



Kern Family News

SPRING, 2015

Camp Updates & Future Plans

Camp is gearing up for another great summer (our 106th!) with some great new programs and additions for summer 2015! We are incredibly excited that our flagship character development program, 'Survivor' will have a brand new home this summer! Built specifically for the Survivor program and consisting of four new Adirondack cabins, fire circles and a new Tribal Council Ring, the new Survivor Village will help grow tomorrow's leaders.

The Camp Kern Library project is almost complete! The walls have been built, the floor has been laid and we have made a great start to our book collection. Shelving and decorations are the last part of the project before our 'magical forest' themed Library becomes a regular part of programming for our younger campers!

Our three new Literary Camps are getting full and we can't wait to fully immerse campers in the worlds of Comic Book Heroes, The Hobbit and Medieval this summer! More than just a themed week, campers will spend the entire week with just their fellow literary campers, delving into activities and programs designed specifically to appeal to their love of popular books and series. Whether it be learning to play Quidditch, following Bilbo on a quest or saving the world with Captain America and co. this is the pinnacle of memory making at Camp Kern.

We are excited to announce that we recently received a grant to upgrade Circle K Ranch! This fall will see the addition of two outdoor shelters in our pastures and the renovation of the indoor riding arena to provide a heated year round facility for riding lessons. Our Annual Golf Outing will provide half of the funds, while the other half will be funded through a national foundation grant. If you'd like to contribute to this project, please contact Chris Addison for details on sponsoring our Golf Outing this summer.



Kern Family Work Day May 17th

The Kern Family Committee is hosting its annual Spring workday on Sunday, May 17th from 11:00-4:00. With over 400 acres and 100 buildings to maintain, Kern needs volunteers like you to help keep things ready for each new camper and visitor. The Spring work day will feature an array of projects, from sprucing up cabins, to painting, planting flowers, and trail work; there will be a little bit of everything! *Con't on Page 3*

Strawberries & Ice Cream- Rooted in Tradition

Strawberries is an event rooted in tradition. In February of 1961, Jack Singerman 1st year as Executive director, board meetings were held monthly at the downtown YMCA. In his 2nd year, the meeting was held at Kern right before camp started on Fathers' Day. Thus began the 1st Strawberries and Ice Cream.

The first year was for Board members only. Charlie Wise grew the *Con't on Page 3*

Scotty Crowe, The Man, the myth, the legend



An infectious laugh can be heard rumbling through the dining hall, quickly followed by, "Oh, Scotty Crowe!" Perhaps one of the most well known employees at Kern, whether by the sheer size of the Crowe heritage or the irresistible personality everyone comes to love, Kern would not be camp without Scotty Crowe.

Scotty Crowe began working at Kern when he was just out

of high school. Over the years he has helped fix numerous things young summer staff have broken as well as tolerate the often questionable driving of the internationals on their tractor and van trainings. His hard work and dedication aside, Scotty is perhaps most well known for his zest for life and building relationships with people.

I often chuckle because I can't

end a conversation about camp without someone asking, "How's Scotty?". That is often followed up by a favorite Scotty story which leads me to believe, just as Pete's Tower is an icon of Kern, so to is Scotty Crowe.



"Loretta is the glue that pulls Kern together. She is a bright friendly person that brings a smile to staff and guests each day"
~Andrea Kaercher

Staff Spotlight— "The" Loretta (Deters) Bailey

This edition's Spotlight is none other than the infamous Loretta Bailey! Spending the majority of her time in the office, Loretta is at the heart of everything Camp does and has helped thousands of camper families and guests in a million different ways every year.

Loretta's Factfile:
Position: Director of Administration
How long have you been at Kern: 15 Years
Favorite place on Camp: Chapel

In a recent interview Loretta revealed a bit more of herself:

What are you most excited about this year?
"Summer Camp - most exciting part of my year!"

Favorite Memory of Camp?
"My wedding last fall." (there was a pause and then tears)

What do you love about Camp Kern?
"How pretty it is when you drive in. They pay me to come here!"

What brought you to camp?
"I was inspired to leave my last job

because of dating drama. Camp Kern was a rebound relationship. Danielle, the previous Camp Kern Administrative Director needed an assistant and I was hired. A couple weeks later Danielle unexpectedly became the Equestrian director so I took over as Admin director after just two weeks."

What keeps you here?
"People - the guests and staff. I've made lots and lots of friends."

What do you like least about your job?
"Doing payroll"

How many pets have you had since you came to Kern?

"About thirty. Mostly dogs and cats but a few raccoons, ducks, a snake, and a bearded dragon." (Many were fostered and rescued but all found a place in Loretta's heart.)

What is your darkest secret at camp?
"I have worked here 15 years and only been in pool 3 times and have only made it to level two of Pete's tower." (Climbing to level four of Pete's Tower has been added to Loretta's perfor-



A Sneak Peak at Summer Camp



Fun with friends in the Kern Pool.

