

Midwest Brachial Plexus Network, Inc.

News

Where Our Families Help Your Family

September 2010

2010 MBPN Summer Camp was WILD!



Our 10th annual summer camp session began on Friday, June 18th at the Rotary Club Youth Camp in Lee's Summit, MO. Families came from near and far to share a weekend of fun, friendship and safari.

On Saturday, our adventure started out bright and early at the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport. The kids were looking forward to some excitement when they learned they would be taking flight. They were flown in Cessnas by volunteer pilots of Chapter 91 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program. We had beautiful clear blue skies for the flights and a gorgeous view of the Kansas City Chief's Arrowhead Stadium, The Royal's Kauffman Stadium, Lake Jacomo and the Rotary Camp grounds. The freedom of flight is an experience the kids will always remember. Their flights will become a part of history since each passenger's name will be entered in the World's Largest Logbook at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, WI.

The next stop on our safari was Lake Jacomo. We planned to spend the afternoon cruising around the lake on pontoon boats. We had just found a quiet cove and tied our boats together for lunch when we noticed the sky darkening in the distance. Within a few minutes, the ominous clouds blackened our cove, the temperature dropped and the winds picked up. We quickly abandoned our plans of eating our picnic lunch and raced frantically back to the marina. The return trip seemed to take forever as we headed back against extremely high winds. Large waves swept over the front of our boats and drenched us. We were pelted by rain and small hail most of the way back to the marina, feeling much like the Deadliest Catch crew of the Midwest.

We made a mad dash back to camp and within 20 minutes the storm had blown over and the sky was clear. We spent the afternoon swimming and ended the evening with a barbecue dinner, pinatas, a bonfire and s'mores. After our long and eventful day, we wandered off to bed and left the raccoons to clean up the leftovers.

On Sunday, we went on a safari hunt. Animal targets were lurking in the greenery along the camp trail throughout the woods. Our groups of safari explorers located the animals and showed their marksmanship skills with paintball guns. Each child displayed determination and patience while lining up their sights with the targets and taking aim. It was great to see their excitement and pride when the shots hit their intended mark. Since it was Father's Day, all of the dads had a turn on the safari trail too.



The weekend also included lots of time in the pool and an opportunity to try SCUBA diving in the deep end. We had a variety show and were entertained by the talents of many of our campers. We played games, made lots of crafts - including Father's Day gifts and cards. It was a busy weekend packed full of fun and excitement. Everyone had a good time in spite of the freak pop-up storm. We're already planning for next year's camp and would love for you to pass along any ideas or suggestions.



Each year, camp is made possible by the generosity of many wonderful people and local organizations. Donations large and small help pay for camp activities and allow us to invite families to attend MBPN Camp at no charge. We are grateful to everyone who contributes in any way because we know what a great time the kids have at camp year after year.

We want to give special thanks to the **Rotary Youth Organization** and **Rotary Club Youth Camp** for inviting us back year after year to enjoy their facility. Donations throughout the year keep the campground running so groups like ours have the chance attend at no cost. The Rotary Club Youth Camp hosts many youth organizations each summer, giving children with all different abilities a unique camping experience. Please support your local Rotary Youth Organization and activities like Kansas City Day that raise funds for them. We've enjoyed the camp now for 10 years, and hope to continue to watch it grow for many years to come. You can learn more about the camp and the Rotary Youth Organization at www.rotary.13.org.

We greatly appreciate the **EAA Young Eagles program** and the **Chapter 91 EAA Volunteer Pilots** who donated their time and their planes for the MBPN campers to experience the freedom of flight. The EAA

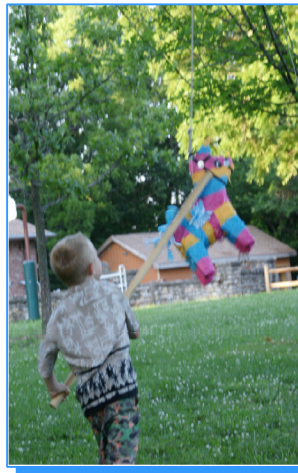
Young Eagles program is a nonprofit organization started in 1992 to give interested youth an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. The flights are free of charge and are made possible by the generosity of more than 42,000 EAA member volunteer pilots in over 90 countries. You can visit their website at www.youngeagles.org for more information or to make a donation. Passengers can print out flight certificates by following the "World's Largest Logbook" link on the home page.



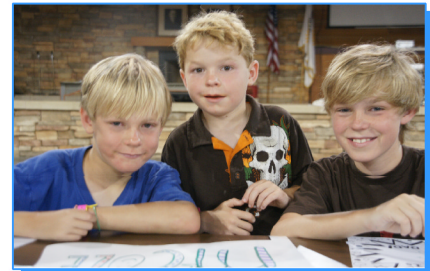
Camp wouldn't be possible without the generosity and participation of our MBPN families, friends, and local business sponsors. **HyVee of Blue Springs, Walmart of Lee's Summit and Target Stores of Independence and Blue Springs** showed their support by donating to our camp this year. The **WDAF Fox 4 Love Fund For Children** also made contributions to help provide crafts and activities for the kids. Thank you to all who gave to make camp fun for everyone and to all of the families who took their time to spend the weekend with us. As always, camp was a rewarding experience for all who attended and we are looking forward to next year.

2011 MBPN Summer Camp will be held the first weekend in June (3rd - 5th). Mark your calendars now so you can join us next summer. Look for registration information on our website in early February 2011 at www.birthinjury.org.





2010 Camp Photo Gallery



Upcomming BPI Events

Update your contact information

Please e-mail us or drop us a line to make sure we have your correct e-mail and mailing addresses. This will help ensure you get current information and newsletters.

MBPN at the Kansas City Royals Game

The Kansas City Royals have been kind enough to donate tickets to the Midwest Brachial Plexus Network so that we can enjoy an afternoon of baseball at Kauffman Stadium. We are invited to watch the Royals take on the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday, October 3rd at 1:10 pm. If you would like to join us, please contact us by e-mail: birthinjury@att.net or by phone: [816-914-1957](tel:816-914-1957).

Camp UBPN 2010

The United Brachial Plexus Network will hold their 2010 camp October 8-11 at the YMCA Trout Lodge in Potosi, MO. The theme for this year's camp is *Find Your Way*. There will be inspirational speakers to encourage parents and children to find their passion and follow it.

Clinical speakers will include Dr. Tung, from Washington University in St. Louis and plastic surgeons, Dr. Armenta and Dr. Berzin from Houston, TX. David Camp is an attorney who specializes in SSD/SSI and will provide information to help parents navigate the system for their children. There will be round table discussion groups for Moms, Dads, siblings and those with bpi. The discussions offer a rare opportunity for people to share the feelings, frustrations and triumphs that only those in their shoes could understand.

Dozens of activities are planned, including boat tours on Sunnen Lake, geocaching, hiking, mini golf, zip line, climbing wall and hayrides. Camp is about meeting others and having fun, and is sure to be a rewarding experience for the whole family.

The Trout Lodge has reduced their pricing so that children 17 and under stay free. UBPN will accept a \$40 registration deposit with the balance payable by September 10th. In order to make camp accessible to all bpi families, the UBPN has established a scholarship program for those who would like to attend but cannot afford it. You can find more information and/or register for camp by visiting the UBPN website at www.ubpn.org

You will find a copy of our new brochure in this issue. Please feel free to make copies to hand out as you wish to doctors, therapists, parents and birthing centers. We are also excited about the new website and we will be continually adding to its features. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact us!

Check out our new and improved website at
www.birthinjury.org