Rainier To Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra (R2R) & Buckley To Orting Half Marathon (B&O)

by Robert Hester, Race Director

On National Trails Day, Saturday June 6, 2015, runners will take on the 13th Annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra (R2R). The course follows the Foothills Trail from the shoulders of Mount Rainier to the shores of Puget Sound. The trail passes through pristine wilderness and historic communities, following the old Northern Pacific Railroad grade which once brought settlers and supplies to the west. The 52 mile R2R is designed to raise awareness of the goal to complete the Foothills Trail from Mount Rainier to Tacoma.

The R2R course will challenge teams of runners and ultra-runners to travel under their own power from the base of Mount Rainier to the sea. Starting in the Carbon River rainforest, runners will lose 1,800 feet of elevation before crossing the finish line 52 miles later at the north end of Marine Park on the Tacoma waterfront.

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President’s Message

by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

I encourage all of the members of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and non-members to write a letter to their Washington State Legislators to encourage their support of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funding at a minimum of $75 million or more.

We need that level of funding to acquire a full match grant for completion of the Foothills Trail from the Town of South Prairie to the south side of the City of Buckley. This project was chosen as Number Eight by the WWRP and Number One in the Governor’s budget to the Legislature.

When this legislation is passed your Coalition will be digging deep into its pockets to fund $50,000 towards our promise to help in Pierce County’s match of the funds from the WWRP. This is the main reason we are here, TO HELP BUILD TRAILS throughout Pierce County.

If you do not know who or where to contact your legislators please go to the following address: http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx. You can enter your home address and will then receive your legislators contact information.

The Foothills Trail truly needs your support, please write.

Our work parties are diligently preparing the Foothills Trail for the public to use as well as the 2015 Rainier to Ruston Relay and

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Introducing Board Member
John Warhol
by Ernie Bay

John Warhol, a board member of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

His love affair with the outdoors, started as a child growing up in Bremerton, Washington.

John developed an appreciation of the outdoors through the Outdoor Recreation Club in high school and the outdoor recreation program at Olympic College.

After graduating from high school he was able to find summer employment with the United States Forest Service in Quilcene, Washington.

During his summers with the Forest Service, John was tasked with many different chores, to include trail maintenance, trail construction, fire lookout duty and lastly fighting forest fires.

John nurtured his love of the outdoors with the strong support of Volk Sporting, being on walks or riding bikes on many of the different trails in the United States.

He strongly feels that the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition should continue to acquire land and to develop trails for present and future generations to follow.

Photo Provided by John Warhol

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

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Vice President..............................................Pat Johnson (360) 829-2068, pat.johnson@tx3.net
Secretary................................................Stuart “Stu” Scheurman (253) 863-8832, snese01@msn.com
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Publisher:
The Trail Line News is published quarterly by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. Our website is http://www.piercecountytrails.org and our email address is foothillstrail@msn.com.

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The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in building, maintaining, and promoting a network of safe, non-motorized trails that provide healthy recreation and transportation options.

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Government Affairs Report

BY BOB MYRICK, TWBC

During the December 2, 2014, meeting of the TWBC Government Affairs Committee the following items were discussed:

The following is a summary of accomplishments in 2014 concerning trails in the Pierce County.

Sumner Link Trail. The eight mile long trail in Sumner was dedicated to public use. It will eventually connect to the Interurban Trail, the Puyallup River Walk and the Foothills Trail. It is truly the central link in the Valley trail system.

Prairie Line Trail. The University of Washington - Tacoma portion was dedicated for public use in late Summer. Tacoma has grants in place to continue the trail to the Esplanade Trail on the Thea Foss Waterway.

Tacoma Water Ditch Trail. Tacoma has just paved additional segments of the Trail near South 74th Street and South Tacoma Way near the B&I shopping center. There will be public meetings to decide details of connecting the Water Ditch Trail to the Prairie Line Trail.

Cushman Powerline Trail. Gig Harbor is actively building the trail connection out to Borgen Boulevard.

JEBlI Link. A short trail link was dedicated this Summer to join the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail to the Foothills Trail. It is named for John Ernest Berry III who has been our Legislative Advocate for several years. This connection allows travel on the East Pioneer sidewalk system from downtown Puyallup to Shaw Road and then connects the Meeker Trailhead of the Foothills Trail.

