



Trail Time

Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc.

KY RT Statistics
Trails with RT sections: 30
Trail Projects: 17 (22 mi. funded)
Longest contiguous section of RT:
6 mi, Muhlenberg RT

Vol 9, no 3 Sept 2006

Lexington to Ashland Relay -2006

The second annual Lexington to Ashland Cycling Relay and a National Trail Day Activity, was held on July 22, 2006. The motto for this year 14th National Trail Day was "Experience Your Out of Doors." The route was next to the old 105 mile abandoned CSX corridor between the two cities. The relay was held to publicize plans to convert this once ribbon of steel into a multi-use continuous railtrail for hiking, biking, running, and horseback riding. Articles about the relay and railtrails were in local and regional newspapers.



(Cyclists from Morehead and riders from Eastern Hill Saddle Club at the intersection of the railroad bed and Cory Rd, Olive Hill, July 22, 2006.)



(Representative Adrian Arnold , Royden Kern, Joe Bowen, Lynda Wilson (Mt. Sterling Tourism Director), Ollie McCormick, Steve Gullet, Pamela Moore, Matthew Nutter, Patrick Wesolosky, Mt. Sterling Train Depot, July 22, 2006.)

Sterling, Salt Lick, Morehead, Grahn, Olive Hill and on into Rush. The relay between Lexington and Salt Lick was done on road bikes at an average pace of 15 mph; further east in Carter County mountain bikes were used.

The relay meet the Eastern Hill Saddle Club St. Jude's Trail Ride along the old corridor east of Olive Hill. The proposed railtrail would be capable of being used by bicycles, horses and walkers.

The railroad between the Bluegrass and Ashland was built to service the iron industry that grew up around Ashland in the mid 1800s. In June of 1985, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad started to abandoned parts of

Due to rain the ride officially started in Winchester at 9:30 AM. Mayor Teresa Isaac did come out to the planned earlier start at Pleasant Ridge Park in Lexington to send the riders off. Cyclists were from Ashland, Elizabethtown, Flemingsburg, Lexington, Morehead, Mt. Sterling, Olive Hill and Winchester, Joe Bowen from Powell County who has recently completed his second 14,000 mile bicycle odyssey rode with the riders from Winchester to Mt. Sterling. The relay ended in Rush at 7 pm, the old CSX train stop on the Carter/ Boyd county line.

The relay went over county roads closest to the old CSX corridor and over a gravel county road for a few miles in Carter County that was part of the abandoned corridor. The relay went through Winchester, Mt.



(Aden Tunnel, Carter County, 2005, ACE.) (Continued on page 3)

Memberships - Donations

Time to renew your membership and/or donate to KY Rails to Trails Council. Representatives of KRTC will be approaching business and individuals to become corporate sponsors, renew memberships and to donate to KRTC to support ongoing projects and to build up our stewardship fund. A preliminary goal is for KRTC to have \$50,000 in our stewardship fund and \$20,000 available for yearly expenses. KRTC has been active this year in putting on conferences and workshops, financially supporting the start up of local non profits and regional cooperative groups across counties, purchasing and putting our second educational display in circulation, maintaining our website (\$100 per month) and funding the quarterly newsletter (\$800 per issue) that typically goes out to 1500 recipients. This is all being done with volunteers and without a paid staff or director. Think what we could do with more resources! The traffic on the website has doubled since last year and KRTC is being seen as a strong voice for greenway and trails and is frequently mentioned as a source for information and opinion in the media. However our current membership for 2006 is 139 out of a pool of 440 past members in recent years. If you are no longer getting the newsletter it is probably because you have not renewed your membership or your local group has not sent your name and address into the editor/secretary. We know you are out there and supportive, please show it by sending in your donation and renewing your membership.

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TE Funds Awarded

11.9 million in Transportation Enhancement Funds were awarded in KY through the Transportation Cabinet in 2006. Several greenway and trail related projects were funded. More greenway and trail related projects were funded this year than in prior years. Information from <http://kycnewsroom.ky.gov/News/6-30-06.htm>.

Among the projects were: Section of A.J. Jolly Bike Trail in **Campbell County**; **Fort Thomas Memorial Parkway Shared-use Path**; **Olive Hill C&O Depot Acquisition** to serve as a Visitor's Center and trailhead; **Owensboro Adkisson Greenbelt Trail** - Final Phase - Construction of remaining 5 miles (15 total) of the paved trail system that links the community; **Lexington Healthway Trail** - Construct 10 mile shared use trail around the Lexington Christian Academy and Shiloto Park area; **Richmond US Hwy 25/421 Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities Project** - Repair 624 linear ft. of brick sidewalk, conversion of old L&N rail corridor into

Virginia Creeper Trip - Oct 21st

KRTC is organizing a trip to the **Virginia Creeper** in Damascus, Virginia for Saturday, Oct 21.



(One of the 38 bridges on the Virginia Creeper, 2005, K. Lovan)

Helen Tyson Siewers of Bowling Green is the coordinator for the trip. 12 Rooms have been reserved at the

Old Mill in Damascus for Friday night and 11 Rooms for Saturday night at the discounted rate of \$100 per room per night. For more information, contact Greg Smith, general manager, at 276-475-3745.

