President Markus Dennis’ Message

A Lasting Legacy

The Foothills Trails Coalition began over 20 years ago with a dream of connecting a system of trails and greenways from Mount Rainier to the Puget Sound. Dreams do come true. As we look to the future our goal is still the same, miles and miles of trail in one of the most beautiful regions in the United States.

For two decades the Foothills Trails Coalition has provided an invaluable framework for networking strategies with a shared goal of highlighting community improvements instead of remaining individuals with a lone voice. With each mile of new trail that is built, we are invested with a sense of accomplishment and prepared for the next step in our shared journey of trail advocacy. We are still advocating for all communities in Pierce County because of the need and a consensus from our members, board and supporters. The Foothills Trail continues to inspire new generations of supporters and enthusiasts.

The Coalition is the best voice to assure that hiking, biking, skating and equestrian trails serve to connect our communities in a healthy way. Although recent press about trails is impressive, that alone will not get them built. In the fight for funding dollars, projected trails will languish without our consistent voice of advocacy.

The Board of Directors is emboldened under the theme that we are not on a trails-building exercise of sorts but, rather, we are a united coalition with outstanding partners, establishing a connected system of trails and greenways from Mount Rainier to Puget Sound.

In the trail community, as with any great endeavor, thought precedes action. We are consistently representing you as best we can by selling the importance of trails so we will have trails to be enthusiastic about! Obviously your financial support is vital. But I cannot overestimate the importance of sharing your thoughts continued on next page

John Selby Founder’s Award

The John S. Selby Founder’s Award was presented to Russ Matthews by Pierce County Council Chairman Terry Lee. The award is presented annually to the individual who has made a significant contribution toward Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra.

Clay J. Gatchel Award

Pierce County Parks and Recreational Director, Kathy Kravit-Smith, awards the Clay J. Gatchel Sr. Award to David Steinbacher at the Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra.
President’s message (continued)

and ideas with us as our dream unfolds into the future.
Our progress would not have been possible without your generous support and essential membership in one of the best trails coalitions anywhere. Trails are established and built because people with different interests get together, form a coalition and expect positive results. As Margaret Mead once said so well, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

You are the not-so-small group of thoughtful, committed citizens that continues to establish a lasting legacy with each mile of new trail. Thank you for your years of enduring and generous support.- Markus Dennis

Due to the recent postage increase we will be more diligent in removing expired memberships from our newsletter mailing list. Don’t let this happen to you! Please check the mailing label for the date of your last membership renewal to see if your membership has lapsed. If so, please use the handy membership form on the back page of this newsletter.

The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation and maintenance of a connected system of non-motorized trails and greenways from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

How to reach the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition

Web page: http://piercecountytrails.org/
Address: P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021
Message phone: 253-841-2570
E-mail address: foothills@piercecountytrails.org

Speedy the mule and work crew

Work party includes Jeff Selby, Speedy, Tom Faubion, Bill Harmon, Tom Enlow, George Sleet and Russ Matthews-2007 Selby award recipient.

Courteship Patrol highlights volunteerism

If you ride the Foothills Trail often, at least once a week, please consider joining our Courtesy Patrol. We currently have a number of very committed volunteers, but we would like to see those yellow vests flashing down the trail more hours of each day.

The mission of the Courtesy Patrol is to provide information and a reassuring presence for trail users, to remind dog owners to leash their animals and to help with flat tires and other minor bicycle maintenance as requested. Courtesy Patrol members also report trail maintenance needs such as vandalism and treefalls. To learn more or to become a part of the Courtesy Patrol, contact Gerald "Jerry" Larson, aka Captain2Wheeler, at 253-845-7219.
1987  20th anniversary  2007

On April 7 Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition members enjoyed a tour of Bonney Lake Bike Shop at its new downtown Sumner location across from Sumner High School. The tour followed an award presentation in which the Coalition honored the business for its long time trail support. Owner Paul Qualey has for many years donated bicycles for our annual Puyallup Fair raffle.

