

The Langsam boys (Carl and Richie) spent well over 10 summers at Sunset Ranch Camp in the 1960s and early 1970s. Carl remembers horseback riding on Stormy, climbing Mt. Cube and Mt. Washington, and exploring Mt. Saddleback. Carl claims he could hold his breath while riding past Cemetery Hill. Both Carl and Rich talk fondly about constructing the gym and rec center near Sunset Rock. Rich remembers being 30-40 feet above the ground bringing the sides together. There was no net! Carl also talks about canoeing, sailing, and hiking around Upper Baker. Rich talked about the time that he and Fred Miller swam around the lake. Carl also has fond memories of the Annual Stunt night along with the Sadie Hawkins Day and Dance. Rich often gets more poetic when he thinks of his time at Sunset Ranch. He remembers the smell of the pinecones or the air after a good hard thunder shower. He remembers the tree across the lake that got hit twice in the same spot by lightning a few years apart.

Rich recalls the Workman's (John and Phil) running the bases during our softball and baseball games. Rich believes this is where his interest in running began. Phil encouraged Rich to run to Wentworth in the mornings. Many people would drive by and ask if he needed a ride not realizing he was training. Maybe some of that New England toughness wore off on him. Rich's running eventually took him all over the United States and Europe competing in close to 100 marathons and ultra-marathons. Yes, he ran Boston as well.

Both Rich and Carl would agree that these were the best summers anyone could ask for. Years later, Rich and Steve Newman went to visit the camp during the wintertime. Who knew it actually could snow that much. It was a much different experiences from the summer. The lake was covered with a beautiful white blanket of snow.

When Rich got married, he shared some of his summer experiences with his wife, Kathy. And eventually with his children, Mitchell and Tobie. Unfortunately, Uncle Bud had passed away before the kids were born and but they were introduced to Aunt Pat.

None of this could have been possible without Bud and Pat Durham. Bud was a wonderful mentor to Rich. When Rich went to Lafayette, Uncle Bud gave Rich some memorabilia (blankets, pennants, and signs) from the school as Bud's uncle was the Athletic Director and in the Hall of Fame in the mid 1900s. Rich was able to regift some of those to his daughter, Tobie, who also eventually went to Lafayette.

Rich's wish would have been to have sent his own children to Sunset Ranch to share some of the experiences. He and Carl are forever endeared and at a loss for words to the Durham family.

As a postscript – The Langsam, Miklean, and Newman parents enjoyed the area so much that every year they would rent a cabin in Wentworth for the week and enjoy the time. They did not climb any mountains, though.