ronnie and Michelle who are both Robert's siblings. In the other semi-final match, Ron and Suzie rallied past Mike and Courtney to move on to the finals. In an all family final, Ron and Suzie showed that they were the best tennis players by beating Dottie and Robert 6 games to 1.



Basketball Bards

The rare rainfall that lasted from breakfast to lunch on Friday soaked the courts, bumping the recreation schedule around. That meant the basketball free throw was delayed until after dinner. The extra food gave the shooters extra accuracy as two hoopsters made eight out of 10 on the most unforgiving of rims. Both Rob Preston and Darryl Barker were tied after the first round. In overtime, Darryl lost his touch and only made 1 of 5. Rob took advantage of this and ended it quick by making both of his first two shots.

Shuffleboard Report



Only one short of making a perfect 16 person field, Morgan Stengel volunteered to be the replacement player so the Thursday morning kids' tourney could get underway. Unfortunately, she and her partner Jacqui Barnes were up against Jason Dvorscak and Julia Ravenscroft who took their high scoring ways all the way to the finals. With the exact opposite result was another last minute fill-in: Riley Joncas. Teamed with Morgan's brother Dylan, they used their ability to park the puck in the 10 area to score more points than their opponents to reach the championship. In the finals, Dylan and Riley kept it close before Jason scored 22 points in one round to put his team way beyond the 30 points total needed for the win.

A huge number of adults signed up for their shot at shuffling glory. Without any encouragement, they got right to their matches, producing a finalist before dinner Friday. When Alan Boxley's wife Karen had to leave mid week to help take care of her mom, he enlisted Sara Hagaard to take her place. That proved a wise move as they partnered all the way to the championship.

Meanwhile, Sara's dad Doug, used his own pushing power with partner Amanda Woodard to capture a spot in the other semi-final. All they needed to do was get past Jim & Colleen Tatano to face off against Sara & Alan. However, in their third game, Amanda's shot knocked one puck from one 7 area into the other, giving the Tatanos the last spot in the finals. Come see the exciting conclusion tonight after dinner.

Shuttlecock size-up



The two hour rain delay didn't dampen one players thrill for the game. Daniel Schuler might have been twice as tall as his 8-year old partner Callan Logan, but Callan out hustled his partner on the court. With shouts of "You got it" and diving saves, Callan's enthusiasm was no match for his opponents as he and Daniel volleyed their way to the semis. (Daniel's experience also proved helpful as he won the inaugural event last year.)

On the other end of the bracket, Daniel's brother Andrew advanced with Emily Neyhart. They had to get past Andrew Ravenscroft and Amanda Woodard to have a chance at the top prize. After a 0-0 battle for about a dozen volleys, Daniel and Callan forged a large lead which Andrew and Emily could not come back from. To the crowd's delight, they won 11-5.