Many people believe that dealing with overweight and obesity is a personal responsibility. To some degree they are right, but it is also a community responsibility. When there are no safe, accessible places for children to play or adults to walk, jog, or ride a bike, that is a community responsibility. —David Satcher, Surgeon General, “Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity,” 2001

The gentle way vs. the highway

On Saturday, May 12, Tacoma and the region recognized the late city planner Scott Pierson by dedicating in his name the “gentle way” alternative to busy SR16. Scott would have been embarrassed to be so honored, according to his widow Bev, as he was not a glory seeker but merely a passionate advocate and activist for pedestrian and bicycle paths as preferred urban transportation networks similar to what he had once known in the city of Eugene, Oregon. These he referred to as “gentle ways.”

An estimated audience of nearly 200 endured a chilly wind in the bleachers of Cheney Stadium to hear speakers, including Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma, ForeverGreen President Barbara Skinner, representatives of Tacoma Public Works, the Washington State Transportation Department, Governor Gregoire, Pierce County Councilman Shawn Bunney, Tacoma Wheelmen President Tim Paine, the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition and others extol Scott’s legacy to the community. Family members Bev Pierson and her son Ben concluded the ceremony with a series of entertaining and revealing personal anecdotes relating to Scott’s idiosyncrasies, ideals, and accomplishments.

Scott was a dedicated cyclist to the end, as he died in 2002 from a heart attack at age 58 while bicycling home from work. According to Bev he bicycled for what he called the four “E’s: Environment, Enjoyment, Exercise and Economy. As for economy, the family had one car which Scott rarely drove. Instead of owning a second car, Scott calculated what would have been the weekly expense and invested the amount into mutual funds on a regular basis for several years.

The result, according to Bev, was a sum that she would not reveal but stated, “Suffice it to say that it was enough to have sent two children through pricey colleges.” She then added, “And we only had one!”

As a Tacoma city planner, Scott was instrumental in the design of Ruston Way and, in addition to his gentle way along SR16, he also had plans for a north-south route through the city. After Scott’s death the SR16 project stalled until Tacoma Wheelmen and Foothills Trail supporter Bob Myrick and others reminded and cajoled the Washington State Department of Transportation into acting on their promise to complete the project that Scott had inspired.

Without Scott, other Tacoma bikeways lost momentum as well, along with grant funding for a section of Puyallup River trail between the Lincoln Avenue and Murray Morgan bridges. Had Scott lived, I am personally confident that our vision of connecting the Puyallup Riverwalk with Tacoma would be much closer to reality today.

Meanwhile a special tree, a shadbush, provided by the Department of Transportation at Scott’s memorial, is planted just south of the McMillin Bridge. Please visit it and especially Scott’s “gentle way” and reflect upon his legacy to us all. - Ernie Bay
### MEETINGS

Monthly board meetings are open to all members and are generally held on 4th Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Puyallup Public Library.

For the summer in order to bring our meetings to the trail communities we are holding our meetings in the following towns:

- **June 28**, in Buckley Multi-purpose Center 7 to 9 p.m.
- **July 26th**, in Wilkeson Town Hall 7 to 9 p.m.
- **August 23**, in Orting Multi-purpose Center 7 to 9 p.m.

### Weekly Meetings at Charlie’s Restaurant

Every Wednesday at noon at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome.

### Engle’s Picnic

June 21, 6 to 9 p.m.
See story pg. 9

### Courtesy Patrol Meetings

253-845-7219
2nd Saturdays of Month

### For more information
Call 253-841-2570
Or email foothills@piercecountytrails.org
http://piercecountytrails.org/

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### Buckley

On May 29, work began again on the last section of the Foothills Trail to be completed by the City of Buckley. The city stopped construction last fall on the trail when the rains made the ground too wet to work. This new section of trail starts at the Armory in Buckley and ends at the White River. This is a much anticipated stretch of trail for the residents of Buckley because it will allow a safe corridor to the White River where Buckley plans on having a park. Together with the City of Enumclaw, King and Pierce Counties, Buckley is working on plans to bridge the White River and connect the two cities with the Foothills Trail.

