

The Friends of Kern Chronicles

VOL. 1, No. 1

A Newsletter for Members and Guests of Friends of Kern, Inc.

SPRING 2004

FRIENDS OF KERN CELEBRATES SECOND BIRTHDAY WITH NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Friends of Kern, Inc. celebrated its second birthday on February 1st, 2004 with several notable accomplishments....

Tax Exempt Status

In May, FOK received its tax exempt non profit status from the IRS, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Tom Sydnor**, one of FOK's founding directors and an attorney in Washington DC who provided his services pro bono. Friends of Kern is officially a 501[c][3] non-profit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Donations to Kern

On July 12th, the Friends of Kern Board established two special funds as a mechanism to provide support for camp on an ongoing basis. The FRIENDS OF KERN CAMPSHIP FUND, with annual distributions, and the 100TH ANNIVERSARY DISCRETIONARY FUND, as a reserved fund, receive a combined total of 25% of each incoming membership gift, unless otherwise specifically designated by the donor. In November, a check for **\$690.60** to YMCA Camp Kern represented the first distribution from the FOK Campership Fund. The 100th Anniversary Fund total stood at **\$1,265.40** as of March 23rd.

The Board also voted to donate **\$250** to Camp Kern to become a Hole Sponsor at the **Bob Barr** Memorial Golf Outing held in August.

New Board Members

At the November 23rd FOK Annual Meeting held at Camp Kern prior to the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner, **Jeff Anderson** and **Matt Hickey** were welcomed as FOK's newest Board Members, joining Chair **John Neff**, Vice-Chair **Tom Falter**, and **Mike Hickey**.

YMCA National Conference

In early December, the YMCA of the USA held a 3-day Annual Support and Alumni Development Symposium at the YMCA of the Ozarks' Trout Lodge outside of St. Louis. FOK Executive Director **Stuart Weinberg** joined national YMCA staffers **Gary Forster** and **Mike Bussey** as speakers, providing training to YMCA camp executive directors, alumni directors and camp volunteers from across the country.

The FOK Web Site

The Friends of Kern website continues to add features which make it unique among camp alumni web sites in the country:

An Alumni Index accesses a web-based database of camp associations to help document an individual's relationship to camp. Without displaying any personal

information, the index serves as a historical tool as camp prepares for its upcoming 100th anniversary in 2010.

Camper and Staff Lists use the same web-based database to display names and associations by season and/or year. Individuals with email addresses on record have their names highlighted. The email address is not published, due to privacy and spam concerns, but clicking on the name brings up a web form through which a message can be sent.

The coding of these camp associations makes it possible to display some additionally historically interesting lists. Lists by Title produces chronologic listings of various camp positions, such as Executive Director, Caretaker/Property Director, Board Chair, and others.

Scanned images of old postcards, letters, songbooks, camper newsletters, and Annual Reports can also be found.

*Thanks to **Rich Sucher**, who scanned and sent to Friends of Kern the postcard below, which is accessible online in the History section. Rich's great uncle John Zarka sent this postcard, dated July 26, 1929, to his mother while he was at Kern. Note the tree growing through the front roof.*



The Dining Lodge, Dayton Y. M. C. A. Camp Kern, Fort Ancient, O.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF KERN DIRECTOR AND CHAIR

Stuart T. Weinberg, MD
Friends of Kern Executive Director

Last December, National YMCA Camping Consultant Gary Forster asked each of us who were attending the 3-day Annual Support and Alumni Development Symposium to stand up, introduce ourselves, and share a “success story”.

There were stories about new ideas and great successes in fund raising, stories about alumni who returned to camp, stories about camp’s impact on people, and stories about how people wanted to give back in significant financial ways.

What struck me about halfway through was the varying definition of “success story” - some were about people, some were about finances, and some were about both.

At camp, a successful season probably has different meanings to different people. To a camp counselor, it might mean making it through the summer without that “disaster cabin” and perhaps developing long-lasting relationships with several campers and staff. To the nurse, it might mean handling minimal injuries and illnesses. To the lanyard director, it might mean a strong newfound interest in 8-strand lanyards....To the director, it might mean all of the above plus a strong “bottom line”.

Success of a person or organization is so often measured today by material wealth or finances alone, which can easily overshadow those invaluable contributions and efforts that can’t be measured. Camp helps remind us all that social status or financial well-being takes a backseat when it comes to living together at camp in a cabin and learning how to treat each other with Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.

The Board of Directors and I want Friends of Kern to be a success. Our goals are to build and maintain the network of Kern friends and alumni (the “Kern Family”), provide assistance in preserving and presenting the history of YMCA Camp Kern, and help develop and maintain resources that will perpetuate the camp experience for generations to come.

Certainly our bottom line is important for us to achieve our goals, but in the end, I hope it is the dedicated efforts and achievements of Friends of Kern as we work towards these goals that will be our measure of success, and we invite the support - financial or otherwise - of those who would like to help us.

