President Buzz Grant’s Message

Bridges to the future

I would like to thank all of you—members, board members and officers—for your support and participation in the various Coalition activities this last year. To our new members and volunteers, thanks for stepping forward. To our core membership, I thank you for staying with us for the long haul these past 20 years.

Next year we can look forward to the construction of two bridges in Lower Burnett—the first over South Prairie Creek and the second over Spiketon Creek—both at the lower end of the "loop," which I have found to be a more common reference by the railroad and local people than the "bow tie."

During the past few months, Coalition members have been working closely with Pierce County Parks and Recreation to save parts of the trail from Cascade Junction to Wilkeson through Gale Canyon. This will be a great addition to the trail when completed in about two or three years.

Our Courtesy Patrol membership has grown by leaps and bounds. Members are attending a series of four training classes to better prepare them for trail patrols. These classes have been very well attended and informative to the participants.

And many more opportunities for active participation are coming up. Coalition members will be involved in Pierce County Parks’ Foothills Dash on March 24, we will support a run at the new Chambers Bay Golf Course on May 5, the Rainier to Ruston Relay (R2R) will be held June 2, and many work party opportunities are coming up as well. Let’s not forget the Western Washington (Puyallup) Fair in September. Remember, for a four-hour donation of time in our fair booth to tell people of the wonders of trails, Coalition volunteers get a free pass to the fair.

Thanks again for all your efforts! Happy Trails!

George Sleet honored for volunteerism

George Sleet is the unsung and unseen backbone-type of volunteer that all non-profit organizations yearn for. Just mention a difficult work-party task that needs doing and he will do it, quickly and efficiently—no fuss, no muss. His friend and neighbor, Bill Harmon, also a hardworking regular on Foothills work parties, tells us that George’s basement shop is a dream model for a skilled craftsman and equipped with every tool and amenity imaginable.

The 435 hours George volunteered in 2006 included everything from repairing a tractor to building 65 placards for the Rainier to Ruston Relay and Ultra, our major fundraiser. He also cleared miles of trail, painted and assembled three bell stands for the R2R and the list goes on and on.

The January 2007 Foothills volunteer recognition plaque was given to George Sleet at the annual "worker bee" party hosted by Don and Robin Partington at their Lake Tapps home. Don, our super work party chief, inspires us to give our all to the cause of trails. The award is designed to recognize, on a quarterly basis, individuals, public officials and private businesses that go above and beyond in supporting trails and parks. George and his equally capable and caring wife Gail live in Tacoma.—Dixie Gatchel
Work parties race to repair storm damage by June 2

The running of the Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra is a race in more ways than one. Nearly 18 inches of rain fell in 36 hours during the election day storm which severely damaged the access road along the Carbon River to Mount Rainier and several major sections of our beloved Foothills Trail.

Now we’re in a race to repair the damage in time for our upcoming fifth annual event. If you would like to help us, check for work parties on the Coalition web site at http://www.piercecountytrails.org/.

In spite of the set backs, we have made some progress on the trail. On leg 9, the section of Puyallup’s Riverwalk Trail is currently under construction along the levee between the SR-512 bridge and the Main Street bridge. The infamous log bridge across Deer Creek has been replaced with a real bridge. This section of the trail is expected to be paved by National Trails Day.

This year we are adding several new divisions—Military, High School, Super Masters (60+) and Challenged Athletes—to our traditional divisions: Open, Male and Female Solo Walkers, Male and Female Ultras and Masters (40+). Participants in all divisions will compete for their own Golden Spike awards, which are handed out to top racers at the finish line on Ruston Way. See details at http://www.rainiertoruston.com/.

We’re eagerly anticipating an even better fifth annual R2R this year, the 20th anniversary of the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition. See you on National Trails Day!—John S. Selby

Safety Fair announced for May 5

Safety Fair will be held Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Foss High School Gym, located at 2112 South Tyler St., Tacoma, behind Cheney Stadium.

Safety Fair is a free, educational and fun event for children and families, sponsored by Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital, Safe Kids Pierce County and Tacoma Fire Department.

