



Trail Time

Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc.

KY RT Statistics
Trails with RT sections: 18
Trail Projects: 17 (22 mi. funded)
Longest contiguous section of RT:
6 mi, Muhlenberg RT

vol 8 , no.3 July, 2005

Virginia Creeper Trail Tour

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council will visit the Virginia Creeper Trail Saturday, August 6th. All members and RT supporters are invited to join us for this trip. We will experience first-hand the positive economic impact of a rail-trail on neighboring communities. The 34-mile "Creeper Trail" is a nice counterpart to the 36-mile Dawkins line, recently abandoned by R.J. Corman Railroad Group in eastern Kentucky.

According to an Abingdon businessman, the Creeper Trail has transformed the tourism economy of Washington County, VA (population 50,000). He reports that the trail has 200,000 visitors per year, and trail-related tourism generates over \$3M per year. We will meet for dinner in Abingdon on Friday evening, stay in Abingdon overnight, and then meet at the bike shop on Saturday morning. A shuttle will carry us up from Abingdon to Whitetop. From there, it's a long, slow down hill bike ride over a dirt/gravel packed trail to Damascus (17 mi.) and then a flat to slightly uphill ride to Abingdon (17 mi). Hybrids and mountain bikes are mainly used on the trail. Riders can pick up the shuttle in Damascus for the return or continue by bike to Abingdon. We are also arranging a visit with entrepreneurs who are involved in the transformation of these trailhead communities.

You'll find more information about the area at www.abingdon.com/tourism. The Highlands Festival is also scheduled for this weekend. The festival includes an arts and crafts show and live theater, and you have the option of extending your hotel reservation through Saturday night.

We hope that you will join us. If you are aware of property owners adjacent to potential trails or others in your community who might be interested in this trip, please forward this information, or refer them to www.kyrailtrail.org. KRTC is willing to cover some of the costs associated with this trip, especially for adjacent property owners along the Dawkins line, and for officials in Johnson, Breathitt and Magoffin Counties. To reserve your spot, or if you have any questions, please contact Pam Hurt or Helen Siewers at 270-842-1953, or via e-mail at Helen.Siewers@bgky.org. Please RSVP by July 25th. Because of late notice in the newsletter we will make efforts to accommodate late responders.



(Along the Virginia Creeper, near Abingdon, VA, K. Lovan, 2004)

The Virginia Creeper near Abingdon VA is approximately 300 miles from Lexington, and 140 miles from Jackson. From Central Kentucky the major roads are I-75 South to Knoxville, then I-81 to Bristol/Abingdon.

Friday, August 5, 2005

Check in: Best Western Inn & Suites, 1093 Ole Berry Dr., Abingdon (I-81, exit 14). We have 20 rooms with a group rate of \$60 per night, (276) 698-3040

8:00 pm Reservation for 22 at The Tavern, 222 East Main Street, (276) 628-1118

Saturday, August 6, 2005

9:30 am Register at Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop, 201 Pecan Street, (888)245-3648, Shuttle plus bike rental: \$20 adult; \$18 child. Shuttle only: \$10 adult; \$6.30 child,

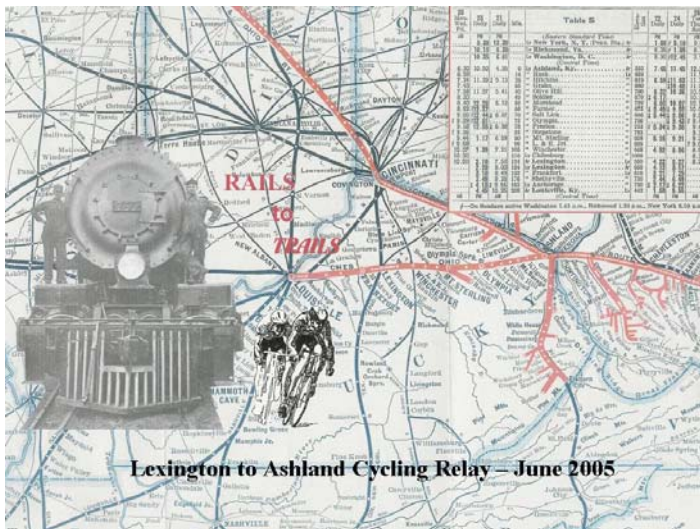
<http://www.vacreepertrailbikeshop.com/>

10:00 am Shuttle departs for Whitetop
Optional end-point in Damascus

TBA Visit with entrepreneurs in Damascus and/or Abingdon,
Depart Abingdon, or optional second night at Best Western

Contact Information: Helen Tyson Siewers, Greenways Coordinator, 1141 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101, (270) 842-1953, ext. 128, (270) 842-1282 fax, Helen.Siewers@bgky.org

Lexington to Ashland Cycle Relay A Success!



