

Overmountain Men begin trek to Kings Mountain

For the 28th consecutive year since its founding in 1975, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association is reenacting the campaign to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Organization members, some wearing Revolutionary War period dress and carrying Kentucky long rifles, will walk from Abingdon, VA to Kings Mountain National Military Park from September 24-October 7.

The two-week reenactment commemorates the heroic acts of the overmountain men of 1780 who tracked down the Loyalist troops of British Major Patrick Ferguson and defeated them at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The victory

sparked Patriot morale and led to subsequent victories in the South and to Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown just 12 months and 12 days later.

Mike Dahl, longtime OVTA member and GPS/GIS mapping expert, said the OVTA is particularly excited about this year's march because of the results of a year-long mapping project.

"This year we will step on portions of the historic route we have not previously walked," he said.

Starting last fall, OVTA undertook a mapping project jointly financed with the National Park Service. OVTA used geographic positioning satellites to map the 330-mile historic route and 18 asso-

ciated historic sites.

"Having this trail mapped in such sophisticated detail enables us to help protect this important part of American's heritage from destructive development," Dahl said. He said the mapped information has already affected some highway projects which otherwise could have destroyed portions of the trail.

Trail ceremonies are scheduled this year at Elkin City Park on Sept. 28 at 3 p.m., Yadkin River Greenway in Wilkesboro Sept. 29 at 1 p.m., Lake James State Park on Monday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m., Quaker Meadows wayside exhibit dedication on Monday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m., Ruth Greenway and Rutherford

parade on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 11 a.m., and Lake Whelchel in Gaffney, SC on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Along the way, OVTA reenactors share the story of the overmountain men of 1780 with students and civic groups.

"We have teachers who bus their entire grade classes out to meet us on the trail," says Fran Dahl, this year's grand marshal. "The students get a first-hand impression of life two centuries ago and they hear a story about a heroic event that took place in their own back yards. Hearing the story and being 'sworn in' as militia recruits seems to make an impression on them. It makes them feel special. It gives them an experience to talk about at

school."

This year OVTA has expanded its "OVTA in the Classroom" program. In 2001 OVTA provided copies of the video "The Road to Kings Mountain" to schools in counties along the trail. This year, OVTA is sending printed materials and worksheets to schools in the trail corridor who want it. They are also placing on their website (www.OVTA.org) a 12-episode serial, "Footsteps for Freedom" for teachers to share with their students day-by-day during the reenactment.

The OVTA will arrive at Kings Mountain National Military Park at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 7 to take part in the annual celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Cleveland County Fair begins next week

The seventy-eighth annual Cleveland County Fair will open Thursday, September 26 and run through Saturday, October 5 at the County Fairgrounds in Shelby.

Founded in 1924, the Cleveland County Fair has long been recognized as North Carolina's largest county fair.

The fairground is located at 1751 E. Marion St., which is also Business Highway 74 in Shelby. The 2002 Cleveland County Fair hosts 6,000 exhibits, 2,000 exhibitors, music, clowns, family entertainment, food, horticulture, livestock, arts, crafts, and the famous Reithoffer's Midway Carnival. Entry day for exhibitors is September 25 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The theme of the fair is "Celebrating 100 Years of 4-H." Dr. Seaman Knapp is credited with founding the youth organization in 1902. His goal was to promote agricultural awareness, as well as to foster ideals of good citizenship

such as loyalty, service, and community pride. The first North Carolina 4-H club was a corn club in Hertford County, begun in 1909. The program was established in Cleveland County in 1914.

An early advocate of 4-H in North Carolina was Cleveland County native L.R. Harrill. As North Carolina's first Agricultural Agent to work full time with 4-H, Harrill became known as "Mr. 4-H". In 1926, he became the first North Carolina State 4-H Club Leader; he held this position until 1963. On April 11, 2002, he became the first North Carolinian inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Through the years, 4-H has been an integral part of the Cleveland County Fair. Times change, and the commodities of today's 4-H have adapted through the years. The club still fosters agriculture, but today also encourages many other fields of study such as aerospace and electronics. Today the club's motto "To Make the Best Better," still applies and still inspires many 4-H members to great achieve-

ments.