You will find convenient parking, stroller and wheelchair access and a spacious gym for participants. Questions? Call 253-591-5705, ext. 2 or 253-403-2700.

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.
Firsts are exciting! The morning sun beamed brightly on the foothills, February 21, serving as a splendid backdrop to the Trails Coalition gathering of friends and community members at the East Meeker Trailhead for yet another first. Calvin Goings, Pierce County Councilmember - 2nd District, was presented with our inaugural Outstanding Public Servant Award by Foothills Coalition President Buzz Grant. Councilman Goings’ years of consistent trail support, outstanding public leadership, and positive vision for the Foothills Trails Coalition made this first-time event an exciting privilege. Calvin Goings is both the recipient and standard for future Outstanding Public Servant Awards.—Markus Dennis

**Teamwork does the job along the Foothills Trail**

Thank you to Director Kathy Kravits-Smith and the Pierce County Parks Good Guys for hosting our 20th anniversary meeting at your Lakewood Site on February 22. What fun it was for us to gather with Kathy and the PC Good Guys to crow a wee bit about our accomplishments and to set ambitious goals for the future. We are partners with an enviable record of “getting the job done.” Newly elected Foothills Board members not only gave formal status to our Courtesy Patrol but also elected our chairman Jerry Larson to the board. Our partnership will continue to flourish until we have the best darn network of trails in the country. Thanks for making it happen. Happy Trails!

Washington Rail Trails—We are a long way from Michigan and Pennsylvania with 131 and 116 rail trails respectively, but with 65 documented rail trails, Washington is close on the heels of Wisconsin, New York and Ohio each with 76 rail trails, and California with 74. For a rail trail near you go to, www.railstotrails.org and click on “Find a trail.”—Ernie Bay

I wonder whether there isn’t something deep in our psyche about trails. People like that sense of going somewhere, of seeing the world go by, seeing different places as they go along, even if it’s just going for a stroll in the evening—Stuart MacDonald, Colorado State Trails Coordinator, 1989.
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, south entrance. 324 South Meridian Street. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled due to conflicts. Check our web site for changes.

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

EVENTS
March 24
Foothills Dash See story p. 8

May 24
Coalition monthly meeting South Prairie Community Center 6-9 PM

June 2
Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra National Trails Day www.rainiertoruston.com

June 28
Coalition monthly meeting Buckley Multipurpose Center 7-9 PM

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

CALENDAR

Gale Creek
On February 13, Bill Harmon and Russ Matthews joined several people from the Pierce County Parks Dept. and FEMA on a fact-finding tour of the washed-out rail bed along Gale Creek (also known as Wilkeson Creek). This is the planned Foothills Trail route to Wilkeson and Carbonado and future route to Mount Rainier National Park. The County Parks Department is requesting financial help from FEMA in the repair of the areas of the rail bed washed out by the November flood.

The Coalition has the PC Parks Department’s approval to build a by-pass in the washed-out areas for the Rainier to Ruston Relay. —Russ Matthews

Edgewood Interurban
The Edgewood Public Works Director is working with the city council to develop a scope of work that will go into a request for quote. Consultants’ proposals will be taken for the architectural design and engineering on the portion of the Interurban Trail between Military Road and 114th Ave. This is considered to be phase 1 of the Edgewood Interurban Trail. Included will be a request for design of the Crossroads Park, which is intended to act as a trail-head at 114th.—Diane Kerlin

‘Fun’ parties planned for spring
Why do we call these "work" parties when they are so much fun? I don't know the answer to that question, but I do know that more work parties are planned for this spring, including:
- Clearing blackberry vines from a couple of rest stops and from young trees we’ve planted in the last few years,
- A one day clean up project in Carbonado.
- Cutting a temporary trail around a washout in Gale Canyon.
- Preparing to build a mini park in Buckley that will be a tribute to one of the Trail’s founders, Doctor Tait.