The bicycle relay ride from Lexington to Ashland put on by the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council as a National Trail Day Activity on June 11, 2005 was a success on several levels. The ride promoted the development of the abandoned CSX railway between Lexington and Ashland into a continuous railtrail. At Lexington, Winchester, Mt. Sterling, Salt Lick, Olive Hill and Grahn the riders were greeted by local dignitaries. Speeches were short; it was day for riding and enjoying the out of doors. The riders rode the route safely without any major mishaps.

The road cyclists averaged 15-17 mph and the relay riders on mountain bikes in eastern Carter County rode at 12 mph. Sixteen riders from the Bluegrass Cycling Club rode the legs from Lexington to Salt Lick (60

Welcome Pedal Power

Our newest corporate sponsor

Pedal Power is KY Rails to Trails' newest corporate sponsor. Pedal Power is a locally owned bike shop in Lexington, KY selling Cannondales, Litespeeds, Giants and other major brands. Helga and Billy Yates are the owners and long time KRTC members. They support our efforts and wanted to do something positive for our organization. As part of their sponsorship Pedal Power has given KRTC \$20 gift cards. To buy one of these gift cards at face value please contact Keith Lovan at klovanx@yahoo.com or 859-258-3478. The gift cards can be used to purchase any item at their store. KRTC welcomes Pedal Power as our newest corporate sponsor.

miles), two riders from the Daniel Boone RT group rode the leg from Salt Lick to Grahn (39 miles) and eight riders from the Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts (ACE) rode the last 30 miles from Grahn to Rush in Carter County. The road cyclists choose to continue the relay in drizzle, light rain and under the threat of thunderstorms between Lexington and Olive Hill. The good road cycling skills of the BCC riders and John Haight and Gordon Towell who rode for the Daniel Boone RT were beautiful to watch. The ACE riders had a different type ride in lightly populated and forested Carter County over the last third of the relay. For approximately 5 miles the RR right of way in central Carter County has been incorporated into gravel/dirt access roads with three trestle bridges still in use. The ACE riders used mountain bikes to ride the mix of gravel, dirt and asphalt roads and to climb a long hill estimated to have a 14-16% grade that ran parallel to the RR right of way. There were also at least 2 steep climbs between Mt. Sterling and Salt Lick as the roads entered the Knobs. One of the benefits of using the RR right of way for a trail is that the steep grades of the county roads will be smoothed out since the railways were constructed to have easier grades for the trains.



(ACE riders crossing an old trestle bridge near Flutz in Carter County on the ROW now used as an access road, D. Blevins,2005)

The relay started at the Pleasant Ridge Park in eastern Fayette County at approximate mile post 637.1 and ended at mile post 532.8 in Rush, one mile from the Boyd County line. The distance over the railroad corridor is 105 miles. The distance of the cycling relay over nearby county and state roads was 127 miles. The first group of riders left Lexington at 8:10 AM and the last riders arrived in Rush at 7:15 PM.

The riders wore "shimmels", vests with the KRTC logo, and one bike carried a cardboard tube as a "baton" containing official sign in sheets and some original CSX tickets bought off of eBay. Members of the Bluegrass Amateur

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Get your "Share the Road"

License Plate



Bicyclists, joggers, walkers and those interested in safe cycling and walking along Kentucky streets and roads should support the "Share the Road" specialty license plate by sending in an application for your plate. Alison Smith of Lexington started this initiative as a grassroots effort a year ago. She saw the need to alert the public to the safety needs of the non-motorized users on our roads.

The natural supporters of this plate includes parents of children who bike or walk to school or who would like to bike and/or walk to school, cycling commuters, casual cyclists, moms who ride bikes to do

errands, triathletes in training, mountain bikers, cyclists who just enjoy riding and walkers and joggers of all types.

For Kentucky to establish a specialty license plate that will prominently feature the words "Share the Road," 900 applications accompanied by a \$25 fee are needed by Sept. 1. Your \$25 application fee pre-pays for your 2006 license plate. After that, the plate will be available for purchase like as any other specialty plate. A copy of the application is on the next page. The applications are also available at biking and sports shops. Go to <http://www.sharetheroadky.com/> for more information and to download more applications. Payment can be made by Paypal. The plate design features both a cyclist and a runner/walker.

When this newsletter went to print 300 applications with the twenty five dollar fee had been received by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The Lexington/Fayette County area has sent in approximately 40% of the applications and the Louisville/Jefferson County area 26%. We will need the support of the entire cycling, trailing, walking and jogging community and the entire state to get the plate.