Buckley was the first section of the Foothills Trail paved over 15 years ago and the city has added to the trail over the years as grants have become available. Small cities generally do not have a lot of excess monies to devote to parks and Buckley is not an exception. Since the first pavement was put in, the Foothills Trail in Buckley has become the city’s largest and most heavily used park. The city is currently working on a city-wide trail plan to connect all parts of the city. Future trail connections could include the proposed Flume Trail along the flume to Lake Tapps and the Cedar River Trail in Maple Valley when the Foothills Trail extends beyond Enumclaw. It is hoped that the rest of the Foothills Trail will eventually connect to Buckley so that Buckley is no longer an isolated section of trail. We are anxiously waiting for the connection to South Prairie.—Pat Johnson, Foothills Rails to Trails Board; Mayor, City of Buckley

### Cross County Commuter Trail

The Feasibility Study for the Cross County Commuter Connector Trail is complete. The next step would be for the City of Tacoma and Pierce County to accept the findings and agree to move forward. I have suggested and the report is written so that the trail components are all useful and a complete. Continuous trail is not necessary to benefit us as trail users. For example, the trail is being built in parts of South Hill thanks to Calvin Goings’ efforts. The trail can be extended down into Orting as plans are developed to build the new road leading from the Sunrise subdivision. The Pipeline Trail seems to be on a "pipeline easement" so there are very serious questions as to whether or not a paved trail can be built there without getting property rights for a trail. It does appear that Tacoma could open its gates five feet to allow users to pass thru the gate system on the almost 14 miles of pipeline easement.

The City of Tacoma has finally hired a new civil engineer to work half-time on non-motorized projects, not much has been built for almost six years. Hopefully, the new engineer will get to work on cross

*continued on next page*
Networking (con’t)

walks at South 56th Street and South 74th Street. Then, the City Water Ditch Trail would be safe for users to begin traveling along the route. Following that work, we would hope the engineer gets to work on arterial sidewalks and other connections near the new Scott Pierson Trail.-Bob Myrick

Fennel Creek

The City of Bonney Lake received a $1 million grant from WSDOT to start work on the Fennel Creek Trail. We will be doing a one-mile stretch and a bridge that will connect some new subdivisions to Victor Falls Elementary School. The grant is being awarded under the Safe Routes to Schools program. The city also received some sidewalk funds with another WSDOT Pedestrian Safety grant. These grants also include funds for education programs in local schools that encourage students to walk or bicycle to school. The Bicycle Alliance helped us with the grant applications.- Gary Leaf

Fife

On March 20, I attended a meeting with Kurt Reuter (Fife Parks and Recreation Director), Dana Brown (Tacoma Trails Coordinator) and Jayme Gordon (ForeverGreen) to review Fife’s non-motorized trail plans and progress and to consider possible linkages with Tacoma. Fife currently has 2.6 miles of existing trails and plans for another 2.1 miles to connect the existing sections into a contiguous network. Fife intends to contract a consultant by the end of the year to prepare a new trail plan for the city.-John S. Selby

Lakewood

The City of Lakewood is studying non-motorized transportation and will be producing a report. A consultant has been hired and the committee is being formed. -Bob Myrick

Lower Burnett

The Lower Burnett bridges are on target for construction this summer with installation by spring of 2008 at the latest. Off-site fabrication contracts have been let. The proposed plan for the next phase of trail construction is from the Buckley terminus to South Prairie, beginning no later than Spring 08. - Ernie Bay