One of the most pristine sections of the Foothills Trail is between South Prairie and Wilkeson along Gale (aka Wilkeson) Creek. We call this area Gale Canyon. Our November storms washed part of the original rail bed down to the bottom of Commencement Bay, leaving a section of the trail that is almost impassable. The parks department is working with FEMA in hopes of correcting the problem. In the meantime, we plan to establish a temporary route around the missing section in time for the Rainier to Ruston Relay.

You can join us for any of these "fun parties" by calling me at 253-863-5307. Check our web site for further work party notices.—Don Partington
From the saddle

By the time you read this we all will have had the opportunity to get acquainted with the folks at the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department. They are setting the standards for developing and stewarding the Foothills Trail system. I also have had the opportunity to personally meet, out on the trail, with Kent Baskett the newly appointed Parks Superintendent. Moreover, this was one of the first real opportunities where the perspective of equestrians has been afforded on-site attention... where the hooves meet the trail!

I’m enthused that these opportunities have followed so closely after my November office visit where both offers to collaborate were extended to trail users. I hear that other discussions are also underway to address bollards, the Courtesy Patrol, the Rainier to Ruston Relay and sections for future trail development. Good reasons for all of us to be enthused.

I’ve been busy contacting riding clubs to plan trail get-togethers. I’m also hoping to organize another Hoof Prints on the Trail event in late spring. The young riders of the Carbon River Pony Club still come out to perform trail clean up work. They will be appearing in a nationally judged event as they learn to share the joys of riding.

My fellow riders in Enumclaw tell me that the city’s plan to become a destination equestrian hub is moving along well. The city has taken ownership and event scheduling responsibility for the fairgrounds. That is a major piece of the hub that anchors the draw for horse riders.

Cooperative co-user trail tip: While I’m working to assure that horse riders learn how to coexist with other users, it would be good if I mentioned the following. When approaching to pass a horse from the front or the rear, give an audible clue that you are there as you approach. Something as simple as a friendly greeting like, "Coming up on your left," or, "Hi, how are you?" avoids a surprised horse.

If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please give me a call at 360-897-6163.

Happy trails!—Linda Clark

Tree tag correction

While most trees for the trail have now been tagged as promised in the December issue of the Trail Line News, those beginning with 169E and ending with 175E must be reassigned. We are planning new tree plantings next month and we will publish the reassigned trees thereafter.—Ernie Bay

Memberships and donations received

$18 – 25
Jay & Pat Allison, Karen Anderson, Nels & Winifred

$26 – 50

$51 – 100

$101 - $200
JoAnn Brauen, Betty Ogden & Harold A. Gray, Employees

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Board Members Ernie Bay 253-848-7718 bugtrail@aol.com

$26 – 50

$51 – 100

$101 - $200
JoAnn Brauen, Betty Ogden & Harold A. Gray, Employees
Memberships (continued)

Community Fund of the Boeing Company

$201 – 500
Jerry McLaughlin, Margaret Moore, Donna Watson.

$1500+
Donna Tait, Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club, Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

Along the Foothills Trail...

My Courtesy Patrol friends like to kid me, because it sometimes takes me five hours to bike the 30 miles from Meeker to South Prairie and back. It’s not that I can’t pedal the speed limit when I’m of a mind to. It’s the talking that slows me down. I LOVE to stop and talk with the folks I meet along the trail. The Foothills Trail not only unites communities for common cause, but it also fosters friendship among trail users.

Trail Encounter with The Gassmanns: Ardent Geocachers

Foothills Nana rendezvoused with DuHawks at high noon on a mild February Sunday to learn the hide and seek of geocaching. Casual encounters with two or three geocachers over nearly five years of courtesy patrolling whetted my curiosity about this heretofore mysterious “treasure hunting” hobby. The DuHawks (aka Loras and Carolyn Gassmann) greeted me at the Meeker Trailhead with their global positioning units in hand—or on wrist, as was the case with Lindsey’s compact version. Foothills Nana (me) with Clay’s old GPS unit in hand fell in step as the lesson began.

