

# FRIEND TO FRIEND

Volume XXIII  
Issue 9

Friendship Force of  
Kern County  
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**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

**10 TH OF EACH  
MONTH**

*The  
Friendship  
Force*



Kern County, California  
www.ffkern.org



## MESSAGE from STEVE ...

Summer is waning and fall is upon us (or soon to be). I trust you all enjoyed summer and had a number of great adventures as Merry and I did.

We just returned from our first "Outbound Exchange" to Hay River, NWT, Canada, led by ED Ned Gilfillan and truly enjoyed it. We had a four day turnaround from several weeks in upstate New York. We missed the Grandparent/Grandchild Exchange but received a day by day update via Facebook. Given the comments, photos and excellent review, the Exchange was a great success and kudos go to Sandy Larson for a great job. We now look forward to the Language Learner Exchange beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting ambassadors from 5 clubs in Germany. Sandy met many of the Ambassadors, for this exchange, at the World Conference and noted that they are an enthusiastic group looking forward to their time with us. This should be another great exchange.



As we look to 2012, Past President Chuck Switzer is ED for our early January exchange from Mundo Maya, Mexico. Think ahead for this unique exchange as we host warm weather ambassadors to our "harsh" winter environment.

I have received the "Wish List" from FFI for 2013 Exchanges. I would appreciate your consideration as to potential exchanges that "tickle your fancy" as we will need to make a decision and inform FFI of our wishes.

I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Vernon Vet's Hall.

Best Regards,

Steve

## THANK YOU

The Grandparent and Grandchildren Eco-Exchange (GGEE) was a grand experience. It was greatly rewarding to see the children from three countries connect with one another. They really had fun together and friendships were formed that are ongoing through email and FaceBook. Thank you to our wonderful FF Kern County members, old and new, who pitched in to make this a successful exchange.

There were some unusual instances in this exchange which proved our ability to be flexible and sort things out, including missed airline connections, but I would like to single out Dolly Hei for special appreciation. At the last minute she agreed to go along on the bus to LAX to solve the problem of an unaccompanied minor ticketed to depart on a flight twenty minutes later than the flight of his grandmother. To everyone's dismay, on arrival at the airport he was not allowed to check in and was rescheduled for a flight the next morning. Dolly cheerfully spent the night with him at a motel near the airport and then waited for airport bus to bring her home.

Thank you Dolly and everyone for a GGEE! It was a dream come true for me .

Sandra Larson, GGEE ED



View from the shade towards horses waiting for their riders at Rankin Ranch. This was the last big activity day before the farewell banquet the next night.

## CALENDAR 2011



|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| General Meeting,                              | September 28  |
| Language Learner exchange<br>Inbound exchange | October 15-21 |
| Brazil<br>Outbound exchange                   | March 2012    |



### September Birthdays

|   |             |    |                |
|---|-------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Greg Hazle  | 19 | Susan Eagle    |
| 5 | Brian Pitts | 19 | Ann Barnett    |
| 7 | Jody Miller | 25 | Steve McCalley |



Honoring Chuck with cake and candle for his many years of providing lemonade at our meetings.

### PHOTOS FROM GRANDPARENTS' EXCHANGE



"Cowgirl Toko Yomura". Tiki was ED for Japanese contingent.



Nedra Gilfillan taking photo towards Nicolas and Miguel from Germany on hay ride to the meadow for western BBQ lunch at Rankin Ranch.

## OUR LONG-AWAITED EXCHANGE TO HAY RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

We arrived at the Hay River Airport by a World War 2 plane, a DC-3 that we were told is the workhorse of the north. It has been turned into a 28 seat passenger plane. Our luggage was just stacked behind the row of seats clear to the ceiling. We could see the pilot and co-pilot from our seats. The flight was 45 minutes over the Great Slave Lake. It was very smooth with the best landing we had had the whole trip.



We were met by our smiling hosts. They whisked us and our luggage off to the Heritage Center for potluck dinner. Two guitar players entertained us and we were able to look around at their center which is completely run by volunteers.