Milton

The latest copy of “The Signal” newspaper has a front page article stating that trail construction will start this fall. The Milton Public Works Director was quoted saying that the DOT is reviewing the final plans, and when it finishes the review, requests will go out for bids. The article refers to the trail being part of a regional network, but they don’t mention the fact that there are no plans to develop the eastern half mile of the trail which connects to Edgewood’s planned Interurban Trail and the existing Interurban Trail in Pacific. The Milton Interurban is already very walkable and rideable, as the surface is finely crushed gravel and very compact. It’s a beautiful, 1.7-mile, forested route along Hylebos Creek and can be accessed from either end: above the city park at Kent and Porter Way or from 380th St. west of where 28th Ave. crosses Enchanted Parkway.- Milton Loflin

Puyallup Riverwalk

The newest, and one of the most beautiful sections (Phase 4) of Puyallup’s Riverwalk was dedicated on Saturday, June 2 in celebration of National Trails Day. A part of the Coalition’s Rainier to Ruston Relay & Ultra that occurred on the same day, this 1.8-mile section of trail begins at a new trailhead beneath SR 512 on Puyallup’s East Main Street and ends at the Puyallup-Sumner East Main Street Bridge.- Ernie Bay

Sumner

The updated development status and map of eight sections of Sumner trail has been presented to the Foothills Trail Coalition board and to Forever-Green. Two sections at the north end were included in the bid process for the rebuild of Stewart Road— one along Stewart Road connecting the Lake Camp Hills trail to the Pacific section, and the other connecting the Stewart Road section south to a bridge across the river. Bids have been received and construction could begin next year. One possible problem is with the Department of Fisheries objecting to the trail being too close to the new drainage ditch (stream) from Stewart Road to the river.-Ken Woolery

Along the Foothills Trail...

Increasing numbers of happy trail users, along with exciting events and activities, kept Foothillers and the PC Good Guys busy during the late winter and early spring months. There was no winter hibernation for the

dedicated trail crew “worker bees” for they volunteered many hours on the primitive upper reaches of the Rainier to Ruston route, clearing windfalls and debris caused by the severe November storms. The Foothills Courtesy Patrol partnered with Pierce County Parks & Recreation in three successful 5/10K run/walk events, including the Foothills Dash in March, the Chambers Creek Soundview Trail dedication May 5 and the Foothills Walk for the Benefits May 19. Courtesy Patrollers were also on hand to provide refreshments and information at the Buckley and South Prairie trailheads for the Daffodil Classic, sponsored by the Tacoma Wheelmen on April 22.

A big event, just for us, was the graduation of 22 new certified Courtesy Patrollers from Jerry Larson’s 4-step training program, which was held in the beautiful Environmental Services Building at Chambers Creek Properties, after the Soundview Race. Adding these to the 45 on the current roster means that we now have 67 Courtesy Patrollers to provide friendly help and information to trail users and communities out along the Foothills Trail. Congratulations and welcome to the new Courtesy Patrollers: Mariella Arnold, Jerry Broadus, Clarice Clark, Georgean & Richard Curran, Jeffrey Doll, Dawn & Phil Frazer, Jim Halpin, Nadene Hammond, Dan King, Betty Kobe, Keith & Bobbie Lassen, William "Mac" McGowen, Katherine Morgason, Kristin Paul, Shayne Somavia, Jim Stevenson, Gordon & Julia Swetland and George White.

Good things happen out along the trail because good people are out there seeing that they happen. Some of the people I encountered and the events that took place during the past quarter give me unfettered hope for the future of the world – or at least our wee small part of it.

**Flagpole donated to City of Carbonado**

On April 19, Markus Dennis led us up the Carbon River corridor to the historical mining town of Carbonado for the purpose of installing a brand new flag pole alongside the memorial dedicated to those stalwart men lost in mine disasters back when coal was king. The flagpole is a gift from the Foothills Coalition to the citizens of Carbonado as a goodwill gesture. Buckley Mayor Pat Johnson pointed out one of
Dixie (con’t)

the inscribed disasters which claimed the life of a relative of her husband Kirk.