Within the last two years, two cyclists, both in compliance with the law, have been killed on Central Kentucky roads. All cyclists have stories about motorists

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Pedal Power has been serving central Kentucky's Cyclists since 1973. We are celebrating our 33rd year in business and look forward to many more. Stop by our shop in downtown Lexington so we can help you with all your cycling needs!

August Supper Sale

Pedal Power will have a storewide sale for the entire month of August. All bikes will be on sale. Clothing and Accessories will be 20% to 70% off. Stop and register for a free fit and spin analysis as well as other prizes.

Ladies Night

Pedal Power has a Ladies Only Night the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. It's free to attend. It includes a basic maintenance and how to clinic and a Q & A session. Free gifts for all attendees and a 15% discounts on purchases made that night. See our website for more information.

Hours of Operation

Mon - Fri: 9AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 9AM - 5 pm

Sunday: Closed

www.pedalpowerbikes.com

Pedal Power Bike Shop

401 S. Upper St.

Lexington, KY 40508

859-255-6408

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing
Frankfort, Kentucky
Application for Special License Plates
www.ShareTheRoadKY.com

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

KY County: _____

I am applying for a **SHARE THE ROAD** specialty license plate.

 Applicant's signature:

The funds accompanying this Application shall be held by Alison Smith d/b/a Share the Road Kentucky (the "Escrow Agent") in a non-interest bearing escrow account. The Escrow Agent shall hold such funds until September 1, 2005. On or about September 1, 2005 (or when directed by Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing, whichever is later), if all of the requirements (including but not limited to the receipt of 900 Applications) for the issuance of the Share The Road license plate have been met, the Escrow Agent shall deliver the funds to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing. If by September 1, 2005, all of the requirements (including but not limited to the receipt of 900 Applications) for the issuance of the Share The Road license plate have not been met, the Escrow Agent shall return said funds to the Applicant.

The Applicant shall indemnify and hold the Escrow Agent harmless from any claims, damages, and expenses (including court costs and reasonable attorney fees) which might be incurred by or asserted against the Escrow Agent as a consequence of this Escrow arrangement as long as Escrow Agent performs in compliance with the terms stated herein. The Escrow Agent shall have a first lien on the sums deposited hereunder for any court costs and attorney fees incurred by it in connection herewith.

If 900 applications for the Share The Road license plate are not received by September 1, 2005, the plate WILL NOT be produced. In this event, your \$25 application fee will be returned to the address written on the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

This application, or requests for refunds, will be accepted at any time.

Each application must be accompanied by a check made payable to "SHARE THE ROAD KY" in the amount of \$25.00.

Send: Completed application
 \$25.00 check
 Self Addressed Stamped Envelope

To: Share The Road KY
 P.O. Box 22624
 Lexington, KY 40522-2624

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Radio Society (BARS) and the Winchester Pioneer Amateur Radio Club monitored the ride.

Community Representatives who greeted the riders, signed the roster and waved them on were Sandy Shafer, Lexington-Fayette County Council Member; Mayor Dodd Dixon, Winchester ; Commissioner Kenny Book, Winchester; State Representative Adrian Arnold, Montgomery County; Mayor Gary Williamson , Mt. Sterling; Laura Tipton, Main St. Director, Mt. Sterling; Mayor Brad Frizell, Salt Lick; Mayor Danny Sparks, Olive Hill; Pati Porter, Community Development & Main Street Program Manager, Olive Hill; County Judge Exec Charles Wallace, Carter County; Jesse Oney, Eastern Hills Saddle Club; Gloria Bunting, Chairman, Grahn School Community Center.

The riders from the Bluegrass Cycling Club were Robert Underwood, Keith Lovan, Morgan McIlwain, Joyce Fogleman, Ralph Mullins, Bena Halecky, Frank Loudermilk, Tim Terry, Steve Liner, George Van Meter, Doug Wagner, Cheri Tolle, David Moore, Michael Montross, Shannon Montross and Dorothy Kern. John Haight and Gordon Towell rode for the Daniel Boone RT group. The riders from the Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts (ACE) were Jim Ross, Dennis Blevins, Brian Bishop, Gary Coovert, Mike Selvy, Ron Hackworth, Lora Hackworth, and Dianna Burgette. Among the many helpers were KRTC Members Joni Kling, Steele Hinton and Beverly Kendall. As a result of the relay there were several newspaper articles and editorials. Thanks to all for a successful relay. See pictures in the photo club section of the website. <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/relay-06-11-05>.



