

It was the year 1969 and I was all of 11 years old looking forward to coming home from Boy Scout Summer Camp. I was picked up by Mom and Dad and brought over to Camp Silver Fir to stay for another week in the High Sierras at a little known camp at the time called, "Camp Silver Fir." I was surprised when Dad said, "We're going to another camp, Son, Camp Silver Fir!" Dad, as usual, tricked us into thinking it was going to be another 4-hour drive. So the mantra started, "Are we there yet Dad?" Of course, 5 minutes later we were at camp.

It was the most magical place I had ever seen, with two creeks, one on each side of the camp, plenty of flat spots for our tents, an outdoor stove for cooking, the MacMillian Lodge and plenty of room to play Capture the Flag. My brothers and I had found "Heaven on Earth!! We spent an incredible week hiking up to The Falls, running down to the lake to go swimming, exploring, fishing and hiking! We would run down to the Cedar Crest Inlet, go fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and hiking! I hiked the Silver Fir Trail 3 times and the Dinkey Loop Trail at least 4 times. We could never get enough of the High Adventures we would find over the years! Yup, I was sure this was The Place! This is the place I spent my summers exploring, and going to Upper Twin Lakes, Indian Pools, the Island Lake, Bear Cove and Pepper's Rock. We had a name for every cool spot we would find and enjoy as we did every summer growing up there!! Mom and Dad would camp out in the Family Camping area or stay in the Camp Master's Cabin, while our Troop would go out on the trail! It was great for all of us!

What a great place for our family to stay, with a lodge, and plenty of camping under the stars, swimming all day long, hiking and exploring new terrain where the only limitation was, how far do you want to hike today? Enjoying "The Falls" also called Butt Bumper slides where you can still slide down Indian smooth rocks above Camp even today!

The one thing I will never forget is having a huge Pancake Breakfast on the old MacMillian Lodge stove where you could flip 16 flapjacks at a time. It was so big! Our troop, Troop 345 from Sunland loved going up and cooking big breakfast before we would go out on the trail!

Huntington Lake has so many areas to enjoy with your family on and off the lake

with nearby Lakeshore, Potter's Pass, Cedar Crest, Madjack's, the Marina, campgrounds and day camping around the Lake, you won't run out of things to do! Lisa and I have been taking our kid, Jennifer up there since we put her into a high chair at the table in the Hearsh Lodge. Jennifer is now 30, and we're still going up every year! This place has left an indelible mark on me even to this day, 53 years later! I have only missed 4 summers in 53 years where I did not go up to "Camp." At the age of 21 I joined The Friends of Camp Silver Fir Committee, and I have helped every year, except one or two, to open and close Camp and to keep it running for other Scouters and their families to enjoy too! Every summer we would start, "Are we there yet Dad?" Dad would say, "Five more minutes Son!" So come on up to Silver Fir and start making your own family memories!

Paul Dutton

50-Year Veteran, Camp Silver Fir Camp Master
and Ranger!