Foothills Trail. After many years, Pierce County Parks may obtain an RCO grant to connect the main segment of the Foothills Trail between Buckley and South Prairie. Next up, the County needs to work with Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition to improve the soft surface trail in Claudia’s Canyon to Wilkerson, Carbonado and Mount Rainier.

Bud Blanchard Trail. This Eatonville trail was recently dedicated and it links downtown to the Pack Forest and the future State Park on the Nisqually/ Mashell River intersection. It can also continue to the undeveloped County Rimrocks Park and can linked with a future Tacoma Eastern RR Trail(The Trail to the Mountain).

Swan Creek Mountain Bike Trail. This loop trail was finished in 2014 and will be the site of a major regional mountain bike race in 2015. It is located right on the future Tacoma Pipeline Trail.

Tacoma Pipeline Trail. Field meetings were held this summer to hopefully decide how to get the Pipeline Trail opened for public use. One short portion is paved and Tacoma is possibly planning on paving other segments within the city limits. The trail allows a hearty cyclist to travel a 28 mile loop to Puyallup to Clark’s Creek Park and then along the river to travel downstream to Eleventh Street and the Murray Morgan Historic Bridge.

Tacoma Eastern Rail Road Trail (The Trail to the Mountain). We hear on the grapevine that the a proposal may be brought forward to begin work on getting some of the right of way dedicated to the Trail to Longmire at Mt. Rainier. This event would see Pierce County having two soft surface trails to the Mountain, both the Carbon River and the Nisqually River.

Point Defiance Park and Ruston Way. Five mile drive is now closed every morning to allow non-motorized use. Work continues on connecting the Ruston Way Trail to the Esplanade and Point Defiance Park. TWBC again donated to Dome to Defianse, an event closes roads along the corridor to bring attention to the need for a trail.

Tacoma installed a 13.1 mile City Bikeway system that includes bike lanes, sharrows, crosswalks and signage. It even has a bike traffic counter installed in several locations.

TWBC continues to fund the Kidical Mass Rides led by Matt Newport and hopes to fund the program in 2015. We donated to 2nd Cycle Community Bike Shop’s relocating to a new location in the Hilltop on Martin Luther King Way. TWBC worked with ForeverGreen Trails Coalition to secure a grant from the Russell Foundation to encourage more non-motorized use within the Puyallup Watershed.

This has been a banner year for cycling, especially in Tacoma. The 10 year grant from the Russell Foundation is an important accomplishment as it will allow continued efforts to provide non-motorized transportation for personal health and the health of our physical environment.
Networking for Trails

Trailhead Map Stolen
BY ERNIE BAY

We were recently shocked and dismayed to find the large Foothills Trail map near the ‘Natures Medley’ tree in Veterans Park stolen from its frame. It is difficult to imagine why anyone would do such a thing. Perhaps we should take it as a complement that someone liked it enough to use it for their interior decoration. Replacing the map, including installation, will cost nearly a thousand dollars, which cost our parks department has kindly volunteered to bear.

In a later vandalism incident at the same location several plaques honoring bench donors were either stolen or destroyed. Both the plaques and the map are in the process of being replaced.

Signs and Sharrows Lead the Way
BY ERNIE BAY

Users of the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail and persons unfamiliar with its separate sections can now better identify and connect the two. At the urging of some of our Friends group the city has recently installed a number of attractive directional signs identifying the Riverwalk on 5th Street NE to just past Stewart Elementary School at 2nd Avenue NE. Cyclists turn left on 2nd Avenue NE and connect with Phase Two of the Riverwalk beneath the SR512 freeway. Phase Two of the Riverwalk continues east to the Puyallup/Sumner Bridge. On the Sumner side of the bridge users can find the Sumner Link Trail which continues along the Stuck (White) River northward eventually to connect with King County’s Interurban Trail. Many cyclists prefer to remain on 4th Street NE all the way to 2nd Avenue NE rather than contend with motorized traffic on 5th Street NE. We recommended this route but, the city was concerned with the lesser street width further restricted by parking on 4th Street NE south of 5th Avenue NE. Meanwhile, the Puyallup Parks and Recreation Department is initiating planning for a direct trail connection for what is now a missing link. Until such time as this can be achieved the new signs and sharrows will be a big help.