Loras and Carolyn explained the need for a special user name or “handle” for serious geocachers. First off, they directed me to www.geocaching.com to register my chosen user name, Foothills Nana. Loras chose DuHawks as his user name, because he was born in Dubuque, Iowa, the home of Loras College and the Duhawk sports team. Carolyn, a Sumner native, is a member of the pioneer Pasquier family. I learned from the website that geocaching is an adventure game based on a “treasure hunt” theme where participants in one party use a handheld GPS device to search for sealed caches left by other parties. Small potatoes it is not! There are 359,133 active caches worldwide, and Loras tantalizes us with hints of at least 11 caches hidden along the trail between Meeker and South Prairie Trailheads.

The geocaching lingo is fun as well. Keep an eye out for “muggles” or onlookers. Prepare to “get stumped” when you can’t decipher the clues right away. “Travel bugs” are “hitchhikers” that move from cache to cache all over the world. Geocaching is a great family hobby; granddaughter Lindsey Pasquier, age 6, was totally engrossed in the adventure. Caution: geocachers strictly observe private property rights and a "leave no trace" policy. Geocaching is prohibited in National Parks and most other public lands.

I shudder to think how long it would take me to do my Courtesy Patrol if I become addicted to geocaching. My interest is in learning enough about global positioning to accurately determine important trail sites that continued on next page
Dixie (continued)
coordinate with 911 emergency service locations. Loras and Carolyn are knowledgeable and friendly folks and willing to help you get started. Contact them by e-mail at theduhawks@msn.com.

Trail Encounter with Orting Mayor, Cheryl Temple
On a February patrol, I met Orting Mayor Cheryl Temple walking her “three girls” as she took well-deserved time out from her mayoral duties. Judging from the standing-room-only crowd at the January city council meeting, the issue of fishermen parking along the trail is a very hot topic that will take wise action to resolve. Six Courtesy Patrollers were ready to voice our concerns about maintaining a safe, litter-free, non-motorized trail for the enjoyment of all caring and considerate trail users. We didn’t have to say much—the citizens said it all and more. Orting citizens were both articulate and passionate in expressing their unhappiness with how the parking and actions by some fishermen impacted their day-to-day living. It’s inspiring to see such vibrant grass-roots democracy in action. Mayor Cheryl and the city council members listened attentively to all the speakers. Hopefully, they will decide wisely where to park the fishermen in a fair and equitable manner for the good of all. Albeit a keg of worms for Mayor Temple and the members of the Orting City Council, watching the fishermen folks casting for salmon along the Carbon River at Bernie’s Place is the best show in town.

Happy Trails and Peace out Y’all!—Dixie Gatchel

Courtesy Patrol fills admin role
Mariella Arnold has volunteered to fill the final open position on the Courtesy Patrol staff: Monthly Meeting Coordinator. Her responsibilities will be reserving meeting places, managing the sign-in board, updating Courtesy Patrol members, collecting time and mileage reports, and supplying membership applications.

Arnold is an avid hiker in all weather conditions and also enjoys bike riding. She has been a member of the Coalition for 12 years and a Courtesy Patroller since June 2006.

Arnold joins the other Courtesy Patrol staff members Dr. Ernie Bay, technical advisor; Dixie Gatchel, communication aid; Robert Larsen and John Ernest Berry III, patrol equipment compliance and safety coordinators; and Markus Dennis, program chairman for creativity and vision.

Phone Jerry Larson at 253-845-7219 to discuss how your interests and talents might fit
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Admin (continued)

into the Courtesy Patrol and the growing Foothills Trail, which is a true nature treasure.—Jerry Larson, Courtesy Patrol Chairman

Courtesy Patrol sessions underway

On January 13, Dr. Ernie Bay kicked off the first of four Courtesy Patrol training sessions by reviewing the founding and history of the Foothills Trail at O’Farrells Restaurant in Puyallup. Many of the overflow crowd enjoyed a congenial breakfast together prior to the meeting. This was step one of four for Courtesy Patrol members to achieve certification. Bay’s 20-plus years of experience with the Coalition shone through with enthusiasm in the orientation he covered with his audience. A month later Jan Wolcott, retired Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation, followed up without missing a beat in covering the history, role and rules of the trail. The anecdotes he presented brought the 36 attendees into a personal understanding of the procedural sacrifices that activists made to achieve the trail we share today, and why we must protect this treasure.

