

The

ROCKSPIRIAN

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Ernie Kilman
On the Kings River near Rockspire

ARTIST ERNEST KILMAN knows the area around Rockspire probably better than anyone! He has lived and worked at Trigger Gap for 21 years and was instrumental in assisting the Nature Conservancy with its purchase of the Kings River Preserve. Ernie has been a friend to Rockspire, and he is one of our closest neighbors. Ernie's Kings River Outfitters is located across the highway from Rockspire, at the Highway 221, Kings River Bridge. His brother and sister-in-law, Doug and Susan Kilman held their wedding reception in the MobbyMac Carriage House at Rockspire in 2013.
(See the January, 2014 **Rockspirian** for more about the wedding)

Ernie is "the painting guide", taking you on a journey back to Nature through the medium of oil landscape paintings. Ernie leads a dual life as an established American landscape painter, and as a professional outdoorsman, providing river outfitter services and guide services. He prefers a canoe as his vessel of transportation into the wilderness regions, where he sets up his plein air easel, and uses impressionistic realism to capture the essence of the grand natural American landscape. He sees his works as nostalgic transports guiding you to an ancient time when people first gazed upon natural scenes, untouched by human development.

He compares his canoe to a time machine, providing an entry back into the old American landscapes. The canoe is an environmentally friendly way to take his materials deep into thickly wooded areas, to what he calls "the last beautiful spots." Sometimes he stays for a week at a time, drawing and painting every day. By living with the wilderness, looking at the subject matter, breathing the air, smelling the aromas, and hearing the bird songs, the whole natural environment goes through all of his senses and spill out through his brushes, painting scenes little different from how they might have looked to an explorer from long ago.



Sunset on the Kings River
Oil on Canvas
By Ernest Kilman



Marty's Falls
Oil on Canvas
By Ernest Kilman

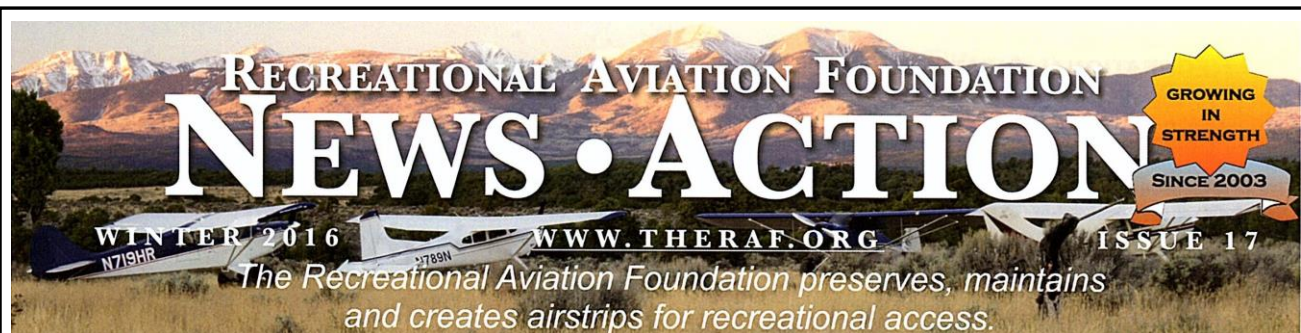


Kings Vista
Oil on Canvas
By Ernest Kilman

Ernie expresses a colorful and enthusiastic perspective of the Ozarks and Trigger Gap, which he artfully translates through his paintings as well as his activism in promoting a meaningful, environmentally responsive use of this place. If you plan on taking a canoe trip down the Kings River, or you just want to spend some time enjoying the Trigger Gap area around Rockspire, please contact Ernie, as he is a great resource for information that will enhance your visit. For more information about Ernie and the Kings River Outfitters visit his website at:

<http://kingsriveroutfitters.com>.





Arkansas digs into three-state project

– Dave Myrick, RAF Arkansas Liaison

In the almost four years I've been the Arkansas Liaison I've been very surprised by the enthusiasm and dedication of the local aviation community. Our RAF membership has increased six-fold and continues to grow at a very welcome pace. I credit this growth with the passing of legislation that has included aviation activities in the Arkansas Recreational Use Statute.

Happily, I am finally able to announce a new project that defines the very essence of the RAF and our

mission. A group of very dedicated local aviators working alongside the RAF has launched a groundbreaking project that has been over two years in the making.

The Ozark's Airfield Project began with their idealistic statement, "We would like to develop the Ozarks into a national recreation fly-in destination." The project will include eastern Oklahoma, northern Arkansas and southern Missouri. All three states now have private airstrip liability protection.

Centrally located in the U.S., the Ozarks can be reached within a day's flight of a very large percentage of the nation's GA community. They abound with recreational opportunities without high density altitudes.

Nature Conservancy partners

A focal point is the construction of a new 3,000 ft recreational airstrip in cooperation with the Arkansas Nature Conservancy. Representatives attended the groundbreaking in December along with myself, and RAF Directors Tim Clifford and Steve Johnson.

This new airstrip, informally called Trigger Gap, is situated on one of the most spectacular and scenic bluffs in Arkansas and offers camping, a pilot shelter and trail to the protected, wild and scenic King's River.

As many as nine new airstrips are planned. Just as important, this project will invite owners of private airstrips within the three-state area to participate.

A mobile interactive app is planned to provide aviators with a comprehensive list of airstrips and activities. The pilot will be able to enter aircraft capability, and pilot's level of experience.

These are exciting times for this overall area!



Myrick, in orange cap, is all smiles as the shovel crew prepares for the first new airstrip in the Ozark Airfield Project in December. Left to right: Presley Melton, RAF member; Chris Schnurbusch, Matt Trulove and Cori Miller of Crossland Construction; Tim Schnell with Arkansas Nature Conservancy; Steve Johnson, RAF Director; Myrick; Chad Cox, Founder of Ozarks Airfield Project; Tim Clifford, RAF Director, and Mr. Parker the lab, an RAF honorary canine.

Editor's note:

The 3,000 feet long recreational airstrip mentioned in the article above is East of Rockspire, across the Kings River from Camp Sassafras. It is not quite finished yet, but should open soon. If you would like to learn more, contact **Harper Goodwin**, RAF member and retired American Airlines pilot, and a friend and neighbor to Rockspire.

harpergoodwin@gmail.com



Rusty Rothgeb working on new MobbyMac Carriage House front doors at Rockspire shop.



Jynx admiring a new addition to Joan's Angel Trail at Rockspire