Foothills Courtesy Patrol granted bicycle safety helmets

Forty-eight bicycle safety helmets, granted to the courtesy patrol by West Region EMS & Trauma Care Council in Tumwater, were picked up at Top Gear (Helmets-R-Us) in Tacoma, from owner Vern Padgett, on April 26. The time spent with Vern proved both educational and productive. Providing quality safety helmets at the lowest possible cost is Vern’s passion, and we learned much about how he does it. Markus is now “fired up” to pursue 100% safety helmet compliance in Puyallup and now sports an attention-getting helmet, showing in graphic detail all the brain matter that matters. Our gratitude goes to Marty Faulk, Injury Prevention Coordinator for West Region EMS and to Vern Padgett, owner of Helmets-R-Us. Jerry Larson, Courtesy Patrol chairman, will use the helmets to further promote helmet safety in the Courtesy Patrol school outreach program.

Trail benefactor active and enjoying life at age 98

One of the highlights of our flag planting trip to Carbonado was a visit at the neat and attractive farm home of Richard "Rick" Johnson. Trail lovers owe thanks to Mr. Johnson for donating a portion of his back acreage to the future trail. Rick down-plays his gift by saying that the land wasn’t doing him any good and he grew weary of cleaning up all the debris ditched along the track by the railroad.

Rick was born in 1909 and still gathers and chops his own wood and kindling, cooks on a wood stove for the most part and runs a few head of cattle. How does he manage to take care of the cattle? “They mostly take care of themselves.” Rick also plays a mean game of cribbage as attested to by his neighbor, Foothills VEEP John Henry.

Flagpole installed at Carbonado. The pole is a gift from the Foothills Coalition to the citizens of Carbonado. Pictured are Bill Harmon and Markus Dennis.

“Rick” Johnson. Trail lovers owe thanks to Mr. Johnson for donating a portion of his back acreage to the future trail. Rick down-plays his gift by saying that the land wasn’t doing him any good and he grew weary of cleaning up all the debris ditched along the track by the railroad.

Richard “Rick” Johnson of South Prairie with FTC President Markus Dennis.
Dixie (continued)

Downs. The family, which included seven children, left their sod home in Nebraska in 1912, before purchasing the home Rick lives in now. The “little school on top of the hill,” which Rick attended, no longer exists. It was a very pleasant visit, and we departed with promises to return with copies of the pictures we had taken and to take Rick for a tour along the trail he has never had a chance to visit. Thank you, Mr. Rick Johnson!

There was no respite from activity on the part of Foothillers in May. On May 12, one week after the dedication of the Soundview Trail and graduation at Chambers Creek, our gals and guys were not only on duty at the dedication of the Scott Pierson Trail in Tacoma, but were also out patrolling our own Foothills Trail while still other “worker bees” were grooming the route for the Rainier to Ruston Relay and Ultra. Some of the happenings I encountered on my Foothills patrol included:

Rachel Challenge cyclists practice what they preach!

About 70 cyclists rode 30 miles along the Foothills Trail from Meeker to South Prairie and back in the first annual Ride for Rachel on May 12. All those I encountered on my patrol personified the goal for the event. Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America – Rachel’s Challenge. The “Friends of Rachel Club” at Puyallup High School is a group made up of students and staff members, which promotes Rachel’s ideals of treating people with kindness, compassion, and eliminating prejudice. The group also works closely with security personnel to heighten the awareness of possible acts of violence. Brian Backus of Trailside Cyclery in Orting provided service support for the riders. Good Job, Friends of Rachel!

http://home.comcast.net/~friendsofrachel.

Trailside Connection & Espresso in South Prairie appreciates customers

The Friends of Rachel, in their yellow T-shirts, were enjoying a relaxing moment at our favorite latte stand in South Prairie where owners Captain Mike and Cheryl England were serving up smiles with free hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks to show customer appreciation and in celebration of their first year of ownership. Congratulations, Captain Mike and Cheryl. You are making a difference!