Trail History
BY DIANE KERLIN, EDGEWOOD WA

On Thursday, February 5th, the City of Edgewood Parks and Recreation Advisory Board hosted a movie night featuring a documentary film, “The Seattle-Tacoma Interurban Railway: A Journey into the past.” The film provided a very entertaining look at the history of a former trolley line now known as the Interurban Trail, including parts that are now paved trail in Edgewood and Milton. The event was well attended by local residents and Foothills Rails-to-Trails members as well. Guests enjoyed popcorn and reminisced about the past and the building of the trail. Foothills Coalition President Buzz Grant shared with those attending about the time Coalition volunteers hauled out about 800 tires that were partially buried along the rail bed before the trail was built.

Signs and Sharrows Lead the Way

Riverwalk Signage. Photo by Ernie Bay
Bike Markings. Photo by Ernie Bay
Families In Motion Fun Day

by Dixie Gatchel, Friends Of The Riverwalk

The all-free, revamped Families in Motion Fun Day on Saturday, June 27th, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, features a kid’s bicycle rodeo, game booths and a 5K-11K Volkssports walk. It’s an all-city event with the Friends of the Riverwalk partnering with the Puyallup Police; Puyallup Parks & Recreation; Central Pierce Fire & Rescue; and the Daffodil Valley Volkssports Association.

The event will take place at the Puyallup City Hall parking lot, at 323 S. Meridian.

The theme for a limited number of vendors will feature healthy living and activity. Watch for the spring/summer issue of the Puyallup Recreation bulletin for details.

ForeverGreen Trails

by Dr. Jane Moore, Executive Director

In January 2015, the ForeverGreen Trails Board met for their annual planning retreat. The main focus was on the long and short term goals for the organization. The long term goals remain the same with the addition of a sixth goal. They are presented in no particular order:

1. Achieve implementation of the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan.
2. Advocate for a dedicated long-term fund for acquisition, development, maintenance and preservation of trails.
3. Advocate for pedestrian and bicycle oriented community design and connections to the county wide trails system.
4. Secure sustainable funding for the operations of ForeverGreen Trails.
5. Strengthen our relationships with like-minded organizations.
6. Partner with agencies and organizations to promote trail use and stewardship and for related public relations purposes.

The short term goals for 2015 have been updated. Some previous goals have been modified and combined. New goals related to ForeverGreen’s work with the Active Transportation (AT) Community of Interest (COI) of the Puyallup Watershed Initiative have been added:

1. Participate in the update of the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan.
2. Continue to work on a trail connection from Puyallup to Tacoma in cooperation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Pierce County, Puyallup, Tacoma, and Fife.
3. Participate in the planning process and implementation of active transportation components in the plans of city, county, regional, state and federal agencies.
4. Hold a Pierce County Trails Conference.
5. Support Bike Month events in Pierce County.
6. Participate in the Active Transportation Community of Interest of the Puyallup Watershed Initiative.
7. Participate in the planning and implementation of active transportation components in the plans of city, county, regional, state and federal agencies.
8. Develop and publicize a case statement for trails; coordinate with white paper on countywide trail system and economic and health benefits study from AT COI.
9. Secure funding for the ForeverGreen budget through individual contributions, sponsors, and agency support.
10. Support proposed plans, projects, grant applications, and legislation related to trails or active transportation including complete streets and missing links.
11. Collaborate with AT COI & other organizations to educate elected officials about the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan.
12. Maintain a web and social media presence.
13. Begin planning for a long-term funding measure; collect existing information from other similar efforts

Continued on Page 9
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. The following people and organizations have renewed their memberships or made a donation in the last two quarters.

ARTISTIC SOLUTIONS Sumner
BERRYLAND CAFÉ, LLC Sumner
Davidson, Madeline
Erath, Lois M. & Gary J.
Gipe, Betsy Fine & Robert
Grant, Gordon F. (Buzz)
Harman, Dave & Susan
Hilton, William
Holub, James & Edna
Irion, Raymond G.
Jordan, David
Kerr, Adam B.
Kinkelaar, Patricia A.
Klingman, Judy & Kirt
Kuehn, Randy G.
MRS. TURNER’S RESTAURANT, INC., Puyallup
O’Connor, Peggy
Oberlander, Jim
OLD CANNERY FURNITURE WAREHOUSE, Sumner
OLD TOWN TAVERN COMPANY, Tacoma
Palmer, John
Peachey, John
Pedersen, Steven & Kay
Pierson, Beverly
Pollard, Kirby T.
PUGET SOUND ENERGY
Roening, Heather Ballash & Marcus
Rudd, William & Sandra
Sanford, Kirsten & Larry
SPOONER FARMS, INC. Puyallup
Stark, Galen (Lynnette Arthur)
Thomas, Fred
Walker, Scott & Amber
Welch, Larry R.
Wetzel, David J.

