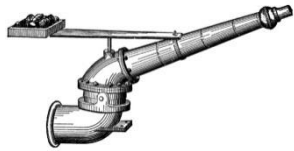
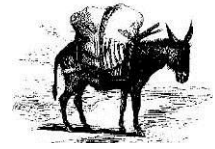


KENTUCKY CAMP



CHRONICLE



Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

February 2015

Award Received by CNF Heritage Society

By Mark Doumas

The Coronado National Forest Heritage Society was honored to receive the first annual volunteerism award from the Forest Service at a Forest Service "All Employees" meeting on November 18, 2014 in Sonoita, AZ.



The Heritage Society is the parent organization for the Friends of Kentucky Camp and Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch chapters. The award recognized all the hard work that these Friends' groups have invested in the preservation, rehabilitation and interpretation of the cultural assets at these respective sites.

Chris Schrager introduced the award and pointed out that selection of this first annual award was difficult due to the caliber of volunteer groups that partner with the Coronado National Forest. (Friends of Sabino Canyon, Arizona Trail Association, etc.)

This award also includes a plaque that will recognize volunteer partners for years to come. This plaque is currently on display at the Forest Service Supervisor's Office building in Tucson.

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Jim Upchurch (CNF Supervisor, far right) presents volunteerism certificate to volunteers while Chris Schrager (far left) proudly observes. Volunteers accepting the award are (from l-r) Pete Van Cleve (hat), Judy Van Cleve, Mark Doumas, Joe Garcia and Craig Williams. (Photo courtesy of US Forest Service)



Award plaque (Photo courtesy of US Forest Service)

Why We Volunteer

By John Weiss

My first time at Kentucky Camp was when I volunteered to be a caretaker for two weeks in 2001. These two weeks were my annual vacation time from my 'day job' at Texas Instruments.

This was in October, and there were many hikers and riders coming through the site. Several visitors, when they asked about my time here, were astonished that I would actually spend my two weeks of annual vacation doing this.

We all have our own reasons for volunteering at Kentucky Camp: being away from the urban world; being inside the rural world; associating and working with other like-minded people; enjoying hands-on work; contributing to a greater notion of preservation.

While these things are in themselves great personal reasons, perhaps the most rewarding benefits include serving a generally grateful public, who appreciate and enjoy our efforts. This becomes clear just reading the comments in the visitor register. There are hundreds of "thank you for doing this" entries. Returning visitors comment on progress they see over decades, which we -as stewards- can lose sight of. Children's comments and even sketches indicate we even influence the youngsters – this is especially true when reading the log in the rental cabin.

Some of the specific benefits that Kentucky Camp offers are Scouting projects for youngsters, a venue for Native Americans for cultural traditions, the start/finish line and race hub for the 50-mile endurance run every March, a welcome place for AZT users to have a lunch or rest (think porch), overnight getaways at the rentals, bright skies for telescopes, and birding.

And there are numerous things going on that we'll never hear about.

I'd like to share a hand-written letter I received last month from caretakers who volunteered at KC nearly 10 years ago. They wrote:

Dear Kentucky Camp Friends:

... Between us we have over 9000 volunteer PIT hours. We have worked in 17 States, 21 National Forests and spent 2 weeks [volunteering] in the Italian Forest as guests of Italy.

Our favorite memory is the Month of May; we were on site at Kentucky Camp. What a thrill to "be in charge" of such a lovely site.

*Thank You,
Art and Mary Kreitzer*

That says a lot for volunteerism!

Our next volunteer day is Saturday, February 14. Come share the love ☺ We will continue working to install the new screen doors. We typically work from 8AM to 1PM with a break for lunch. Contact Mark Doumas at doumas@mindspring.com if you are interested in participating in on-site activities.

Fairbank Day

By John Weiss

On October 25, 2014 the Friends of the San Pedro River conducted their annual Fairbank Day. Kentucky Camp was represented with a booth. Many interested visitors stopped by to view the posters and pick up copies of the Chronicle and other brochures. It was really nice to meet a few folks who had never heard of Kentucky Camp, and then express an interest to visit.