Opening day ceremonies will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, September 26, at the Grandstand. Gates will open at 2 p.m. on both Thursdays, both Fridays, Monday and Wednesday; at 9 a.m. on both Saturdays; at 10 a.m. Sunday; and at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Gates close at 11 p.m. each night.

The Sunday early opening is to allow free attendance for an interdenominational worship service on the Grandstand. Any fair-goer taking a church bulletin from that day will be admitted free until 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, gates open early to celebrate Senior Citizens Day; seniors receive \$3 gate admission all day. Special performances for senior citizens are scheduled.

Admission to the fair is \$6 for adults, and \$2 for children age 6-12 years of age. Under 6 years and over 75 years are admitted free.

Advance tickets are available participating merchants and

the fair office, ending September 26. Advance gate admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children.

Monday, September 30, is Grandparents and Ladies Day with \$3 admission all day for grandparents and ladies of all ages. The annual Grandparents Contest will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the Grandstand.

Monday through Thursday are School Days. All Cleveland County school children are given one free gate pass valid on these days, and a discount coupon for any day of the fair. On School Days, the number of tickets charged per ride on the midway will be reduced by one from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, October 2 and 3, are Special Children's Days, with special children's entertainment beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Last year's opening day special was so successful, it had to be repeated. A one price admission special will be offered at the gate.

For a price of \$12, patrons can receive fair admission and an arm-band ride pass for the Reithoffer carnival valid until fair closing. Total value of the special gate package is \$19. This special is for Thursday, September 26 only.

Reithoffer Midway Shows is celebrating their 27th year at the Cleveland County Fair. The midway will open at 4 p.m. every weekday, 10 a.m. on Saturdays, and noon on Sunday. Weekends are Armband Days for the carnival, with passes valid for universal unlimited rides available for \$13.

On Saturdays, armbands will be available for purchase until 2 p.m., and valid until 4 p.m. On Sunday, armbands will be sold until 5:30 p.m. and valid until 7 p.m.

This year's headliner on the grandstand is comedian James Gregory, known as "The Funniest Man In America." Gregory's show will be Tuesday, October 1, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

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Volleyball team remains unbeaten

Kings Mountain High's volleyball team defeated St. Stephens 15-12, 15-6, 15-4 in a Southwestern Foothills Conference match Tuesday.

The Lady Mountaineers, 4-0 in the conference and 11-1 overall, host Crest today. JV action begins at 4:30.

Shonda Cole had 19 kills, nine blocks and five digs to lead Tuesday's win. Pam Parker had four kills, three blocks and four digs, and was also 15-for-15 serving with 10 service points.

Alex Dawson contributed eight kills and Danielle Gill had one kill and four blocks.

Blair Heffner had 10 assists and three digs and was 10-for-13 serving with seven service points. Courtney Osteen had nine assists, two digs, and was 18-for-18 serving with 13 service points.

Lauren Horne had three digs and eight service points, and Jackie Jarvis had three digs and three service points.

KM ladies win in cross country

Kings Mountain High's women's cross country team won its second meet of the season Tuesday at home.

Hayley Flynn won for the second straight time with a time of 23:40. Freshman Susie Potter finished second with a time of 25:47. Raquel Welsh was fourth in 26:11, Katie Bennett 16th in 29:25 and Lesley Potter 17th in 29:26. The Lady Mountaineers scored 36 points followed by R-S Central 39, Hickory 68 and Crest 97.

The Mountaineers finished third. Top finisher for the Mounties was Thomas Reid who was fifth with a time of 21:41. Philip Bunch was 27th in 23:43, Nicholas Galarza 29th in 24:24, Michael Cannova 33rd in 24:54, and Thomas Miller 46th in 28:50.