
Kentucky Camp Chronicle



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

June 2009

Grant Obtained for Solar Hot Water Heater

The care taker trailer at Kentucky Camp will soon be getting a solar water heater. This project is a result of a program within the Forest Service called Sustainability Microgrants. These grants provide funding for projects at National Forest sites that conserve energy or tap into alternative energy sources. The proposal to install solar hot water at the care taker's trailer was a natural fit for this program because of the large amount of propane that is trucked-in for cooking, heating and hot water. The solar hot water heater won't eliminate our need for propane to be delivered but it will certainly reduce it.



There were seven projects submitted for review across the Coronado National Forest and the solar hot water project at Kentucky Camp was one of just five that were selected for funding. The grant is one of the larger amounts for \$5000. The grant funding will be applied to the solar collector, flash hot water heater, plumbing and installation. Kathy Makansi is in the process of getting bids from local contractors and the Friends of Kentucky Camp may be asked to help prepare for installation.

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This is a really important newsletter: our annual election and membership renewal form is on page 3. Please take a few minutes to fill-out the form and return it.

Fire on the Mountain

If you live in the southern Arizona area, you may have noticed some smoke over the Santa Rita Mountains during the past week. This is a result of the Melendrez fire which was started by lightning on Friday, May 29th.

The fire burned approximately 5800 acres and is now 100% contained. It never posed a risk for the Kentucky Camp site because the fire was on the other side of the mountain from Kentucky Camp and at a fairly low altitude.

Fire crews lit "back fires" around the perimeter of the fire to rob the fire of fuel. Media reports indicate this was a "healthy" fire that will reduce fuel levels and help prevent more serious fires in the future.

Cycling to Kentucky Camp

By: Mark Doumas

In early April of this year, I had the pleasure of leading a group of six hardy souls on an overnight bicycling tour to Kentucky Camp. We started our trip on Saturday morning by meeting for breakfast at Joe's Pancake House near Kolb and Golf Links in Tucson. Most of us were on regular "single" bikes and one couple rode a tandem, or "bicycle built for two". All of the bikes were "touring" style bicycles. This means they are designed to carry the extra weight required for multi-day camping trips.



From Joe's, we made our way to Vail and State Highway 83 making several stops along the way to rest and eat lunch. The route we selected had good bicycle lanes for almost the entire ride. It was a windy day but this wasn't a problem for us until we started the final five miles of dirt road at Gardner and Fish canyon. By then, we were getting tired and the gusting wind was really tossing us around on the road.

We arrived at camp by mid-afternoon and had plenty of time to get settled and chow-down on supper. We were very grateful for the warm solar showers that the caretakers had set out for us earlier in the day. We used the new pulley hoist system in the shower stalls to get the water bags up high.... this system works great!



Kentucky Camp makes an ideal destination for a bicycle tour because the 50 mile ride is a good distance for a one day ride with bicycles loaded with camping gear. Plus, its historic background and rolling hills can be appreciated by just about everyone. Kentucky Camp is about 2500' higher than Tucson, so the ride home on Sunday was quick. Even with our leisurely departure, we were able to get home by early afternoon.

Several of the cyclists in our group were new to Kentucky Camp. Everyone was impressed with the rehabilitation progress at the camp and were very appreciative of the quiet overnight accommodations. I'm hoping we'll be able to make this an annual event!



IMPORTANT!

Please detach (or copy) this page and return to the Friends of Kentucky Camp Secretary by July 15, 2009:

Pat Spoerl
 12250 N. Copper Spring Trail
 Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Membership Renewal

Don't miss out on the fun, the excitement, the Chronicle, and the opportunity to participate in Kentucky Camp's future! Renewing your membership is a simple way to support our ongoing rehabilitation efforts at Kentucky Camp and represents our single largest source of funding. Student, Individual and Family memberships are very reasonably priced. If you'd like to give at a more substantial level, consider a Supporting or Contributing membership..... Or, even a Lifetime membership! Remember, Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: all dues are tax deductible.

To see if your membership is current, look at the mailing label on the other side of this page. If it says "Renew in June of 09" (or '08 or '07) then your membership has expired and it's time to renew. (If your mailing label says "Renew in June of NA", then you are a lifetime member or have received a courtesy copy.) If your renewal year is in error, contact Pat Spoerl at 520 297-7347 or patsprl@aol.com.

Renew Membership:

Enclosed is a check for \$ ____ made payable to Friends of Kentucky Camp for membership until 6/2010.

Please circle:

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

(If a mailing label is on the back side of this and your address has not changed, there is no need to fill this part out.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Friends of Kentucky Camp Mail-in Ballot

Our current Secretary and Treasurer positions are now due for re-election. Pat and Nancy have agreed to serve another two-year term. We now need to officially re-elect them... the board recommends a "For" vote for Pat and Nancy. For your vote to count, you must be a Friends of Kentucky Camp member.... See below. If you are a lifetime member and want to avoid the cost of mailing-in a ballot, simply email patsprl@aol.com with your "For" or "Against" vote.

Secretary	Pat Spoerl	For _____	Against _____
Treasurer	Nancy Hough	For _____	Against _____

Friends of Kentucky Camp

12250 N. Copper Spring Trail
Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Web Site:

<http://www.aztecfreenet.org/fkcamp/>

Discussion Group:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Submissions:

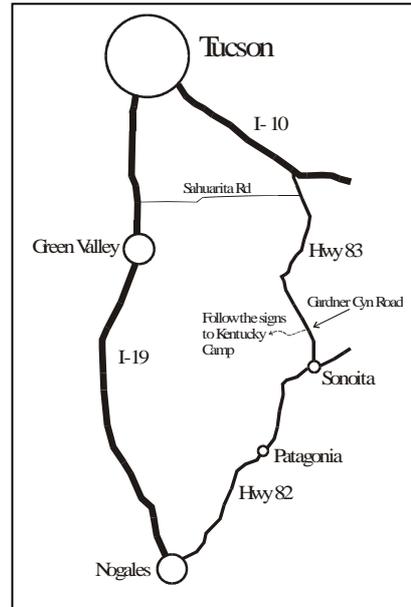
doumas@mindspring.com

Board of Directors:

Mark Doumas	President	520 299-4281
John Weiss	Vice President	520 323-0358
Pat Spoerl	Secretary	520 297-7347
Nancy Hough	Treasurer	520 578-9053
Pete Van Cleve	At-large	520 378-1956

Forest Service Liaison:

Kathy Makansi 520 760-2502



Memberships:

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

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