How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?
by John Selby, Board Member

Here’s your chance to win a free membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. If you can describe the location of the photo below before anyone else does, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal. (Board members are excluded.) No one guessed the December photo location of looking upstream on the Gale Creek section of the Foothills Trail.

Let’s see how well you do on this one. Please respond to JohnSelby16@gmail.com with your answer to “Where is this?” Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue. If you don’t know your Pierce County trails well enough to guess, then get out there and explore them! You are missing out!

Friends of the Riverwalk Rummage Sale

Please help Puyallup Friends of the (Puyallup) Riverwalk Trail collect over 3,000 items for our upcoming Rummage Sale. Items for donation can be dropped off on March 14th at 726 4th Ave SW Puyallup WA 98371, between 9 a.m. and 1p.m. We will accept clothing, house wares, furniture, and many other items. The Rummage Sale will be held on May 16, 2015, and we hope to make this a successful annual event in order to help continue our efforts to beautify, enhance, and maintain the Riverwalk Trail on behalf of our community. If you have any questions regarding the Rummage Sale please contact Nicole Martineau at 253-298-5635.

Photo by John Selby

Photo by John Selby
Here is how you can participate. If you desire, and perhaps are a bit on the crazy side, you can run the course solo and complete all 12 legs and the 52 miles on your own. Most people run in teams of 2, 3, 4 or 6 runners and divide the 12 legs among the team members. Solo runners and teams compete in divisions for Open, Masters (all 40 plus), Super Masters (all 60 plus), High School, Military (reserve or active) and top runners in each division will be recognized with the coveted Golden Spike Awards. To learn more about the R2R and register for the event please visit the following website, http://www.rainiertoruston.com/registration.html.

Another opportunity to raise awareness of the trail is the Buckley To Orting Half Marathon (B&O) on Saturday, July 25th, 2015. The race starts in Buckley and finishes in Orting at the downtown park area. This year the course will have some minor changes due to bridge damage between Buckley and South Prairie so stay tuned!

In 2013 the B&O was separated from the R2R so that it could be highlighted and the focus could be on the trail section between Buckley and Orting. This is a stretch of trail that has yet to be completed and is high on the priority list for the Foothills Coalition to complete. Runners and walkers participating in the B&O get to experience passing through sections of sometimes shoe sucking mud. That’s all part of the experience and the reason we say that both races are, “An Adventure In Your Own Backyard.”

Thanks to our major sponsors, The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, Puget Sound Energy, Fleet Feet Sports and R.E.I. for their support of these events.

For those wishing to volunteer with the R2R, B&O, or both events please contact me (Robert Hester, Race Director) at rchwhester@yahoo.com. Currently we are looking for volunteers for the following positions:

* Set-up and take down- Help set-up the bell stands and aid stations or help take down all stations. Need to be able to lift up to 50 pounds.
* Packet Pick Up- Help hand out packets, t-shirts, etc. at the start of each race (Buckley/Rainier).
* Parking- Help with parking at locations from Rainier to Tacoma.
* Finish Line- Help post results, check in runners, get drop bags for ultra runners.
* Misc- Help with miscellaneous tasks on race day like shuttling supplies, picking up drop bags, running errands, etc.
* Exchange Monitor Captains- Staff and organize a group of people to manage a bell stand location and all required duties. This is a great opportunity for groups of people, or an organization.

Thanks for your support!
Bryan worked for the National Park Service for 35 years and retired in December 2013. He has a Master’s degree in Outdoor Recreation Resources Administration and worked primarily as a community planner/organizer in multiple National Park Service ‘community assistance’ programs. These programs provide financial and technical assistance grants to agencies and non-profit community groups working to plan and implement local conservation and recreation projects throughout the country. A significant portion of Bryan’s work was helping multi-jurisdictional partners plan, coordinate, and develop trails and greenways across their respective boundaries.

After retirement, Bryan joined the Boards of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and the ForeverGreen Trails Council to help further trail development and implementation throughout Pierce County. Bryan is currently President of the ForeverGreen Trails Council which he helped create in 2004. The ForeverGreen Trails Council is a collaborative group of key leadership individuals from a variety of agencies, organizations, and elected officials with authority and responsibility for planning, promoting, building, funding, and/or managing trails in Pierce County. The Foothills Coalition is an active participant on the ForeverGreen Trails Council.

