

J U L Y 2 0 1 4

the

Turtle Times

... of your life

BREAKING NEWS: First Nests

The Special Forces Unit "BEI" (Boa Esperanca Investigation) has discovered the first nests in a cloak-and-dagger operation. Boa Esperanca and Agua Doce have now the first nests of the upcoming thrilling nesting season. The offender of this agitating act was not seen, nevertheless the Special Forces Unit "BEI" assumes it was a turtle. They do not assume that it was a lone perpetrator but there were at least two of them. The experienced agents of "BEI" do not spare any effort to disclose all facts. It is even possible that it might be persistent offenders. To be continued...

The Project of the Month:
Boa Esperancas awesome
shower which looks like an
English Double-deck bus!



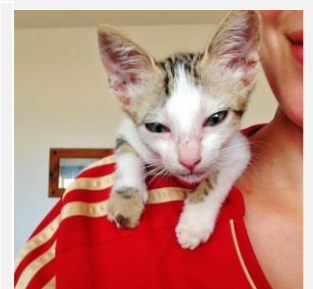
Game Changing Ideas

Last week Eva participated in a workshop organised by the UNDP, the Cape Verde Ministry of Tourism and the French Ministry for Development. Aim of the workshop was to mainstream Sustainability in Tourism Investment and Development in Cape Verde; An issue, which is of great importance for TF and turtle conservation in general, as negative ecological impacts of the rapid touristic development of Boavista impose a major threat on the nesting beaches of the Loggerhead Turtle population. The workshop brought together stakeholders from governmental institutions and from public and private sector. For the first time all these parties worked together on recommendations and guidelines for a sustainable development of tourism on Boavista. These recommendations will form part of the new Strategic Development Plan and hopefully contribute to a more balanced and responsible tourism in Cape Verde.



ADOPT AN ANIMAL! This Month: Baby-Bob!

"I am just a few weeks old, so it's bureaucratically informal to take me to Europe. Furthermore I am extremely cute, already house trained and I love to cuddle and play, just depending on what you are in the mood to do. And I love to sit on your shoulder - no matter if you're cooking, cleaning, working or watching TV! I can also live with other animals and don't mind to be a house cat."



Meet the...

...People of the office



BIG BOSS: Christian

Christian Roder is the Project Manager and Turtle Foundation Cape Verde is his baby.

Distinctive characteristics: Very tall sample of his species

Character traits: Very friendly and always happy creature



TROUBLE SHOOTER: Barroso

Barroso deals with all official institutions on the Island.

Distinctive characteristics: Wears always posh shoes

Character traits: Can communicate in any language



FIELD EXPERT: Red

Red knows everything about every statistic and can answer all turtle questions.

Distinctive characteristics: Sunburned and hairy

Character traits: Caring creature, talks extremely fast

TOURISM LADY: Eva

As Tourism Coordinator Eva has to deal with official institutions, tour agencies and all kind of personalities of tourists.

Distinctive characteristics: Elfish cutie

Character traits: opportunistic feeder



KIDS ENTERTAINER: Ivanilda

Ivanilda is responsible for all the awareness and education activities and organizes lovely events.

Distinctive characteristics: Always fashionable

Character traits: Preferred activity is sleeping! ...or reading

Meet the...

...People of the office

THE MAN: Ukie

You need something? Ask Ukie! But better be nice, and don't ask for too much! Max. 20% of his stories are true.

Distinctive characteristics: Uses a belt ... and fails anyway

Character traits: Best car DJ on Cape Verde

THE SECOND MAN: Carlos

He can build and repair everything, EVERYTHING!

Distinctive characteristics: His baseball cap, and that smile...

Character traits: Always friendly and very calm



Kids Entertainer Number Two: Cintia

Cintia is helping Ivanilda to organize all the nice events and has many wonderful ideas.

Distinctive characteristics: The cutest smile in the office

Character traits: Seems to be always happy

VOLUNTEERS MOM: Svea

Svea takes care of all Volunteers, of their needs, concerns and makes sure they don't pee in the shower.