Bikes and shuttle spots have been reserved at Adventure Damascus Bicycles. Arrive at 9:30 at Adventure Damascus to be fitted for bikes. Shuttle leaves for Whitetop (the up-hill end of the trail) at 10 a.m. Contact info: Lewis or Maryn, 888-595-2453, www.adventuredamascus.com. For links to pictures of the trail and trip and lodging information go to the article at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/forum>

(Whitetop, Virginia Creeper, 2005. K. Lovan.)



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a 1/2 mile trail; **Paducah Greenway Trails System** - Construct 11,636 ft. of trail along the Ohio River; **Mt. Sterling C&O Train Depot Restoration** - Stabilize structure, new plumbing & wiring, ADA access, depot will serve as a welcome center (Skills USA & student FBLA club project) Will serve as a trailhead for "Rails to Trails"; **Bowling Green Community Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities** - Shared use paths connecting 8 schools, rec. facilities, neighborhoods and other community businesses and facilities.

(Continued from page 1)

the railway from Lexington to Coalton. At that time people began to talk of converting the railroad bed into a 100-mile cross-state, multi-use, non motorized trail running from Lexington to Ashland. However the line was not railbanked and ownership of the line reverted to local landowners.

Several tunnels exist in the hilly terrain of Carter County including the Triplett Tunnel near Soldier, the Needle's Eye Tunnel near Aden, the Sinking Creek Tunnel near Leon and the Mean's Tunnel near Williams Creek. The railtrail could act as a spine connecting several state parks, tourist areas and the towns along the corridor. Dedication of the first one mile of the Brighton East section in Lexington is due this fall.

Thanks to all the riders and the support people who made the event possible. Special thanks to the Amateur Radio Emergency Services for monitoring the weather and condition of the riders. Pictures of the relay and the corridor are at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/2006-Lexington-to-Ashland-Cycling-Relay>, <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/LBS-Fay-Bath> and <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/LBS-Carter>

Madison County

MADISON COUNTY GREENWAYS & TRAILS have had monthly meetings since January 2006. In July they were awarded a start up grant of \$500 by KRTC to pay filing fees and cover start up expenses to incorporate as a nonprofit by filing for 501(c)3 status. They are advocating and being citizen spokespersons for biking trails, sidewalks, and/or shared use paths at the initial meetings for road improvement and new road development projects. They advocate to have bicycle lanes and paths included in the designs before right-away for road construction is purchased. Recent committee reports noted that a bicycle path is not included in the first section of the Berea bypass construction. Since the state is not providing it, the city of Berea is developing a plan that will incorporate a bicycle walking path to connect this section to existing trails and greenway plans. They want to get in earlier on the state planning for the second section and have a path included. Another report noted that the Richmond and Berea mayors are committed to a utility easement between the two cities for a waterline connection and a greenway walking/biking trail placed on it. Group minutes are posted on the community blog of the KRTC website, <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/forum> Their next meeting is September 11, 2006 at the Madison County Library in Richmond. Contact Eddie Farrey at (859) 626-0863 or eddiefarrey@peoplepc.com.

Follow up on SCR 98

SCR 98 was passed this spring by the legislature without a dissenting vote. The resolution calls for the Legislative Research Commission to do a study on the economic and health effects of cycling in KY. In answer to the LRC's request for information, Cindy Deitz, a KRTC board member, wrote KRTC's response. In her letter she stated:

" We believe that a well connected network will include on-road facilities and off-road greenways and rail trails. Kentucky ranks near the bottom in the number of rail trail miles while bordering states invest heavily in the conversion of rails to trails.

There are many miles of abandoned rail lines that have great potential for connecting our communities and parks together. Projects of statewide interests includes the preservation of Tyrone Bridge in Anderson County, the recently abandoned rail line in Breathitt, Magoffin and Johnson Counties and the proposed Lexington Big Sandy rail trail that goes from Lexington to Ashland.

Because of Kentucky's laws governing rights of ways and abandoned rail lines our best opportunity for converting rails to trails is by railbanking. As rails are abandoned, quick action is needed to complete these projects. Funding could be available if appropriate measures are taken. The need for a designated Rail Trail Office with a dedicated staff is essential. "

Thanks to all the legislators who helped pass the resolution and special thanks to the Senate's Economic Development, Tourism and Labor committee, the members of the Tourism Development and Energy Committee in the House, Sen. Thomas Buford of Nicholasville and Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr of Lexington. In the House special thanks to Rocky Adkins, the Majority Leader from Sandy Hook, Rep. Susan Westrom of Lexington and Rep. Joe Barrows from Versailles. Don Stosberg, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Recreation & Park Society, was very instrumental in getting the resolution in final form and keeping RT supporters and cycling advocates informed.

Family Fun Ride - Hopkins Co.

The Pennyrile Area Cyclists of Hopkins County (Madisonville) is holding a Family Fun Ride on Saturday, Sept 30. The ride will start at the White Plains new Community/Senior Center, the site of a 2.5 mile rail trail. The route covers a 11 mile loop, south and west of White Plains. The event is free. The ride is to promote rail trails in the county and region and to raise awareness about the resource that already exists. More information at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/forum/posting.php> in the KRTC calendar.



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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.

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Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION , DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2006

\$25 Supporter \$ 50 Promoter \$ 100 Benefactor \$ 250 Engineer
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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.*

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

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(9/06)