Do you want to make a difference, too? Get active! Get involved! You are needed! And it’s fun!

Happy Trails and Peace out y’all--- Dixie Gatchel
**The Other Trail**

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

These are meaningful words for each of us involved in the Foothills Trail Coalition, as each year we devote time, energy and money toward the goal of building trails for ourselves and the generations to come to enjoy.

We are also building a different kind of trail. We can call this a "paper trail," but paper is not the only component. The History and Archives Committee is dedicated to collecting and preserving the story of the amazing effort and achievements that grew out of small beginnings into the realization of miles of completed Foothills Trail.

The importance of trails in the United States has been known for years, but we wouldn't be aware of it without documentation. Most of us have read and loved the stories of the Oregon, Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. More recently has come the movement to build and preserve trails across the country like our own Foothills Trail.

People dream of large sections of these trails interconnecting and crisscrossing the landscape.

We want people to know the story of the Foothills Trail. Consequently, we are now in the process of collecting documentation of the Foothills Trail story.

Toward that effort we are asking for contributions of pertinent documents. Your donations of historical materials will insure that the story of our trail and the people who built it will be available for the generations of tomorrow.

If you have something you wish to contribute, please leave me a message at 253-841-2570.
- Pauline Larson, History and Archives Committee

**Engle’s Summer Potluck Picnic June 21**

**Who:** Mountaineers, Audubon, Foothills Trail Coalition, Cascade Land Conservancy, Sierra Club, Citizens for A Healthy Bay, Carbon River Corridor and more. Children and grandchildren are most welcome. And don’t forget how great the food is at these events!

**Where:** At the Engle garden, 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place, 1/2 mile south of Fircrest Golf Course.

**When:** Thursday, June 21, 6 to 9 p.m. No signup necessary. Rain does not cancel.

**Featuring:** Displays by our parks (local, county, state and national); Licensed falconers with their live birds; native plants for sale; photo exhibit; Earth-friendly crafts and games for kids of all ages; plus displays by friends in our allied organizations.

**We furnish:** Coffee, punch, buttered rolls.

**You bring:** A hot or cold entree, plus a salad or dessert plus your own table service and a sit upon. Beer and wine is BYO.

**Parking:** on Alameda and on Kootnai, the lower street (come in lower gate).

**More info:** Helen, 253-564-3112, hengle@iinet.com (e-mail preferred).

**Meet your board:**

At the beginning of the year, Jerry Larson joined Trail Line News editor, John Selby, and secretary pro tem, Sharon Hlavka, as our newest board members. They replace Arthur Robinson, John Olson and Paul Jacobson. John and Sharon will be profiled in future issues of the Trail Line News.

Jerry, also known as Captain2Wheeler for his outstanding leadership in heading our fast growing Courtesy Patrol, is a native Washingtonian and a 1950 graduate of Puyallup High School. As a youth Jerry began his bicycle experience, and incidentally his business career, by sharing a paper route in the Waller Road area with his brother. He asserts to having owned one of the first mountain bikes and has enjoyed bicycling the climb from Ashford to Paradise on Mt Rainier as well as the coast down the Maui Volcano in Hawaii.

After attending the University of Washington school of business Jerry graduated from Knapp Business College and went on to a 34 year career in trucking moving and storage. He has owned five moving/storage companies which, together with

continued on next page
**Letters**

Thank you for your positive letter and updated information [on trail construction plans]. I am very grateful to read the plans for 2007 construction connection South Prairie to Buckley have succeeded. I pray everything will continue to improve into the future. In God's love, Gully Collier

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**Dear Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition Board:**

On behalf of Pierce County Parks and Recreation I would like to thank you for your $400 cash sponsorship and the many volunteers you provided at the 2nd Annual Foothills Dash 5K and 10K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, March 24 on the Foothills Trail in Orting. All proceeds from this event went directly toward recreation programs for youth and adults with special needs.