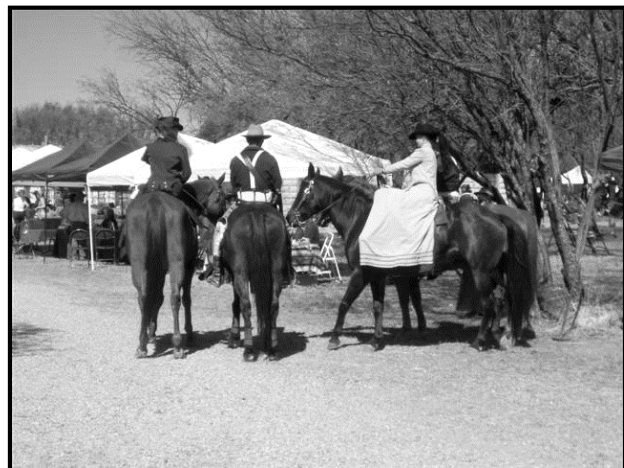
At the event were Cavalry displays and demonstrations, live music, a chuck-wagon for lunches, guided tours of the site and nearby cemetery, an exhibit of the Murray Springs Clovis Site, Flint Knapping demo, and a hands-on, do-it-yourself, adobe brick-making booth.

Directly across from the KC booth was an impressive "Power from the Past" exhibition; an array of turn-of-the-century engines and tractors powered by steam, kerosene, gasoline and

natural gas. There was even an old wringer-style washing machine.



This gas engine ran all day, and was virtually silent. (Photo courtesy of John Weiss)



Turn of Century Apparel. (Photo courtesy of John Weiss)

Some History:

Fairbank is a "ghost town" located within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA), along the San Pedro River. Its life as a town began with the construction of a railroad in 1881, and it soon became an important depot as well as the closest railroad stop to Tombstone, then one of the largest western cities (15,000 in 1882).

The Bureau of Land Management acquired the land that was once the Mexican Land Grant in 1986. Today the area is open for the public to enjoy. Take a self-guided tour around what was once a thriving boom-town of the Wild West! The town is on Arizona State Highway 82, just west of Tombstone, at the San Pedro River.

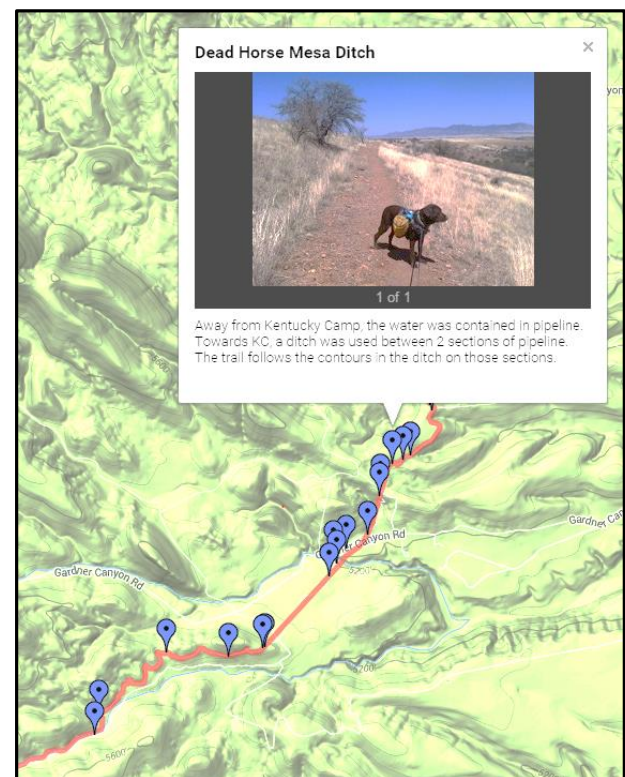
Web: sanpedroriver.org/wpfspr/about-fairbank/

Water System Map

Thanks to the mapping efforts of Sandy Dumas, the Friends of Kentucky Camp web site now has a Google Maps overview of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company water system. The water system was an engineering marvel that moved water eight miles from Bear Spring to Boston Gulch for the purpose of hydraulic gold mining in 1904.

[Navigate to the Friends of Kentucky Camp web site at <http://www.kentuckycamp.org/> then select "Water System Hike"]

The map overview includes "push pin" markers that document points of interest along the route.



If you are computer-savvy, you can install Google Earth on your personal computer and view the map in all its 3D glory. It's almost as good as hiking it! Well, not really, because it's a really nice hike and mostly flat.

New Arizona Trail Gates

By Mark Doumas

The Arizona Trail is a continuous, 800+ mile recreational trail that extends from Arizona's southern border with Mexico all the way to the northern border with Utah. As luck would have it, the trail runs smack-dab through the middle of Kentucky Camp. Hikers, cyclists and horseback riders are routinely seen coming through the site to enjoy the history, refill their water bottles and have a rest.