John E. Neff
Friends of Kern Board Chair

To Friends of Kern:

Like many others before me, I grew up at Camp Kern. I learned how to swim, make a lanyard, start a 1-match fire and avoid poison ivy (after a few too many close encounters). Along the way, as both a camper & counselor, I made friends that I fondly remember & who influenced my life.

I have come to realize that the most important thing about the impact Camp Kern has had on its alumni is that it is not just a memory. The most important thing about Camp Kern is that its mission, from the early days of ‘Camp Ozone’ to current activities, continues today. Most everyday of every year, boys & girls from our families & communities learn and grow through time spent at Camp Kern with its dedicated staff, creative programs & outstanding facilities. In other words, the very reason that each of us finds our Camp experience rewarding is happening RIGHT NOW at Camp Kern.

Friends of Kern works to reconnect Kern Alumni with their memories, their old friends and with Camp Kern. Our first FOK newsletter features a portion of Kern’s long history & the initial efforts by FOK to help document & pass on this legacy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Friends of Kern, I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of Friends of Kern these past 2 years. I look forward to not only ‘keeping in touch’ but also seeing alums down at Kern.

Joining Friends of Kern, Inc.

Any friend or alumni of YMCA Camp Kern is welcome to join Friends of Kern, Inc. as an Affiliate (free) or Voting (\$30 min) Member. Friends of Kern is a 501[c][3] non-profit organization, and your membership gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information, and to access our on-line application, check out our website at www.friendsofkern.org



John Neff, Martha Taylor, Kim Richey, Tom ‘Tommy T’ Shisler, Greg Aldredge, Amy (Root) DiMario, Deb (Bradbury) Wright, and Cinda Pinkerton share a moment together when Kim came into town last June to play at the Canal Street Tavern. Steve Kline and Jeff Haines were also in attendance. More stories and pics (thanks to Neffer) on the web!!

YMCA CAMP KERN ALMANAC AND ALUMNI NEWS

As YMCA Camp Kern heads towards its 100th Anniversary in 6 years (2010), here are some history highlights:

95 YEARS AGO - September, 1909

The following article appeared in the Dayton newspaper, incorrectly identifying Carl B. Kern as "Charles Kern":

Godfrey's Successor

Reception Planned for Charles Kern, the New Boys' Secretary of the Y.M.C.A.

Next Friday evening at 6:45 every boy who belongs to the Boys' department of the Y.M.C.A., together with any boys who are interested in the Hustling club, are urged to be present at a reception to be given for Charles Kern, the new boys' secretary.

Mr. Chamberlain, the chairman of the boys' work committee and the other members of the committee, and Mr. Bard the president of the Y.M.C.A., will be present and want to see the auditorium of the new building filled with boys. The dormitory quartet will sing and refreshments will be served in the boys' building.

Mr. Kern has been Boys' Work director at Ploughkeepsie [*sic*], N.Y. Previous to this time he was assistant to M.D. Crackle, secretary of the West Side Boys' club of Cleveland. He then spent three years at the Springfield Training School.

90 YEARS AGO - 1914

* Construction on the Council House begins June 1. Other planned facilities for the summer include tennis courts, a baseball diamond, wooden platforms for tents, and two additional canoes.

85 YEARS AGO - 1919

* On May 10, nearly 100 men and boys travel to Camp Kern for the day to begin construction of six Adirondack lodges, to be later named for each letter in "YMCA CK" - Yukis, Mohicans, Choctaws, Apaches, Catawbas, and Kiowas.

65 YEARS AGO - 1939

* The Dayton YMCA signs an option on March 31 for a site on Lake Jimmerson, near Angola, Indiana in Steuben County - the unanimous choice of the Camp Site Committee which visited 6 sites in Ohio, 1 in Michigan, and 11 in Indiana to relocate the growing camp from the bottom of the hill.

55 YEARS AGO - 1949

* Camp Kern, formerly part of the Boys' Work Department of the Central Branch, becomes a separate Camp Kern Department at the YMCA.

* "The total number of campers was less than that of 1948. This decrease, we feel, was largely due to the elimination of the Fifth Street Branch period and our experiment in inter-racial camping which met with some opposition on the part of parents, thus resulting in the withdrawal of registrants and the refusal to permit their sons to attend Camp Kern."

* The last year that Camp Kern is located at the bottom of the hill along the Little Miami. Since the new pool at the top of the hill opened in 1947, campers hiked up the hill to go swimming.

50 YEARS AGO - 1954

* Pete's Tower, donated and named after long-time YMCA friend G.A. "Pete" Doeller, is constructed.

40 YEARS AGO - 1964

* Pioneer Village Unit (now Sugar Woods) construction completed during the summer.

* ELK Lake construction begun by Fall, and O.J. Bard Nature Cabin completed.

* Outdoor Education ("school camping") Program begins in October.

25 YEARS AGO - 1979

* Craftshop reconstructed before summer camp starts after original craftshop was destroyed in August, 1978, from a fire caused by lightning.

Congratulations to the following new additions to the Kern family in 2003!