We had about 250 runners this year despite the very stormy weather. Due to the overwhelmingly positive responses we received again this year, we know this event will become a great event for runners and walkers all over Pierce, King, Thurston and Snohomish County. Thanks so much for your incredible support!

Sincerely, Wendi Garrison
Recreation Supervisor

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**Donations and memberships**

$18 - $25

$26 - $50
Kirk & Pat Johnson, Mike & Dorothy McCoy, Earl & Glory Mikkelson, Jane & Hugh Moore, Don & Robin Partington, Claude & Pam Remboski, Mark & Jill Sawyer, Linda Walkama, Laura Worthington

$51 - $100
Gene Alan & Eloise Adair, Heidi & Jerry Althouser, Steve Brown, Scott Richardson, Donna Watson

$101 +
Faylee Baker, Nina Cameron, Doug & Kathie Carter, Edward Davis, Lois & Gary Erath, Dixie Gatchel, Maddalena Hadley, Margaret Moore, Elaine Mayes & Jon Newkirk, Jim Oberlande, Sara Officer, Cheryl Peach, Eric Smith, Margol & Joe Tucci, William & Nancy Wittenberg, Jan & Shirley Wolcott.

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The following letter came with a donation to the Foothills Trail Coalition.

I’m no longer ... physically able to use the trails. But I want the younger and more able-bodied to do so.—Deforest A. Bullock, USAF Retired Vet, Tacoma, WA

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Trail-loving mayors participate in Carbonado flagpole raising. Left to right are Mayor Pat Johnson, Buckley; Mayor Janet Kepka, Wilkeson; and Mayor Peggy Levesque, South Prairie.
From the saddle

During my most recent rides on the Foothills Trail and after checking with riders from my neighborhood, we've all been experiencing a rise in "coming from behind" signals from fellow trail users. Great! Low keyed, "On your left," "Coming by," whistles or polite bells are just what equestrians need to coexist with other trail users. It helps the rider and the horse be prepared that someone is coming by them without being startled.

So, expressly to my fellow horse riders: we've got to extend courtesies, if we expect to continue receiving them. When your horse releases a pile while standing on pavement – please dismount and kick the marker off the pavement.

As I reported in the last issue, the trails planners and caretakers now see the trail from the equestrian's perspective much better than they ever have. I'm keeping current on our behalf. Improved opportunities to ride off pavement are getting due consideration. Plans for a non-paved four-foot wide path alongside the paved area will enhance safety and the riding experience on new construction. And help keep the piles off the pavement.

The future of equestrians' involvement and presence on the Foothills Trail depends on more than just me. I'll cut this issue's column short and ask for the input of fellow equestrians.

Contact me and let's get together and work. Phone 360-897-6163 and email Clasyrydr@aol.com.

Happy Trails, Linda Clark

What a jewel this trail is

Coalition trail crews have been spending many Saturdays preparing for the Rainier to Ruston Relay race held June 2nd. Our work has rewarded us not only with the sight of what we have accomplished, but also by allowing us to enjoy some beautiful sections of undeveloped trail through the upper Carbon River valley. If you had a chance to walk the Rainier to Ruston route (Leg 2), you know what a gem in the rough the Foothills Trail is now and imagine what a jewel it will be when completed.

If you'd like to join us for a work party and see our beautiful trail up close, please call Don Partington at 253-863-5307.

The Trail Line News is edited by John Selby at JohnandDottieSelby@att.net.

Newsletter layout is by Sarah Garmire at BSGarmire@cs.com. Photos and captions should be sent directly to her.
New Members Always Welcome
If you appreciate the work that we are doing and wish to see more trails, please consider joining us. Foothills Trail memberships start at $18 single and $25 family. Credit cards accepted.

- $18 Single
- $25 Couple
- $50 Trail Builder
- $100 Hero
- FRTTC Foundation Member (Email foothills@piercecountytrails.org for more information)

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Mark your categories, mail form and check to:
Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup,
WA 98371-0021