(Left to Right, John Haight, Frank Loudermilk, Bena Halecky, Dixie Moore, Mayor Frizell, his son, Gordon Towell, Keith Lovan, Morgan McIlwain, David Moore, picture by S. Hinton)

Happenings in Winchester

The KY Rails to Trails Council and the Bluegrass Rails to Trails Foundation will have a booth for the fourth year at the Winchester Pioneer Days on Labor Day weekend. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth in 2 hour blocks. If you can donate your time please email Dixie Moore at diemoore@insightbb.com or call 859-227-6165.

Winchester recently finished construction of a bike trail section along the Mt. Sterling Road as part of the Winchester northeast bypass construction. The completed section runs from Conkwright Middle School toward Lykins Park for approximately 3/10 of a mile. The city of Winchester is planning to complete the remaining 4/10 for a mile trail to the park pending real estate easements. The displays and booths that KRTC have had over the last several years on holidays and at local festivals such as Winchester's Pioneer Days have been instrumental in creating and maintaining public support for trail projects.

Visit to the Big South Fork

Members of Kentucky Rails to Trails Council went on a field trip on Saturday, March 26th to check out the Worley to Bell Farm portion of an abandoned rail line that has been identified as a High Value Line in the Kentucky Abandoned Railroad Corridor Inventory. The KRTC members wanted to investigate the potential of converting this abandonment into a rail trail. The group met at the KY Visitors Center which is housed in the Big South Fork Scenic Railway at 100 Henderson Street, Stearns, KY. With maps and directions from the Visitors Center we started out in search of the abandoned line. We drove to the Blue Heron Mining Community and began our hike. We hike north on the Kentucky Trail with the intent of intersecting the abandoned rail line. We soon discovered that hiking in early spring after a major ice storm is not a good idea. There was still a lot of damage on the trail and even though we spent a portion of the hike lost, it was evident that the trail we were on would not go to the abandoned line. Once we ended our hike we drove to the Yamacraw Railroad Bridge and took lots of pictures. Despite spending a lot of lost time everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and look forward to the next adventure.

More information about the Big South Fork River and Recreational Area can be found at this web site <http://www.nps.gov/biso/pphtml/facilities.html> and photos of the trip are on the web site in the photo gallery.



(KRTC Members on Yamacraw RR Bridge, Lovan, 2005)

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who have cursed and yelled at them to get off the road, "buzzed" and/or thrown rocks, bottles and garbage at them. Kentucky law says "a bicycle shall be operated in the same manner as a motor vehicle." Yet cyclists routinely ride on sidewalks to avoid riding in the streets, creating a hazard for pedestrians.

Kentucky is at the bottom of the list in non-motorized trails, usually converted from abandoned rail-ways, available for walking, cycling and horseback riding. Cycling in Kentucky is in the beginning stages of being seen as an accepted, desired and legitimate form of transportation and recreation. In other states, these trails are seen as good for health, tourism and recreation and as an energy-efficient form of alternative transportation.

The "Share the Road" license plate will cost the same as a standard-issue plate. Plate holders will be able to make a voluntary contribution to the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission when they pick up their first plates and when they renew them. Money generated for the commission will be used to promote the "best interests of the bicycling public, within the context of the total transportation system." This will lead to safer roads for cyclists, walkers and motorists.

When Kentucky cyclists show their strength by getting 900 car owners to apply for a Share the Road plate, it will loudly signal to Frankfort that a significant part of the voting public wants safer alternate transportation. This, in turn, will create support for initiatives, laws and grant applications that increase opportunities for safe cycling and walking, including the establishment of trails for non-motorized transportation.

* * * * *

Abandoned RR in Bowling Green

There was a 4200' Portage Railroad that led from the Barren River "wharf" to the CSX line, and onward to the Warren County courthouse lawn. A historical marker for the PRR stands at the courthouse. It reverted to adjacent property owners in the 1990's. RT supporters are hopeful, however, that the city may yet be able to get a trail in with cooperative property owners. A 2400' spur line is still in TVA hands. Their greenway plan is at www.warrenpc.org/greenways.htm.

Railbanking Extension for the Dawkins Line

Brent Sweger of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet forwarded a STB notice (AB-876X Abandonment Update) that the negotiating period for railbanking on the RJ Corman line in Breathitt, Johnson, Magoffin Counties has been extended to December 23, 2005.



US POSTAGE
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Permit No. 1
Lexington, KY

Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 c (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995.

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council promotes and advocates for the establishment and use of rail trails and associated greenways in Kentucky.

Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Kentucky Rails to Trail Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597
Website: www.KyRailTrail.org

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Lexington, KY 40509, dixiemoore@insightbb.com

PEDAL THE PLANET

Pedal The Planet proudly sponsors the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council!

Come check out the official 2005 Rails to Trails jerseys. We have teamed with Gore to donate 5% of the purchase price to Rails to Trails (1/2 Gore, 1/2 Pedal the Planet).



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