Training sessions 3 and 4 will be conducted Saturdays, March 10 and April 14 at 10 a.m. at Wackenhut Corporation, 16300 Christensen Road, Suite 130, Tukwila, 253-872-1555. They will cover bicycle patrol procedures and safety and conflict resolution. Optional breakfast and carpools will gather at O’Farrells Restaurant at 8 a.m. with departure at 9:15 a.m.

The typical cost for this training runs into the tens of thousands of dollars per session and is donated by Wackenhut Corp. and William R. “Mac” McGowen, who believes in the FRTTC cause. Mac is a Courtesy Patrol trainee in the current class.

All FRTTC members are especially encouraged to attend these last two invaluable sessions to take advantage of the expansive facilities—meeting room, training equipment and parking.

Even if your intent is not to patrol the trail but use it recreationally, your eyes and ears and new-found education will direct you in making good decisions. This is especially applicable as rules are added in the future.

A certification ceremony is being planned for Saturday, May 12 for those Courtesy Patrolers who have completed all four training sessions. Certification is recommended but not required, and make-up sessions will be available.—Jerry Larson, Courtesy Patrol Chairman

Courtesy Patrol to serve Foothills Dash

A resounding “yes” was received by Wendy Garrison, Event Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation, when she requested the Courtesy Patrol to serve Orting’s Foothills Dash for the second year.

The Foothills Dash is a 5K and 10K Fun Run/Walk which will take place on Saturday, March 24. The race begins and ends on the Foothills Trail in Orting. Registration and check in at 8 a.m. are at Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary School, 805 Old Pioneer Way, Orting. The race begins at 9 a.m.

Courtesy Patrol members, walkers and biker patrollers should arrive by 8 a.m. for station assignments along the trail. The various races will head south through Orting as opposed to last year’s run north. Post race treats and shirts will be available.

For questions about the race or opportunities to join the Courtesy Patrol, phone Jerry Larson at 253-845-7219.

Birding on the Foothills Trail

There are many motives for taking a walk on the Foothills Trail near South Prairie. It may be one of the westside’s best places to observe the spectacle of passerine migration. It’s an easy place to take visiting birders for Northwest specialties like American dipper, red-breasted sapsucker and varied thrush.

South Prairie Creek hosts one of the largest wild salmon runs in the region. Birding the trail is also a good way to add some tough species to your Pierce County list and, with luck, an unexpected rarity might pop up for you to find. Besides all this, it’s a perfect spot to get in some exercise and fresh air.

I first casually birded along the trail in 2001 and was impressed by the potential, but didn’t go back with regularity until the fall of 2003. Since then I’ve recorded nearly 160 species in a five-mile stretch of the trail. The rich growth along the trail and South Prairie Creek is the attraction. A well-established plant community of red osier dogwood, Pacific willow, red alder, black cottonwood, Douglas fir, big-leaf maple, Sitka spruce, beaked hazelnut and many others make for a great migrant stop-over.

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Birding (continued)

Loud pishing is essential if you want to see a lot of migrants on the Foothills Trail. Do anything you can (pygmy-owl toots often work like magic) to get the little birds’ attention. I have known silent birders to walk the same area where I pished up hundreds of migrants, and see very little. Note that on weekends the trail can be popular with speeding bicyclists. They don’t bother the birds much, but can be a nuisance when you aren’t paying attention to the trail. Try to go very early in the morning if you must go on weekends, especially if it’s sunny.

A visit in summer should produce red-eyed vireos, which are common in the more mature willow and cottonwood groves early June through mid-September. Four vireo species breed in their respective habitats along the trail. Expect all the usual breeding birds in western Washington in small numbers.