Distinctive characteristics: Just bend the head a bit down

Character traits: Born to be a mom of man and beast

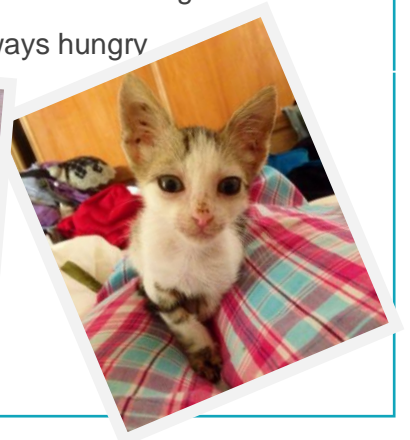
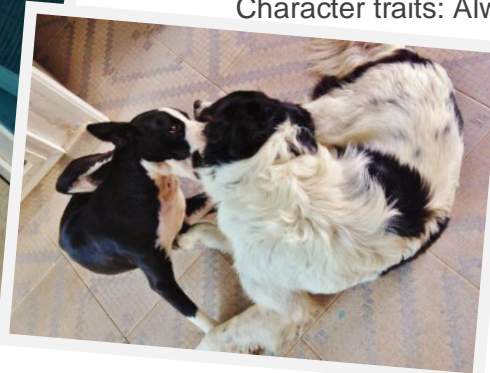
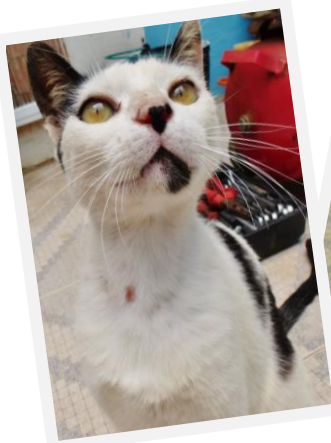


THE FOUR-FOOTED STAFF: Dave, Malageta, Ginshu, Heike and Baby-Bob

Crazy, lovely, weird, loud, cute, annoying

Distinctive characteristics: Four legs

Character traits: Always hungry



Slowest Season On Record

The figures are in and its official, for the 7 beaches TF protects on Boa Vista, this has been the slowest start to a season on record. The total number of days without activities has been exceptionally low compared to previous seasons.

	2012																		
Praias	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total	
C.V	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	3	NA	NA	1	2	NA	NA	7	
P.P	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	1	
LAC	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	
BE	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	
AGUA DOCE	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CANTO	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	0	
NORT	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	0	
																			14

	2013																		
Praias	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total	
C.V	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	1	NA	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	10	
P.P	NP	NP	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	1	0	2	4	
LAC	NP	NP	0	NA	NA	1	1	1	0	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
B.E	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	0	1	NA	NA	1	NA	5	
AGUA DOCE	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	0	NA	0	1	0	3	
CANTO	NP	NP	NP	1	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	0	0	1	1	5	
NORT	NP	NP	NP	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	1	0	0	2	
																			33

	2014																		
Praias	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total	
C.V	NP	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	1	0	1	
P.P	NP	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	
LAC	NP	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	
B.E	NP	NP	NP	NP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	0	NA	1	NA	3	
AGUA DOCE	NP	NP	NP	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	1	0	1	5	
CANTO	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	
NORT	NP	NP	NP	1	NP	0	1	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	0	NA	NA	3	
																			12

The Tables Above show the previous season activities from 2012-2013

NP= No Patrols where done

NA= No Activities such as FC/FCA/NEST but there was a Patrol.

0 = activity but no nest

The number in each box represents the number of Nest that night on that beach.

The northern beaches got off to the quickest start with Boa Esperanca Camp having seen the greatest number of nest 66.6% of the nesting total of June for Turtle Foundation Beaches. Normally the busiest of our beaches in the south patrolled by the Lacacao Camp but they only saw a grand total of 1 nest in June making 8.3% of the June's total.

The last time Turtle Foundation saw a nesting season start this slowly, it turned out to be the biggest on record but that doesn't mean we are heading for the same again.

The last two High seasons where in 2009 and 2012, mid seasons 2010 and 2013 both 3 years apart. If we follow this simplistic view of a 3 seasons cycle and take into account the lowest season on record being 2011 then we should be expecting 2014 to be a low season.

