

Redbud Ride

The first annual Magoffin County Redbud Horseback Ride was held at the farm of Mark Minix on Saturday, April 19, 2008 on the Right Fork of the Oakley near Salyersville. The ride was organized by local horseback riders to show the feasibility of using a 36 mile railroad corridor in Breathitt, Johnson and Magoffin Counties to create the “Big Lovely Mountain Trail” as a multi use non motorized trail. David “Bear” May, one of the organizers, reported that “by all accounts the ride went extremely well with over 100 riders in attendance.” The ride was well organized and enjoyable, however Nature was not helpful; it rained most of the ride.

The ride went up to and through Tip Top Tunnel, a 1,555 foot tunnel at Carver at Mile 25.7 on the old rail bed.

The ride was advertised locally and through the Ky Horse Council. First Lady Jane Beshear rode as well as Dr. Hardin, the Judge Executive of Magoffin County. Ginny Grulke with the KY Horse Council took a brief survey of several riders who came to Magoffin Co. to ride from other counties/states. These 17 individuals spent \$2915 in the Salyersville area, or \$171 per person and \$364 per group.

The comments of what made for a good trail ride location included: Good scenic views, good campground and with electric, close restaurants; amount of trail mileage, good access with good trailer parking to trails, wildlife, trees, ferns, wildflowers.

Among the general comments were: “Great Redbud trail ride”, “Great Idea!”, “Great Ride! **I would rather spend my money in KY**”, “The Magoffin County folks did a great job with everything especially the food”, “**KY needs to develop campgrounds and trails. We have beautiful scenic areas that are the best in the country and we need to be able to show it off to the rest of the world.**”

“Excellent ride. Wonderful hospitality. Can’t wait til next year.”

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is highly supportive of the development of the Big Lovely Mountain Trail and the local efforts to show the benefits of a trail. Present but difficult to measure are the improvements in health and quality of life for the surrounding communities. Easier to see are the potentially large economic benefits through tourism of a destination trail that would be used by hikers, long distance runners, cyclists and horseback riders from across Kentucky and neighboring states. The presence of the trail would make the communities along the trail more attractive for job creation.

On other successful rail trails, horses, hikers and bikers coexist to make for a varied experience for all. Horses generally ride on a side path on the trail. One aspect of rail bed trails is that the existing ballast provides an excellent stable foundation to support both horses and cyclists.

This multi-user approach is supported in Kentucky by the Kentucky Trails Coalition. The coalition is a group of hikers, bikers and horseback riders who are committed to working together to maximize the trail experience and trail mileage for all users.



(Riders getting ready for the Redbud Ride, April 19, 2008. Photos by G. Grulke. More photographs of the ride are on the KRTC website, www.kyrailtrail.org.)

KY Rails to Trails Council goes to the Monon Trail

Save the Date - June 27 & 28

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council (KRTC) has planned a trip to Indianapolis, IN June 27-28th to study and tour by bicycle the Monon Trail and Central Canal Towpath. Anyone who wishes to join KRTC in Indianapolis is welcome. These trails are considered pre-eminent examples of abandoned railroad lines converted to useful public transportation and recreation corridors. The Monon links commercial districts, schools, parks, the state fairgrounds and a dozen residential neighborhoods. It has direct connections to the Fall Creek Trail, the Monon Greenway of Carmel and the Central Canal Towpath to form a trail network that reaches to the west side of the downtown district. No matter the weather, someone is enjoying the Monon Trail during any daylight hour of any day. This urban greenway is perhaps one of the busiest in the nation. Born of grassroots citizen efforts in the mid-1980s the first section opened in 1996.

"The group will experience first-hand the positive economic impact of a rail-trail on neighboring communities," according to Keith Lovan, Chair of KRTC. As part of the larger Indianapolis Greenways system, the Monon Trail has helped transform the real estate and tourism economy of the area.

