



Kern Family News

YMCA CAMP KERN, OREGONIA OH · SPRING 2016

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Lee Whitney, A True Friend of Kern

Being on the Board of YMCA Camp Kern is a great big wonderful adventure. Just ask Lee Whitney. Back in the 50's and 60's, Lee was a young guy new to the Dayton area. He met a group of young professional men like himself and they invited him to visit Camp Kern. His visit turned into a long and legendary tenure on the Kern Board. Lee has served on many Boards in his career "but only Kern felt like family."

The Board back then was filled with young and crazy guys enthusiastic about Camp and what it could do mean to children. They would regularly spend weekends at camp: working hard, putting roofs on buildings, digging ditches and periodically taking "adult liquid refreshment" breaks. This was hot and thirsty work!

Lee served on the Board with Bob Siebenthaler who would haul a ditch digger in and together, "they laid more pipe than you could believe." They trenched a line from the river up the hill to camp to bring water.

Another of the board members Lee served with was Herb Ellis of Gem City Ice Cream. Herb got together with another member who grew strawberries, and they brought ice cream and strawberries to a board meeting each summer. This grew and eventually was opened to the entire camp and the Strawberries and Ice Cream tradition continues today.

Lee's memory is filled with amazing Kern history. Another board member Ed L. Kohnle wanted to bring horses to camp and he paid for the bunkhouse which was named for him - ELK lodge. (Edward L. Kohnle)

Lee describes his time at Kern as a wonderful positive blur. He has always loved Kern and one of his children was the youngest camper to attend a summer session.



Lee is most proud of Pioneer Village. He helped to build it. He envisioned an adventure for kids that could be enjoyed year round (thanks to the cabins the board insulated).

Lee became chairman of the board at Kern in the 70's and served until he joined "the big board" (Metro YMCA) in Dayton.

Lee remains an active supporter of Kern and if you come to Strawberries and Ice Cream this summer, look for him. He'll be there.

2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED

- **New Walk In Freezer**
- **Elk Bathroom Rennovation**
- **Health Center Roof Replacement**
- **Grading of pastures, old barns and riding arena**
- **New sewage system for Elk Lodge**
- **Expanded Main Camp Parking Lot**
- **Nature Center Repairs**

Current Camp Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Jeff Bruner (Chair) | • Traci Hale-Brown |
| • Jack Blosser | • Tom Hughes |
| • Nancy Bortle | • Craig Jolley |
| • Sean Coghlan | • Michele King |
| • Erin Crosby | • Bill Klapper |
| • Andrea Kaercher | • Jerry McGowan |
| • Ron Dreffer | • Michael Snadner |
| • Jamie Greer | • Tom Young |
| | • Steve Pasch |

- June 12th:** Summer Camp Begins
- September 2nd - 5th:** Labor Day Family Camp
- October 7th - 9th:** Halloween Camp
- December 3rd:** Arctic Dash
- December 31st - January 1st:** New Years Eve Night Out



Alumni Spotlight - Where They Now: Tony 'Zang' Zangero

There are so many places and experiences at camp that will always live on in my memory. One specific one that always pops to the front of my mind was the time Larry Maxwell let Tom Sydnor and me take 10 kids on an 'out of camp' experience, which became known as a the 'Zangout'.

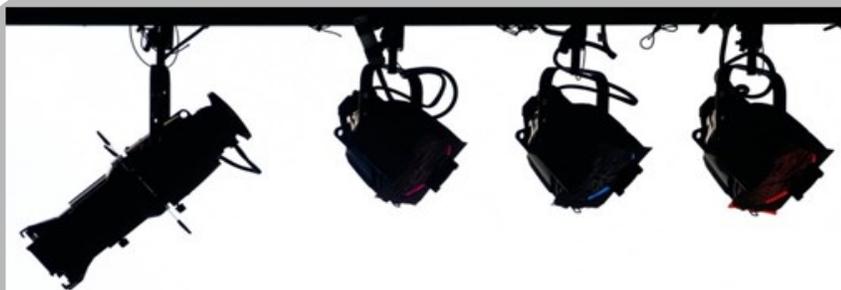
After my camp life I graduated from Ohio State and took a commission in the Navy and for 4 years got to see the world and visit countries and do all kinds of amazing things. When I left the Navy I went to California, and joining the restaurant industry I spent time in Northern California and Portland Oregon. I married my best friend Barb Jones who happened to be a Ranch Camp staff (don't hold that against her!), and we had a three day wedding at camp. We adopted two boys (now aged 17 and 19) both of which attended camp.