Fall, in particular late August and September, is the most productive season for birding the trail. Consider these selected high counts from this time period: 51 willow flycatchers, 60 warbling vireos, 63 Swainson’s thrushes, 73 orange-crowned warblers, 67 black-throated gray warblers, 83 Wilson’s warblers. Also occurring in smaller numbers are Cassin’s vireos, Townsend’s, MacGillivray’s and hermit warblers, Hammond’s flycatchers, lazuli buntings, black-headed grosbeaks, and many more. Turkey vultures can be seen in good numbers, gradually moving down the ridges. The birding on some days can be astonishing, while on other days it is just good.

Winter brings sparrows and a few more raptors, but birding is generally slow. There is usually a white-throated sparrow somewhere along the trail throughout the winter months. Northern pygmy-owls descend into the alders along the trail in certain years, and seem most numerous in October. I have found northern saw-whet owl twice; once at night in March and recently I was alerted to a roosting bird by kinglets.

My experience is that spring can be a little slow compared to fall, although the joys of seeing neotropical migrants again are as intense here as anywhere. Nashville warblers and Townsend’s solitaires come through in small numbers in late April and May, in addition to most of the regular fall species (in somewhat lower numbers). The whole trail can be buzzing with rufous hummingbirds.

You might start out an outing by birding the town of South Prairie. On good days in migration the small neighborhoods and vegetated lots are full of migrants. A small park along South Prairie Creek on the east side of town is reliable for American dipper (found anywhere along the creek), and is a great spot to observe pink salmon in September. Then park at the trail kiosk in South Prairie and walk the trail to the west. A pea patch next to the town’s wastewater facility can be good for sparrows, which like the hardhack spirea bordering the trail. Going through the farm fields, keep an eye out for open area species including raptors and lazuli buntings. Past the pea patch five miles, you’ll get into trees again. Near this corner of the woods I’ve had palm warbler, least flycatcher, and eastern kingbird. Walk as far as you wish. Another 0.4 mile along the trail is another hotspot near an unnamed intersection. Western tanagers and vireos are often thick in the willows. A migrant fallout could occur at any time or place here!

If you don’t want to cover five miles, return to your car and drive on South Prairie-Carbon River Road to the southwest. From South Prairie, drive three miles until you get to a small gravel lot and metal gate on the right side of the road. You can park there and continue walking the trail. A man-made wetland was put in during August 2004. This spot has since been productive for shorebirds, especially solitary sandpipers from early August through late September, and snipes nearly year round. The mudflat habitat may become overgrown with dense

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Birding (continued)

plantings in the future, but we can hope that it stays open. It is a neat spot if you are interested in dragonflies I have seen widow skimmers and other less-than-common species here in just casual observation. Great splayed fritillaries, swallowtails, and other butterflies often come into the mud in summer. Check the logs and snags for green herons. In fall and winter the brush piles around the wetland are good for Lincoln’s sparrow, and have produced swamp sparrow.

Be sure to walk south from the wetlands and bird along the creek opposite an RV park, where a northern waterthrush showed up one day. This is another spot where big flocks of warblers and flycatchers seem to concentrate. Return to your car and drive 1.5 miles to the end of So. Prairie-Carbon River Rd, near an active ski lake. Pass serine flocks are sometimes up high in the mature cottonwoods. If you haven’t seen red-breasted sapsucker yet, the trees and telephone poles are reliable for them (less so in winter). The large blackberry hacks are also good for sparrows. After another 0.5 mile south on Pioneer Way, you will find a large parking lot for the trail at the town of Crocker. This is a good spot to park if you wish to bird by bicycle to South Prairie.

The Foothills Trail can be a rewarding place to bird. Where else in western Washington can you see 500 migrant passerines on a good fall morning?—Charlie Wright

Foothills Trail past preserved

Archives cradle history. After 20 years we’ve been fortunate enough to preserve most of our compelling past. Using newspaper articles, photos, railroad history, official documents, court records and a fact-finding interview process we’re currently reconstructing the story of how a much-loved trail was born of an abandoned steel rail.

