

Ben's News

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Ben at camp

Building Electric Guitars

- ◆ Building a third electric bass guitar for himself
- ◆ Building an electric guitar for Josh; working with a friend and customer
- ◆ Designing body shapes; choosing layouts for guitar bodies
- ◆ Designing and making templates for various parts of the guitar-building process
- ◆ A trip to Rockler Woodworking to purchase a veneer for one of the guitar bodies
- ◆ Measuring tools for guitar-building projects: a new specialized ruler with markings for 16ths and 32nds

SPECIAL EVENTS

Building two more electric bass guitars – a short scale fretless and another standard scale bass

Building an electric guitar for Josh

Trip to Port Townsend with Seattle Homeschool Group teens & families

Historical hiking tour through the forts at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend

Weekend sailing trip on the Zodiac Schooner

Weekly bowling league at Robin Hood Lanes

Ben's 16th Birthday!

Books

The Silenced

by James DeVita

Still River: A Lee Harvey Oswald Mystery

by Harry Hunsicker

Slip & Fall

by Nick Santora

City of Bones

by Cassandra Clare

Syren: Septimus Heap, Book 5

by Angie Sage

Dave Matthews Band Fan Favorites for Bass

by Dave Matthews Band



The Zodiac Schooner



Looking up at the mast of the Zodiac Schooner



In the saloon on the Zodiac



Ben really enjoyed working with and learning from advisors Alex and Nick, as well as many others, at Grace Llewellyn's Not Back To School Camp. He brought his handmade electric bass guitar to play while he was there.

Conversations about...

- ◆ Sailing and navigation on the Zodiac Schooner
- ◆ Guitar-building electronics for guitars and basses
- ◆ Local and national food supplies; farmers and farming methods; sustainability
 - ◆ Beneficial foods for building muscle and keeping energy levels up
 - ◆ Local and world geography and cultures
 - ◆ American historical events during the past few decades
- ◆ The music and methods of other guitar players while listening to their music

Activities

- ◆ Metalworking projects: designing silver pendants
- ◆ Research of metalworking equipment for home use; purchase of metals and supplies for rings & pendants
 - ◆ Designing and building electric guitars
 - ◆ Studying and playing electric bass guitar
 - ◆ Attending ThorNton Creek band rehearsals with Dad
 - ◆ Running, weight-lifting, and core body workouts every day
 - ◆ Bowling every week
 - ◆ Autumn vegetable gardening in raised beds: carrots, broccoli, onions, chard, beets
- ◆ Harvesting apples in our backyard orchard: Gala, Jonagold, Spartan, Liberty, Honeycrisp, Queen Cox
 - ◆ Reading for pleasure
 - ◆ Reading for research purposes
 - ◆ Taking notes during workshops to remember key points
- ◆ Brainstorming ideas for creating job/work opportunities using a Venn diagram to visualize how skills/passions/market overlap
 - ◆ Proofreading and revising content in written work
 - ◆ Essay-writing about the Zodiac Sailing Trip: rough draft, revising, and editing
 - ◆ Communicating through emails and other written messages to friends and family
 - ◆ Playing games of Bananagrams
- ◆ The Official SAT Question of the Day: Vocabulary, sentence completion & improvement, & identifying sentence errors
- ◆ The Official SAT Question of the Day: Mathematical thinking, problems solving, multiplying fractions, algebraic equations, squaring a number, & negative numbers
 - ◆ Attending a workshop presented by friend and author Blake Boles: "College Without High School"
 - ◆ Mind-bending, hand-wringing 3-D puzzles from Math 'n' Stuff

Films

- ◆ The Soloist
- ◆ Defiance
- ◆ Swing Vote
- ◆ Food, Inc.
- ◆ Flash of Genius
 - ◆ Glory Road
- ◆ Remember the Titans
 - ◆ Star Trek
- ◆ Dave Matthews Band: Central Park