With summer camp a mere seven weeks away, we want to take you on a tour of our flagship program and explore the magical world that is the Summer Camp department at YMCA Camp Kern! Eight, one-week sessions make up our summer experience and we welcome more than 1800 kids from all over the country (and some even further away than that!) each year.

Our program is broken into three main areas: Traditional **Summer Camp**, where campers are placed in age specific villages, choose their own activities

and participate in all camp themed games; **Ranch Camp**, which is all about the love of anything horse related and campers spend a ton of time in and out of the saddle learning,

getting the full experience of horse ownership; finally our **Teen Programs** focuses on developing our older campers into future world leaders through a range of creative programs such as **Survivor**, **Kern Challenge** and **Kern Out-Trips**.

No matter which program a camper chooses, their experience will be centered around fun, friendship and growth in a safe, caring environment, led by counselors from all over the world who are dedicated to delivering lifelong skills and memories. We are intentional about everything we do, from the family style

meals we serve and the progressive nature of our activities / programs, to our themed weeks and daily cabin closing ceremonies.

Each week is themed so at any time camp could be invaded by Darth Vader, Death Eaters or Orcs and the campers must work together to save camp! Magical memories are made at every opportunity, with cabin groups taking sunrise hikes, going on magical quests and using crazy evening programs to broaden every camper's horizons.

This is just a snapshot of what Kern delivers every summer, and with 105 years experience we can't wait for summer to get here again! See you soon!



Kern Family Work Day-Con't

If you and your family or friends are interested in joining us, please sign up at:

<http://goo.gl/x2oidL>

(It is case sensitive!)

At the completion of our work projects, Kern will be hosting a good ole' camp cookout. We can kick back, relax, share some Kern stories and enjoy some great food!

Strawberries & Cream-Con't

strawberries and Herb Ellis owned Gem City Ice Cream. The next year, it was decided to invite those who had donated to the camp throughout the year to pay tribute to their contributions. Some years later, the new summer staff who were finishing their final days of training were also invited.

Throughout the 50+ years, Strawberries & Ice

Cream has grown to include many stories, words of wisdom, and promises of she-nanigans all shared amongst fellow Kern Families, young and old. As the young bright eyed counselors of near and far listen intently to the ones who paved the paths before them, a feeling of excitement builds throughout the evening. Strawberries & Ice Cream has grown from a back yard strawberry patch to an evening of fellowship amongst over a hundred dedicated friends, all with the same love...Kern.



Upcoming Kern Events

Open House—May 17th

A wonderful opportunity to check out all of our summer camp programming.

Spring Work Day—May 17th

Give back to the camp that has given so much to you...volunteer for a work project to help get camp ready for summer.

Scholarship Shirt Sale—May 20th

Consider purchasing a unique Kern shirt for yourself or a friend. All proceeds will benefit Kern scholarships and programs.

Strawberries & Cream—June 11th

Join us for a one of camps oldest traditions! Share some of your favorite camp stories and traditions with our newest family members—summer counselors.

Jack Singerman Reunion—July 25th

Join Jack Singerman and other Kern alumni as we gather at the place we love to reminisce on days gone by and enjoy some timeless camp activities.

Summer Drive In—TBD

Keep your eyes peeled for more info about our summer drive in. For now, just think: movie, popcorn, Kern, & Fun!

Pool Party—August 16th

Bring your family and friends for one last splash in the Kern pool before we all head back to school.



Alumni Spotlight—Tom Stidham 1950's

Have you ever thought about what Camp Kern was like 60 years ago? Recently Peter Barton (Camp Staff 2000's) had the privilege of interviewing Camp Kern Alum, Tom Stidham. Tom grew up at Kern, spending four summers as a camper and three as staff. He finished his time at Kern in 1953. Tom has many amazing stories about his time at Camp Kern. When Camp transitioned from the bottom of the hill to the top, Tom recalls that the cabins were each named after a different Native American tribe. When the first letter from each of the 12 Cabins were placed together they spelled, YMCA CAMP KERN! He spoke fondly of his time working at the pool, proudly keeping the pool house clean with his fellow "Pool Pots". He also recalls the friendly rivalry the "Pool Pots" shared with the "Kitchen Pots"! Tom is a proud member of the Camp Kern family, and although he now spends the majority of the year in Washington State, he often thinks of his boyhood home at Kern, reflecting on how it helped shape the man he is today. "If it wasn't for [Kern], I wouldn't be." ~Tom Stidham
Thanks for the memories Tom!



Tom is 7th from left (1948)

Kern Family Committee

Kara Barton
Erin Crosby
Craig Jolley
Andrea Kaercher
Michele King
Natalie Schiavone
Megan Trowbridge
Chris Addison (Kern Staff)
Dave Moran (Kern Staff)

Volunteers Needed:

In an effort to build a strong committee, we are seeking additional volunteers to help us with are 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:

campkernalumni@gmail.com