Individual will make their own travel and overnight arrangements based on the information below. KRTC has a group rate for **June 27th at Hyatt Place at 9104 Keystone Crossing** near I-465. Please make your reservation with the hotel by calling 317-843-0064. Mention that you are with the KY Rails to Trails Council to receive the group rate of \$109 (plus tax). You must make your reservation by **May 30th** in order to secure the group rate.

The group will gather at a restaurant for **Friday night dinner, 7:30 pm, in the Keystone Crossing business district** not far from the trail. Guest speakers from the Indy Greenways and INDOT will share the history and development of the trails. The group will meet on Saturday morning at the Indy Greenways Depot and will spend the day touring various sites of interest on the two trails. The length of the bicycle tour will **range from 22-35 miles** depending on chosen routes.

You'll find more information about the area at:

www.indygreenways.org/monon/monon.htm
<http://www.indygreenways.org/canal/centralcanal.htm> and
http://www.indygreenways.org/monon/mo_images/mo_map.pdf

For more information, visit www.kyrailtrail.org, or contact: Cheryl Wyatt, (859) 266-6906 voice mail, (859) 523-6665 fax, cheryl.wyatt@insightbb.com.



(Walkers along the Monon Trail, indygreenways.org)

According to an Apr. 4th Daily News article, "**The Bowling Green Bicycle Summit** (was) heavily attended by government officials, nonprofit group heads and cycling enthusiasts... 'We think that by making Bowling Green a Bicycle Friendly Community, it will become a safer, healthier and more fun place to live,' said Sara Shipley Hiles, president of Bicycle Bowling.

Senate Bill 196

Senate Bill 196 passed the House and Senate in this past legislative session. The bill boosts adventure tourism in Kentucky and allows the state to enter into agreements with private property owners for the use of land for recreational activities such as horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle use, hunting, biking and fishing. It creates a mechanism to have trails for public use on private lands.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senators Brandon Smith, (Hazard) and Robert Stivers (Manchester) and in the House by Representative Robin Webb from Grayson. There were numerous co-sponsors and supporters.



(Governor Beshear signing Senate Bill 196, April 16th, 2008, next to the capital. Photo by David May.)

Lexington to Ashland Bicycle Relay National Trail Day Activity

The fourth Kentucky Rails to Trails Council bicycle relay ride from Ashland to Lexington is a National Trail Day Event on Saturday, May 31st, 2008. The ride is to promote the development of multi-use trails throughout the state and specifically the creation of a continuous railtrail along the abandoned 106 mile CSX railroad corridor between Lexington and Ashland. A railtrail is a multi-use trail developed on an abandoned trail corridor for non motorized transportation (walkers, runners, hikers, horseback riders and cyclists). The relay will follow county roads close to or adjacent to the corridor and in a few places be on the corridor. This is the 8th bicycle ride along the old CSX route; the first ride was a Bluegrass Cycling Club Ride from Lexington to Mount Sterling in 2001.

The relay will start at **7 AM at Princess** in Boyd County and end at Pleasant Ridge Park, 1350 Pleasant Ridge Drive in eastern Fayette County. The distance of the cycling relay is 133 miles and can be completed with a road bike. The estimated arrival and leave times for each stage are based on an average pace of 15 mph. The last rider is expected to arrive in Lexington at 7:00 PM.

Most of the cyclists will be from communities along the route, Lexington, Winchester, Mt. Sterling, Morehead, Olive Hill and Ashland. Leisure cyclists who ride at a slower pace are encouraged to join in at the scheduled stages and ride shorter distances with the relay riders. If it rains, some or all of the stages may be cancelled; the safety of the riders and participants is the prime consideration. There is no rain date.