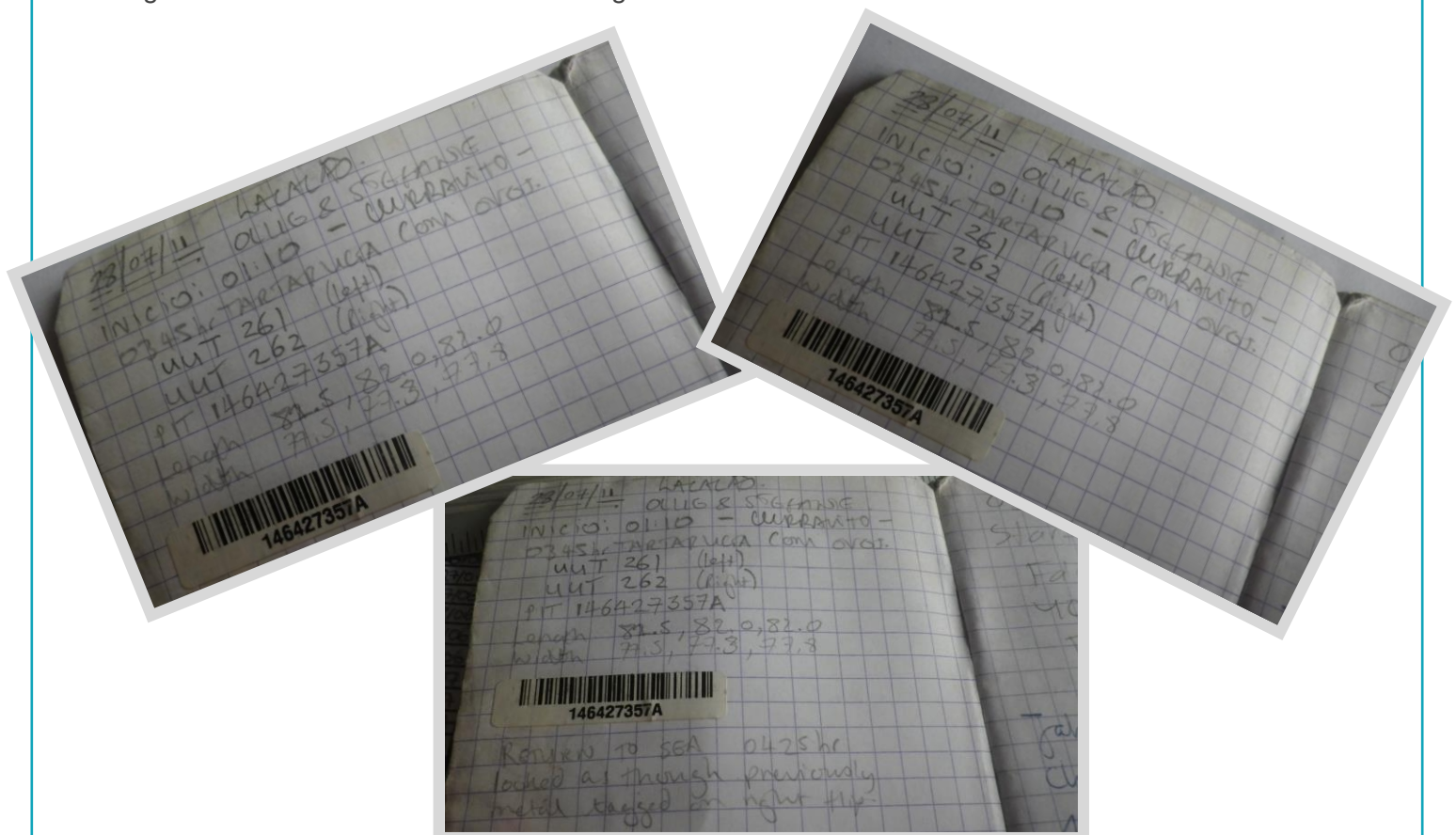
The late or earlier arrival of females to nesting grounds is most likely not correlated to the number of nesting females in a given year but has possibly more to do with environmental factors such as sea temperature.

As we know many things could effect the nesting behavior of sea turtles: for example the availability of food in their feeding grounds could dictate the frequency of them returning to their nesting grounds. So will this season be a big or small season? Who knows - we will just have to wait and see.

Other news

First returning turtle of the season

Her individual turtle id was 20110065 and was identified by her pit tag 14647357A she nested at least 5 times in 2011 and was seen nesting on 4 of those occasions. She was seen on PONTA PEISQUEIRA nesting 3 times and CURRAL VELHO nesting once between the 28/07/2011 - 17/09/2011



Impressions: Building up the Camps



Turtle Foundation is winner of „Green Project Awards” (GPA)

The Cape Verde GPA is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning and GCI (Consultant specializing in sustainability projects) and to mobilize civil society, businesses and non-governmental organizations around the sustainability.