January 5th - Austin Crowe; son of Scott Crowe

January 27th - Trevor Bayless; son of Amy (Ackerman) Bayless

February 6th - Kevin Willson; son of Dan and Lori (Hanback) Willson

February 17th - Spencer Hroch; son of Brian Hroch

February 23rd - Samuel Graler; son of Mark Graler

March 11th - Bayli Rees; daughter of Mike and Angi (Hartman) Rees

April 19th - Marcus Tolley; son of Mark and Paula (Brindle) Tolley

April 29th - Will Conway; son of Jen (Vogel) Conway

May 19th - Hope Stahl; daughter of Rob Stahl

June 18th - Duncan Ingram; son of Amy (Rider) Ingram

July 13th - Aidan McDowell; son of Jeff McDowell

September 6th - Elijah Radloff; son of Jeff Radloff

September 6th - Paige Falter; daughter of Tom Falter

November 8th - Olivia Trowbridge; daughter of Dave 'Trow' and Karri (Thomas) Trowbridge

November 14th - Kylee Dieterich; daughter of Dena (Shaver) Dieterich

November 25th - Benjamin Kunz; son of Christy (Coggins) Kunz

December 12th - Ellen Seifert; daughter of Stephen Seifert

December 19th - Emma Schmidt; daughter of Oliver and Sarah (Carpenter) Schmidt

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS

Since our inception on February 1st, 2002, many individuals have contributed to our efforts. Friends of Kern would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following people. Every effort had been made to be as accurate as possible. Names are listed by maiden (camp) name. Thanks also to TOM SYDNOR for his pro bono work to help FOK with its 501[c][3] status, and to JIM RANNES for keeping an eye out on those Kern history keepsakes. *designates current Voting Members as of February 28, 2004

Anonymous (2)	Mark Graler*	Vince Panzeca
Carol Allenson*	Doug Greenfield*	Eric Partee*
Jeff Anderson*	Tami (Greenfield) Boehmer*	Steve Poelzing*
Cheryl (Arnold) Estes*	Felicia (Gregoroff) Hail*	Erin Policinski*
Lynn (Arnold) Sparks*	Jeff Haines*	Gay (Pratt) Ward*
Beth (Barnheiser) Lowy*	Traci (Hale) Brown*	Jim Rannes*
Debbie (Barnheiser) Alston*	Jack Harding*	Pam (Reinhardt) Perrotti
Doug Beattie*	Kim (Havens) Keith*	Kim Richey*
Sarah (Bekofske) Sucher*	Sandy Hempel*	Amy (Rider) Ingram*
Bill Benysh*	Greg Herbold*	Bill 'Wally' Ritchie*
Beth (Bethel) Konves*	Matt Hickey*	Amy (Root) DiMario*
Mike Boccieri*	Mike Hickey*	Gary Saxton*
Deb (Bradbury) Wright*	Ted Hopple*	Mark Schaefer*
Lauren Bratburd*	Brian Hroch*	Linda (Scott) Bartlett*
Jim Brown*	Laura Huffman*	Jim Sexstone
Sue (Bryant) Wadsworth*	Hillary Hyde*	Mike Sherman*
John Bull*	Art Jackson, Jr.*	Stephen Shisler
Phil Burckle*	Craig Jolley*	Tom Shisler*
John Burk*	Tim Joseph*	Jay Silver*
Bob Burke	David 'Ernie' Kesling	Jack Singerman
Pete Cade*	Sean Kline*	Shal Singh*
Colin Campbell*	Steve Kline*	Lee Skarha*
Deb Carraway*	Dave Knaebel*	Chuck Snyder*
Marty Caskey*	Robyn (Kopple) Pfahl*	Jack Sperry*
Jack Clendenin*	Mike Lair	Julie (Stark) Janning*
Suzi Colt*	Scott Lambert*	Moira Stone*
Sandy (Crosley) Bolton	Mark Lecklider*	Rich Sucher*
Mike Dailey*	Karen Lewis*	Kathleen (Summers) Motoike
Mike de Ridder	Andrea Longenecker*	Tom Sydnor*
Steve Dimlich*	Janice Lyons*	Dave Thompson*
Laura Drake*	Susan Mattick*	Bil Tonar*
Blythe (Duke) Sather*	Jeni Maxwell	Dave 'Trow' Trowbridge
Mike Engel*	Larry Maxwell*	John Waddell*
Marty Erbaugh	Andy McGarvey*	Stacy Wall
Dale Erskine*	Burt Moore*	Stuart Weinberg*
Melissa Eversole*	Ginger Murphy	Dave Whitesell
Tom Falter*	Nancy (Myers) Winniford*	Molly (Whitney) Grant*
Jen Feltz	David Neal*	Megan (Wilson) Ray*
John Fiely*	John Neff*	Nancy (Woods) Nichols*
Patty Fiely*	Jen (Neufarth) Hansford	Curt Wright
Jason Gibbons*	Ted Newill*	Steve Wright*
Jim Gogle*	Karin (Orr) Dillman*	Tony 'Zang' Zangaro*

Friends of Kern Chronicles

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