The next day was a hike to a very beautiful falls after a fish lunch at the Fisherman's Wharf where we met some local people. It was a flat walk with signs that explained how the natives used to portage around the falls when moving to a new place.

Wood Buffalo National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It takes 3 hours to drive there. We saw a few buffalo along side the road. They are pretty big guys!



We were served our lunch by volunteer seniors in the Senior Center. This woman was the President and cook. She is an aboriginal lady. Most locals here were either full aboriginal or a Metis (pronounced May Tee) which means mixed.



Outing on the lake in a small local fisherman's boat was a highlight!!! We had smoked fish for a snack while we went out in the lake. He threw the entrails from his catch the day before to get the seagulls attention. Wow did they ever fight over that. He also picked up a big Pike that was floating in the water that another fisherman had not wanted. So he netted it and filleted it while we watched. It was very heavy and had sharp teeth.



## Language Learner Exchange In October

The Language Learner Exchange is an Inbound from 5 clubs in Germany, arriving October 15th this year. Our guests will depart on the 21st for a two night visit to Death Valley before continuing on to Albuquerque for the second week of home hosting. Some of the ambassadors have been to Kern County in past years with Friendship Force exchanges from Berlin and Cottbus.

This is relatively new exchange concept in Friendship Force with a focus on the guest ambassadors speaking the host language as much as possible during the exchange. There will be some morning sessions when English grammar and vocabulary will be addressed on a relatively informal basis. **Merry McCalley is the exchange director, and she would welcome volunteers to assist with various events. One thing that may be needed is cakes to serve during the morning language sessions.**

**If you can make time for hosting during the week of October 15th - 21st, contact Sandra Larson right away to apply.**



Ambassadors meeting after World Conference in Hamburg with ED Horst Neumann. They are an enthusiastic and fun group.

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### **WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP FORCE?**

The Friendship Force is a non-profit organization sponsoring people to people exchanges of individuals and families to over fifty nations of the world. It brings people of the world together through home hospitality experiences that can build lasting bonds of friendship

### **OFFICERS 2011**

**President: Steve McCalley, 587-4840      Vice President, Ana Lucia Chiles, 324-2792**  
**Secretary, Kate Himes, 599-2241      Treasurer, Marie Krause, 758-2537**  
**Past Co-Presidents, Charles Switzer, 588-4553 and Caroline West, 325-6223**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

|                              |                       |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Director of Exchanges</b> | <b>Ben Goossen</b>    | <b>746-4789</b> |
| <b>Membership</b>            | <b>Susan Eagle</b>    | <b>472-3191</b> |
| <b>Exchange Treasurer</b>    | <b>Marie Krause</b>   | <b>758-2537</b> |
| <b>Hospitality</b>           | <b>Susan Eagle</b>    | <b>472-3191</b> |
| <b>Publicity</b>             | <b>Nancy Hazle</b>    | <b>835-9434</b> |
| <b>Telephone</b>             | <b>Julia Linfesty</b> | <b>831-0629</b> |
| <b>Newsletter</b>            | <b>Joan Florence</b>  | <b>808-5133</b> |
| <b>Raffle</b>                | <b>Chuck Switzer</b>  | <b>588-4553</b> |
| <b>Interclub</b>             | <b>Judy Chase</b>     | <b>854-3956</b> |
| <b>Supplies Inventory</b>    | <b>Hildie Elges</b>   | <b>871-3442</b> |

### **EXCHANGE DIRECTORS**

**2010 Inbound Houston, Texas, Nancy Hazle, 835-9434**  
**2010 Inbound England, Pauline Larwood, 871-6090**  
**2010 Outbound Cardiff UK (Global), Sandra Larson, 746-6056**  
**2011 Outbound Hay River, Canada, Nedra Gilfillan, 871-5212**  
**2011 Inbound Language Learner, Germany, Merry McCalley, 587-4840**  
**2012 Inbound Mundo Maya, Mexico, Chuck Switzer, 588-4553**  
**2012 Outbound Brazil, Sandra Larson, 746-6056**