Departure & Arrival	Distance
7:00 am START: Princess to Grahn (mile 0)	38 mi.
10:00 am Grahn to Olive Hill (mile 38)	8 mi.
10:45 am Olive Hill to Salt Lick (mile 46)	30 mi.
1:30 pm Salt Lick to Mt. Sterling (mile 77)	24 mi.
3:45 pm Mt. Sterling to Winchester (mile 100)	16 mi.
Secondary stop: 5980 Ecton Rd (mile 108)	
5:30 pm Winchester to Lexington (mile 116)	17 mi.
Secondary stop: Pine Grove (mile 127)	
6:30-7pm FINISH: Lexington (mile 133)	

Information and Contacts at www.KyRailTrail.org

Scheduled Leave Times & Distances

- Stage 1 7:00 AM Princess (mi 0) to Grahn, 38 miles
- Stage 2 10:00 AM – Grahn (mi 38) to Olive Hill, 8 miles
- Stage 3 10:45 AM- Olive Hill (mi 46) to Salt Lick, 30 mi
- Stage 4 1:30 PM - Salt Lick (mi 77) to Mt. Sterling 24 mi
- Stage 5 3:45 PM – Mt. Sterling (mi100) to Winchester, 16 miles
- Secondary stop at Jeff & Mindy Taylor’s 5980 Ecton Rd (mile 108)
- Stage 6 5:30 PM Winchester (mi 116) to Lexington, 17 mi
- Secondary stop, Pine Grove (mile 127)
- End – 6:30-7 PM Lexington (mile 133)

Loops:

1. Starting at the Taylors', 5980 Ecton Rd.at 10 AM, riding east to Salt Lick and then return with the relay. 62 miles.
2. Starting at Winchester at 2 PM, riding east to Mt. Sterling and then back with the relay. 32 miles.

The Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts (ACE), invite the riders and support personnel to a **cookout Friday evening** after their monthly meeting at Armco Park near Princesses.

(Continued on page 4)



(Montgomery County Area Technology Students in Skills USA are restoring the roof of the Train Depot. The City of Mount Sterling received Transportation Enhancement Funds for the complete restoration of the depot by the Area Technology Students. Lynda Wilson, 4/2008)

How you can support KRTC and get more railtrails and other multiuse trails in the state

Renew your membership. Kentucky Rails to Trails Council life's blood is its members and their donations. Because the volunteers active in KRTC know that there is financial support for their activities they can plan and continue to do the many tasks of advocacy and education that is the hallmark of KRTC. This year those who give at the Promoter level (\$50.00) or above will receive a tote bag made of recycled material printed with the KRTC logo as a token of our appreciation. KRTC works to recycle abandoned railway corridors and this tote bag carries that message.

1. Become a sponsor for the May 31st Ashland to Lexington Cycling Relay. You can sponsor one rider for \$25.00, a rest stop for \$100 or a sag vehicle for \$200.
2. Become a Sponsor for KRTC and "buy" an advertisement in Trail Time. Prices range from \$250 to \$1000. See the sponsors page on the website.
3. Volunteer to work on committees and/or for a one day commitment volunteer to help with the May 31st relay as a driver or support person. Most of the work, as in most nonprofits, is done by a few dedicated members. We need new people to step forward to learn how and what we do and to direct KRTC in future years. KRTC is always in need of new members to serve on the Board from local trail groups or to serve as members at large.

For more information on how you can contribute with time or talent please contact the Secretary at dixie@kyrailtrail.org, or at 859-227-6165. Members who have paid their 2008 dues or who have given contributions since the last newsletter are listed below.

Benefactor (\$100-\$249)

Kristin & Eddie Farrey
Glenn R. Proudfoot
Walker Company (relay)

Promoter (\$50+\$99)

Ben & Kelly Bishop
John Fulton
William Johnston
Helen T. Siewers
Charles & Yol Sither

Supporter (\$25-\$49)

Charles Gregg
Carol Lowery
Allan B. Morris
Richard C. Taft
Mindy & Jeff Taylor
Mary M. Theurer



Continuation of relay article -

A large rest stop is being planned for Mt. Sterling
between 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM.

KRTC Members at the supporter level or above can ride a **shuttle from Lexington** and have their bike transported to Princess on May 30th. Membership information is on the website at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/join/index.php>. Shuttle sign up deadline for KRTC Members is May 17th. Possible second pickup in Mt. Sterling.