The Cape Verde GPA has five categories in the competition: Natural Resources - Conservation and Management; Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; Tourism and Sustainable Agriculture; New Technologies - Research and Cooperation and Mobilization Initiative.

Turtle Foundation Cape Verde - Project for Conservation and Protection of Marine Turtles in Cape Verde and its Habitat. In 2008, the Turtle Foundation launched the program dedicated to the Protection and Conservation of Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) in Boa-vista. Since 2008 mortality rates in Boa-vista, for meat consumption, have reduced thanks to the work of Turtle Foundation as well as NGOs and other national and international institutions. In 2007, 1200 females were killed for a total of 40% of females nesting on the island, decreasing in 2008 to 18% in 2009 and to 5%. In 2011 and 2012 the number of dead turtles recorded by Turtle Foundation was 5 per season, less than 1% of the nesting population. The Turtle Foundation addressing the conservation, respecting the natural elements that lead to the evolution of species.

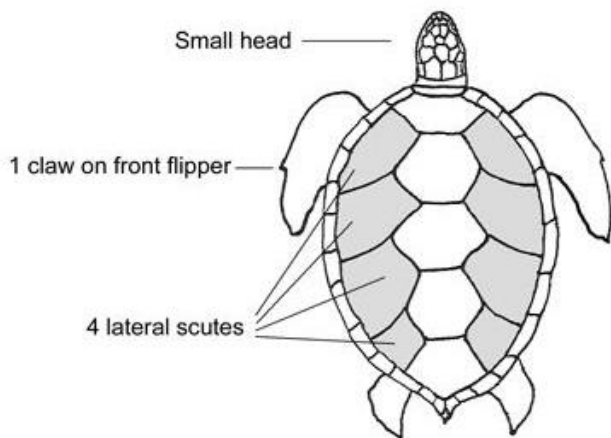


Green turtles nesting on Boavista in 2013

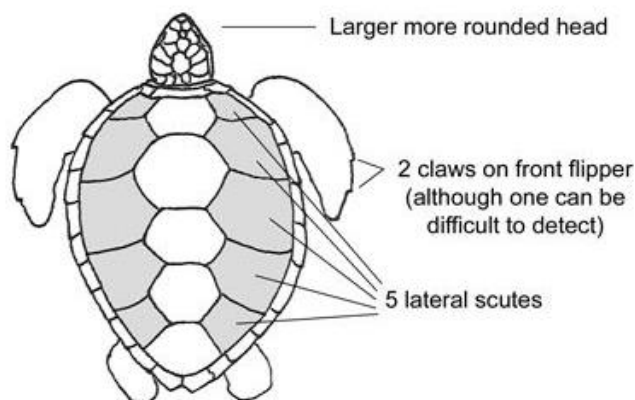
To our all surprise, in 2013 we found two nest of the Green Turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) in Curral Velho Beach. The Turtle Foundation ranger did not see the turtles nesting at night, but the morning patrol did find the tracks and nests which seemed to be different to the tracks/nest of a Loggerhead Turtle. At the time we found the first nest, we had an exchange-ranger from a turtle project in Sao Tome y Principe with us, who were used to work with Green Turtles. He confirmed to us, that it was a Green Turtle's nest and would even show us, where to find the egg chamber. The first nest was laid in the end of July 2013 and hatched in the end of September - TF staff has been there at the hatching event and they found many hatchlings, as well as several embryos in the eggs during the excavation of the nest a few days later. The nesting even of the second nest, which hatched in November 2013, was also observed by TF staff.

Samples from the dead embryos which we found in the nests were sent to our cooperation-partner GEOMAR (a marine research institute) for genetic analysis. They could confirm, that the two nests on Curral Velho Beach were from two different Green Turtles, which they could trace back to originate from the northern part of South America. At this moment it is difficult to be more exact about their origin, so it could be anywhere from Suriname to Brazil. Further research will be conducted.

