



KANSAS PRAIRIE PACKERS BASECAMP NEWSLETTER

BASECAMP is published by the Kansas Prairie Packers Association, Inc., at Topeka, KS. Membership in Prairie Packers is open to individuals and families interested in hiking, backpacking, canoeing, bicycling, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities.

www.prairiepackers.org

APRIL, 2010

MONTHLY MEETING

WHEN: **APRIL 14, 2010**

WHERE: Pizza Hut, 10th & Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS
Board Meeting 6:00 pm, Visit and Eat 6:15 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm

PROGRAM:

ACTIVITIES

April 2 – Bicycle Topeka Art Walk – Teresa Stambaugh 862.6621

Let's get together for the 1st Friday Art Walk, April 2, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Instead of walking we will ride our bikes between galleries to view great art by Kansas Artists. Meet at Warehouse 414, 414 SE 2nd St. After browsing the exhibits here and enjoying hors d' oeuvres we will ride to Tinkham TV Up/Down Gallery, 911 Kansas Ave. Next we are off to Brown vs. Board of Education located at 1515 SE Monroe. Completing this viewing we will return to 414 SE 2nd before 7:30 p.m. which is sunset. Questions: Call Teresa 862-6621.

April 3 – First Saturday Walk – 9:00 am – Denise Myers 785.806.5666

The First Saturday Walk for April will be at Lake Shawnee at 9:00a.m., meeting at the dam parking lot.

April 9 – 11—Elk City Backpack- Dave Dunford 234.4667

Anyone wanting to is welcome to camp Friday night, April 9th, in Weldon's back yard. To get to Weldon's, address 400 Robinson, go west out of Altoona on Hwy 47 which turns into Washington when you hit Fredonia. Go down Washington and turn left at 5th. Go one block and turn left on Robinson. Weldon's drive is on the right side just past some apartments. If you plan to come down Friday night please let me know. Linda will have coffee and breakfast ready early Saturday morning so we need to know how many to plan on. If you're coming down Saturday morning we'll all meet at the Western Diner, which is on Washington St. on your way into town at 9AM. We'll leave there at 9:15AM to go to the trail head and shuttle vehicles. It's a few miles to the lake so we should be able to start hiking before noon. We should

be on the road to the Pizza Hut around noon Sunday. You'll need food for Saturday noon and evening and Sunday breakfast. Also there may be no water available so you'll have to carry enough for the whole trip. Saturday's distance will be over 7 miles so you should be in good physical shape, be able to carry everything you need easily, and have good shoes. If you want to car pool let me know and I'll try to find a group to go together. Also anyone wanting to go can meet at the top of Quinton Heights hill which is on SW24th one block west of Topeka Blvd. at 6:30PM Wednesday April 7th. Good chance to walk up and down the hill with your pack and make sure your shoes are comfortable and your pack fits. Hopefully you have been out getting in shape before then. Also a good time to work out some details about car pooling. Please call me if you are planning on camping at Weldon's Friday night and if you're coming down Saturday morning be at the Western Diner no later than 9AM. Any questions give me a call. Dave Dunford 232-2576.

April 17 – Canoe Dragoon Creek – John Stambaugh 862.6621

Bring a picnic lunch. We will meet at the boat ramp at 10 AM and go upstream approximately 2 ½ miles to property that Teresa and I own, enjoy a picnic lunch, hike around if anyone is interested and then head back to the boat ramp. We should be out around 5 hours.

Dragoon Creek is a beautiful paddle with little noticeable current. Redbuds should be in bloom.

Directions: Drive south from Topeka on Highway 75 to the Dragoon Creek bridge. It is about 7 miles south of where the four lane turns into a two lane. Take the first left turn (Carbolyn Campground) after the bridge. About ¼ mile after the turn is another left turn to the boat ramp.

If Dragoon Creek is flooding we will shift to Osage County State Fishing Lake.

Please signup with a telephone number so I can let you know if there is a change to Osage County.

Any questions feel free to call. John 862-6621

April 30-May 2 Trip to Waterville's Weaver Hotel, Alcove Springs, and the Pony Express barn in Marysville planned by Patty Jordan.

April 30, Friday--Stay at the historic Weaver Hotel or camp in the City Park at Waterville.

May 1, Saturday--Ride the 12-mile excursion train (if enough Prairie Packers are available to schedule a ride) \$5 donation requested

2)--walk the trails at Alcove Springs

3)--set up camp at the City Park in Marysville or book a room at a Marysville motel (see below)

4)--hike around Marysville to tour the Pony Express Barn and other sights

May 2, Sunday--Leave for home

Approximate travel time: Topeka to Waterville--1 hour 45 minutes--Take Tuttle Creek Blvd. north out of Manhattan, KS. Continue following Tuttle Creek Blvd. which turns into Hwy. 77. Marysville to Topeka--1 hour 45 minutes--Take Hwy. 36 east to Hwy. 75, then go south.

Reservations can be made for a room on April 30 at Weaver Hotel by calling 785-262-2515 or by making reservations on-line. As there aren't too many rooms, call early for reservations. Camping is available in the city park. If there are enough Prairie Packers, we can schedule a ride on the 12-mile Central Pacific excursion train.

Built in 1905, the **Weaver Hotel** sits directly across the street from the railroad tracks. Travelers on the Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad in Kansas found a landmark stop in Waterville at the track-side Weaver Hotel. For decades, the Weaver was the travel, tourism and social hub of this region and of the Central Branch west of Atchison.

With the help of two grants and the hard work of many concerned citizens, the Weaver Hotel has been given a new face-lift inside and out and is ready for your visit. The facility hosts 10 lodging rooms, 2 party rooms, a visitor center with gift shop, and a 4-floor elevator.