On August 26, 2014, the Arizona Trail Association, Friends of Kentucky Camp and US Forest Service conducted a special work day to replace both of the AZ Trail gates through Kentucky Camp.

The old gates were still in operable condition but were not wide enough to permit pack animals to pass without having to unload and remove their packs. The new gates are wide enough for pack animals to pass without unloading while still preventing ATVs from entering the site.

Here are a few photos of the day's construction project.



After removing the old south gate, careful measuring is required. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)

Web:

http://www.kenturycamp.org/aztrail_gates.htm



The new south gate ready for use. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)



Removing the north gate required the use of a pneumatic hammer. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)



The north gate ready for use. (Photo courtesy of John Weiss)

We are pleased to report that our recent membership renewal cycle resulted in about 50% of our members opting for email distribution of the Kentucky Camp Chronicle newsletter. This helps reduce our duplication and postage expense..... no increase in membership fee required ☺

Rosemont Mine Update

By John Weiss

The Rosemont Mine Property now has a new owner.

On June 23, 2014, the Augusta Resource Corporation accepted the Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals' hostile takeover bid. Augusta Resource was the former corporation that had been owner and developer of the Rosemont Mine project Southeast of Tucson, about eight miles north of Kentucky Camp.

This project still needs two major approvals in order to move forward.

- A final Record of Decision by the US Forest Service.
- A Clean Water Act permit (CWA) Section 404, which is issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in a letter to the Army Corps, dated Feb. 13, 2013, wrote:

"The 4,750 acre mine, proposed primarily on Coronado National Forest lands southeast of Tucson, would eliminate and/or significantly degrade hundreds of acres of aquatic and riparian resources including waters of the United States (waters), such as wetlands, springs, seeps and riffle-pool complexes."

"At this time, we respectfully reaffirm our objections on the basis that permit approval will have substantial and unacceptable impacts to "aquatic resources of national importance" (ARNI), including Cienega Creek and Davidson Canyon."

"In summary, our enclosed comments detail specific deficiencies in the application related to each of the regulatory restrictions on 404 discharges. Of particular concern, the current proposal:

1. Includes an inadequate analysis of off-site and on-site alternatives to demonstrate that the

proposal is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA);

2. provides questionable hydrological assessments concluding that impacts to downstream flows, sediment balance, and chemical contamination will not be significantly adverse or violate state standards;

3. provides no biological assessment (BA) to guide a determination whether the permit action would jeopardize the continued existence of any of ten federally listed threatened or endangered species;

4. would contribute to the significant degradation of Arizona's rare and fragile wetland resources, reduced by one third over the last century alone;

5. provides no plan to compensate for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States; and

6. could negatively impact recreation, aesthetics, and ecotourism, a \$2.95 billion regional economy."

"The above considerations, if unresolved, could provide an adequate basis for permit denial under the regulations in any environmental setting impacting waters of the U.S. In this setting, where virtually pristine ecological and recreational public resources-including state designated "Outstanding Waters"-thrive in a desert environment, it is vital that CWA protections are rigorously applied"

According to the SavetheScenicSantaRita.com website:

"Unlike the Rosemont mine's previous owners Augusta Resource/Rosemont Copper, the new owner, Hudbay Minerals is doing little to propel the permitting process forward. A Hudbay executive recently said the company is currently focused on four other mines and has no plans to invest substantial capital in Rosemont until these other mining projects reach a more stable state of operation."

Friends of Kentucky Camp

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Tucson, AZ 85711

Web Site:

<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>

Discussion Group:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Submissions:

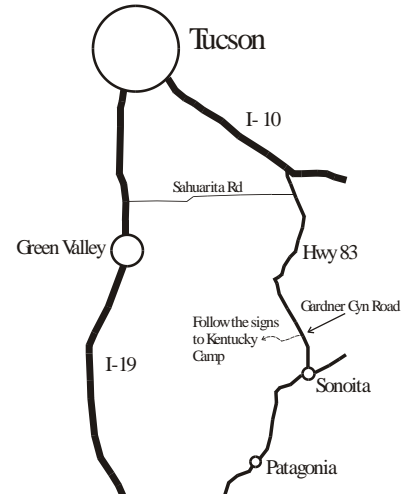
jweiss25@cox.net

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At-Large	Mary Farrell	520 979-9114

Forest Service Liaison:

Chris Schrager	520 591-8127
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**Memberships:**

Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15)
Contributing (\$25) Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)

Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.