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[Check it out:](#) Directions, things to see and do at AAEE's Juneteenth outing on June 20.

AAEA Plans Traditional "Juneteenth" celebration at Soledad Canyon resort campgrounds

- **New!** Test your skills at Lazer Tag

By LAURA KLOTH
Staff Writer

(May 21, 2009) Metro's African American Employees Association (AAEA), in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District Black Employee Association, will host a traditional "Juneteenth" celebration on the grounds of a private resort and campground in Soledad Canyon June 20.

Juneteenth commemorates the June 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas.

Featuring a barbecue and a playground of activities from swimming to golf and even horseback riding, the day-long event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 20 at the Soledad Canyon Thousand Trails Resort, said event organizer and AAEE member, Renee Willis. Camping facilities and cabins are available for those interested in a weekend stay, she said.

"We use to have Juneteenth off site on the weekends, and this year, we thought it would be a good idea to institute it again so people could invite their families," said Metro Senior Contract Administrator and event co-organizer, Susan Dove.

Indicating the event falls on Father's Day



A Juneteenth outing in Austin, Texas, circa 1900.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day federal troops arrived on Galveston Island to take possession of the state of Texas and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name derived from the words June and nineteenth.

Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22,

weekend, she said some who have purchased tickets are open to that idea. "There's a lot of people that are saying what a better way to spend Father's Day, than to be enjoying the outdoors," she said.

The outing will feature a barbecue and a variety of resort amenities including the popular new "lazer tag," shuffleboard, swimming pools, tennis and volleyball courts, line dancing, hay rides and crafts.

"It's going to be a nice event, something different," said AAEA member Veronica Hargrove.



Using his best motivational skills, Digital Technician Keith Hanson shares information about the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration with workers comp analysts Maria Robles and Yvonne Ibaven.

1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had little immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control, noted a report in Wikipedia.

More on Juneteenth at www.juneteenth.com and in Wikipedia

As it stands, about 60 tickets will be available, but more may be added depending on demand.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$18 for children. The price includes a barbecue lunch.

AAEA members will be selling tickets at a table set up between noon and 12:30 p.m. on the third floor lobby of Gateway headquarters.

For more information, contact Renee Willis at (626) 818-3631 or Susan Dove at (213) 922-7451.