Green Turtle



Loggerhead Turtle



Green Turtle hatchling in 2013



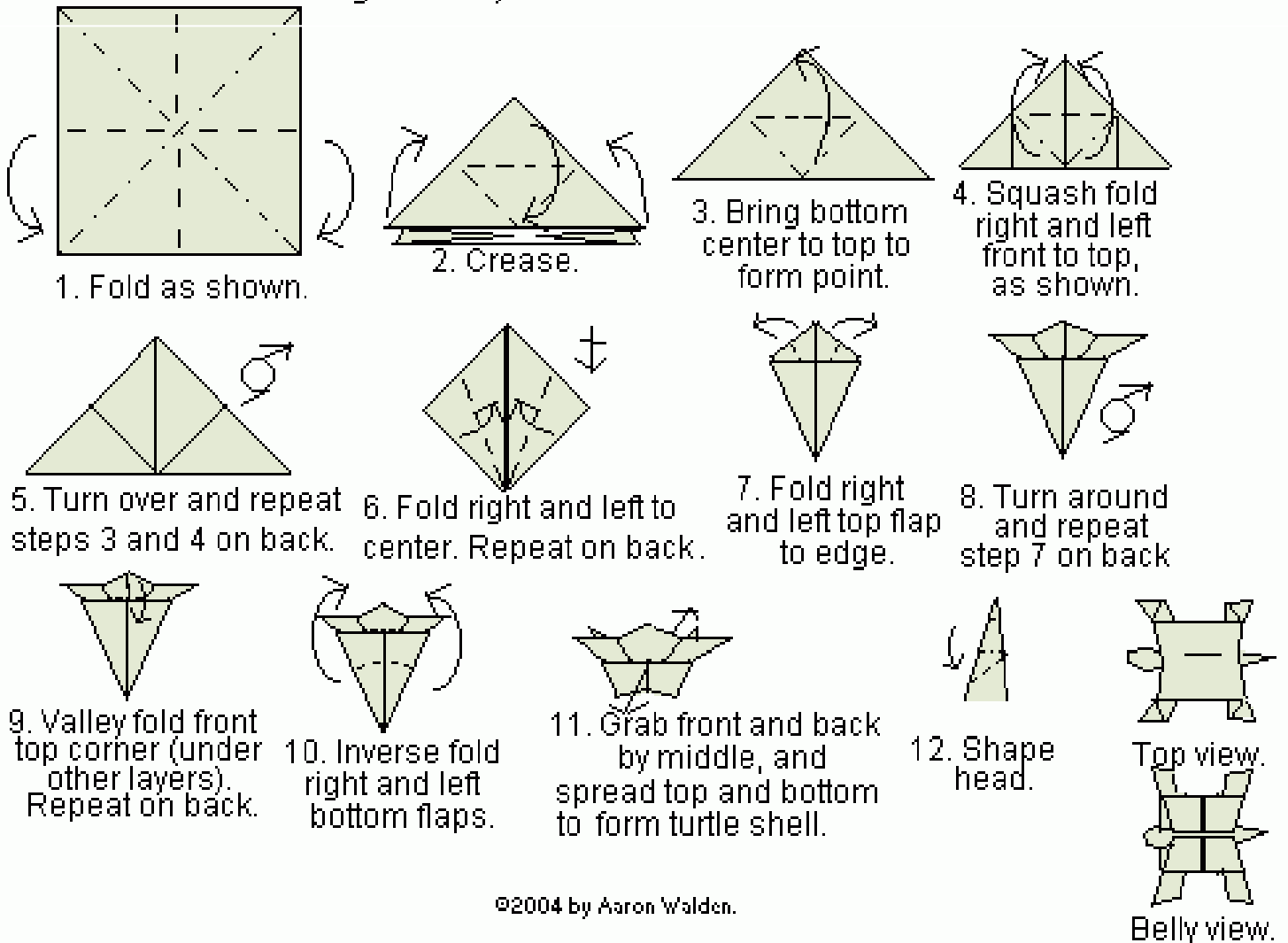
It is the first confirmed record of Green Turtles nesting on Boavista. Interestingly, the turtle project on Sal (SOS Tartarugas) did find a nest of a Green Turtle in 2013 as well.

So, please everybody keep your eyes open and if you think the turtle you have right in front of you looks kind of weird for a Loggerhead Turtle, confirm what species it is by counting the scutes on the carapace (number of vertebral scutes in the middle / lateral scutes at the sides) and note them down in the patrol-book. Refer to the field-coordinator in your camp, who can give you more information about the difference appearance of the two species.

Last but not least...

Turtle.

Traditional model.
Diagrammed by Aaron Walden.



How was your first night in Camp?