Next, I took a job with Home Depot that took me to Wisconsin, and Las Vegas of all places. Now I work for the Technical College here in Janesville Wisconsin and in the summer months I deal poker at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas where I get to use some of my camp experience with the pouting loser.

The Brand New Camp Kern Car!

Camp's mobility has been given an upgrade! Thanks to our friends at Bob Ross Fiat in Centerville, Camp Kern now has a brand new Fiat 500x to utilize and it certainly turns heads when seen driving to camper fairs, teambuilding events and school visits. A mobile billboard, the car is wrapped in all things Kern and helps draw attention to all the events and programs that we run at Camp.





IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Dave Moran 25 Years And Counting

'Captain' Dave Moran (a nickname he holds dear) began his long and distinguished career at Camp Kern in early 1991. Having graduated with a teaching degree from Bowling Green University, and after spending other people's money (something he is still passionate about) on river study work, he stumbled upon Camp Kern while biking from Cleveland. In need of gainful employment and inspired by a need to impress a young lady called Michelle, he introduced himself at camp and a far sighted Outdoor Education Director took a chance on young Dave, hiring him on the spot. And so began a 25 year journey at camp that has seen him outlast many an Executive Director (something he takes great pride in), and place him firmly in the hearts of anyone who has the pleasure of working with him.

One of his favorite memories of camp is his time coordinating school groups at Elk Lodge, "well away from the unsolicited guidance of program directors, administrators, and other undesirables." An avid and successful swimmer in his younger days, his favorite summer activity is trouncing the younger and fitter summer staff during lifeguard training during the 'fitness' test. Dave is our resident lifeguard and CPR trainer and is justifiably proud of his safety record at the pool. Dave also enjoys, "Taking kids on a hike or a river trip when I'm supposed to be doing reports," and leading camp in the annual bird watching competition.

Dave is blessed with a wonderful family, both immediate and beyond, who are regular faces at camp; whether it's a day at the pool, a thanksgiving vacation, or working in the kitchen or on the zip line the Moran clan is well known throughout Camp, and Dave enjoys showing them all off at every opportunity.

Dave jokes that he would replace the camp horses with Giant Sea Turtles (for safety reasons), but the truth is he loves all flora and fauna, and is a valuable sounding board for any changes made to the natural landscape at camp. If it were up to Dave he would, "Disconnect the whole place from the grid, banish all the motor vehicles and stop cutting the grass," giving guests a more rustic experience.

Camp has been lucky to have such a loyal and dedicated individual to serve hundreds of thousands of OE students over the years, and we look forward to another 25 years of Dave's infamous sense of humor and unflappable spirit.



2016 Kern Family Events

June 9th: Strawberries and Ice Cream

August 14th: Alumni Pool Party

September: Fall T-Shirt Fundraiser

October 16th: Alumni Work Project Day

November 20th: Pre-Thanksgiving Feast



Circle K Ranch Upgrades

Dreams do come true! Thanks to the hard work of the Camp Kern maintenance team, the Golf Outing Committee and the Circle K Ranch staff, our Equestrian center now has a brand new facility, able to safely accommodate our entire herd. Gone are the old outdoor stalls, and as you can see the new indoor is something we can now be proud of. Grading to fix drainage issues, a new automatic watering system, more sand in the outdoor riding arena, new stalls and floor in the old barn and a mounting platform have also helped improve the home of one our most beloved programs. And we are not done yet...we are constantly looking to improve Circle K ranch and electrical wiring, plumbing fixes and roof repairs are all on the never ending 'to-do' list.



Kern Family Committee

**Kara Barton
Erin Crosby
Craig Jolley
Andrea Kaercher
Nancy Bortle
Michele King
Traci Hale-Brown
Natalie Schiavone
Curt Wright
Dave Moran (Kern Staff)**

Volunteers Needed:

In an effort to build a strong committee, we are seeking additional volunteers to help us with our various positions. If you are interested in joining the committee, volunteering at events, assisting with the newsletter, donating, or anything else, please contact us at:
campkernfamily@gmail.com