The Foothills Trail narrative tunnels through two decades, over decaying bridges, into lively courtrooms, above stifling opposition, around fixed obstacles and into the heart of the communities linked together by this shared connection. Through the lives of the people involved, the stories in our history are being chronicled to preserve an archival legacy of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

You’re invited to participate with us in this two year process; your input is welcomed. Let us know: What trail memories mean the most to you? What trail moments were defining for you? Current and future generations of trail enthusiasts will discover again and again the archival gem passed on to them. They will know we remembered not to forget.—Markus Dennis, Archival Committee

Foothills’ Fabulous Places

Orting, which once was the hub of opposition to the Foothills Trail, is now so enamored with it that the trail is the central feature on their official civic logo. Many visitors to Orting do not even know that the trail’s proper name is the Foothills Trail, but commonly refer to it as the Orting Trail. The Orting economy has benefited accordingly, and although we encourage you to visit its many fine restaurants and facilities, we wish at this time to call your attention to two establishments in particular.

The Park Bench Cafe at 109 Van Scoyoc Ave SW, phone: 360-893-1976, just across the street from the Foothills Trail Kiosk has been under Helen Baker’s management for just...
**Best Places (continued)**

over a year, and is a great place for a sandwich or a very, very hearty bowl of soup along with a good variety of salads. The Cafe is now closed on Sundays, but a welcome stop on other days of the week.

Need a new bike, gadget or repair? Want to try out a new bike or rent one or more bikes to share the trail with your out-of-town visitors? See Brian Backus at The Trailside Cyclery just a couple of blocks east of the post office and across the street from the park. Brian just recently retired from the Boeing Aircraft Company to devote full time to his passion of working on bicycles and his dream of owning a bicycle shop. What better place than in Orting along the Foothills Trail?—Dixie Gatchel

**Ask Captain 2Wheeler (aka Jerry Larson)**

Courtesy Patrol FAQ by Gerald “Jerry” Larson (AKA Captain 2Wheeler), 253-845-7219.

Q: **Can I ride my dirt bike (motorcycle) on the trail?** - Frank S., Buckley
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Motorized vehicles are prohibited by law on the trail and violators can receive fines of $1000 and/or imprisonment of 90 days.

Q: **What is the accepted protocol when passing another trail user from behind?** - Nonie F., Bremerton
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Announce your intent by ringing your bicycle bell and calling out, “Passing on the left.” When the pass is completed a hearty, “Thank you,” compounds the positive karma.

Q: **What is the accepted protocol when passing one another in a head-on situation?** - Joe E., bike racer, Seattle
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Form into single file on extreme right, reduce your speed, announce your presence and proceed with caution. A salutation of the day builds positive trail etiquette and is contagious.

Q: **How should bicyclists stop on the trail?**
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Be cautious and considerate when stopping. Knowing that you are being followed is as important as who is coming toward you. Do not slow or stop suddenly. Position all parties and vehicles well off the blacktop trail when stopped. This shows courtesy to the pace and safety of other users. You’ll be amazed at the convenience of a rear view mirror positioned on your handle bar.

Q: **How should pet owners deal with animal waste on the trail?** - Jody A, Dupont, walker of three greyhounds
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Pierce County Parks and Recreation Rules & Regulations state: “Owners are required to remove animal waste.” Free handy “pooper scooper” dispensers are positioned at the trailheads for your convenience. Read the directions on the collection/disposal box. When starting the walk, take one (in your case at least three) to be prepared for this eventuality. Note: Horse and pig walkers are required to follow these same procedures. Yes, a harnessed pig was being walked on the trail last summer, north of Orting!

Q: **Is it OK if I jump from this bridge into the river?**
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Pierce County Parks and Recreation rules state: “No jumping from bridges or trestles.”

Q: **Can I bring alcohol with me on the trail?**
A: Captain 2Wheeler says: Possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited, as well as firearms, fireworks, or open fires. Keep yourself and other users safe.
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
- FRTT Foundation Member (Email foothills@piercecountytrails.org for more information)

Trees for the Trail / Orting Trail Kiosk Engraved Bricks

______ Number of tree(s)
______ Number of brick(s)

@ $50 per tree or brick = $ _______________
Name(s) to appear on Tree Tag or Brick __________________________________________

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