Preservation of the Central Pacific rail, one of the oldest tracks dating back to 1867, will offer an educational opportunity for area and state residents, as well as, nation-wide tourists. In addition, renovation of the vintage caboose, rolling stock, into a railroad museum will offer interested tourists and railroad enthusiasts on-hands experience of railroad history.

Picturesque **Alcove Springs** was a favorite campsite for pioneers located near the Independence Crossing of the Big Blue River. The spring originates in an unusual rock formation and falls over a rock ledge into a pool below. Emigrants carved their names in the rocks surrounding the spring, and many of these carvings are still visible.

Sarah Keys, Margaret Reed's mother who was traveling with the ill-fated Donner Party, died here while the party was waiting for the river to fall enough to cross. She was buried somewhere in the area.

Alcove Spring is located about six miles south of Marysville, Kansas.

Between April 1860 and October 1861, **Pony Express** riders travelled day and night through all weathers to carry letters from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California and back. The one-way trip usually took 10 days. Riders changed horses every 12 to 15 miles, and rode 75 to 100 miles before turning the mail over to a fresh rider at one of the 40 or so "home stations" along the route.

The home station in Marysville, a stone barn built by Joseph Cottrell in 1859, was leased to the Pony Express in 1860. The barn is still standing and is now a museum.

The **Koester museum** contains original family possessions that show what life was like in the last 19th and early 20th centuries.

Motels in Marysville:

Oak Tree Inn--785-562-1234

Surf Motel--785-562-2354

Thunderbird--785-562-2373

Super 8--785-562-5588

May 1 – First Saturday Walk – 9:00 am – Denise Myers 785.806.5666

May 15 – Landon Trail Bike ride – Jon Ware 266.2144
9:00 am at the parking lot 53rd & Adams.

May 29-May 31 – Katy Trail Bike Trip - Denise Myers 785.806.5666

September 11 -- 15th Annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour

Saturday, September 11th. The Kansas landscape constantly changes colors with the coming and going of different wildflowers. A flower observed one week, may be gone the next. To share in a new experience, join us this September as we enjoy the blooming wildflowers of the fall.

Member Profile



Jan and Terese Hamilton

Jan has been a Prairie Packer on and off since about 1988. He enjoys long distance over the road self supported cycling and has completed many Bike Across Kansas Events. His favorite Prairie Packer outing was the backpack trip to the Canyon Lands. Jan enjoys the monthly meetings and would like to visit Eagles Ridge loop in Arkansas again.

Terese joined us in 2004. She loves to hike and enjoyed the backpack trips to Utah and New Mexico. She would like to see a PP trip to Atchison. She states that the club has been great in exposing her to the outdoors.

Jan and Terese are both on the PP Board and Membership committee.

Treasurer's Report

Mar. treasurer report:
Beginning balance: \$1,564.53
Income: \$165.00 dues
 \$74.00 t-shirt sales
Paid out: \$21.92 newsletter
 \$40.00 Sec. of State (yearly inc.)
 \$4.49 dinner for speaker
 \$69.35 website costs
Balance 3/25/10 \$1,667.77

Membership

41—Paid members
31—Emailed newsletters
10—Mailed newsletters
11—Comps

Welcome New Members

We are always happy to have new members in the Prairie Packers. Welcome! We are glad to have you. Soon you will know what a great group of people we have in Prairie Packers. We hope you will enjoy making new friends as you participate in our outdoor activities. We would like to remind all Prairie Packers to continue to invite people to come to an activity so they too can experience the fun we have together.

Special May Meeting

Our planning meeting in January covered only the first 6 months of the year so we will plan the rest of the year's activities at our May meeting. The majority of our activities occur during this time so be sure to attend with ideas of things you would like to do or activities you would like to lead during the second half of 2010. If you are unable to attend, call President Denise or someone else who can present your ideas at the meeting.

Officers and Board Members

President Denise Myers 806.5666
dmmopp@yahoo.com

Vice President Jeannie Cornelius 633.0257
jeannie.cornelius@washburn.edu

Treasurer Dave Dunford 234.4667
davedunford@sbcglobal.net

Programs Olivia Boyd 554.5559
beba_55_2008@hotmail.com

Activities Shari LaRue 836.3167
shari@rockytopacres.org

Membership Patty Jordan
Jan & Terese Hamilton
Teresa Stambaugh

Social Events Judy Gililand 228.3655

Newsletter Editor/Web Page
Mike LaRue 836.3167
mdlarue@rockytopacres.org

At Large

Olivia Boyd 554.5559
Richard Johnson 587.8731
Jan Hamilton 633.9122
Terese Hamilton 633.9122
Kate Sieverson 817.7080
John Stambaugh 862.6621
Teresa Stambaugh 862.6621
Jon Ware 266.2144
Rosemary Ware 266.2144

Deadline for May newsletter submissions—**24 Apr.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Outdoor Interests _____

Circle your membership level and send check to:

Dave Dunford
2115 Harrison St
Topeka, KS 66611-1127

Join the Prairie Packer listserve? Yes No

Referred by: _____

Membership levels:

New members joining Jan thru Jun:

\$25.00 for mailed newsletter

\$20.00 for e-mailed newsletter

New member joining Jul thru Dec:

\$12.50 for mailed newsletter

\$10.00 for e-mailed newsletter

Renewals due **prior** to January 1.

\$25.00 for mailed newsletter

\$20.00 for e-mailed newsletter

Prairie Packers Basecamp
11300 S Stanley Rd
Overbrook, KS 66524



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