Bryan was also actively involved in the creation of the ‘Active Transportation’ Community of Interest (COI) that was formed in response to the Russell Family Foundation’s Puyallup Watershed Initiative. The Active Transportation COI has received first year funding from the Russell Family Foundation and will be working for the next ten years to achieve its vision of a watershed-wide community in which people can move around under their own human power or via public transit without dependency on the automobile.
Fred Meyer Rewards Program Benefiting Trail Communities

To date the Fred Meyer Rewards Program has benefited the Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition Communities by donating $3,360.00 from its community rewards fund. Want to help us fulfill our vision for “Trails Uniting Communities?” It couldn’t be easier. Are you a Fred Meyer customer? Just go online and link your rewards card to Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (NPO #94335) at www.fredmeyer.com/community rewards. If you don’t have a rewards card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer Store. Shoppers can double points earned if they shop with a Fred Meyer Visa card. You will continue to earn your personal Fred Meyer Rewards points, rebates, and fuel points. The Foothills Coalition is very excited about this latest addition to the Fred Meyer Rewards Program. For the past four years, Fred Meyer has provided generous sponsorship for our Friends of the Riverwalk annual “Families in Motion Day” event.

President’s Message continued from page 1

Ultra (R2R) being held Saturday, June 6, 2015, on National Trails Day. Anyone wanting to join the fun by volunteering please send me an e-mail at railroadbuzz@comcast.net and I will forward to the correct people. We are always in need of volunteers preparing for the run and to help out on the day of the R2R. Dates for the work parties are published in the Trail Line News.

Lastly and I would be remiss in not congratulating the following individuals:

Ernie Bay, Steve Brown, Loras Gassmann, Don Partington and Stuart Scheurman for being re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition at our Annual Meeting held on January 22, 2015. At our General Meeting on February 26th the following were elected as officers of the Coalition by the Directors - Buzz Grant, President, Bill Hilton, Vice President, Stuart Scheurman, Secretary and Loras Gassmann, Treasurer.

Happy Trails
Buzz Grant
Meetings:

Monthly Board Meetings:
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Quest Research Library located at 1007 Main St., Sumner. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountyrails.org for changes.

Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:
Informal luncheons from 12-1 p.m. are held at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome to come and share what they have been doing to promote the mission of the Coalition. No business is conducted even if a quorum of members is present.

Courtesy Patrol Meetings:
Scheduled the 3rd Saturday of each month at High Cedars Golf Course, 149th Street Court East, Orting. No-host breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and the casual meeting at 9 a.m. with a free-for-all discussion about the past, present and future of the Courtesy Patrol. Guest speakers and training sessions are often included. For more information please contact Ernie Bay at (253) 848-7718 or bugtrail@aol.com.

Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 9 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup. We also have a group walk that starts at 10 a.m. following the meeting and is open to those who would like to join us.
*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation.
Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, billhltm@aol.com, or Janet Rich, dcnjlrich@msn.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Events:

Washington Bike Summit - March 16-17, 2015 - Governor Hotel in Olympia
Connect with community advocates and professionals who share your vision for better bicycling in the Evergreen State at the Washington Bike Summit in Olympia!
Lunch plenary sessions both days
Breakfast plenary session on Tuesday
Two days of workshops for advocates and professionals (with CEUs)
Legislative reception Monday evening
Transportation Advocacy Day for advocates on Tuesday
Space is limited! More details and registration at WAbikes.org/summit.

Work Party Please RSVP to Don Partington at cedarfamily@comcast.net or 253-820-8411
Saturday, 3/7/15 - 8:30am. Plant trees in Gale Canyon - Meet on 156th St Ct E. at Johns Rd E.
Saturday, 4/11/15 - 8:30am. Upper Carbon Canyon - Meet at Wilkeson Town Hall, Bring a weed eater if you have one.
Saturday, 5/9/15 - 8:30am. Upper Carbon Canyon-Meet at Wilkeson Town Hall, Bring a weed eater if you have one.
Membership makes a difference!
The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

☐ $20 Single
☐ $30 Family
☐ $50 Pathfinder
☐ $100 Trail Builder
☐ $200 Corporate  (Includes a 1 year ad in the Trail Line News)
☐ Please email my newsletter to __________________________

The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in building, maintaining, and promoting a network of safe, non-motorized trails that provide healthy recreation and transportation options.

Pay online using Pay Pal  http://www.piercecountytrails.org/become-a-member/

______________________________

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