Non-smoking rooms have been reserved as a block by KRTC at the Day's Inn and Holiday Inn Express in Princess for Friday night, May 30th. Photo of route scenes, the motels, a map of Princess, and a listing of sponsors are in the Photo Gallery on the KRTC website.

Requirements: To ride in the relay **you must be over 18 years of age, wear a helmet and sign a liability waiver.** There is **no fee to ride.**

Riders and other participants can order the **new KRTC t-shirt** when they fill out their waiver. The first 30 riders to sign up and ride will receive a **wooden commemorative spike**. The most valuable rider to the relay, the best "team" rider, the rider with the most outstanding personal best will be recognized.

If you would like to participate or ride, please sign and return the liability waiver to Dixie Moore, Ste 8A, 121 Prosperous Place, Lexington, KY 40509 or fax 859-263-2770. Once a waiver is received you will be put on the official contact list for ride information. Riders are en-

couraged to send in their waivers prior to the race; some waivers will be available at the Stage Points. Riders should make sure their bikes are in good working order; there will be limited sag support. Volunteers from the Amateur Radio Emergency Road Service will be asked to monitor the ride and alert the towns when the riders are approaching. Ride safe. - This is a relay not a speed race. Waivers, motel information, and updated information will be posted on the KRTC website.

You can sponsor one rider for \$25.00, a rest stop for \$100 or a sag vehicle for \$200. **If you are interested in being listed as a supporter, participating in the event or donating as a sponsor please contact Dixie Moore at 859.227.6165 or at dixiemore@insightbb.com.** Sponsorships can be sent directly to KRTC, PO Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597. Greeters and support people will be needed along the route. Volunteers who sag will be reimbursed for gas mileage.

Winchester's Traveling Trail

At the trail's dedication on Wednesday, April 9th, Kentucky's first lady and Clark County resident Jane Beshear led the first official lap around the trail. "This is a grand occasion," Mrs. Beshear said at the trail's dedication. "It's an opportunity, in my opinion, of having families be together. There's no other time to have those talks, those heart to heart talks, than when you're together in nature."

The mission of the Winchester Traveling Trail is to promote physical activity and to inject a sense of freshness to regular exercise routines. Presently, a field along the Bypass owned by Clark Regional Medical Center houses the winding trail. In future years, the trail will move to other locations.

Walkers of all ages have used the 0.8-mile trail since it opened a few weeks ago. The trail is open from dawn until dusk near the intersection of Colby Road and the Bypass. Leashed and tagged dogs are welcome to accompany their owners.. More pictures of the trail are at www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/winchestertrail.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Clark County Activity Coalition and Bluegrass Rails to Trails and sponsored by Clark Regional Medial Center, Clark County Health Department, Ertel Medicine and Pediatrics, Graves & Dean Construction, The Allen Company, Bypass Rental, Boonesboro Animal Clinic, Winchester/Clark County Parks and Recreation, City of Winchester, Winchester Municipal Utilities and Clark Energy Cooperative. (Excerpts from article in the Winchester Sun, 4/10/08.)



(Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear, third from left, leads the large turnout on the first walk around Winchester Traveling Trail during the trail's dedication . Approximately 150 people attended the ceremony. James Mann/jmann@winchestersun.com)

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2008

- \$25 Supporter
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 \$ 250 Engineer
 \$ 500 Trail Blazer
 Other Donation \$ _____
 [] Address Correction

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: H W C _____ Email: _____

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is always in need of volunteers, e.g. writing newsletter articles, being an officer or board member, fundraising, giving presentations, contacting landowners, checking maps, web site design, letter stuffing. I would like to volunteer with KRTC.

Corporate sponsorships are available: See <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/sponsors.php>

Please make check payable and mail to: Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

Post Office Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597

(4/08)



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

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 and multi use trails in Kentucky.

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

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