



Troop 7 scoutmaster Tim Lane, left, and assistant scoutmaster Dan Melnyk, center, help boy scout Ben Melnyk, right, take out a kayak on Saturday after the dedication of the new Nick Boddie Aquatic Center at Camp Charles in Bailey, N.C.

It was with fanfare and the sound of water splashing Saturday that the Nick Boddie Aquatic Center was dedicated at Camp Charles in Bailey.

“It is an opportunity for Nick’s two daughters, wife, grandchildren, brother and his family, and our extended family to be together with friends and strangers to enjoy a nice day and appreciate Nick’s life and the legacy he shared with so many,” said Mike Hancock, Nicholas B. Boddie Jr.’s son-in-law. “This building is just another testimony to his legacy.”

When Nick Boddie died in 2011, he left \$50,000 to the East Carolina Boy Scouts of America, which was combined with donations by Hancock and other family members and several business donations to build the aquatic center. The new center includes kayaks, canoes and rowboats along with a new pier.

“Donations like this are the only way we can afford to do projects like this,” said East Carolina Council Scout Executive H. Ray Franks. “We can’t afford to build buildings with our operating budget because we don’t have surplus for capital projects.”

In addition to becoming an Eagle Scout and serving as a past council president, Nick Boddie co-founded the Hardee’s Classic Golf Tournament in 1989 to raise \$2.6 million for the East Carolina Council over the years. Together with his brother, Mayo Boddie, the men converted the reception center into a dining hall when the Camp Bonner dining hall burned in 1997. They also made a major donation to build the Boddie Family Dining Hall. They later co-chaired a capital campaign to give the camp a facelift, and in turn, the camp was renamed Camp Boddie in 2010 to honor their service.

“While serving on this council, Nick changed the face of our camping program,” Franks said. “The capital campaign he led and the financial donations they made to what is now Camp Boddie really provided the platform for modern programming for Scouts of today.”

Hancock said Camp Charles always held a special place in his father-in-law’s heart.

“One of my earliest memories of Nick is of him talking about his childhood and how he learned to swim at Camp Charles,” Hancock said. “Having this aquatic center in his name really brings that full circle.”

Hancock said Nick Boddie was a strong proponent for scouting and the values it taught.

“The Boy Scouts provided Nick with a very positive place for young boys to spend together and learn about wilderness skills, but also leadership, citizenship and community,” Hancock said.

“All three of those things were very important to him, and Boy Scouts continue to provide that positive environment to the youth of today.”

Camp Charles is the only East Carolina Council facility that allows Cub Scouts to do boating activities as regulations state – the youth have to be in non-flowing water. The aquatic center also will serve the community beyond just Scouts as it is available to individuals and community groups.

Franks said they expect the average of 2,500 Camp Charles visitors to increase by 50 percent next year because of the new center.

“We want everyone to look at the camp as a community resource, not just a Boy Scout resource or facility,” Franks said. “This project and Nick’s contributions will benefit many generations to come.”