
Camping

by Julie Davis-Raley

John Burk (experienced pop-up tent camper and partier) and his 5 year old son Joe arrived Friday at 10:30 AM. They were joined by John Smith about an hour later. While Joe, Godzilla, the Power Rangers Dogzilla and Hairy played, John Burk, John Smith, Julie and Bill Raley talked snow skiing, camping and Judith Kendark's "Deck orgy" game that had livened up a Galveston Beach Bash. John Smith is an East Texan backpacker so we got to see his long and light back packing tent that folds up to the size of a milk carton and sets up in 5 minutes. Nancy Burk arrived ready to join son Joe and husband, only, as fate would have it, to find them gone along with the Johns on a pizza run. It was getting dark when the Barbees (James, daughter Stephanie, son Michael and wife Loretta Stellar) arrived pulling Ellen Manhard's pop-up trailer. Ellen and Bill Perks followed in her car. Loretta & JamesBarbee slept in their SUV while Stephanie and Michael had his and her tents.

Saturday morning 15 yr old Stephanie and 17 yr old Michael (who wants to study pre-med) almost slept through breakfast of Shipley donuts, bananas, assorted fruit juices, milk, and 5 kinds of cereal. The campers had a ski boat, a sail boat, a windsurfer, floats and tubes to play on in the lake. On land we had tennis, volleyball, miniature golf, board games, pool tables, ping pong tables and the swimming pool with a covered seating area. Little Joe had to go in Saturday to a T-ball game in Houston and came back with a medal. Sherri Cash, Yvonne Guy, Mary Pearce, Rita Burton and Carol Chedsey joined us as we gathered for lunch at the covered pool area throwing caution and diets to the wind. We had people playing tennis before lunch and people swimming before, during and right after lunch. Lynn Burch joined us for a quick lunch before darting off to see her new granddaughter farther up the road. Jerry Reeves and Sara Green came at 1 PM so we got the food out and they ate while getting directions to the Montgomery Festival. Didn't see them again until the dance. The Barbees went to the Conroe Outlet Center only 4 miles away. The Christi's, Larry, Deborah and Krystal went after lunch out in search of Jet skis to rent but were unsuccessful. The rest of us after lunch talked away the afternoon, went swimming, boatriing, and relaxed around the camp area by the lake.

For supper we had delicious Tex-Mex BBQ with all the fixin's and a bigfat sweet watermelon for dessert. We heard the band setting up at the Pavilion so Julie rushed over barefoot with a bucketful of sodas (now including caffeine-free diet Dr. Peppers) to save seats for the group who were still eating and primping. The performers were aged 9 to 69 so there was a good mix of styles and many children to show us the latest dance steps. We also had a large group of lasses from Amsterdam who two-stepped to almost every song. Sunday everyone was raving about the family band while eating sausage, bacon, waffles, donuts, cereal and scrambled eggs. Soon thereafter we heard a loud Thud! Ellen Manhard and Bill Perk's pop-up camper was down on one end—then before we could run over—Up it came! We believe Bill's version of what was going on when it happened. Julie's threat/warning that anyone hurt had to fill out the detailed injury report before they could go to the hospital paid off. No one reported any injuries. Thanks to everyone who came and made a favorable impression with the SAN JO COVE staff and members. We have already been invited back "anytime!"